



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



**Minutes of the international seminar**  
**«Status assessment of lakes ecosystems in the Central and Eastern Europe and**  
**experience from development of Lake Management Programme in EU-countries»**  
**19 October 2011**

**1. Introduction**

The international seminar «Status assessment of lakes ecosystems in the Central and Eastern Europe and experience from development of Lake Management Programme in EU-countries » started with official opening by representative of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Irina Rudko – Deputy head of department for international cooperation.

The representative of Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources Aliaksandr Pakhomau make the introductory presentation about the CEI (Central European Initiative), which include tasks of international organization, participating countries, area of cooperation with Republic of Belarus.

The CEI is oriented to assist in strengthening the capacities of its countries outside of the EU, to consolidate their institutional and economic background as well as bring them closer to the EU; it aims at achieving cohesion in areas of mutual interest and at assisting its non-EU member countries in consolidating their economic and social development. Once predominantly oriented towards policy dialogue, the CEI has progressively added economic growth and human development as pillars of cooperation with a focus on capacity building, sharing experience and know-how transfer. At the end of his presentation he presented a targets and expected results of international seminar.

During introduction phase of seminar the participants made a short presentation about his position and organization, which they represent.

At the end of introduction phase was a presentation made by Tatsiana Hubina (CSI – Piemonte, Italy). She informed about previous project CEI KEP (Know-How Exchange Programme) «Development of decision support systems for integrated water management in Belarus » which was implemented in 2010 with support by CEI in cooperation between



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University of Trieste (Italy) and Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (Belarus). Main objectives of KEP:

- Strengthen economic and social advancement of the CEI non-EU Member States;
- Help the recent EU members in their transformation from recipients to donors (emerging donors) of development assistance;
- Promote principles of foreign development aid and support international collaboration among institutions in CEI member countries.

She proposed future cooperation with CSI-Piemonte, Italy in some perspective areas of cooperation (development of information systems applied for integrated water management).

## 2. Ecological state of lakes in Central and Eastern Europe

The most informative session of seminar started with presentation by Aliaksandr Ostapenja, head of Naroch biological station and professor in BSU (Byelorussian State University). Topic of his presentation was «Naroch lakes: features of functioning of ecosystems at present stage». He made a deep analysis of observation data from 1976 to present time for different parameters, which are described ecological state of Naroch system of lakes.

The next presentation was made by Elena Bogodjzh (Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, Belarus), she informed about approach for water quality assessment in Belarus using reference conditions on example of lakes located in River Prypiat Basin.

The supported by UNEP Grid-Arendal for participation in international seminar representative from Armenia, Karine Danielyan, Association “For Sustainable Human Development”/UNEPNatCom gave a presentation «Lake Sevan (Armenia): the Problems and Way to Restoration of Ecobalance». During her presentation she proposed some environmental and organization measures needed to protect the lake Sevan.



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The representative of IWAC (International Water Assessment Centre), Lea Mrafková, SHMI (Slovak Hydrometeorological institute), Slovakia in her presentation made a comprehensive analysis of ecological state for transboundary lakes in Central and Eastern Europe based on UNECE «Second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters».

The information about ecological state of lake ecosystems within the Chernobyl exclusion zone presented Dr. Dmitry Gudkov from Institute of Hydrobiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In his presentation the dynamics of the main contaminating radionuclide's in the components of aquatic ecosystems within the Chernobyl APP exclusion zone was considered.

Results from implementation of WFD (Water Framework Directive) in Hungary on example of Lake Balaton was presented by Ms. Andrea Zagyva from Ministry of Rural Development, Department of River Basin Management and Water Protection. She informed about River Basin Management Plans in Hungary as well as for WFD monitoring programme on Lake Balaton.

In his presentation Dr. Mauro Scimone from SISSAD snc, Italy presented an analysis of changes in lake ecosystems and their current ecological state in Italy. He also mentioned about existing in Italy Water Protection Plans and their implementation under WFD.

### 3. Transboundary cooperation – International Lakes

Last information sessions started from presentation of ENVSEC project for transboundary lake in Eastern Europe - Druksiai/Driviaty. The Jovanka Ignjatovic from Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) made a overview about project «Development of the Lake Druksiai/Driviaty basin management program». She informed about results of 1<sup>st</sup> phase of project implementation and planned deliverables of 2<sup>nd</sup> project phase.



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The Valentin Emelin, representative of UNEP/Grid-Arendal, presented implementation Geographical Information System (GeolQ) for the Druksiai/Drisviaty project. The main tasks of development interactive GIS web-based resource for lake basin management include: management of datasets (operation of storage, search, examination and visualization) as well organization information exchange within/across institutions.

The Head of Institute Biology, University of Białystok (Poland) Dr. Andrzej Gorniak presented an information regarding polish limnological investigation in border zone with Lithuania and Belarus.

Some good example from Russian-Estonia cooperation on lake Lake Peipsi basin was presented by representative from Estonia, Dr. Kristjan Piirimäe, Tallinn University of Technology. He informed about achievements reached from cooperation, such as harmonized approach to main problems, systematic information exchange about water management and water quality, approach towards common state evaluation principles and criteria, coordinated monitoring, including joint expeditions on Lake Peipsi and Narva Reservoir and river basin management plans in both sides.

The Vladimir Korneev, representative from Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources gave detailed presentation regarding joint usage of Belozerskaya water feeding system of the Dnipro-Bug Canal. The countries (Ukraine and Belarus) have been unable to find a mutually acceptable solution to the existing problems of water allocation on their own, whereas the existing mechanisms of cooperation failed to fully address it as well. A successful solution which was find during implementation of ENVSEC project « Improved management of shared water resources in the upper Pripjat basin (ENVSEC 000 62859) » both eliminate a source of potential disagreement over the use of water resources of the Pripjat basin, and strengthen the culture of a cross-border dialogue over similar cases between the involved countries.



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#### 4. Summary

There are 31 participants from 9 countries (Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, Serbia, Italy, Hungary, Armenia, Estonia, Norway) participated in international seminar in Minsk.

Topics of seminar is covered most important question regarding current ecological state of lakes and level of transboundary cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Armenia.

Some results from ongoing ENVSEC (Environment and Security) Initiative project were also presented during seminar.



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## 5. Final agenda

18 October, Tuesday

*Arrival of participants*

18:30 *Dinner (dedicated to 50th anniversary of CRICUWR)*

19 October, Wednesday

9:30 - 10:30 *Registration*

10:30 - 11:30 *Introductory session*

- Opening  
Irina Rudko, Deputy Head of international cooperation department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
- Information about CEI-Cooperation Programme (Aliaksandr Pakhomau, CRICUWR)
- Participants presentation
- Targets and expected results of seminar (representative of CRICUWR) (10 min)
- The CEI-KEP project "Development of decision support systems for integrated water management in Belarus" best practices, CSI-Piemonte experience in development of information systems applied for integrated water management and possibilities for future collaboration  
Tatsiana Hubina, CSI – Piemonte, Italy (20 min)

11.30 - 12.00 *Coffee break*

12:00 - 15:30 *Information session – Ecological state of lakes in Central and Eastern Europe*

- Ecological state of lakes in Central and Eastern Europe in Central and Eastern Europe  
*Lea Mrafková, IWAC–SHMI Slovak Hydrometeorological institute, Slovakia*
- Naroch lakes: characteristics of ecosystem functioning at the present stage  
Aliaksandr Ostapenja, BSU
- Water quality assessment in Belarus using reference conditions (on example of River Prypiat Basin)  
Elena Bogodjash, CRICUWR, Belarus
- *Lake Sevan (Armenia): the Problems and Way to Restoration of Ecobalance*  
*Karine Danielyan, Association "For Sustainable Human Development"/UNEPNatCom, Yerevan State University, Armenia*

13:30 - 14:30 *Lunch break*

- Ecological state of lake ecosystems within the Chernobyl exclusion zone: the Ukrainian sample  
*Dmitry Gudkov, Institute of Hydrobiology of the NAS of Ukraine*
- Implementation WFD in Hungary on example of Lake Balaton



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Andrea Zagyva, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of River Basin Management and Water Protection, Hungary

- Ecological changes in lake ecosystems in Italy  
*Mauro Scimone, SISSAD snc, Italy*

*15:30-17:30 Information session – Transboundary cooperation – International Lakes*

- Presentation of ENVSEC project «Development of lake Druksiai/Drisviaty Basin Management Program»  
Jovanka Ignjatovic, The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

*16.00-16.30 Coffee break*

- Polish limnological investigation in border zone with Lithuania and Bielarussya.  
Andrzej Gorniak, University of Białystok, Institute Biology, Poland
- Experience from Russian-Estonian cooperation in the Peipsi (Chudskoe) Lake basin  
Kristjan Piirimäe, Tallinn University of Technology
- Joint usage of Belozersk water feed system  
Vladimir Korneev, CRICUWR, Belarus

*17:30-18:00 Round table (summing-up results of seminar)*