

Environment and Security initiative

BELARUS • MOLDOVA • UKRAINE



ENVSEC E. EUROPE NEWS & OUTLOOK

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ENVSEC survey on the upper Pripjat • March 2009

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This issue of the bulletin covers developments under the Environment and Security initiative (ENVSEC) in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine between December 2008 and May 2009. The period has been particularly busy with regard to cooperation in shared water basins (Dniester, Danube, Pripjat, Drisviaty lake). Highlights in other dimensions include progress with mélange and hazardous waste trade in Ukraine, a study tour to Hungary, and a visit of ENVSEC field projects in Moldova and southern Ukraine by Canada International Development Agency. As usual, we will be grateful for all feedback, corrections and thoughts. Details about ENVSEC are found at www.envsec.org.

Project news December 2008 - May 2009

A series of ENVSEC events aimed at supporting stronger cooperation in shared water basins. These included the Dniester (meeting in March 09 in Chisinau), the Danube (December 08 in Vienna and March 09 in Izmail), the Pripjat (February in Kyiv), and Drisviaty lake (April in Visaganis). On the concrete level, feasibility studies for introducing joint management plans for shared basins are being finalised for Drisviaty lake and the Danube Delta region (the latter also welcomed by ICPDR Standing Working Group meeting in May). A field survey on the upper Pripjat completed the basis for water allocation rules between Belarus and Ukraine, aiming at their formalisation by 2010.

In the Dniester basin, a pilot geoinformation system was completed and presented to the basin states. New activities that will be started under 'Dniester III' project umbrella include new consultations among experts on legal issues of basin management (towards a basin-wide legal agreement); protection of fish and biodiversity, monitoring and information exchange; stronger publicity work on the local level; and a feasibility study for improved joint monitoring in the basin. A new component for flood control and climate adaptation will be developed during 2009.

Meeting on illegal trade in hazardous waste in Chernihiv in April 09 included, in addition to Ukraine's, also oblast-level authorities from Belarus. Ideas for continuation included helping countries to check the effectiveness of their border check procedures, embed the topic into establish professional training, and further popularise the problem (not least in cooperation with the Basel Convention).

In Donetsk, a regional pollution register is being prepared by oblast authorities and specialists. Mapping of mining waste was also initiated. A workshop with Ukraine's Ministry of Coal in June will discuss ENVSEC study of environmental impacts from Donbas mining, and discuss strategic approaches to limit them (EU and the World Bank have been interested in the study too). In April, mining and information experts from Ukraine and Belarus took part in a study tour to Hungary.

NATO project on obsolete pesticides in Belarus officially started in January, and is preparing for sampling at the Petrikov and Brest near-border depots. In Moldova, NATO has already helped repack and centralise some 3000 tonnes from over 400 unregistered pesticide dumps. 1300 tonnes were already destroyed under a GEF / World Bank project, with NATO's analytical support. Funds for destroying another 1900 tonnes are being raised under NATO/PfP/ENVSEC. The Chisinau-Tiraspol Ecology Working Group met in Tiraspol in February, discussing among other topics ENVSEC-OSCE proposal for how to approach repackaging and destruction of obsolete pesticides in Transnistria.

A NATO-facilitated radiation study in Belarus' Polesie Radiation Reserve moved into the second field season: starting with a joint sampling in May, fieldwork will continue until September.

After signing an agreement in December 08 for destroying part of mélange (rocket fuel oxidiser) stock in Ukraine, OSCE organised a tender selection panel in Ivano-Frankivsk in March, coupled with site visits for bidders. Funds for the first phase of destruction are available.

In April, REC in Szentendre, Hungary held training in the prevention of environmental crime. It is expected that Ukraine will benefit from ENVSEC's linked project to combat illegal logging, based on rich South-Eastern European experience. Connection was also established between this project and World Bank's Forest Law Enforcement and Governance initiative (FLEG) where Ukraine already participates.

Following last-year training in Strategic Environmental Assessment for Crimea's districts, one will be selected for a full SEA. Results will be reviewed by a national workshop in Simferopol in late 2009.

And a mission from the Canadian International Development Agency visited Odesa and Chisinau in March, interviewing ENVSEC partners and appreciating results achieved on the ground since 2007.

Outlook for the rest of the year

Project work will continue throughout 2009 and beyond, not least leaning upon continued support provided to ENVSEC by the recipient countries and donor governments. A cooperation agreement was reached with Finland for 2009-13, and a renewed agreement is being discussed with Sweden for 2010-12. In April, a concept for cross-border monitoring of floods on the Pripjat river was introduced to NATO's SPS Committee; the applicants (Ukraine, Belarus and Slovakia) were invited to present a full project plan at Committee's next meeting in 2009. A dialogue with the EU is maintained on specific cases of mutual interest (Donbas, Pripjat, Transnistria, the Danube, energy-security-environment).

Based on an analysis of energy-environment interactions and strategies in the region, an ENVSEC workshop with country experts and the European Environment Agency will take place at Lund University in October. Looking at the environmental dimension of national energy strategies, the meeting will also explore modern approaches to long-term scenario analysis in the energy-environment domain.

On the sub-regional level, Belarus has chosen a pilot project for applying Espoo procedures. A process for a projected hydropower plant on the Neman river will start in summer with the support of UNECE's Espoo Convention and OSCE. (The plant may affect Lithuania and Russia's Kaliningrad oblast.)

Overall, ENVSEC will try to further improve awareness of environment-security connections among the region's public and media. Media training is planned in Belarus in connection with the national 'Environmental Security' film festival this autumn. On the local scale ENVSEC will support environmental awareness in the city of Novopolotsk in Belarus and in Crimea in Ukraine.

In 2009, ENVSEC's coordination meeting for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine will take place within the region. In addition to a usual review of ENVSEC operations and programming in Eastern Europe, it will discuss a special topic: interactions between the region's environment, security and a changing global climate.

Summary of ENVSEC activities in Belarus • Moldova • Ukraine (per May 2009)

Projects in the work programme	Implementation		Funding available
	Organisations	Countries	
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin: implementation of the action programme	UNECE OSCE UNEP	MD, UA	Finland Sweden
Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drisviaty / Druksiai lake basin	UNEP REC	BY (with LT, LV)	Sweden Canada
Sustainable management of shared water resources in the upper Pripyat basin	UNEP UNDP	BY, UA	Norway Canada
Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta	UNECE UNEP	UA, MD (with RO)	Canada ICPDR
Development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention	UNECE UNDP OSCE	BY, UA	Canada OSCE
Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea	UNDP UNEP	UA	Canada UNDP, UNEP
Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Soligorsk regions	UNEP	BY, UA	Sweden Canada
Destruction of pesticides using thermal plasma technology (including analytical work at near-border depots)	NATO	BY	NATO
Destruction of pesticides and dangerous chemicals in Moldova	NATO	MD	NATO
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in the Transnistrian region of Moldova	OSCE UNEP	MD	new
Study of Plutonium, Americium and other radionuclides in the Belarus sector of the Chernobyl power plant's exclusion zone	NATO	BY with UA	NATO
Sustainability assessment of energy security strategies	UNDP UNEP	BY, MD, UA	Canada UNDP, EEA
Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)	OSCE	UA	Misc. sources (OSCE)
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities	OSCE	UA with BY, MD	Belgium
Illegal logging: governance, implementation and enforcement	REC	UA (with SEE)	Belgium (SEE) Canada
Awareness, public participation and education on environment and security risks and linkages	UNEP OSCE	BY, MD, UA	Canada UNEP

■ fully funded
■ partly funded / anticipating additional activities
■ not yet funded

ENVSEC contacts for Eastern Europe

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Entry points within partner organisations:

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- UNDP ajiniyaz.reimov@undp.org / henrieta.martonakova@undp.org
- UNECE bo.libert@unece.org
- REC mdimovski@rec.org / ktingas@rec.org
- NATO susanne.michaelis@hq.nato.int

Country presences of ENVSEC partner agencies (OSCE, UNDP, NATO), and ENVSEC national focal points in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine: please see <http://www.envsec.org/easteur/index.php#res>

envsec e. europe • 2009 • calendar of events

per may 2009

-  event
-  activity / output
- bold** = envsec / associated
- plain = external event
- "tbc": to be confirmed

oct - dec 2008

jan - mar

apr - jun

jul - sep

oct - dec

	oct - dec 2008	jan - mar	apr - jun	jul - sep	oct - dec
shared natural resources	<p>dniester III - chisinau</p> <p>danube delta - kyiv & vienna</p> <p>s.e.a. training - simferopol</p>	<p>pripyat & dbk - kyiv</p> <p>dniester III kick-off - chisinau</p> <p>dniester - pilot gis</p> <p>danube delta fs - izmail</p>	<p>pripyat field survey</p> <p>dniester consultations - kyiv & chisinau</p> <p>lake drisviaty fs - visaginas</p>	<p>pripyat & dbk - minsk</p> <p>dniester awareness</p> <p>s.e.a. training crimea - tbi</p> <p>danube delta [eu facis] - izmail</p> <p>dniester III - odesa</p>	<p>pripyat study tour - tbi</p> <p>district s.e.a. crimea - simferopol</p>
pollution and waste	<p>transport of haz waste training - kyiv</p> <p>mining and env conf - donetsk</p> <p>kerch oil spill report [unep]</p> <p>polesie reserve start-up and radiation survey</p>	<p>haz waste stocktaking - chernihiv</p> <p>monitoring & mining study tour - hungary</p> <p>donetsk prtr and mining waste gis</p> <p>bel pesticides start-up</p>	<p>... and kyiv</p> <p>coal and env workshop - kyiv</p>	<p>waste trafficking dossier</p> <p>bel pest fieldwork - petrikov & brest</p> <p>polesie reserve radiation survey</p>	
env aspects of sec policy	<p>osce - ukr melange agreement and 1st phase tender</p>	<p>melange panel & site visits - iv-frankivsk</p>	<p>energy-env prep - brussels</p> <p>mol pesticides site visit - nato</p>	<p>energy-env regional workshop - lund</p>	
institutional and cross-cutting	<p>media & comm training donetsk - kyiv</p> <p>envsec regional meeting</p>	<p>chisinau - tiraspol ecology wg</p> <p>cida field review mission</p>	<p>espoo neman - minsk</p> <p>media training - donetsk</p> <p>env crime training - szentendre</p>	<p>media training and film festival - minsk & homel</p> <p>novopolotsk & crimea env reports</p>	<p>envsec regional & climate meeting - tbi</p>
multi-regional events and activities	<p>envsec conference - brussels</p> <p>nato sps committee and advisory panel</p> <p>un chernobyl coord workshop- vienna</p>	<p>envsec board - geneva</p> <p>unep governing council</p>	<p>osce 17 econ & env forum - athens</p> <p>nato sps committee and advisory panel</p>	<p>envsec board & strategic workshop - geneva</p>	<p>nato sps committee and advisory panel</p>

NB: Only major outputs / activities are shown. Information is per may 2009, the timing and placement of events is based on the best available knowledge at the time of compilation.