



# ENVSEC NEWS

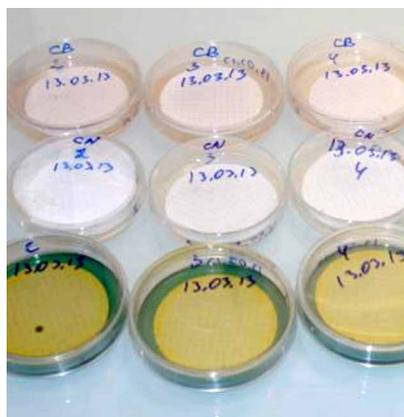
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY INITIATIVE  
JANUARY - JUNE 2013



*The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) is an inter-agency initiative of international organizations comprised of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe. The ENVSEC partnership aims to reduce security risks and increase cooperation on management of natural resources and environmental threats in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia.*

## **KOSOVAN JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS BENEFIT FROM TRAINING IN RELATED SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS**

More than 20 Kosovan judges and prosecutors were trained in January 2013. The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) led the course in justice systems and mechanisms in Kosovo (territory under UN Resolution 1244) in the Kosovo Judicial Institute in Pristina. The training focused on access to justice mechanisms and on justice provisions related to the Aarhus Convention, a multilateral environmental agreement that focuses on the public's access to justice, among other issues. Plenary sessions were complemented by different interactive methods and exercises. Participants in small groups discussed and worked independently on cases, sharing their proposed decision and getting feedback and evaluation of the proposal before comparing the latter with the actual outcome of the real case. Simulation of a court trial was also organized with participants performing in the different roles necessary, based on a real case example from Spain. After going through the trial all the way to judgment, they had the judgment evaluated and learned of the outcome in reality.



## **TOWARDS SAFER DRINKING WATER IN KYRGYZSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN**

The "Microbiology Safety of Drinking Water" project, led by NATO, enhances knowledge in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan about quality assurance for microbiological tests of drinking water quality by international standards. A final inter-comparison study of the drinking water samples, using both national and ISO standards, was conducted during February - March 2013. Three bacteriologists and one technician were among laboratory staff from Bishkek City to be trained on microbiological ISO Standards and EU Directive for Drinking Water and ISO 17025 Quality Control Accreditation requirements. The project concludes with assessment of the results of the microbiological analyses, a final workshop and report.



Photo : Victor Meilo

## **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE NEMAN RIVER BASIN**

Representatives of different users and authorities of the Neman (Nemunas) River Basin have developed plans for strategic collaboration on climate change adaptation in the Basin, shared by Belarus, Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation. This was the result of two workshops (one in March in Minsk, Belarus; the other in May in Vilnius, Lithuania) organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Participants reviewed the outcomes of the vulnerability assessment prepared under the ENVSEC project "River basin management and climate change adaptation in the Neman River Basin", discussing next steps which include an initiative for a transboundary agreement among the three countries.

## NGOS AWARDED GRANTS FOR CIVIC ACTION ON SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) NGO Small Grants Programme has been implemented in Armenia and Azerbaijan since 2009 and has supported 41 NGO projects, which not only responded to several local environmental challenges but also contributed to strengthening civil society capacities. In February 2013, the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) Office in Baku issued the fourth call for proposals for the CASE NGO Small Grants Programme in Azerbaijan. The CASE National Screening Board – comprised of representatives from the Government, civil society, OSCE and UNDP – reviewed the proposals and selected six NGO projects that address a spectrum of issues including land degradation, wastewater, and public advocacy. In March 2013, the OSCE Office in Yerevan called for project proposals for the fifth cycle of the CASE programme in the country. CASE is part of the ENVSEC projects portfolio in the South Caucasus region.



Photo : Zahra Ahmadvova

## PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

On 8-10 April 2013 OSCE, in close partnership with REC, organised a “South-Eastern Europe Regional Workshop on Environmental Consensus Building and Mediation Techniques” in Podgorica, Montenegro. This workshop helped to strengthen the capacities of the Aarhus Centre Managers and their constituencies on consensus-building and mediation techniques in the area of environment. Aarhus Centre Managers and Aarhus Convention National Focal Points from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, along with relevant national stakeholders from other countries in the region, participated in the event and 33 participants had the opportunity to explore different strategies and approaches applied in managing conflict over natural resources. The workshop touched upon tools used for engaging stakeholders in the conflict management process and trained participants in the application of different consensus-building techniques, interpersonal facilitation skills and facilitation practice.



## FLOOD PREPAREDNESS IN THE DNIESTER RIVER BASIN

A workshop on flood preparedness and managing climate change, organized by UNEP, facilitated improvements in the way the public is informed about floods in the Dniester River Basin. The workshop, on 27-28 May in Lviv, Ukraine, brought together representatives from the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova. Experts from the Environment Protection Agency (UK), the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (Poland), OSCE and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) also participated.



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## **BELARUS AND UKRAINE KICK OFF FIRST ACTIVITY IN KEEPING WITH POST-PROJECT ANALYSIS UNDER THE UNECE ESPOO CONVENTION**

The first pilot activity undertaking post-project analysis under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) was hosted by UNECE during a workshop in Brest, Belarus, 9-10 April 2013. This was in direct response to calls from Belarus and Ukraine for assistance in the creation of such a pilot project to improve cross-border dialogue between the two countries and to monitor and mitigate transboundary impacts. The workshop also assessed environmental impacts of the exploitation of the “Hotislavskoe” chalky deposits, located just 250 metres from the Belarusian-Ukrainian border.



## **STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION BETWEEN GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN**

The fifth bilateral consultations between Azerbaijan and Georgia took place in April 2013 in Georgia to further support both countries in strengthening transboundary water cooperation. The meeting was organized by the OSCE and the UNECE in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia. Consultations were held among representatives of the state agencies of Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss in detail a draft agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia on “Co-operation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Use of the Water Resources of the Kura River Basin”.



## **SAVA COUNTRIES DISCUSS NEWLY DEVELOPED PROGRAMME FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

“Building the link between transboundary flood risk management and climate change adaptation” is a project launched by ENVSEC to assist Sava River countries - Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia - in adapting to climate change and anticipating flood risk. A draft programme, required by the Protocol on Flood Protection to the Sava Agreement, has been developed and was discussed at a workshop in June organized by the International Sava River Basin Commission.