



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS**

***UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring
Task Force on Tools and Guidelines***

in cooperation with the Scientific Production Association “Typhoon”, Russian Federation

and with the financial assistance of the European Community



***Workshop on
ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORKING AND INFORMATION
SYSTEMS***

2-3 June 2003, Obninsk, Russian Federation

1. Background

In many countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), the use of up-to-date information technologies by environmental monitoring authorities needs to be expanded. These technologies may substantially improve environmental data handling, exchange and supply to public authorities and the public.

The activity on tools and guidelines under the joint project of UNECE and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on “Support to the activities of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring” is intended, in particular:

- To strengthen environmental information capacity and networks in EECCA and to enhance cooperation between these networks and with international ones;
- To create or support existing national reference institutions on environmental information in EECCA countries;
- To provide the national contact points with computer equipment and access to Internet;
- Spread the knowledge of methodologies applied in the EIONET;
- To assist EECCA countries in creating or expanding national environmental meta-databases with data sources and data sets, institutes, reports and other information products.

2. Workshop objectives

The Workshop will discuss current situation with environmental networking and information systems in EECCA countries. It will identify major gaps and obstacles to a reliable

networking, and thereafter, it will identify good practices to fill the gaps and overcome the obstacles. The guidelines will be presented and discussed for developing national metadata bases on sources of data and data sets, institutes, reports and other information products.

3. *Workshop outcome*

The Workshop will result in an agreed plan of actions and time-schedule for the activities to be implemented in EECCA countries over the period by end 2003, including the development network of national reference points on priority environmental data flows, national metadata bases and interaction with UNECE and EEA..

Provisional Workshop Agenda

Day 1

09:00 – 12:30 *EECCA experience in environmental networking and database development.*

09:00 – 09:10 **Opening statements**

- Vyacheslav Shershakov, Typhoon, RF
- Mikhail Kokine, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

09:10 – 09:50 **Experience of the Russian Federal Environmental Agency in environmental networking and development of metadata base**
Presentation by Aleksandre Fedorov, RF followed by questions and answers.

09:50 – 10:30 **Experience of Ministry of Environment and Emergencies of Kyrgyzstan in environmental networking**
Presentation by Viktoria Afanasenko, Kyrgyzstan followed by questions and answers.

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break.

11:00 – 11:40 **Experience of Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development of Moldova in environmental networking**
Presentation by Petru Chirila, Republic Moldova followed by questions and answers.

11:40 – 12:30 **Experience of International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information in environmental networking and database development**
Presentation by a ICSTI representative followed by questions and answers.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break.

14:00 – 14:30 *Experience of west and central European countries*

Brief overview

Presentation by Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE consultant.

14:30 – 17:30 Application of EEA software and other tools

14:30 – 15:30 **Experience by Task Force on Tools and Guidelines on EEA software and information tools application**

Presentation by Valeriy Kosykh, SPA Typhoon, RF followed by questions and answers.

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 **Usage of EEA Software: CIRCA, Zope, EIONET Portal Toolkit**

Presentation by Finsiel expert followed by questions and answers.

Day 2

09:00 – 10:30 EEA approaches and experiences in networking and database development

09:00 – 10:30 **The present state and development of EIONET and Reportnet (network building, reference centres, priority data flows, technology development, September 2003 EIONET meeting in Bulgaria)**

Presentation by Stefan Jensen, EEA followed by questions and answers.

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 18:00 Strategy on Environmental Networking and Information Systems in EECCA and practical approaches to its implementation

11:00 – 12:30 **Proposed Strategic Framework**

Presentation by Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE consultant.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 **Environmental networking at the national level: contact points, reference centres, partnerships and data exchanges**

Discussion. Facilitator: Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE consultant

15:00 – 16:00 **Catalogue of Data Sources: creation and uploading**

Discussion. Facilitator: Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE consultant

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:30 **Communications with partners via Internet**

Discussion. Facilitator: Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE consultant

17:30 – 18:00 **Conclusions**

- Vyacheslav Shershakov, Typhoon, RF
- Mikhail Kokine, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Information on Practical Arrangements

Venue

The meeting will take place in the city of Obninsk located in Kaluga region, 107 km to the south-west from Moscow.

The Workshop will be held in the Scientific and Production Association “Typhoon” (SPA Typhoon), the lead organization of the UNECE Task Force on Tools and Guidelines. SPA Typhoon belongs to the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring, and serves also as the Federal Environmental Emergency Response Centre. The address is as follows:

SPA Typhoon
82, Lenin str.
Obninsk
RU-249030 Russia
Web site: <http://www.feerc.obninsk.org>

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and

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E-mail: wolf@feerc.obninsk.org

Facilities

Technical equipment and other facilities available for the Workshop include:

- Data projector for PowerPoint Software for PC operated with WIN 95/MS Office 95
- Overhead projector
- Photocopying.

Interpretation

Interpretation into English and Russian will be provided during the discussions.

Registration form

Participants are requested to fill in the attached registration form and return it to SPA Typhoon as soon as possible.

Accommodation

Host organization will help participants to make hotel reservations. The hotel accepts payments in local currency. The hotel address is:

Hotel “CIPK”

21, Kurchatov street
RU-249030 OBNINSK
Russia
tel: +7 (08439) 6 80 29

Transportation

The SPA Typhoon will arrange transfers for participants from airports/railway stations in Moscow to Obninsk and back by minibus or car.

Financial support

SPA Typhoon under the contract with UNECE Secretariat will provide invited EECCA experts with financial support to cover their participation costs. Participants should use the cheapest way of transport between their cities and Moscow and should inform SPA Typhoon in advance of their ticket costs. The reimbursement of travel costs will be made in Obninsk after presentation of copies of tickets and payment receipts. Supported participants will be provided with a pre-paid accommodation and meals. A small amount in cash will be provided in Obninsk to cover travel-related costs.

Visas

If Russian entry visa is needed, the SPA Typhoon will provide a letter of invitation for visa support. Experts should contact Mr. Alexandre GARYANTS.

REGISTRATION FORM

Workshop on Environmental Networking and Information Systems

2-3 June 2003, Obninsk, Russian Federation

- Surname: Mr/Ms.....First name(s).....
- Occupation or position.....
- Institution or organization for which you are currently working:
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- Full postal professional address:
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Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:
- Indicate below your preference for accommodation:
From: _____ 2003 To: ___ June 2003
- Arrival in Moscow: date: _____ airport/railway station _____
time: _____ flight number: _____ coming from _____
- Departure from Moscow: date: ___ June airport/railway station _____
time: _____ flight number: _____ leaving for _____
- Indicate whether you need support for entry visa:

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Please send this form duly completed to Valentina Volkova