



# UNECE Weekly

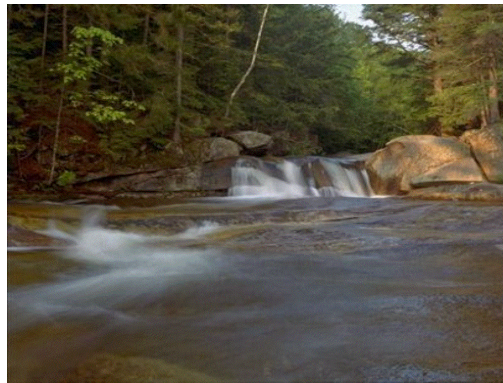
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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## It's just happened ...

### Strengthening transboundary water management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Improving information management and public participation fosters water governance, accountability and transparency of institutions, and mutual trust between riparian countries. An important component of this is making sure that all water users, including local communities and NGOs, have a real possibility to bring forward their concerns and priorities and to influence the decision making process in a meaningful way.



UNECE Water Convention. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of transboundary water management in EECCA through cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between countries, organizations and project teams on different aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters. CWC also aims to establish a network of EECCA experts involved in transboundary water management.

These were some of the lessons learned from the International Workshop on Information Management and Public Participation in Transboundary Water Cooperation, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 8-10 June. The workshop was prepared in partnership with the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), the World Bank Institute, the Swedish Environmental Protection and the NGO Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation. It was the second training event organized within the framework of the project *Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia* (EECCA), developed under the work programme of the

More than 70 representatives of EECCA countries, EU neighbouring countries, UN organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral donor agencies, the private sector and civil society participated in the workshop.

The workshop conclusions and recommendations will be taken into account in several international projects carried out in the region and in the future workplan under the UNECE Water Convention, including the next events under the CWC project.

All information on the workshop will be made available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm>

### Enterprise Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

Substantial improvements in environmental monitoring and data collection are needed in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). Such improvements are difficult to achieve without the commitment of, and cooperation with, enterprises. Strengthening enterprise self-monitoring and reporting helps to improve enterprise compliance with environmental regulations. It helps also to improve data collection to produce national state-of-the-environment reports and to report to the international community according to obligations under multilateral environmental conventions and pan-European ministerial processes.

The UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment organized on 2 June, as part of its annual session, a roundtable to share

experiences between western and EECCA countries in enterprise self-monitoring and environmental reporting, and to discuss possible action to be taken by governments, companies, international organizations and civil society associations. Senior governmental officials from Austria, Armenia, Belarus, Japan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and the City of Moscow, representatives of international organizations and managers of enterprises and companies including the Joint Stock Company Caustic (Volgograd, Russian Federation), Panasonic, Ricoh and Pricewaterhouse Coopers made presentations.

As a follow up, the Working Group decided to prepare practical guidance on legal, regulatory, institutional, financial and technical measures to improve enterprise monitoring and reporting.

The roundtable presentations are available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/meeting.html#fifth>. For more information contact: [mikhail.kokine@unece.org](mailto:mikhail.kokine@unece.org).

Not an official record - For information only

## Coming up soon ...

### June

13-15(am)	Conference of European Statisticians
15(pm)-16	Conference of European Statisticians and OECD Statistical Commission
13-17	Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
14-17	Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
13-15	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Seminar on Forestry and Our Cultural Heritage (Sunne, Värmland County, Sweden)

## Off the Press

### Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition – Principles and Examples



The study provides an in-depth analysis of the most common housing finance models in the UNECE region and provides policymakers with a tool to evaluate these models. With the large-scale privatization of the housing sector, the need for new housing finance systems is becoming more and more pressing in the UNECE countries with economies in transition. While policymakers have had access to information and policy advice on individual systems, there has not so far been a method for systematically comparing the different systems that would help to determine their suitability for a particular country. The aim of the study is to fill this gap by offering an overview of effective housing finance models which exist in the UNECE region, in particular the “Bausparkassen” system representing a contractual savings scheme, the Danish mortgage bond technique and the United States variety of mortgage-backed securities (MBS). At the heart of the study is a “checklist” which offers policymakers a set of criteria to evaluate and choose between the alternative systems.

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## Facts and figures:

### Female share (%) of enrolled tertiary students in engineering, manufacturing and construction fields in selected European countries

Country	1998	2003
Luxembourg	5.3	-
Bulgaria	39.6	33.9
Denmark	35.4	32.7
Romania	23.1	29.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	29.0
Sweden	24.9	28.8
Slovakia	28.1	28.6
Lithuania	33.0	28.1
Iceland	20.6	28.0
Estonia	27.1	27.8
Malta	-	27.6
Spain	25.1	27.3
Portugal	28.8	26.8
Italy	25.3	26.7
Croatia	-	24.9
Norway	24.6	24.1
Slovenia	23.9	23.2
Poland	20.8	22.1
Latvia	24.9	21.5
Czech Republic	20.1	20.7
Belgium	-	20.2
Hungary	20.9	20.2
Austria	16.7	19.8
Germany	16.6	18.9
Finland	16.6	18.6
United Kingdom	15.9	18.6
Turkey	-	18.6
Switzerland	-	13.5
Netherlands	12.4	11.7
Cyprus	-	7.7

Source : Eurostat

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