

I. Support to the Network of Russian-speaking Water Management Organizations (v 21 November 2013)

II. Background

Although availability and exchange of information are key instruments to maintain effective and efficient regional cooperation, limited access to data on water/land resources use and socio-economic situation is in many water basins an obstacle for making adequate short- and long-term decisions on trans-boundary water resources management and on implementation of relevant policies.

For the further development of information generation and exchange in the water management sector the Network of Russian-speaking Water Management Organisations was formally established on May 31, 2010 in Moscow. Presently the network includes 75 organisations and institutions. Participation in the network is voluntary and is organized in form of exchange of views, experiences, and information on various aspects of water-management activities.

The Scientific Information Centre, International Commission for Water Coordination, Uzbekistan (SIC-ICWC) provides the Secretariat for the Network. UNECE has a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation with the Executive Committee of IFAS. The website www.eecca-water.net provides the network's "knowledge hub", accumulating and communicating available research and policy development of its members. Russian experts and institutions have been very important in the development of the network with the chairman of the network coming from Russia.

The project will to the extent possible take into account women's perspectives, as water users and carers of children, and family health.

The project is a part of the UNECE Water Convention Work Programme and has been developed in line with official requests from the beneficiary institutions.

The main beneficiary countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The project will be implemented 2014-2016.

III. Objective

To facilitate exchange of water-related information and experience between countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia with focus on integrated water resources management (IWRM).

IV. Expected accomplishments

- EA1** Improved exchange of information between the involved countries and institutions
- EA2** Capacity building of experts involved in the network

V. Indicators of achievement

- I1 A network internet platform with an annually increased number of visitors and involved institutions contributing to the exchange of information as well as printed publications
- I2 More than 25 experts annually taking part in seminars and other meeting aiming to build capacity.

VI. Main activities

- A1 Activities related to the functioning of the network internet platform and development of publications for the exchange of information
- A2 Annual seminars/meetings for capacity building and exchange of information

VII. Assumptions and Risks

The risks are mainly on the operational level – increased costs and decreased co-funding from other sources may decrease the opportunity to provide a solid output from the project activities such as an annual meeting.

VIII. Budget

The annual budget requested from the Russian Federation is 25,000 USD, in total 75,000 USD over three years. Additional funding from other sources is needed to make sure that an annual meeting can be held.

Projected co-funding is:

- From UNECE in-kind – 7,000 USD
- From participating countries in-kind – 10,000 USD
- Other co-funding - 20,000 USD

The opportunity to get further co-funding from other sources is being investigated.

IX. Work plan

Expected accomplishment (EA)	Activity	Tentative timeframe by activity/output			Cost estimates (in US \$)	Partners	Beneficiaries	Venue, timeframe and the expected number of participants (where applicable)
		2014	2015	2016				
EA 1: Improved exchange of information between the involved countries and institutions	A1 Activities related to the functioning of the network internet platform and development of publications for the exchange of information	x	x	x	40,000	SIC ICWC, Network board	All members of the network	Core functioning of the website and preparation of publications provided by SIC-ICWC over the whole project period
EA 2: Capacity building of experts involved in the network	A2 Annual seminars/meetings for capacity building and exchange of information	x	x	x	35,000	SIC ICWC, Network board	All members of the network	Annual meetings in different locations over the region with minimum 25 participants.