

Overview of feedback received from countries of the Pan-European region on the value of the reporting process

Regional workshop on SDG indicator 6.5.2 for the Pan-European region

Preparation for the second cycle of reporting

Geneva, Switzerland, 21 October 2019

Tatiana Guimarães Schmid

Consultant, UNECE Water Convention secretariat

Feedback on reporting by Pan-European countries

- Comments **on the template for reporting** under the Water Convention were received both by Parties to the Convention and by non-Parties, **in writing and during discussions at the 12th meeting of the Convention's Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 5-6 July 2017)**.
- **Comments listed were made commenting explicitly 'the value of reporting', 'co-ordination with other countries'**
- Comments received in Section IV of reporting template

The value of the reporting process

- “**really well prepared** and due to the **high number of replies** also a considerable success”;
- “a beneficial mechanism **to evaluate effectiveness of provisions tackling the issues raised on protection and management of transboundary waters**”
- “Reporting **fostered cooperation within departments in the ministries**”.

The value of the reporting process

- “good opportunity **to review all existing agreements**”
- “ we have realized that what is written in the agreement does not need to be reflected in reality. As our bilateral agreements are very old and long lasting, the **cooperation with our neighboring countries went much further than what is set in the agreement, much more issues are discussed as it is very easy to establish ad hoc working group than to change the agreement.** Involvement of public is raising but that is not reflected in the agreements.”

Process and co-ordination with other countries

- “Different views have been solved by **sharing of the draft reporting templates between concerned parties** what was very **helpful to agree on common views** about the existing agreements and to streamline reporting, was also a support to the other countries (especially concerning multilateral agreements); however due to the exchange between the parties the exercise was considerably more time-consuming than initially anticipated.”
- “it is envisaged to consult with the neighboring country, but it also had some limitations. We agreed with the neighboring countries that the **majority of the information should be harmonized, but there could be differences as well.**”

Process and co-ordination with other countries

- “Draft reports could not be discussed between European countries participating in the same agreements **due to time constraints**”
- “We have cooperated with some neighboring countries when filling out the questionnaire and we have find out that in some of question **we have to keep a different answers due to different national processes or different understanding of the question.**”
- “Time constraint – **it was not easy to bring together different actors or gather data from those actors within the provided time frame of reporting.**”

Synergies

- **EU Directive:** “**Report fits quite well in the framework of the EU directives.** A number of requests under the Convention reporting could be covered by requirements related to EU directives. The report could be simplified by referring to the various reports made for monitoring the implementation of the Directives.
- **SDG 6:** “Water and health issues should be more prominent in the reporting template”
- **Regional level:** “**coordination with the European level** to access the data and information transmitted by the States members in the context of the implementation reporting of the different water-related European directive”

Making the most of the reporting exercise at national, basin, regional and global levels

- Group discussions
- 5 groups – 4 English-speaking and one Russian-speaking
- Reflection on how reporting, and more precisely, reporting with stronger coordination– also with joint bodies and other organizations - add value to decision-making and policies at these different levels?
- Approach the discussion from a the perspective of the benefits that can be drawn from the process