

## **Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins**

To be held in Geneva, 4-5 December 2019

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,

starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Room XVI

### **Session 5: Thursday, 5 December, 11.30-13.00**

## **The architecture of effective data and information exchange on selected themes Group discussions**

### **Thematic areas and facilitators:**

#### **A. Ecosystems and environmental information**

### **Group 6 and 7 : Facilitated by Maryna Yanush and Christine Kitzler**

Note: Ms. Claire Warembol, IUCN did not participate

While participation of Russian speakers was envisaged, no Russian speaker attended the group

Besides 2 participants from Africa all other participants in the group were from Europe: Poland, BiH,

Albania, Ukraine thus the focus of discussions was on EU guidance and the EU WFD and EU experience as

all of the countries (besides Lesotho,..) to harmonize their water policy / legislation with the EU Water

Directives and its daughter Directives

### **Questions to participants**

1. Review needs, map guidance and identify the gaps on the ***Ecosystems and environmental information***, as below:

#### **A. Type of information/data and its characteristics**

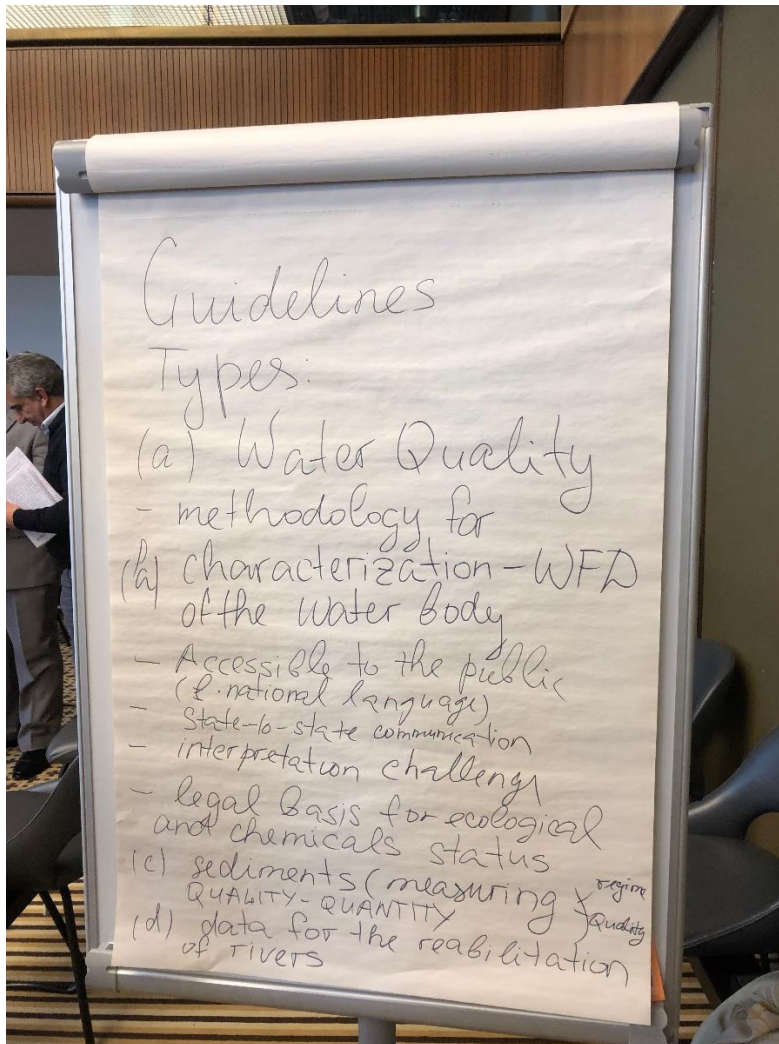
- i. What type of information is gathered or should be gathered on **Ecosystems and environmental information** to support IWRM at transboundary basin level?

#### [Preconditions for monitoring, collection of data and information and effective data and information exchange on ecosystems and environment](#)

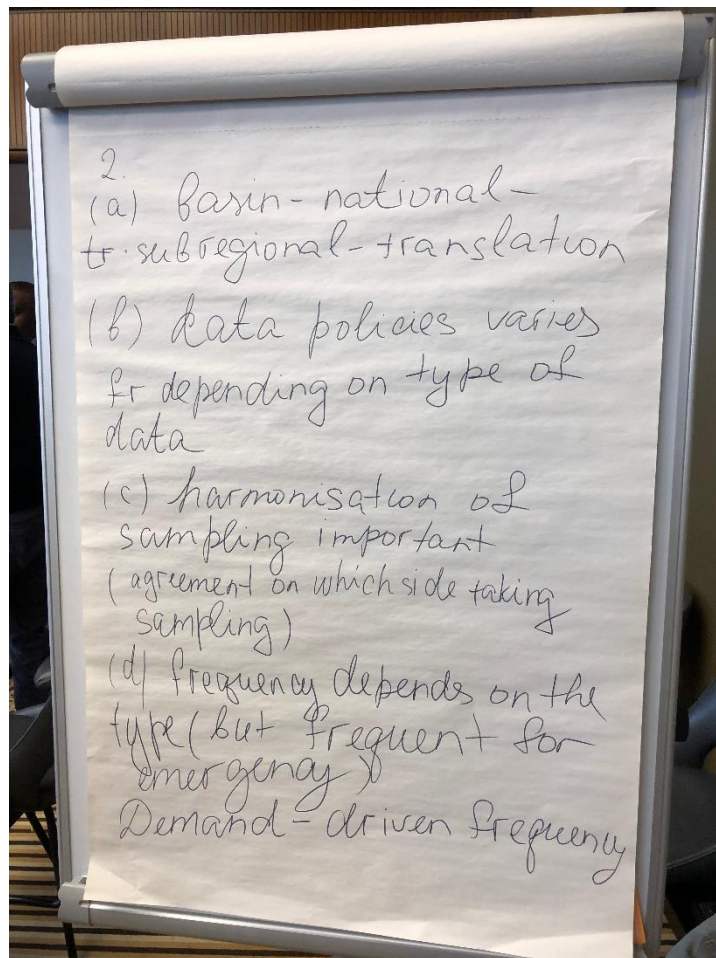
- Characterization of water bodies essential to define the scope of data and information collection needs. Characterization according to the EU WFD Directive essential in order to ensure comparability of data and information
- Legal basis to be ensured for classification of ecological and chemical water body status, monitoring and data collection
- Accessibility to data was assessed as crucial also due to obligations of countries derived from the Aarhus Convention, Water Convention and the EU WFD
- Standardized/harmonized approaches to avoid data and information interpretation challenges
- Data exchange at national level between relevant agencies and ministries crucial

Data and information types that are gathered relevant for ecosystems and environment:

- Water quantity
- Water quality (biological parameters and chemical parameters)
- Sediment regime and quality of sediment (heavy metal contamination ..)
- Data for river restoration

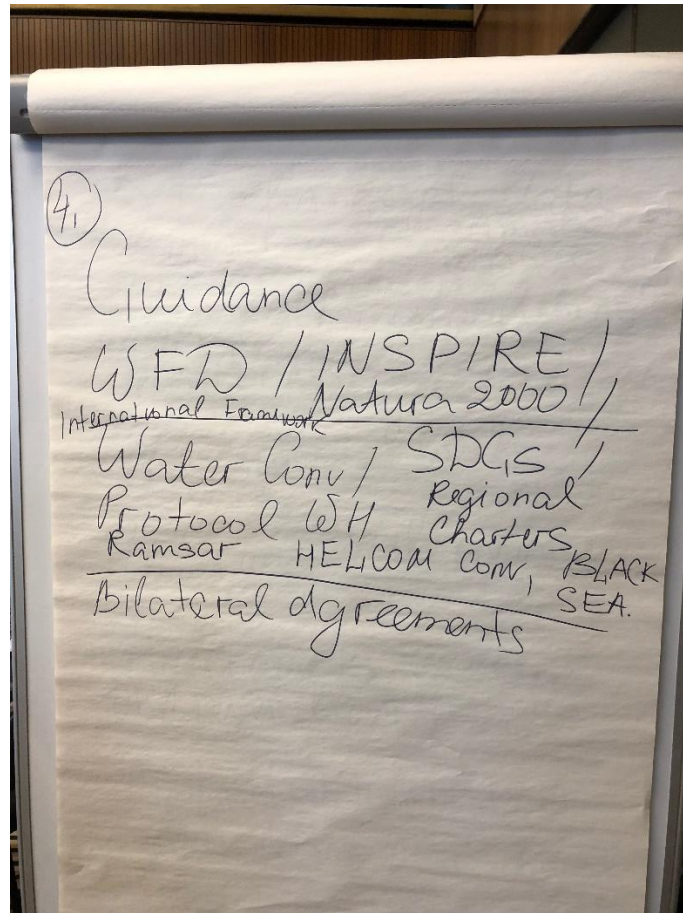


- ii. What is the scale of the data collected and assessed on **Ecosystems and environmental information** – basin level, transboundary, national, sub-regional?
- Depends on the type of data and information. Data policies vary.
  - Basin level, transboundary, national, sub-regional
  - Harmonization of sampling is crucial

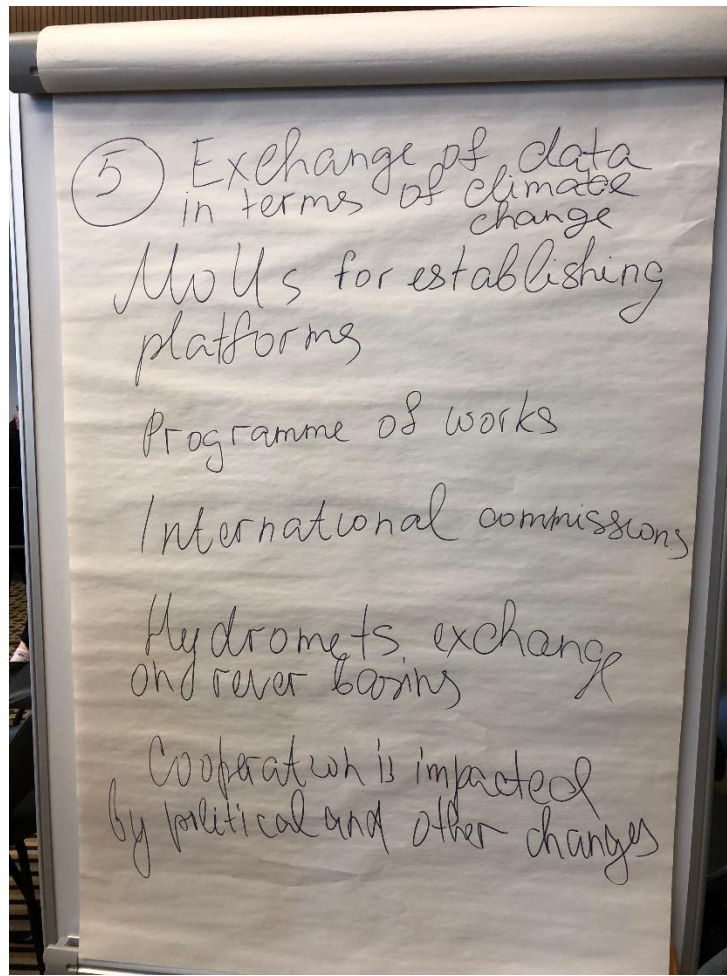


- iii. How is and the frequency and time frame of the information exchange important?  
(Notably considering the variability: daily, seasonal, interannual; instantaneous events vs. long-term changes; planning cycles etc.)
- Depends on the type of data and information. In the case of emergency situations like accidental industrial pollution or flooding- real time data is required
  - Biological data less frequently collected and exchanged – intervals for data collection frequency specified e.g. in the EU WFD
  - Demand driven frequency
- iv. What guidance exists and is used at the basin, aquifer or regional level?
- Guidance documents on monitoring and assessment developed by:
  - Water Convention
  - Protocol on Water and Health
  - EU WFD and developed guidelines (e-flows, wetlands, monitoring..)
  - Natura 2000
  - Inspire
  - SGDs
  - Regional Charters
  - Ramsar Convention

- Regional / bilateral Conventions and Agreements: Guidance by ICPDR, Sava, Helcom and Black Sea Convention



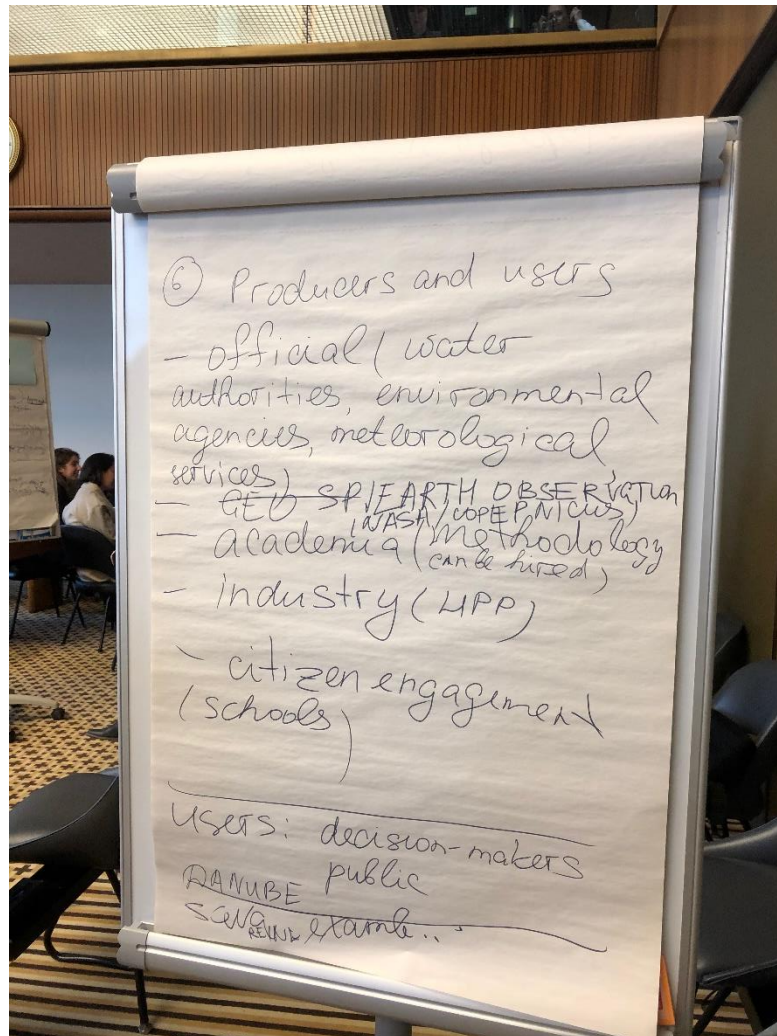
- v. Which legal and technical arrangements exist for sharing climate change data on transboundary and basin level and between sectors on the national level?
- MoUs for establishing data and information platforms
  - Programmes of work
  - International / Basin Commissions
  - Data exchange protocols etc. between Hydrometeorological services
  - Cooperation is impacted by the political situation and other issues



**B. Producers and users of information and data on decision-making, governance**

- i. What are the different sources of the information and data on the *Ecosystems and environmental information*?
  - Water Agencies and authorities
  - Other Governmental agencies: Monitoring centres or environmental Agencies
  - Hydrometeorological services
  - Academia
  - Industry (e.g. Hydropower companies)
  - Citizen science
  - Earth Observation (NASA,..)
- ii. Who are the actors collecting, managing and sharing the data?
  - Water Agencies and authorities
  - Other Governmental agencies: Monitoring centres or environmental Agencies
  - Hydrometeorological services
  - Academia
  - Industry (Hydropower)
  - Citizen science
  - Earth Observation (NASA,..)
- iii. Who is using the data (which sectors and/or stakeholders)? Which decisions does the data inform?
  - Decision makers
  - Academia

- public



2. Please identify, drawing upon the discussion, good practices regarding how these data and information are integrated and harmonized, also how they feed into planning processes and water management at a transboundary level, and/or what is not working (lessons). Reference to specific examples are welcome.
- ICPDR
  - Sava Commission
  - Rhine Commission

**Reporting back in plenary [30 min]**

A rapporteur identified by each group reports one conclusion from part 1 (guidance that is applied) and part 2 (good practice and lessons), so two points in total, ideally avoiding what other groups have reported previously.