



**United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe**



**MINISTRY  
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN EUROPE**

**To be held in Budapest, Hungary, 8-10 February 2011**

### **INFORMATION NOTICE**

#### **I. Background**

The subregional workshop on transboundary water cooperation in Central and Western Europe is a crucial step in the process of preparations of the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region for the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (21-23 September 2011, Astana, Kazakhstan).

The workshop will be held in Budapest from 8 to 10 February 2011, as one of the events of Hungary's EU Presidency. The workshop will be organized by the Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in cooperation with the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC).

The second Assessment is an important part of the programme of work for 201-2012 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). Compared to the first Assessment, the second edition will have a more holistic approach, integrate surface and groundwaters, highlight legal, institutional and socio-economic aspects and emphasize cross-cutting themes that are a challenge for transboundary waters, in particular the impacts of and adaptation to climate change. The second Assessment will provide an authoritative picture of the state of transboundary waters and identify joint priorities and challenges. It will be a powerful tool to inform, guide and stimulate further action by Governments, river basin organizations, the international community, including donors, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

#### **II. Aims and objectives**

The workshop will allow representatives of countries in Central and Western Europe, including EU and EFTA countries, to work together to develop an accurate picture of all transboundary waters in the region – both surface and groundwaters – with the aims of monitoring and bringing positive changes to their management and of laying the groundwork for future work.

The workshop will allow discussion on common issues for transboundary water management, such as diffuse pollution and land use, ecosystems approach and ecosystem services, extreme events, climate change and its impacts on water resources, transboundary groundwater management, industrial and urban pollution with focus on selected pollutants, as well as hydromorphological alterations.

#### **III. Organization of work**

The workshop is addressed to all those involved in the management of shared water resources, including competent governmental institutions, joint bodies, regional authorities, academia, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The workshop will be structured as follows:

***First day: Opening and thematic plenary sessions***

Plenary sessions with presentations and discussion on the main themes of the sub-region.

***2nd day: Assessment of transboundary waters in Central and Western Europe***

This segment of the workshop will identify developments regarding the status of transboundary water resources since the first UNECE Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater (2007)<sup>1</sup> in the shared sub-basins and aquifers in Central and Western Europe.

After an introduction in plenary on the objectives and working arrangements, participants will be split into working groups that will discuss in detail the assessment of all transboundary water bodies, based on presentations made by a representative of one of the riparian countries. A specific working group will discuss transboundary groundwaters in the sub-region.

***3rd day: Workshop conclusions: main messages for the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters for Western Europe and recommendations on the way forward***

This plenary half-a-day session starts with reports from the break-out groups and then moves on to discuss the main messages for the sub-region to be brought to the attention of the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" through the second Assessment. It will exchange views on the recommendations on the way forward.

A detailed programme will be issued in January 2010.

#### **IV. Practical information**

The workshop will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 8 February 2010 and end at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, 10 February 2011.

It will be held in the conference room of the Ministry of Rural Development  
Address: H-1055 Budapest, Kossuth ter 11. (*opposite to the building of the Parliament*)  
Web: <http://www.vm.gov.hu/main.php?folderID=945>

The working language will be English.

Meals will be provided by the host.

In order to register, participants should send the registration form, also available at [http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/Budapest\\_workshop.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/Budapest_workshop.html) to [water.convention@unece.org](mailto:water.convention@unece.org) with a copy to [maria.galambos.molnarne@vm.gov.hu](mailto:maria.galambos.molnarne@vm.gov.hu) latest by 15 January 2011.

On the last day, a visit to the Hungarian parliament is offered to participants as cultural programme. Participants should indicate their interest in the registration form.

Further information and relevant material will be made available in due course at: [http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/Budapest\\_assessment\\_workshop.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/Budapest_assessment_workshop.html)

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<sup>1</sup> see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.htm>

## V. Accommodation

The following hotels near the venue are recommended for participants.

1. Star Inn Hotel \*\*\*1066 Budapest, Dessewffy u. 36. phone: 00-36-1- 472-2020  
Email: [k.makkai@starinnhotels.com](mailto:k.makkai@starinnhotels.com)
2. Hotel President Budapest \*\*\*\* 1054 Budapest Hold u. 3-5. phone: 00-36-1-373-8200  
Email: [reservation@hotelpresident.hu](mailto:reservation@hotelpresident.hu) or [sales@hotelpresident.hu](mailto:sales@hotelpresident.hu)
3. Marmara Hotel Budapest \*\*\*\*1055 Bp, Nagy Ignác u. 21 . phone: 00-36- 501 9110 or 9120  
Email: [reservation@marmara.hu](mailto:reservation@marmara.hu) contact: Ms Kinga Béres

Participants should contact the hotels directly and make their own reservation. To benefit from a special rate negotiated by the organizers it is necessary to mention the code: „EUPRESIDENCY” in the Email or by phone.

It is recommended to book the hotels as soon as possible (by the end of January the latest).

## VI. Contacts

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