


**Public access to information and participation  
in decision-making  
in local, national and transboundary contexts:  
experience of MAMA-86's drinking water campaign**



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**Ukraine is water limited country.**

**About 75% of population is supplied from the surface water**

**The pressing problems in the water sector:**

- **water resources shortages;**
- **critical condition of water supply and sanitation;**
- **ineffective water and wastewater treatment;**
- **lack of financing.**

## Results of crisis situation in water sector are:

- more than 814,000 dwellers have not regular access to water
- 45% of the population of Ukraine are consuming water of low quality;
- the increasing of water-borne diseases
  - *hepatite A in Southern part of Ukraine,*
  - *rotovirus infections in Odessa oblast,*
  - *“blue baby” syndrome in Poltava oblast.*

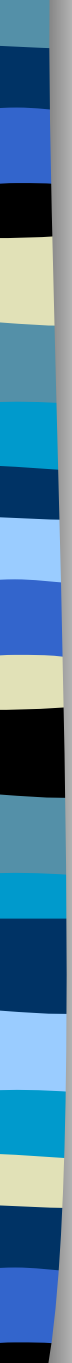
## **MAMA-86 is All-Ukrainian environmental NGO**

The networking campaign “Drinking water in Ukraine” (1997) is a grass roots initiative of 4 local NGOs in Kyiv, Odessa, Artemivsk and Tatarbunary.

11 local organizations are involved in campaign now.

### *The long-term goals of the water campaign are:*

- to raise public awareness on water problems;
- to implement the pilot projects and distribute the positive practice;
- to involve people into decision-making process related to the issues at all levels.



The **Aarhus Convention** stipulates that *“in the field of the environment, improved access to information and public participation in decision-making enhance the quality and the implementation of decisions, contribute to public awareness of environmental issues, give the public the opportunity to express its concerns and enable public authorities to take due account of such concerns”*.



## **NGOs the most active and the best organized part of the public**

actively works on:

- public informing and education on the water problems and their solutions;
- to promote the dialogue between stakeholders (state authorities, water utilities, science, business and public);
- to protect the rights of the citizens to a healthy environment and the consumers' rights to clean and affordable water;
- to protect of water resources and economical use of them.

## ***MAMA-86 public informational and educational campaign***

The aim is raising public awareness on water issues.

Tools:

- permanent search and gathering of official and existing information;
- independent analysis and monitoring of the drinking water quality;
- public surveys, expert interviews;
- creating the informational materials (*newsletters, leaflets, brochures, booklets, articles, video*);
- water day actions;
- courses of lectures, seminars (*“Alternative sources of drinking water supply in Odessa”, May 1999; NGOs’ seminar “Basic principles of sustainable water use in Ukraine” Kyiv 2000*);
- round tables (*“Water meters – an important instrument of the water sector reforming in Ukraine” May 2001, Kyiv*);
- MAMA-86’s staff workshops/trainings together with partners (*WECF and Aquanet from the Netherlands*).

## *MAMA-86's pilot projects:*

The main objectives:

- ✓ *To provide practical solutions of the local water problems;*
- ✓ *To exchange the knowledge and experience on positive solutions;*
- ✓ *To catalyse the public activity, involve the public in implementation of the projects.*

*MAMA-86's water program: "Technical solutions for the improvement of Ukrainian citizens' access to safe drinking water in urban and rural areas".*

Directions:

- *Water saving (rational water usage);*
- *Alternative water supply;*
- *Drinking water in rural areas.*



## *Public participation into the policy and decision-making processes*

“Joint Conclusions of Almaty Ministerial Consultation”,  
Kazakhstan, October, 2000 :

*One of the key elements of water sector reform in NIS is “engaging the public directly in the reform process and making adequate provision for consumer protection... The public should be actively engaged in the process of reforming the urban water system from the very start to receive timely and exhaustive information, to offer citizens an opportunity to express their views and to participate in the decision-making process. NGOs are able to play a greater role in the process of drafting, implementing and monitoring water reform plans at all levels. NGOs can explain to the public the necessity of reforming the water sector, disseminate information on the reforms underway and promote the dialogue...”*

## *MAMA-86 participation in Drinking Water Law making*

- comments/notes on the structure and content of the Drinking Water Law;
- the analysis of existing legislation on the drinking water issues in Ukraine;
- monitoring of the Law drafting process, public informing;
- public consultations and hearings on the Law Draft;
- participation in the working group meetings, lobbying the public amendments.

## ***MAMA-86 participation in Almaty process:***

- participation in NGOs' preparing process (*preparing comments participation in regions NGOs seminars and conference*);
- MAMA-86 - elected representative of NIS NGOs at the Almaty Ministerial Consultations;
- distribution of the Almaty materials in Ukraine among NGOs water utilities and state authorities;
- participation in the first meeting of the Seniors Officials responsible on water sectors reforming in the NIS, 10-11 September 2001, Kyiv, Ukraine.
- participation in the workshop on consumer rights protection and public participation in water sector reforming in NIS, 4-5 March 2002, Paris (*discussion paper on the issue*).

## *Protocol on Civil Liability*

MAMA-86 is a member of the Pan-European Eco-Forum Water Issue group.

Participation in the Civil Liability Protocol drafting process.

Preparing the Eco-Forum position paper, development the position:

- work with experts on drafts of position;
- discussion of drafts by the members of WIG.

Currently formulation of the Article 11 bis “Public access to information and justice properly”.

## *Sustainable rivers basin management: transboundary cooperation*

### **The Dniester River Basin**

The Dniester River Ukrainian and Moldavian NGO regional eco-forum (October 1999, Chisinau), the Dniester River Keepers Association – “Ecotiras”

Objectives:

- to develop an integrated protection and management of the Dniester River;
- to support the Convention working out processes.

The direct action and hearings to stop the motorway building in Dniester wetlands (April, August 2001).

### **Azov Sea basin**

MAMA-86 initiative on the establishment of the NGOs network in Azov Sea basin (*seminar on the environmental problems of the Azov Sea, March 2001*).

MAMA-86 staff training on basin approach in December 2001 with the experts.

Plan to organize the multistakeholders seminars on Azov Sea problems