



## EUROPE-INBO 2016

### Roundtable 2.

# Water governance in transboundary basins

Thurs. 20 October, Lourdes, FRANCE

**Reporting on the presentations and  
working groups discussions**

# Roundtable 2. Programme

- \* Co-chairs:

- \* Mr. Pierre ROUSSEL (France)

- \* Ms. Maria BABUKCHIEVA (Bulgaria)

- \* Co- reporters

- \* Dr Iwona Zdralewicz (Poland)

- \* Mr. Pierre Henry De Villeneuve (France)



- \* Keynote speaker:
  - \* Mr. Gábor Baranyai, International Water Governance Centre, National University of Public Service, Hungary
- \* Panellists:
  - \* Mr. Tales Carvalho Resende, UNESCO-IHP
  - \* Ms. Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov, ICPDR
  - \* Mr. Christian Szacowny, Rhine-Maas Basin Committee, France
  - \* Mr. Igor Hîncu, Apele Moldavei, Moldova
  - \* Mr. Pierre-Nicolas Libert, Public Service of Wallonia, Belgium
  - \* Dr Eng. Mariusz Adynkiewicz-Piragas, Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute, Poland



# Main outcomes and recommendations

- Upstream – downstream location within transboundary basin – upper users and polluters are often in the win position, they do not count the others interests, e.g. hot spots – huge dams planned in all over the world. To ensure peace in shared basins, we have led to more cooperation than conflict. The basis for successful cooperation are institutions of transboundary governance and capacity to adopt new changes.
- Groundwater - while on the world 592 Transboundary Aquifers has been identified, only 6 TBAs are subjected for water cooperation. Less than 10% Transboundary River Basin Organizations have a mandate that covers groundwater. The cooperation over TBAs should be promoted. Strengthening the position of groundwater in terms of implementation and enforcement, both at domestic and TBRBOs levels is therefore necessary.

# Main outcomes and recommendations

- For proper transboundary cooperation 3 key elements are necessary: the legal international mandate, experts groups and public participation, with emphasis on the last point. Public participation is a legal requirement according to the art. 14. WFD. Model example of public involvement are the ICPDR activities.
- For cooperation on border waters it is important to respond to arising new situations and problems. A good example is the evolution of cooperation on the Rhine, which began from the navigation, then aquatic life, the production of electricity. The key moment was the ecological disaster in 1986. Now the new topics are considered such as: climate change, medicines, new substances, etc.

# Main outcomes and recommendations

- Climate change has been mentioned by speakers. Nowadays the climate change should be included in almost all strategies and plans, so the transboundary cooperation should also take into account this issue. A good example are activities of Polish-German Transboundary Commission, which already implemented 2 cross-border projects and the special climate experts group was established in 2015. In addition, a catalog of adaptation measures to climate change at the local level has been developed.
- Cooperation in western and central Europe runs smoothly, but in other areas the situation may be quite different. An example is the cooperation on transboundary waters in Moldova. Cooperation on the Prut functioning properly, because it is collaboration with Romania, which supports Moldavia. While cooperation on the Dniester with Ukraine almost does not exist, and even conflicts have been occurred.

# Main outcomes and recommendations

- It is important also to harmonize the boundaries of water bodies by the states, but also important is the definition of transboundary waters, what is the problem of Wallonia. Wallonia is one of the three federal regions of Belgium with own governments and ministers. Problematic issue is whether the boundary waters of Wallonia with other regions are transboundary or not, therefore the political and administrative agreement on the identification of transboundary water is essential.

# Conclusions

- \* The cooperation on transboundary basins is crucial, because over 50% of freshwater resources is in shared river basins and lakes.
- \* Cooperation on transboundary waters should be open to new challenges and problems and react to them, eg. climate change issue.
- \* The public participation in transboundary water cooperation is very important, because facilitates the decision-making process.
- \* The harmonization the boundaries of water bodies by the states is key element of cooperation.
- \* Strengthening the position of groundwater in cooperation is necessary

**Thank you for the attention**