

3rd World Water Forum
INBO OFFICIAL SESSION

TOPIC :
"AND NOW WHAT AMBITIONS
FOR BASIN ORGANIZATIONS ?"

Progress Report and Projects of INBO Regional networks
Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations
(CEE NBO)

21 March 2003
Shiga, Japan

Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEE NBO) was created during the General Assembly held in Sinaia, Romania on 1st and 2nd February 2002. The event was organized by the Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection and National Administration *Apele Romane*, with the support of the Global Water Partnership.

The CEE NBO members are : Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary and Slovakia, the last two-ones being Permanent Observers. National Administration *Apele Romane* ensures the Presidency and the Secretariat of this regional Organisation.

As you know, the objective of INBO and its Regional Networks is to *promote integrated water resources management at the level of river basins*, as an essential tool for sustainable development. According to this objective, the Regional Network endeavors (within INBO) to develop lasting relations between the organizations in charge of such a comprehensive management in Central and Eastern Europe, and favor exchanges of experiences among them, to develop information and training programs for all actors involved in water field, to encourage education of the population regarding these issues, to promote these principles in international cooperation programs, etc.

During the meeting in Sinaia, the CEE NBO members have stressed the importance of the issues related to the EU Water Framework Directive and requested the organization of technical seminars covering the different aspects of its application. Consequently, until now, there were two workshops : the first-one, in Warsaw/Poland, in July 2002, on "*Pressure and impacts*" and the second, in Calimanesti/Romania, in November 2002, having as a topic "*Delineation of surface water bodies and characterization of artificial and heavily modified water bodies*". The seminars were organized by National Administration "*Apele Romane*", as Secretariat of CEE NBO, and the Ministry of Environment from Poland, respectively the Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection from Romania, with large support of International Office of Water, from France. The workshops achieved large audience and huge interest. The main objectives of these seminars were to facilitate the dissemination of EU guidance documents within the applicant countries, to present the results of the French workgroups in the field and to allow the Basin Committees of the Candidate Countries to exchange their work experience. Regarding this last issue, Romania would like to kindly ask Poland, Czech Republic or Hungary to agree on exchange of experience between our Water Branches. We intend a study tour of Romanian people involved in water management field (15 persons) at Water Boards in Poland, Czech Republic or Hungary, on Romanian expenses. The contact person for your proposals or remarks is Mrs. Daniela Radulescu the Secretary of CEE NBO.

The first *Liaison Bureau of Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations* took place at 13 November 2002, in Calimanesti/Romania, on the Olt Valley. The event was organized by the Secretariat of CEE NBO. The participants on this meeting were from all CEE NBO country members, with the exception of Serbia. Mr. Jean-Francois Donzier, the INBO Secretary (France) honored the meeting with his presence.

The Liaison Bureau was the occasion to evaluate the Progress report on the actions undertaken since the General Assembly – Sinaia in CEE NBO and also the progress of the "Associated Program GWP/INBO" in CEE NBO region.

The Liaison Bureau took note that Bulgaria and Slovenia have expressed an interest in becoming full Members of INBO, like Romania, Poland and The Czech Republic. The procedure is underway.

We have proposed the extent of CEE NBO, including Moldova and Ukraine. The official letters will be hand to the Ministers responsible for water from these countries, these days on the occasion of World Water Forum.

Because the members of CEENBO gathered in Calimanesti asked about the possibility to participate in the strategy for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, within the Strategic Coordination Group, an official request on behalf of the President of CEE NBO was

presented by Mrs. Daniela Radulescu to the Strategic Coordination Group meeting, held on 21 February 2003, in Brussels. The Secretary of CEE NBO has supported this initiative, which would be fruitful for all candidate CEE NBO member countries.

The SCG members were very pleased to see the interest of the CEE NBO in the ongoing implementation work on the Water Framework Directive and they welcome the initiatives that CEE NBO is taking to support this process. The participation in the Strategic Co-ordination Group is based on rules and criteria very strict. We are presented elements regarding the criteria, which have to be fulfilled by CEE NBO, according to their requirements. The answer of SCG was that CEE NBO has still a special situation (neither representing a country, nor a stakeholder). Further to a discussion amongst the members of the SCG, they will be better to answer our request (most likely at the beginning of May, on the occasion of the next SCG meeting). However, they recognized that an organization like CEE NBO could play a crucial role in the implementation process.

Regarding the actions planned for 2003, the next meetings of CEE NBO were established in June 2003, in Romania or Bulgaria, and in September 2003 - the next Liaison Bureau joined with another workshop that will be held in Romania, at Tulcea, in Danube Delta.

We appreciate all these meetings very useful and benefit for the people involved in water management field in CEE NBO region.

We would like to mention that Romania participated on 25 – 26 November 2002, in Thonon-les-Bains/France, to express her position with respect to the creation of Transboundary Network of Basin Organizations and proposed to host the next plenary meeting. We would propose you to hold this meeting in September, in Danube Delta, joint with the CEE NBO activities mentioned earlier.

Danube Delta is one of the most important and spectacular wetlands in Europe. Due to the high species richness, the Danube Delta Biosphere occupies the third place in the world, after the Amazon and Nile Delta. Let's meet together in September, in this wonderful place!

Thank you for your attention.