Action funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

EUWI+ EU WATER INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

European Union Water Initiative Plus for
Eastern Partnership Countries (EUWI+): Results 2 and 3

ENI/2016/372-403

ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RBMPs

Republic of Belarus

March 2018

umweltbundesamt
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

International Office for Water

Responsible EU member state consortium project leader

Ms Josiane Mongellaz; Office International de l'Eau (FR)

EUWI+ country representative in Republic of Belarus

Mr Alexandr Stankevitch

Authors

Paul Haener, Office International de l'Eau (FR)
Philippe Seguin, Office International de l'Eau (FR)
Yunona Videnina, Office International de l'Eau (FR)

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Imprint

Owner and Editor:

EU Member State Consortium
Office International de l'Eau (IOW)
21/23 rue de Madrid
75008 Paris, France

March 2018

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AA	Association Agreement
Bel NIC Ecology	Belarusian Research Center Ecology
Belgosgeocentre	Belarusian State Geological Centre
Belstat	National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus
Belvodhoz	State Association for Land Reclamation, Water and Fish Industry “Belvodhoz”
Brest oblast CNRandEP	Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Brest
Brestoblgidromet	Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring-Brest
BrestVodokanal	Brestvodokanal
CRICUWR	Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EC	European Commission
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
EIEC	Environmental Information and Education Centre
Ekologiainvest	Centre for International Environmental Projects - Certification and Audit
ENP	European Neighborhood Policy
EPIRB	Environmental Protection of International River Basins
EU	European Union
EUWI+	European Union Water Initiative Plus
GDB	Gross domestic product
GIDROMET	Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring
Gomel Oblast CNRandEP	Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Gomel
Gomeloblgidromet	Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring-Gomel
Gomelvodocanal	Communal Production Unitary Enterprise "Gomelvodokanal"
Gorvodokanal	Mogilev City Communal Unitary Enterprise "Gorvodokanal"
Grodno Oblast CNRandEP	Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Grodno
Grodnooblgidro-met	Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring-Grodno
Grodnovodokanal	City Communal Production Unitary Enterprise "Grodnovodokanal"
GW	Groundwater
ICPDR	International Commission for Development of Danube Resources
IOW	International Office for Water
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MCHS	Ministry of Emergency Situations
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Minprirody	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Minselkhozprod	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Minsk City CNRandEP	Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Minsk City
Minsk Oblast CNRandEP	Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Minsk
Minskvodokanal	Unitary Entreprise "Minskvodokanal"
Minzdrav	Ministry of Public Health

MJKH	Ministry of Housing and Communal Services
MLH	Ministry of Forestry
Mogilevoblgidro-met	Mogilev Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring
Moguilev Oblast CNRandEP	Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection-Moguilev
MYAC NEMS GIAC NSMOS	Main Information & Analytical Center of the National Environmental Monitoring System
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPD	National Policy Dialogue
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCA	Partnership and Co-operation Agreement
PoM	Programme of Measures
PPMD	Presidential Property Management Directorate
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RCAC	Republican Center for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection
SPC Geology	Scientific Production Centre for Geology
SW	Surface Water
SWC	State Water Cadastre
TKP	Practical Technical Guide
TW	Transitional Water
UBA	Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt)
UMN	University of Modern Knowledge
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Vitebsk Oblast CNRandEP	Vitebsk Regional Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Vitebskoblgidro-met	Vitebsk Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring
Vitebskvodokanal	Unitary Entreprise "Vitebskvodokanal"
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Project brief

The European Union Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a policy initiative launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009. It aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

In recent years, the countries of the Eastern Partnership have demonstrated a willingness to align their water policies and practices with the general principles and specific requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), as well as other thematic and sectoral water directives and UN Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Moreover, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have made commitments to reform their water policies and implement the EU water acquis as part of Association Agreements signed with the EU in 2014.

It is in this context that the European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) for Eastern Partnership Countries was initiated by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission.

The European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+) was launched in September 2016 to assist the 6 Eastern Partner countries to approximate their legislation to the EU Water Framework Directive and its associated directives. Its objective is to improve the sustainable management of water resources with a focus on trans-boundary river basin management.

EUWI+ focuses on five thematic areas:

1. Legislation, policy development and institutional strengthening
2. Laboratory and monitoring systems strengthening
3. River Basin Management Plan development
4. River Basin Management Plan implementation
5. Public awareness, communication, and data/information management

The OECD and UNECE are implementing activities under thematic area 1. Thematic areas 2–5 are implemented by an EU Member States Consortium comprised of the Environment Agency Austria (UBA) and the International Office for Water (OIEau/IOWater) of France. Experts from other EU Member States will also be involved in activities of the project.

The budget for these thematic areas for all 6 countries amounts to Euro 24.6 million in total, which is financed by the European Union (Euro 23.5 million grant) with contributions from the Governments of Austria and France. Its planned period of implementation is from September 2016 until August 2020 (48 months).

The project has developed a website (http://euwipluseast.eu/en/) to publish and disseminate all data, information and services developed and used in the frame of this project.

1.2 Executive summary of the current report

The *European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership* (EUWI+) was launched in September 2016 to assist the six Eastern Partnership countries in approaching the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and its associated directives. The project's objective is to improve beneficiary country practices in sustainable water resources management with a focus on trans-boundary river basin management.

The present report contains the first needs assessment and identifies priorities for implementing River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in the country based on European standards.

This is a working document for national and international partners to pave the way for carrying out agreed activities within the EUWI+ project on participative river basin management planning. This report was produced as part of project activity 2.3.1. "Assessment of the needs and identification of priorities in the implementation of the RBMPs". Thus, it should not be interpreted as a complete assessment of the sector.

The results and findings reflect observations made primarily in 2017 and completed during the first months of 2018. The present assessment report summarises the state of play of river basin management broken down into the following components: institutional, planning, data sharing, and participation. It was produced based on a literature review, interview results, and internal expertise. Since that time, the countries have made important developments and improvements thanks in particular to the support of the project. The results do not therefore represent the current status in the countries.

The document includes an assessment of: the legal and institutional framework for water management at country scale; the participative river basin management planning framework including an assessment of the RBMP put together with the support of an earlier EPIRB project; the data management organisation; and stakeholders' involvement mechanisms at different scales.

The report concludes with recommendations on how to implement EUWI+ activities in the national context and improve the river basin management planning process in the country. It indicates the capacity building needs identified to reach Water Framework Directive requirements in the field of River Basin Management Plans.

2 INTRODUCTION

The European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) provides a framework for closer relations between the EU and its neighboring countries. The European Union Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership Countries project (EUWI+) aims at further supporting the neighboring countries in improving their water quality with special focus on transboundary river basin management in light of the WFD principles.

The Action EUWI+ is built on the lessons learned from several development initiatives of the European Union in the water sector in Republic of Belarus such as primarily the EUWI EECCA and EPIRB projects.

The overall objective of this project addresses existing challenges in both development and implementation of efficient management of water resources.

Among those challenges, the development of River Basin Management Plans in the spirit of the Water Framework Directive (2000/EC/60) is a major one, as it provides a key framework for integrated water management. It is important to notice that Republic of Belarus has no commitment with European Union regulation. Therefore, the RBMPlanning process is steering as a balance between Belarusian regulation and the WFD.

This report therefore tries to present an overall picture of the state of the RBMP preparation in Belarus, presenting briefly the institutional and legal context, the current framework in place for River Basin Management Planning, analyzing the existing Plan from EPIRB project and proposing actions in the frame of the project for improvement, capacity building and supporting the development of pilot basins planning activities.

In order to do so, information has been gathered and developed through literature review and meetings between the responsible technical and management staff in the Belarusian administration and the UBA/IOWater teams.

One should note that specific analyses, including needs assessment for water related monitoring and laboratories in Belarus have been also produced in the frame of the project and are complementary to the information included in the present report:

- Draft report on the results of the assessment of monitoring systems in Belarus, December 2017
- Draft report on the results of the assessment of laboratory capacities in Belarus, December 2017

The assessments are subject to continuous revision as the teams working on water in the Belarusian administration and in the Member State consortium sustainably develop the activities foreseen under the EUWI+ project.

3 OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Objective

In order to establish project priorities and targets, an assessment of the current state of river basin management planning was carried out to identify potential gaps and areas of support through the project.

The present assessment report summarizes the findings described in the mission reports, which are an essential part of the assessment activities.

Moreover, the assessment report identifies gaps and proposes actions towards a sustainable and harmonized implementation of the WFD within the EUWI+ project.

3.2 Assessment Methodology

During the inception phase and the assessments at the beginning of the implementation phase of the EUWI+ project, meetings with representatives of the responsible administration and with representatives of relevant international projects were held. Belarusian institutions involved in the present project include Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody). In order to collect the required information, meetings were held with both management and technical staff of the administration.

The following aspects were discussed:

- The current institutional and legislative framework,
- The existing River Basin Management Plan developed during EPIRB project for Dnieper River Basin.

For this activity, the MS experts' team has proceeded to the:

- In depth review and assessment of the existing methodologies/RBMPs and identification of compliance gaps in light of the concerned Technical Practical Guide and regarding the requirements of WFD, the governance regarding RBMP development and stakeholders involvement, human resources and training needs;
- Assessment to identify training needs in order to provide the most relevant methodological support, including capacity building on WFD implementation and RBMP preparation, and on-the-job training of the authorities in charge of this work.

3.3 Chronology

The assessments mentioned above were carried out during the inception phase and the following missions: October and December 2017, February and March 2018.

4 LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 Legal framework related to water resources

The new Water Code of the Republic of Belarus replaces the 1998 Code and has been signed by the President of the Republic of Belarus on 30 April 2014. In force since May 2015, it is the principal legal act for pursuing state policy for sustainable development, and protection and rehabilitation of the country's surface water and groundwater resources. The main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Belarus in the sphere of protection and use of water include: integrated water resources management, priority use of groundwater for drinking, pollution and contamination prevention of water, payment for water use, compensation for damage caused to water bodies, participation of citizens and non-governmental organizations in decision-making in the field of protection and use of water.

The new Water Code 2014 introduces the main innovations:

- Usage of River Basin Management Approach in the form of advisory rivers basin councils (before: the combination of rational use of water and protection within the boundaries of administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Belarus and the water bodies basins);
- Development of River Basin Management Plan for the integrated water resources management for the main river basins, based on the data of the State Water Cadastre, State Cadastre of Mineral Resources, monitoring of surface water and groundwater monitoring and Basin Councils recommendations;
- Ecological status assessment of surface water using hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators as part of the National Environmental Monitoring System in the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus puts particular effort into inspiring its water-related legislation with EU legal acts, which is among the goals of the Water Strategy until 2020. There are a number of recently adopted technical regulatory legal acts that follow the relevant EU regulations but need to be made applicable for the conditions of Belarus through implementing various administrative, technical, capacity-building and other measures (e.g. technical guides).

A second legislation about water will be developed in 2019 with the support of EUWI+ project, taking into account artificial water objects, heavily modified Water Bodies, groundwater, etc, to extend harmonisation of Belarusian regulation with European regulation.

There are several other laws related to water resources management. The 2008 Code on Subsoil Resources governs the use of groundwater. The 1999 Law on Drinking Water Supply covers the provision of water supply to the population. The 1992 Law on Environmental Protection deals with the protection of water resources.

There are a number of strategic documents covering water issues, among them: Environmental Protection Strategy for the period until 2025, the 2011–2015 Programme "Clean Water", the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-economic Development until 2030, the regular five-year State programmes on the Development of the National Environmental Monitoring System, the State Programme of Measures to Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change for 2013–2020, The State Programme for Sustainable Rural Development 2011–2015.

4.2 Institutional framework and stakeholders identification

The Water Code regulates the institutional competences in the field of protection and use of water between stakeholders at all levels in the Republic of Belarus.

The management structure on protection and use of water resources follows the pattern of administrative governance of the country arranged at three levels, namely: National, Oblast and local (Rayon and town).

The main responsibility for the management of water resources lies with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody) (http://www.minpriroda.gov.by). Minprirody is a national state administration body in charge of management of natural resources and environmental protection implementing the environmental policy of Belarus. The structure of the central apparatus of Ministry, its territorial bodies and subordinated state organizations are reflected in Annexes 4 and 5.

The ministry is subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus and exercises its authority directly at the national level, and through its territorial bodies: the Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection at oblast level, and inspection units at the local level (in rayon and town). The inspection units are subordinated to their respective oblast committees.

The territorial bodies of the Minprirody carry out the coordination of activities in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources of other state bodies and organizations.

The Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection participate in the organization of environmental monitoring, conducting the state cadastres of natural resources, organizes the registration and assessment of natural resources.

There are six Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in oblasts and one in Minsk City:

- Brest Oblast Committee (www.priroda.brest.by);
- Vitebsk Oblast Committee (www.priroda-vitebsk.gov.by);
- Gomel Oblast Committee (www.naturegomel.by);
- Grodno Oblast Committee (www.ohranaprirody.grodno.by);
- Minsk Oblast Committee (www.minoblpriroda.gov.by);
- Mogilev Oblast Committee (www.mogilevpriroda.gov.by);
- Minsk City Committee (www.minskpriroda.gov.by);

The responsibilities of other actors directly or indirectly involved in water resources management are represented in Annex 6.

Figure 1 - Administrative-territorial units

5 PARTICIPATIVE RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK

5.1 Planning framework

The new Water Code mandates principles of water management at basin scale. In Belarus, water resources management responsibilities are split between following organisations:

Table 1 - Organisations involved in water management and their main functions

Name of organisation	Management function
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody) (http://www.minpriroda.gov.by)	Overall coordination in the management of river basins. Organizes the drafting of RBMPs and water balances projects with participation of interested state bodies, as well as establishes the requirements for their design, preparation and execution.
RUE* **"Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources"** (CRICUWR) (www.cricuwr.by)	Development and preparation of RBMPs.
River Basin Council	Participation (consultation) in the development, reviewing, harmonisation and implementation of RBMP.
Local executive and administrative bodies (Oblasts and Minsk city executive committees)	Approve RBMPs and water balances (in case of absence approved RBMPs), approve projects of water protection zones and coastal strips and set their boundaries.

*: RUE – Republican Unitary Entreprise

Article 93 of the old Water Code mandates the development of Schemes of Integrated use and Protection of Water. The purpose of Schemes is to identify water management and other measures to meet the long-term demands of population and economic activities for water resources, to support the rational use and protection of waters, and to prevent and eliminate harmful impacts on water resources.

According to the new Water Code, Schemes of integrated use and protection of water were replaced by River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). RBMPs are introduced to retain and restore water quality in water bodies and to attain integrated use of water resources in the 5 hydrographic Districts of Republic of Belarus: Dnieper, Pripyat, Western Dvina, Neman and Western Bug river basins.

Figure 2 - River basins districts in Belarus

RBMPs will be developed by Minprirody in association with relevant government bodies and Basin Councils for a time period of 5–10 years. RBMPs will be approved by joint decisions of Regional Executive Committees and Minsk city executive committee in the territories of river basins.

The drafting of the first RBMP was completed for the Belarusian part of the Dnieper river basin in 2016 by the RUE "Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources" (CRICUWR) in the framework of the EPIRB project. Also in 2016 the CRICUWR under order of the Ministry prepared an RBMP for the Western Bug River, which takes into account the provisions of the EU WFD 2000/60/EC.

Neman River Basin is also in the process of RBMPlanning.

5.2 National guideline, methodology

■ Numerous Belarusian technical regulations for implementing the principles of the Water Code have been provided, namely *Technical Code of Good Practice* or TKP. Some of them are listed in Annex 7, section 2.

Recently, Belarusian technical code "requirements for development, compilation and design of projects of river basin management plans" (TKP 17.06-14, 1 June 2017) describes methodologies and content of RBMP (see Annex 7, unofficial English translation).

The main differences between this TKP and WFD-RBMP are (see section 7.3.1. for a detailed comparison):

- Objectives are limited to ecological status,
- Protected areas are more restrictive than in the WFD article 6
- Programme of Measures limited to a few descriptors
- Consultation process seems absent.

■ An important number of guidelines is existing, such as CIS Guidance documents and technical reports that have been produced to assist stakeholders to implement the WFD. In order to address the challenges in a co-operative and coordinated way, the Member States, Norway and the Commission agreed on a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive only five months after the entry into force of the Directive. The results of this work, for instance guidance documents on technical aspects elaborated in the context of the CIS, key events and additional resource documents related to different aspects of the implementation are also available on a shared library and document repository[1].

Guidance Documents are intended to provide an overall methodological approach, but will still need to be tailored for Republic of Belarus while developing the RBMPs. However, they are of particular interest in the planning development and its technical issues.

To date, 36 Guidance documents and 16 Technical documents have been produced and accessible at the following web address:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/facts_figures/guidance_docs_en.htm

■ One shall also mention the 6 Guidance documents developed during the EPIRB project that are available:

- Guidelines for implementation of WFD in coastal and transitional waters
- Guidance Document addressing Chemical Status of Surface Water Bodies for a Pressure-Impact Analysis/Risk Assessment according to the EU WFD
- Guidelines for Monitoring the Chemical Status of Surface Water Bodies
- Draft Guidance Document on the Development of Programme of Measures and the Achievement of Environmental Objectives According to the EU WFD
- Guidance Document addressing hydromorphology and physico-chemistry for a Pressure-Impact Analysis/Risk Assessment according to the EU WFD
- Draft auxiliary Guidance Document on prioritizing selected Programme of Measures (PoMs) and simplified Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA)

These guidance documents are common for the 6 Eastern Partnership countries.

They are accessible at the following web address: http://blacksea-riverbasins.net/en/downloads-library-search?f[0]=field_downloads_type%3A61

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/iep/index_en.htm

5.3 Human resources for RBMP development:

From Minprirody, 3 people are in charge of water resources and water management; in each Oblast, 2 people are in charge of water resources and 1 in Minsk City. CRICUWR hosted 40 experts including a team specialised for RBMP.

5.4 Existing RBMP approved

First Draft Dnieper RBMP was developed during EPIRB project. Western Bug RBMP and Neman RBMP are on progress, thanks to another project.

None of them have been officially approved yet.

5.5 EPIRB RBMP assessment

River basin management planning is a continuous improvement process, as a quality approach, obviously in reaching the fixed objectives and a good status thanks to the implementation of measures but also in terms of improvement of the knowledge from one cycle to another.

The EU Commission has to assess the progress in the implementation of the WFD in certain intervals and to inform the European Parliament, the Council and the public about the results of its assessments in all Member States (see Article 18 WFD). Up to date, four of those implementation reports have been published and for each District and Member States several potential improvements have been identified.

In a longer-run, RBMP implementation should ensure that water management is based on a better understanding of the main risks and pressures in a river basin, founded on proper monitoring. This will result in cost-effective interventions to ensure the long-term sustainable supply of clean water for people, economy and environment.

Keeping that in mind, within the frame of this project activity 2.3.1, a review and assessment of the Dnieper RBMP was assessed their shortcomings, the governance, and identification of the compliance gaps regarding the requirements of the TKP (RBMP TKP was provided after EPIRB project) and the WFD was performed. It was analysed in order to identify the potential improvements that could be foreseen for the refinement of this RBMP before its approval, for the next cycle and for the other Belarusian basins, especially Pripyat RB which will be developed in the frame of the project.

In order to do so, a detailed “check list” of WFD requirements for RBMP contents was filled-in (check list). It is presented in Annexe VIII. It identifies several potential improvements for the refinement and for RBMP next cycle of planning but also for developing supporting activities for the improvement in the frame of the current project.

Globally, the content of the EPIRB Dnieper RBMP is close to the WFD requirements. It has good elements which could be used as inspiration for RBMPs development in Belarus (e.g. first maps of agricultural pressures, maps of hydromorphological pressures, charts of water abstractions, etc).

Different subjects were identified to be improved during the Dnieper RBMP refinement and/or Pripyat RBMP development:

- Some topics could be added to the characterisation as: water-related diseases, climate change, and alien species proliferation.
- Methodologies to convert socio-economic data into IWRM pressures could be developed. Really pedagogical, this is a key for Main Issues consultation and then to propose the first measures.

- Better characterisation of protected areas could be relevant. They are linked to: drinking water abstractions (also required by TKP); economically significant species (fish, shells); bathing waters; vulnerable zones (first attempt of designation from Nitrates monitoring results and/or intensive agricultural activities areas); sensitive areas (first attempt of designation from signs of eutrophication and population density); special areas of conservation (habitats), special protection areas (birds) (first attempt from Emerald networks and current protection areas) and healthy ecosystems incl. wetlands. Otherwise, possible cultural and/or sacred areas may be described.
- Environmental objectives can be enlarge beyond good status to protected areas, River Basin targets for water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), protocole for water and health, specific water-related objectives from International conventions, National strategies and/or policies, specific water-related objectives from Basin Council's will and/or basin consultation.
- Heavily Modified Water Bodies designation could be improved particularly in its economic component.
- Economic analysis could be improved. Economic analysis within the meaning of WFD can be divided in two parts: a first characterisation part dedicated to economic weights by relevant water uses, socio-economic issues, main trends, water prices by sector and by territory, funding (investment, maintenance) mechanisms by sector and preliminary cost-recovery assessment; a second analytical part dedicated to disproportionate costs, programme of measures costing, environmental benefits and cost-effectiveness for selecting measures. Water economic balances within the meaning of TKP is close to water balance analysis comparing resources and economic needs.
- Programme of measures. Implementation of PoM is the most important part of the process. This implementation requires that all the project owners (everybody at his level in fact) are aware of their responsibilities and the benefits of good water resources and healthy ecosystems. Implementation requires obviously sufficient funding, easier to implement if RBMP benefits are well understood in order to perform a suitable Cost recovery assessment as required by the WFD. Usually, measures to reach the objectives could be ranked into 5 categories: rules, governance, awareness, knowledge improvement, works. They are described with a view of implementation, detailing content, associated objectives, localisation, indicators to feed a dash-board, costs, plans concerned, project owners and/or responsible, schedule, etc. For the WFD, the programme of measures concerns one of the 6-years cycle. According to Belarusian regulation, the duration is not very clear.
- Stakeholders' involvement and Public participation which implementation and description could be improved.
- Consistency between Belarusian regulation and WFD requirements (see section 7.3.1.).

6 DATA MANAGEMENT

Legislation on data management

Laws and Government Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which regulate data management, data exchange and dissemination, are:

1. Law “On environmental protection” 1992 defines (Chapter 12) the concept, composition and types of “environmental information” and methods of provision and dissemination of this information;
2. Water Code 2014 (EN, RU) defines (Chapter 12) concept of surface water, groundwater and local monitoring. The Article 58, Chapter 12 determines the State Water Cadaster (SWC).
3. Law “On Hydrometeorological Activities” 2006 regulates public administration on hydrometeorological activities, types of and procedures for hydrometeorological observations, conditions for access to hydrometeorological information and maintenance of the State Climate Cadastre. This Law establishes the legal basis of implementation of hydrometeorological activities and is directed on providing state bodies, other organizations and physical persons by the actual and forecast hydrometeorological information.
4. “Regulation on the order of conducting of State Water Cadastre and use of its data” №152, 2015 establishes the procedure maintenance of the SWC and use of its data.
5. Resolution of the Minprirody of 28.12.2004 №43 "On approval of the Instruction on the exchange of environmental information in the NEMS in the Republic of Belarus";
6. Regulation of the Minprirody, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations of 12.09.2005 № 41/30/45 «On approval of Instruction on the exchange of environmental information between the NEMS in the Republic of Belarus, the system of public health monitoring and the system of monitoring and forecasting of emergencies situations of natural and technologic character". Exchange of information among the three systems functions also at local level, for example, there are agreements on exchange of information between oblast centers for hydrometeorology and environmental monitoring and oblast centers for hygiene, epidemiology and public health.

Role of the governmental bodies involved in relation to data management

The role of the main governmental bodies involved in environmental information collection, management, assessment and dissemination are represented in following table:

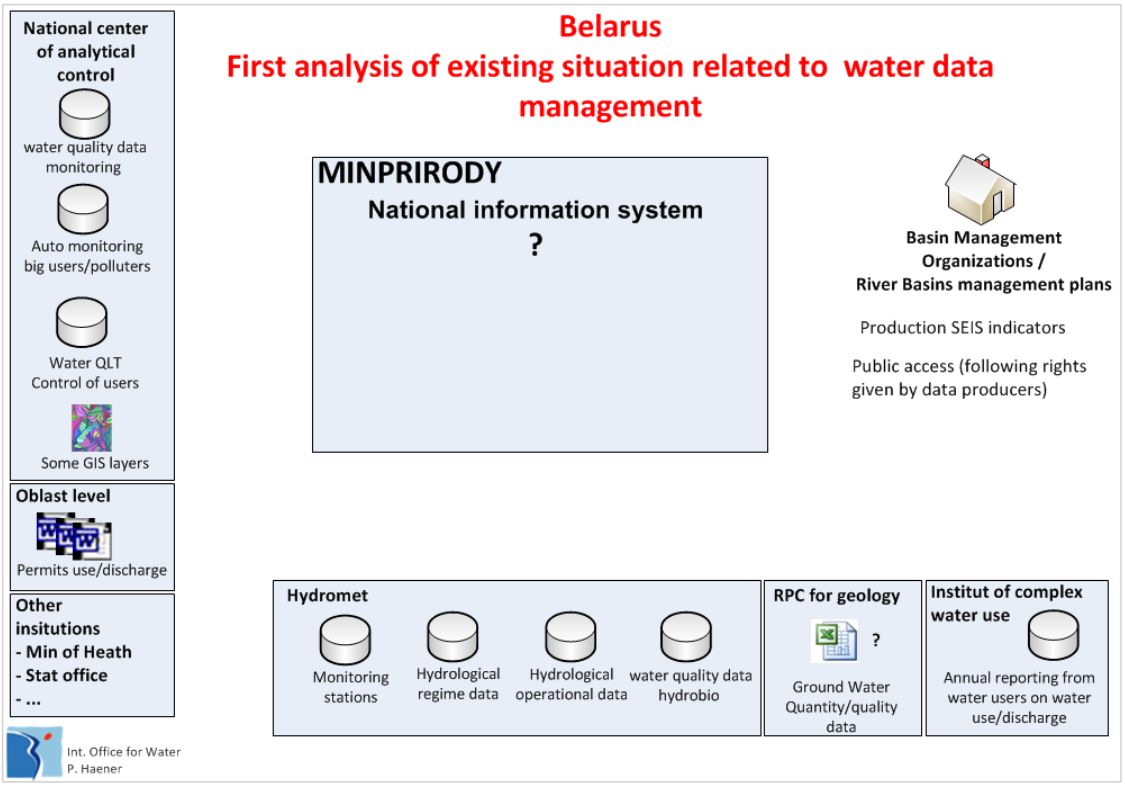
Ministries directly or indirectly involved in water resources management	Minprirody - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Minzdrav - Ministry of Health, Minzhilkomhoz - Ministry of Housing and Communal Services Minselkhozprod - Ministry of Agriculture and Food Minenergo - Ministry of Energy
Ministry in charge of national water resource management	Minprirody
Ministry in charge of the coordinating RBMP preparation	Minprirody

Executive institution in charge of the national data management organization	Minprirody
Executive institution in charge of the preparation of the RBMP	Minprirody with the participation of concerned state organizations[2]
Institution coordinating a common language for data management	
Institution in charge of the geographic nodes related to the water data management	1) Brest Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 2) Vitebsk Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 3) Gomel Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 4) Grodno Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 5) Minsk Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 6) Mogilev Oblast Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection 7) Minsk City Committee of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Institution in charge of the thematic nodes related to water data management	**Name** — **Theme** Minprirody - HYDROMET — pluviometry/meteorology/hydrology Minprirody - SPC for Geology — ground water Minzdrav – RCHEPH — drinking water quality/ bathing water quality Minenergo – Belenergo — hydropower water use Minselkhozprod - Meliovodhoz — drainage water/ irrigation systems Minzhilkomhoz — drinking water supply/ waste water
Organization producing data (not exhaustive)	Brestoblhydromet Vitebskoblhydromet Gomeloblgidromet Grodnooblhydromet Mogilevoblhydromet and others

About the existing data sources

A first mission on data management, and the workshop organized the 28/29 September 2017, allow to confirm that it exists various data sources in various formats .mdb, .xls and .doc, with a low use of GIS.

The scheme here below presents the main data sources related to water resource management:



a. State Water Cadastre

The State Water Cadastre (SWC), in operation since 1990, is a comprehensive interagency database covering all aspects of the state of water resources and their use. It contains, among other things, data classified by administrative unit and river basin on hydrological observations, quality of surface water and groundwater, water availability and use. SWC, run by the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources since its inception, is a major, efficient and indispensable tool for managing water resources in the country[3].

Note:

- Cadastre includes various elements which are not integrated between themselves,
- Water Cadastre is not available on line.

b. National Environmental Monitoring System

National Environmental Monitoring System (NEMS) (http://www.nsmos.by/) has an information system that ensures information exchange between all the monitoring types, analysis and generalization of information about the state of the environment and forecast of its changes due to natural and man-caused factors as well as its provision to governmental agencies, entities and individuals and international organizations in accordance with international agreements[4].

For each type of monitoring there is an Information and Analytical Centre (IAC). There is also the Main Information and Analytical Centre (MIAC) (http://www.nsmos.by/) of the NEMS. The MIAC and 11 IACs for different types of monitoring ensure collection, storage and provision of environmental information to the consumers at various levels, including operational quarterly information, as well as annual analytical

[3] UNECE, 3rd Environmental Performance Review of Belarus, 2016.

[4] European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument – SEIS, The Republic of Belarus Country Report, 2012

reviews of the state of the environment, trends and prediction of changes. IACs maintain primary, aggregated and analytical information and data while the MIAC keeps aggregated, analytical and complex information and data.

Table 2 - Responsibilities of main organisations involving in data management

Name of organisation	Responsibilities
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody) (http://www.minpriroda.gov.by)	Keeping of SWC together with the Ministry of Health of Belarus; Gathering information from government agencies and other organisations; Analysis and systematization of collected information; Creation and updating the databases of SWC.
SI **"Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring**" (Hydromet) (http://rad.org.by, http://hmc.by, http://pogoda.by) under Minprirody	Ensures the collection, storage, processing and analysis of monitoring data for surface waters; Administers the SWC (section **"Surface Waters"**) and prepares information on the quality of surface waters according to hydrochemical and hydrobiological parameters.
RUE **"Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources"** (CRICUWR) (www.cricuwr.by) under Minprirody	Manages the section **"Water use"** of SWC.
RUE **"Research and Production Centre for Geology"** (RPS for Geology) (http://geologiya.by)	Manages the section **"Groundwater"** of SWC.
Ministry of Health (Minzdrav) (http://minzdrav.gov.by)	Provides a collection, compilation, systematization and storage of data on water quality of water bodies suitable for drinking and recreational use.
Ministry of Transport and Communications (Mintrans) (http://www.mintrans.gov.by)	Provides information about the borders of inland waterways of the Republic of Belarus, open for navigation.
RUE **Belorussian Research Centre "Ecology**" (http://www.ecoinfo.by) under Minprirody	The **Main Information-Analytical Centre (MIAC)** of the NEMS in Belarus; Preparation of Analytic Reports about Status of the Environment.
National Statistical Committee (Belstat) (http://belstat.gov.by)	Compiles information from statistical reporting in statistical yearbooks and bulletins.
Oblast and Minsk City Executive Committees	Provides information about water users engaged in the use of water for drinking, hydropower needs and the needs of national defense or the right of lease for fish farming on rights of separate water use.

Note: SI – State Institution, RUE – Republican Unitary Enterprise

Note: Environmental information and data are available on the websites of the Minprirody, Belstat, the NEMS, the Hydromet and other websites.

About the data exchanges

This first analysis of data exchanges showed that there could be an interest to develop web services to facilitate the access to data and to referential data sets.

7 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT MECHANISMS

7.1 Existing stakeholder involvement mechanisms

Basin level

The management at the river basin level, as envisaged in the 2014 Water Code, will be exercised through advisory Basin Councils to be set up by the Minprirody in all the five large River Basins of the country.

Basin Councils are interdepartmental and inter-territorial consultative bodies. The decisions of basin councils are taken into account in the development of RBMPs, as well as in the development of programs in the field of protection and use of water within the boundaries of the river basin. The regulation on the procedures for the basin councils was approved by the 2015 Resolution of the Council of Ministers N^{o}. 152.

The composition of the Basin Council is formed by the Minprirody, taking into account proposals representatives of government agencies, water users, as well as public associations and scientific organisations. The structure of the Basin Council includes representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (Minprirody), the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, regional (Oblasts) and Minsk city executive committees.

In each river basin, the council will be located in the Oblast, which has the largest territorial share in the basin. It is assumed that Dnieper will be under authority Mogilev or Minsk Oblast Executive Committee, Western Dvina - Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee, Pripyat - Gomel Oblast Executive Committee, Western Bug - Brest Oblast Executive Committee, Nieman - Grodno Oblast Executive Committee.

The first river basin council as a form of basin-wide water management in Belarus is the Dnieper river basin council. It was created by the decision of the MNREP and 3 March 2016 held it's the first meeting.

National level

Environmental civil society organisations (CSOs) are active in a vast number of areas, such as green economy, renewable energy, chemical pollution, water protection etc. They are often working with the Government or local authorities, for instance in the framework of the two Aarhus centers active in the country, and receive EU and other donor funding.

The 2014 Water Code declares the rights of citizens and public organizations to participate in the wide range of activities related to the protection and use of water resources (e.g. to be represented in the river basin councils, to initiate public ecological expertise and bring a case to court for compensation for environmental damage), but the modalities for implementing some of these rights (e.g. participation in the river basin councils) are not yet defined.

Public participation in the protection of water resources is mostly limited to local campaigns for cleaning small rivers and protection of shallow groundwater from pollution.

International level

Belarus has been a Party to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes since 2003, to the Protocol on Water and Health since 2009 and to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Under bilateral agreements, Belarus has been cooperating with its neighboring countries on their common transboundary waters: Russia (2002), Ukraine (2001), Poland (1964, but draft 2014), Latvia (1994), Lithuania (1995).

There is also a prospect of creating an international river council for the whole basin of a transboundary river, in which the national basin councils will be represented. Such a council can be entrusted, as its prime task, with coordination of national activities for preparing a management plan for the whole transboundary river basin.

7.2 Approval and consultation process

The RBMP approval process begins with the dispatch of Draft RBMP to the main concerned ministries, also members of the Basin Council (Agriculture and Food, Energy, Housing and Communal Services, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Public Health, Transport and Communications) and to the concerned Oblasts executive committees. The Draft RBMP is also downloadable from Miniprirody website.

Then, the new Draft with potential comments taken into account is submitted to the Basin Council for approval. The Basin Council gives an opinion with or without remarks.

At last, every concerned Oblasts executive committees produce an Order for RBMP approval. When all the Orders are provided, RBMP is considering as approved.

It means a decentralized process of approval.

As there is currently no approved RBMP in the country, there is no experience feedback of a complete approval process.

The first RBMPs attempted to be adopted in Belarus are Western Bug and Dnieper on 2018.

During EPIRB project, the public consultations consist of stakeholders' meeting to present and discuss draft RBMP on 2015 in Minsk.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Challenges

Key questions

Key questions seem to be:

- Division of competencies between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Basin Councils as well as with Oblast administrations and other Ministries.
  Main competencies are: regulation; police administrative, controls and checks; planning; funds raising and management; monitoring and data management; works implementation; water supply and sanitation management; research; stakeholders' involvement and environmental education. They require sufficient human and financial resources.
  All these competencies distributed between different organisations need a strong vertical and horizontal coordination.
  At this stage and within the project, it is recommended to support the setting-up of the new organisational systems, mostly through on the jobs capacity building activities while developing new River Basin Management Plans, for a sustainable RBMP team, essentially public. The aim is to help this RBMP team to be able to plan by itself (other River Basins as well as for further cycles).

- Implementation of RBMPs in Republic of Belarus.
  IWRM needs to be well understood by most of the population because everybody must be involved in water protection (we are all water actors at our level).
  Arising awareness is the prior step to the involvement of all stakeholders. Public consultations required by WFD are one of the levers. Others concerned ministries involvement in IWRM process is the other priority.
  Then, the legal scope of RBMP is an issue to debate in order to give strength to the document and to contribute to its implementation: a RBMP could be effective against administrative acts and/or effective against third parties; sectoral plans could be compliant or consistent with RBMP; to be funded, all the projects could be compliant with RBMP; etc.
  At last, a steady economic process (incl. funding mechanisms) must be implemented otherwise implementation of RBMPs will be likely very difficult.

Duration of RBMP

According to Belarusian Water Code article 15, implementation period of RBMP is ranging between 5 and 10 years. To well explain objectives and to propose right measures, it is relevant to define this duration from the beginning of RBMPlanning process.

Data management

At this stage, there could be an interest to reinforce the water data management governance framework. The efficient management of water related data requires in particular:

- A political willingness to facilitate water data sharing between institutions. The water code could be reinforced with as example a bylaw regulation about administration and use of water and environmental data and information with a clear sharing of responsibilities and tasks between the various organizations involved in water data production / management and valorization;

- Implementing a on line server and developing web services to facilitate data dissemination and data sharing;
- Insuring the availability of staff for: technical management of the information system, organization of data exchange between institutions, and with nomination of a person in charge to coordinate data access in the unit in charge of RBMP preparation.

8.2 Priorities

In the current context, the following general priority objectives are proposed in terms of River Basin Management Planning:

- Support the refinement of Dnieper RBMP according to TKP and WFD requirements;
- Support to the RBMP development of Pripyat RB;
- Support a sustainable RBMP team for the elaboration of future RBMP and future cycles incl. TKP improvement, guidelines production for different subjects (e.g. diffuse sources assessment, economic analysis);
- Establish stakeholders' involvement mechanisms and public consultation procedure during RBM Planning in Pripyat RB;
- Structure and valorise data to support RBMP (first proposals: automatize processes of data exchanges and of data processing, online valorisation of results via web mapping (Hydromet water quality department, National Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection); improvement of geographical referential (Central research institute for complex use of the water resources); support to SEEA indicators production (National statistical Committee).

8.3 What to be improved through EUWI+EAST

8.3.1 RBMPlanning

Consistency with Belarusian regulation

The table below compares RBMP content from WFD annex 7 and TKP about requirements for RBMP. Some topics are required by the WFD but absent from TKP (e.g. environmental objectives, economic analysis).

Coming from Dnieper RBMP refinement and Pripyat RBMP development, some ideas to complete current TKP will certainly emerge in order to improve RBMP in Republic of Belarus.

These ideas could concern: global vision, economic analysis, objectives enlargement, programme of measures (prioritizing of measures, check, responsibility, and follow-up), consultation & participation, etc.

WFD annex VII	TKP 17.06-14-2017 (33140)
1 Characterisation	Characteristics of the river basin An administrative-territorial map-layout of the river basin
Map of river basin delineation and sub-basin breakdown	
Map of surface water bodies (location and boundaries)	identification (delineation) of surface water bodies with the definition of the finite number of the water bodies of the river basin, for which anthropogenic loads shall be estimated
Map of the ecoregions and surface water body types	
Identification of reference conditions for the surface water body types	Measures to define the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof)

WFD annex VII	TKP 17.06-14-2017 (33140)
Map of groundwater bodies (location and boundaries)	identification (delineation) of groundwater bodies with the definition of the finite number of the water bodies of the river basin, for which anthropogenic loads shall be estimated
2 Pressures assessment	Identification of ecological problems of the river basin and ways to solve them Point and dispersed (diffuse) sources of polluting surface water and groundwater Water economic balances Results of studies on the promising use of water resources
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for domestic uses	Characteristics of household and domestic water use within the river basin (volumes, intra-annual distribution and dynamics of water extraction (intake), water consumption per capita, losses and unaccounted water expenditures, etc.)
Evaluation of point source pollution: domestic	Characteristics of household and domestic water use within the river basin (volumes, intra-annual distribution and dynamics of water discharges Surface water bodies at risk from pollution by wastewater discharges
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for industrial uses	Characteristics of industrial use of water resources and water bodies in the river basin (volumes, annual distribution and dynamics of water extraction, etc.)
Evaluation of point source pollution: industrial	Characteristics of industrial use of water resources and water bodies in the river basin (wastewater discharges, etc.)
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for irrigation	
Evaluation of point source pollution: agriculture	A map-layout of point pollution sources of livestock farms (complexes), facilities for storing fertilizers
Evaluation of diffuse source pollution: crops, livestock, etc	Characteristics of agricultural use of the territory within the river basin (the area and types of agricultural lands; the specific weight of crop production and livestock in the volume of gross agricultural production; data on the types of fertilizers and chemical protection products used; information on the facilities for storage and disposal of chemical plant protection products; characteristics of livestock facilities; information on irrigation fields with wastewater with an assessment of compliance with the established irrigation standards, etc.)
Summary of land use	A map-layout of land use (land types)
Analysis of other impacts of human activity on water status	Characteristics of transport use of water bodies of the river basin (navigable ways and their parameters, etc.) Characteristics of the use of water resources for energy purposes Recreational load on surface water bodies Hydromorphological changes of surface water bodies
3 Identification and mapping of protected areas:	Data on protected areas (territories) Water protection zones and coastal strips
– Drinking water abstraction for human consumption,	Sanitary protection zones for drinking water sources
– economically significant species (fish, shells),	
– bathing waters,	
– vulnerable zones (nitrates from agriculture),	
– sensitive areas (nutrients from treatment plants),	
– special areas of conservation (habitats),	Specially protected natural areas
– special protection areas (birds)	

WFD annex VII	TKP 17.06-14-2017 (33140)
4 Monitoring	Monitoring of surface water and monitoring of groundwater, including the layout of the state network of observation (monitoring) points over the status of surface water and groundwater and proposals for optimization thereof
Map of the monitoring network	A map-layout of the location of observation points over the status of surface water A map-layout of the location of observation points over the status of groundwater A map-layout for optimizing the observation points over the status of surface water and of groundwater
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for surface water (watercourses, lakes, estuaries, coastal water; ecological and chemical)	A map-layout of ecological status of surface water bodies
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for groundwater (chemical and quantitative)	
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for protected areas	
5 Environmental objectives definition	
List of the environmental objectives for surface waters, groundwater and protected areas	
Justification of deadlines extension to achieve the objectives	
Justification of less stringent environmental objectives	
Justification for Heavy Modified Water Bodies designation	
6 Economic analysis	
Summary of the economic analysis of water use (Article 5 and Annex III)	
7 Programme of measures	
Summary of the programmes of measures (incl. measures costing):	Activities (measures) aimed at improving the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof). Priority (first-order) measures, the implementation of which will help maintaining the "good" or "excellent" ecological status of water bodies and progressive reduction of the negative impact on water bodies
Summary of the measures required to implement Community legislation	
Report on practical steps and measures to apply the principle of cost recovery	
Summary of the measures taken to meet the requirements of Article 7 (abstraction for drinking water)	
Summary of the controls on abstraction and impoundment of water	
Summary of the controls adopted for point source discharges and other activities	
Identification of the cases where direct discharges to groundwater have been authorised	
Summary of the measures on priority substances (article 16)	
Summary of the measures taken to prevent or reduce the impact of accidental pollution incidents	
Summary of the measures for water bodies which are unlikely to achieve the objectives	Additional measures, the implementation of which will improve the ecological status of those surface water bodies that are at risk of not achieving the "good" ecological status
Details of the supplementary measures	
Details of the measures taken to avoid increase in pollution of marine waters	

WFD annex VII	TKP 17.06-14-2017 (33140)
Governance	
8 Register and summary of any more detailed programmes and management plans	Data on the socio-economic development of the river basin territory, including changes in the population, plans and programmes for the development of industrial and agricultural sectors, environment protection, etc
9 Summary of the public information and consultation measures taken, results and impacts on the plan	
10 List of competent authorities defined	
11 Contact points and procedures for obtaining the background documentation and information	

Table 3 - Comparison of RBMP contents required by WFD and TKP

Capacity building

As regards capacity buildings and training workshops, in a first approximation, during the project (refinement & development of RBMPs), 5 trainings will be organized to cover the following topics:

- Pressures analysis, especially from diffuse sources,
- Economic analysis,
- Environmental objectives,
- Programme of Measures,
- Stakeholders' involvement.

These technical trainings will concern limited audience (around 20 persons). In the Belarusian context, this could be the chance to improve a technical group in charge of following the development of RBMPs. The trainings will include international experts' inputs and local consultants in charge of the RBMP drafting and representatives from the Ministries.

In parallel, the technical training will contribute to improve national guidelines to the National context with concrete examples and to develop specific topics (e.g. diffuse source pollutions, economic analysis, implementation & evaluation, stakeholders' involvement).

Sharing experiences between River Basins constitute as well another lever to capacity building.

8.3.2 Planning process and transboundary aspects

Transboundary assessment is also considered as important, especially regarding to the significant projects concerning Pripyat RB e.g. E40 waterway.

The activities will be mostly taking place at a later stage of the project, once the RBMP developments will have been fruitful from both sides of the borders. This will provide good opportunities to present the results and organized exchanges meetings on the technical level. The first exercise could be to compare water bodies' delineation on both sides of the border as a result of various methodologies in each country. Thereafter, harmonization of the delineation and associated monitoring will constitute the second exercise. At last, a debate about objectives (quantitative, qualitative) for Pripyat and tributaries on the border could be organized.

8.3.3 Proposal of actions related to data management

Main objectives

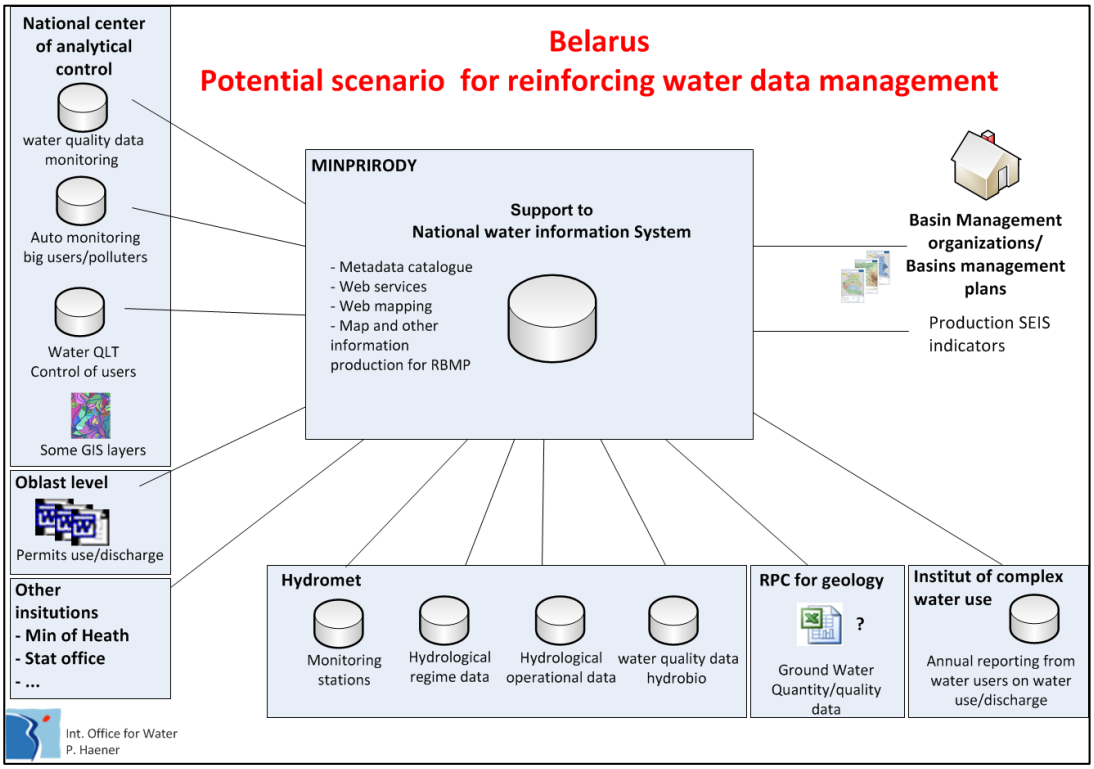
Support the development of automatized procedures to feed the national water information system, with valorization of data on line in order to facilitate:

- Production of information for RBMP following needs;

- Access to data for SEIS indicator production;
- Better access to data and information to partners and to the public (following rights given by the initial data producers).

Methodology / Steps of implementation

The scheme here below summarizes the global approach.



The implementation of this approach includes activities related to:

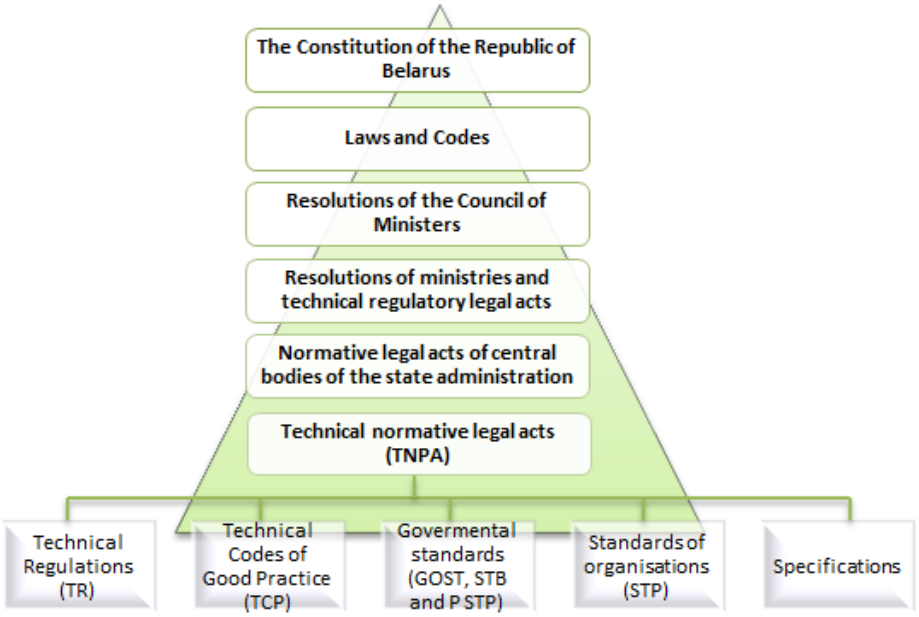
- Organizational aspects
  - Workshop on data management (exchange on existing situation, data flow analysis, presentation metadata production process, need analysis);
  - Support adaptation of regulation on water cadastre related to data policy among others for facilitating RBMP /SEIS activities;
  - Support to development of agreements on data exchanges with partners (mainly with Min of Emergency Situation);
  - Support to organization of metadata production with/by the data producers;
  - Agreement with CRICUWR for server hosting and administration access via IOWater in a first step and then by MENR;
  - Development of a memorandum of understanding between the MENR/EUWI+ project for having available an on line server, to be hosted at CRICUWR with distant administration access by IOWater in a first phase. This would require to have:
    - a on line server made available with administrative access for IOWater
    - one (or 2) IT technical administrators of the server at CRICUWR level (if agreement)
    - one (or 2) coordinator of data administration to be trained within a unit in charge of RBMP development
  - Agreement about what can be published.

- Technical aspects
  - Acquisition and configuration of a server to be installed at CRICUWR (if agreement);
  - Support to catalogue of metadata preparation/implementation;
  - Support WRM section staff for data collection from data producers;

- Support Hydromet / quality department to automatically calculate indices of water quality;
- Support Water control institute to develop web mapping (pilot test for Pripyat river basin);
- Support Information production for RBMP (support processing for map production and indicators production).

9 ANNEX

Annex 1 – Hierarchy of legal acts in the Republic of Belarus



Annex 2 – International environmental agreements

1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), 09.05.92, New-York www.unfccc.int;
2. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 11.12.1997, Kyoto http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php;
3. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer,22.03.1985, Vienna, http://montreal-protocol.org/new_site/en/index.php;
4. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 16.09.1987, Montreal, http://montreal-protocol.org/new_site/en/index.php;
5. Convention on Biological Diversity, 05.06.1992, Rio de Janeiro http://www.cbd.int/;
6. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 15.05.2000, Cartagena http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/;
7. The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 03.03.1973, Washington, http://www.cites.org;
8. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat , 02.02.1971, Ramsar http://www.ramsar.org;
9. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 22.03.1989, Basel http://www.basel.int/;
10. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 23.06.1979, Bonn http://www.cms.int/;
11. The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, 04.10.1991, Madrid http://www.ats.aq/r/ep.htm;
12. UN Convention to Combat Desertification, 17.06.1994, Paris www.unccd.int ;
13. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 23.05.2001, Stockholm http://chm.pops.int;
14. The Antarctic Treaty, 01.12.1959, Washington http://www.ats.aq/index_r.htm.

Annex 3 – International projects implemented in Belarus with the participation European Union

- **Environmental Protection of International River Basins Project (EPIRB)** (http://blacksea-riverbasins.net). The overall objective of the project is to improve water quality in the trans-boundary river basins of the wider Black Sea region and Belarus.

- **Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)** represents an EU initiative seeking to modernise and simplify the collection, exchange and use of the data and information required for the design and implementation of environmental policy. The project is implemented by the European Environment Agency (EEA) together with the partner countries during the period of 2010 - 2014. The main partners at the national level are state environmental and statistical agencies dealing with the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of environmental data and information.

- **Supporting the Transition to a Green Economy in the Republic of Belarus** (http://greenlogic.by). This Project aims to promote "green growth" concepts and environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns through support of local "green" initiatives and an information campaign as a support measure all over the Republic of Belarus. The Project is part of the EU Annual Action Programme 2012 for Belarus and contributes to the delivery of its overall goals and objectives laid down in the financial agreement on the AAP implementation between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the European Union.

- **Aarhus Centre of the Republic of Belarus** (http://www.aarhusbel.com). Was created in the framework of a joint project of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection and the OSCE Office in Minsk. Aarhus Centre provides the right of the public to expediently obtain reliable and integrate information about the status of the environment, planned and current activities, which can have a significant impact on the environment; establishes communication between the public and governmental authorities;

- **Waste Governance-ENPI East**. The objective of the project is to reduce the risks of negative impact on the environment and human health arising from inappropriate management of waste in the six ENPI East countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and the Russian Federation. In Belarus, the project focuses on developing a waste management strategy for Pukhovichi district in Minsk region.

- **Air Quality Governance in the ENPI East Countries (AIR-Q-GOV).** As part of the overall goal of improving national systems of air quality assessment and management in the project countries, the project in Belarus addresses a number of problems that will result in the adoption of technology-based emission limit values and recommendations for technology standardization and organization of an in-process emission control system in the cement industry, designed to meet environmental standards in general and, specifically, the EU BREF.

- **The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. (ENPI FLEG)** Phase II Project started in 2012 and is implemented by the World Bank, jointly with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the WWF, in seven ENPI countries. It seeks to reduce the threats to forests posed by illegal logging, trade, poaching and corruption.

- **Clima East** (http://www.climaeast.eu/clima-east-activities/pilot-projects/pilots-project-in-belarus): Support to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Russia and ENP East countries. The Project started in October 2012 and has a 4 year implementation timeframe. The overall objective of Clima East is to support the ENP East countries and the Russian Federation so that they are better equipped for greenhouse-gas emission reductions and better prepared to deal with climate change impacts. The programme also includes a pilot project component (budget EUR 11 million) supporting the development of ecosystems-based approaches to climate change.

- The UNDP/EU project **"Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental cooperation in the Republic of Belarus"**. This project is part of the AAP 2008 and is aimed at building the strategic planning and management capacity of the Republic of Belarus in the field of environmental protection and environmental information. In particular, the project envisages approximation of the national legislation in the field of waste management and biodiversity conservation with EU standards, to bridge the gaps in the existing legislation. This project also aims to raise awareness of environmental protection issues among the general public, and to promote participatory decision making on environmental issues through active involvement of communities as stakeholders in the implementation of several pilot projects.
- **Support to Local Development in the Republic of Belarus**. This project is part of the AAP 2011. It is expected to be launched in 2014. The project will be implemented in four regions of the Republic of Belarus: Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, and Mogilev. The project seeks to strengthen the national capacity of the named regions in socio-economic development management at the local level, including introduction of project approach, and resolve local issues through specific project initiatives and involvement of local residents into tackling vital area-specific environmental problems.

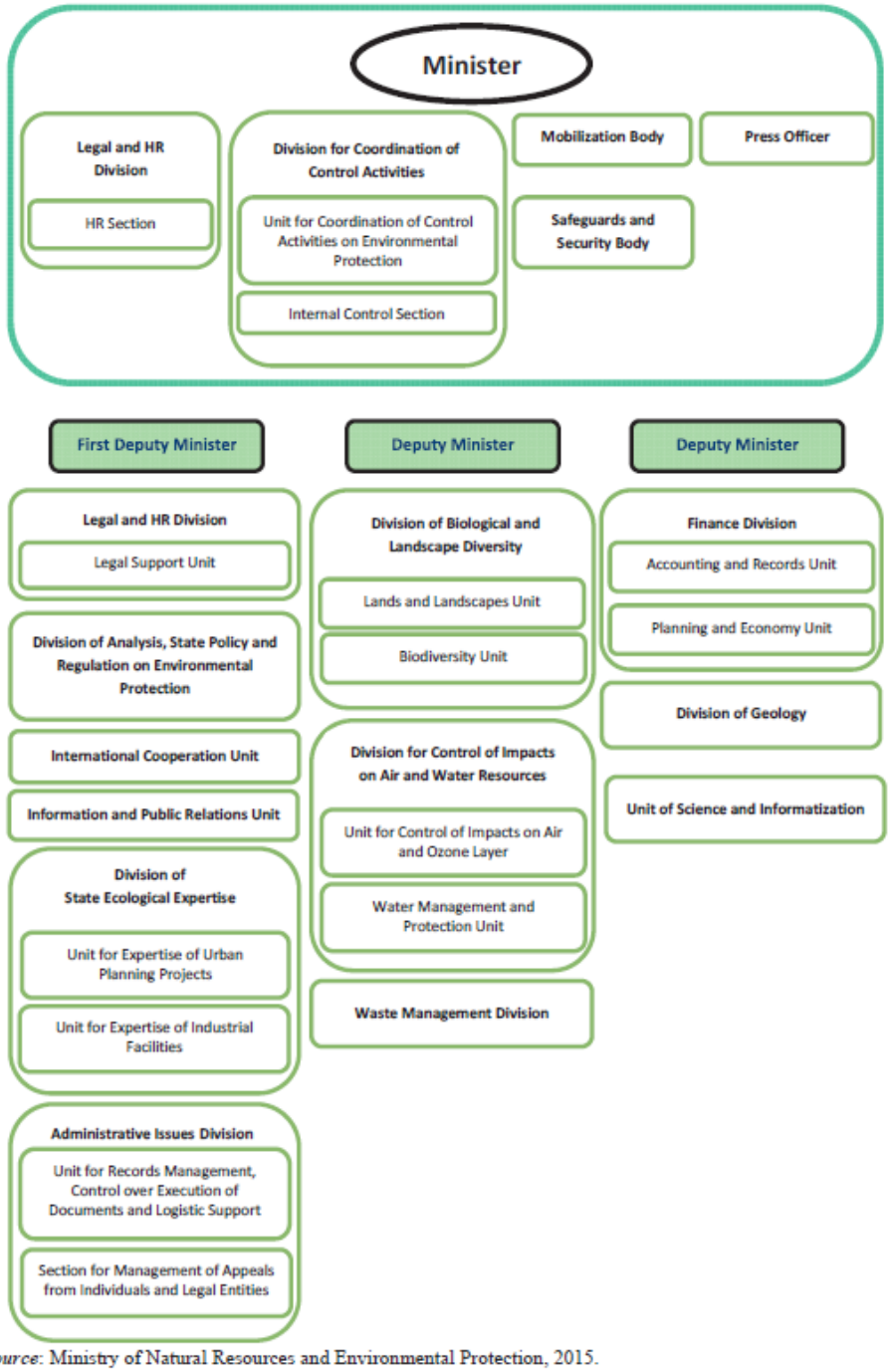
- These projects build on the EU/Belarusian Government/UNDP joint action experience and mechanisms tried and tested in the **Projects "Sustainable Development at Local Level" и "Area-Based Development of the Chernobyl-affected areas"**. These projects, which were implemented with financial support from the European Union in 2009 - 2010, focused on facilitating environmental protection and sustainable development at the central and local levels through promotion of participatory decision making at the local level and implementation of community initiatives.

- **Landscape Approach to Management of Peatlands Aiming at Multiple Ecological Benefits** (http://peatlands2.by). The project aims to promote a landscape approach to peatlands management and advocates the multiple ecological and economic benefits that include biodiversity conservation, enhancing carbon stocks, as well as multiple ecosystem services. The project also supports Belarus in increasing the coverage of the protected nature areas and their representation in the National Specially Protected nature Areas network.

- **Initial Implementation of Accelerated HCFC Phase Out in the CEIT Region.** The Project aims to facilitate phasing out ozone depleting substances (ODS), particularly hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and replacing them with non-ODS alternatives in accordance with the respective obligations of the Republic of Belarus under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer, along with strengthening the system of import control and management of HCFCs in Belarus.

- **Improving Energy Efficiency in Residential Buildings in the Republic of Belarus.** The objective of the project is to reduce the energy consumption in housing and related GHG emissions with the focus on new residential buildings by introducing new energy efficiency performance based building design and construction standards with related energy certification scheme(s) and by ensuring their effective implementation and enforcement. By this, the energy consumption of new buildings is sought to be cut by at least 70% compared to the existing building stock constructed before 1993 and by 40% compared to the buildings erected in accordance with the current construction norms and thermal standards in place.

Annex 4 – Organizational chart of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, 2015.

Annex 5 – Territorial bodies and subordinated organizations of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, 2015.
Note: SI – State Institution. RUE – Republican Unitary Enterprise.

Annex 6 - Main actors in water management

Levels	Organisation	Missions
National	The **President** of the Republic of Belarus (http://www.president.gov.by)	- Defines a unified state policy; - Approves state programmes; - Exercises other powers entrusted upon him by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.
	The **Council of Ministers** (http://www.government.by)	- Ensures the implementation of a uniform state policy; - Establishes the order for the issuing permits for special use of water and integrated environmental permits; - Establishes the order for monitoring of surface water and groundwater monitoring and the use of their data; - Determines the order of the activities of basin councils; - Establishes the form of the state act for the right to separate water; - Implementing inter-governmental cooperation.
National	The **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection** (Minprirody) (http://www.minpriroda.gov.by)	- Global management of water resources protection, - Develops new legislation and regulations, - Develops projects of state programs; - Coordinates the activities of state bodies and organizations - Coordination of monitoring activities…
	State Ecological Expertise (SEE)	Ensuring the implementation of state policy of state supervision (control) in the field of environmental protection, rational use, reproduction and protection of natural resources.
	RUE **"Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources"** (CRICUWR) (www.cricuwr.by)	- Specialized scientific institution of the Ministry for research on water management and engineering; - It participates in the planning, forecasting and setting of standards for the use and protection of water resources; - Develops new water management measures; - Maintains the State Water Cadastre; - Develops schemes and drafts documentation for water protection zones and sanitary zones; - Performs environmental audit in the field of hydroecology and participates in international cooperation on transboundary waters.
	SI **"Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring"** (Hydromet) (http://rad.org.by, http://hmc.by, http://pogoda.by)	- Performs regular environmental observations and information analyses; - Prepares short-term and long-term weather forecasts and notices on extreme weather events; - The Centre does surface water monitoring, including radiation.
	RUE **"Belarusian State Geological Centre"** (hereinafter referred to as RUE "Belgosgeotsentr") (http://www.belgeocentr.by)	- Conducts geological expertise of project documentation on geological research of subsoils and maintains the state geological fund with geological information.
	RUE **"Research and Production Centre for Geology"** (RPS for Geology) (http://geologiya.by)	Implements geological exploration activities and geological research.
	SI **"Republican Centre for Analytical Control in the Field of Environmental Protection"** (http://analitcentre.by).	It performs analytical (laboratory) control on environmental protection and organizes surface water monitoring on hydrochemical parameters. The Centre includes three republican, five oblast and 14 interregional laboratories.
	RUE **"Centre for International Environmental Projects, Certification and Audit 'Ekologiainvest'"** (http://www.ecoinv.by)	Deals with development and implementation of international technical assistance projects and performs ecological certification.
	RUE **"Belarusian Research Centre 'Ecology'"** (http://www.ecoinfo.by)	Development of normative technical and methodological documentation on the environment, development of analytical reports on the state of the environment, environmental certification and audit.
	The **Ministry of Health** (Minzdrav) (http://minzdrav.gov.by)	- In charge of setting quality standards for drinking water and bathing waters and monitoring their conformity to the standards. - Together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection carried out the keeping of the state water cadaster.
	Republican Centre of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health (RCHEPH) (http://rcheph.by)	- Carries out the social-hygienic monitoring of environmental and public health
	The **Ministry of Housing and Communal Services** (Minzhilkomhoz) (http://www.mjkx.gov.by)	Deals with the provision of water supply and sanitation services and wastewater disposal, with water utilities (Vodocanals) under its jurisdiction.

	The **Ministry of the Emergency Situations** (MCHS) **(**http://mchs.gov.by**)**	In charge of management in the sphere of monitoring, prevention and liquidation of emergency situations on the territory of the Republic.
National	The **Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Minselkhozprod)** (http://www.mshp.minsk.by).	Responsible for water supply for agricultural activities and agro-industry, as well as wetlands draining and irrigation.
	State Association for Land Reclamation, Water and Fisheries **"Belvodhoz"** (http://belvodhoz.by)	Carries out a unified state policy in the field of design, construction and operation of water (amelioration) systems.
	The **Ministry of Energy** (Minenergo) (http://www.minenergo.gov.by/)	Development and implementation of national policy in the power industry field (including hydropower).
	The **National Statistical Committee (Belstat)** (http://belstat.gov.by);	Collects processes and disseminates information about the state and pollution of the environment.
Regional (oblasts)	7 Committees of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (CNRandEP)	- Participate in the organization of environmental monitoring, conducting the state cadastres of natural resources, organizes the registration and assessment of natural resources. - Maintenance of water users accounting mined groundwater withdrawn surface water and waste water discharged into the environment. - Adherence to the implementation of economic and other activities in water protection zones and coastal strips
	Oblast Centre of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health (Minzdrav)	Information about drinking water quality
	5 Regional Centre for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring	Hydrometeorological information in oblasts
Basin	Basin Councils	Inter-agency and inter-territorial consultative body, mandates principles of basin management in the management of water resources
Local	Rayon and Town Inspections of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	- State control in the field of environmental protection; - Coordination of activities in the field environmental protection and rational use of natural resources of other state bodies and other organizations
	Local Councils of deputies	- In the field of protection and use of waters approve territorial measures and programmes, monitor their implementation; -They dispose of and control the use of natural resources on the territory under their jurisdiction.
	Local executive and administrative bodies	- Develop projects of regional activities and programs and take measures for their implementation; - Approve projects of water protection zones and coastal strips, set the boundaries of water protection zones and coastal strips. -Determine the place of use surface water bodies for recreation, sport and tourism.
	Citizens, associations, other public institutions	Participate in the activities for the protection and rational (sustainable) use of water resources in the basin councils.

	Subordinated agencies
	Departments and divisions

Note: SI - State Institution, **RUE** - Republican Unitary Enterprise

Action funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

EUWI+ EU WATER INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Annex 7 – Technical code of common practice (TKP) about RBMP

TKP 17.06-14-2017 (33140)

TECHNICAL CODE OF COMMON PRACTICE

Environment Protection and Nature Use

Hydrosphere

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, COMPILATION AND COMPLETION OF DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

Ахова навакольнага асяроддзя і прыродакарыстанне

Гідрасфера

ПАТРАБАВАННІ ДА РАСПРАЦОЎКІ, СКЛАДАННЯ І АФАРМЛЕННЯ ПРАЕКТАЎ ПЛАНАЎ КІРАВАННЯ РАЧНЫМІ БАСЕЙНАМІ

Unofficial translation of

The Official Edition

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus, Minsk (Minprirody)

UDK	MKS 13.020	KP 06

Key words: river basin, monitoring of surface water and monitoring of groundwater, water resources, water management, water economy balances, ecological status of surface water bodies

Foreword

The goals, basic principles and provisions on the state regulation and management in the sphere of technical regulation and standardization are established by the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Technical Norms and Standardization".

The goals, basic principles and provisions on the state regulation and management of technical norms and standardization in the sphere of environment protection are established by the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Environment Protection".

1. DEVELOPED by the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Central Scientific-Research Institute for the Complex Use of Water Resources". BROUGHT IN by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

2. APPROVED AND ENACTED by Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Belarus of April 26, 2017, No. 4-T.

3. INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME

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Published in the Russian Language

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Охрана окружающей среды и природопользование

Гидросфера

ТРЕБОВАНИЯ К РАЗРАБОТКЕ, СОСТАВЛЕНИЮ И ОФОРМЛЕНИЮ ПРОЕКТОВ ПЛАНОВ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ РЕЧНЫМИ БАССЕЙНАМИ

Ахова навакольнага асяроддзя і прыродакарыстанне

Гідрасфера

ПАТРАБАВАННІ ДА РАСПРАЦОЎКІ, СКЛАДАННЯ І АФАРМЛЕННЯ ПРАЕКТАЎ ПЛАНАЎ КІРАВАННЯ РАЧНЫМІ БАСЕЙНАМІ

Environment Protection and Nature Use

Hydrosphere

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, COMPILATION AND COMPLETION OF DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

Effective Date: June 1, 2017

1. Scope

This Technical Code of Common Practice (hereinafter – the Technical Code) defines the requirements for designing, compiling and executing Draft River Basins Management Plans (hereinafter – Draft Plans) shall be used when rendering services in the sphere of environment protection in accordance with STB 1803.

2. Normative References

This Technical Code uses references to the following Technical Normative Legal Acts in the sphere of technical regulation and standardization (hereinafter – TNLAs):

TKP 17.06-03-2008 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Hydrosphere. Order of Drawing Up Water Economic Balances

TKP 17.13-04-2011 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Rules of Monitoring Surface Water Status by Hydrochemical and Hydrobiological Indicators

TKP 17.13-07-2013 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Definition Order and Requirements for Placing Surface Water Monitoring Stations

TKP 17.13-08-2013 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Rules of Determining the Chemical (Hydrochemical) Status of River Ecosystems

TKP 17.13-09-2013 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control

and Monitoring. Rules of Determining the Chemical (Hydrochemical) Status of Lake Ecosystems

Note: When using this TKP, it is advisable to check the validity of TNLAs under the catalogue, compiled as on January 1 of the current year, and for the relevant information indicators published this year.

If the reference TNLAs have been replaced (modified), then when using this TKP, the replaced (modified) TNLAs shall be used as guides. If the referenced TNLAs have been cancelled without replacement, the provisions, in which they are referenced, are applied in the part that does not affect this reference.

STB 17.06.01-01-2009 "Environment Protection and Nature Use. Hydrosphere. Water Use and Protection. Terms and Definitions" STB 17.13.04-01-2012/EN 14614:2004 Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Manual for Evaluating Hydromorphological Indicators of River Status

STB 17.13.04-02-2013/EN 15843:2010 Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Manual for Evaluating the Alteration Degree of Hydromorphological Indicators of River Status

TKP 17.13-10-2013 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Rules of Determining the Ecological (Hydrobiological) Status of River Ecosystems
TKP 17.13-11-2013 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Rules of Determining the Ecological (Hydrobiological) Status of Lake Ecosystems
TKP 17.13-21-2014 (02120) Environment Protection and Nature Use. Analytical Control and Monitoring. Procedure of Classifying Surface Water Bodies by Ecological Status

3. Terms and Definitions

This Technical Code uses the terms as established in [1]-[2], as well as the following terms with the corresponding definitions:

3.1. Protected areas: Territories adjacent to surface water bodies subject to a special protection and use regime, or those subject to special protection (specially protected natural areas, water protection zones and coastal strips, places for use of surface water bodies for recreation, sports and tourism, the national ecological network and biosphere reserves);

3.2. Ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof): The status (condition) of a surface water body (or of parts thereof), defined on the basis of hydrobiological indicators with the use of hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators.

4. General Provisions

4.1. Draft Plans are developed for the basins of the Dnieper, Western Dvina, Western Bug, Neman and Pripyat Rivers for the conservation and restoration of water bodies, as well as for the integrated (complex) use of water resources.

4.2. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (Minprirody) shall organize the development of Draft Plans by involving specialists from the interested government bodies (organizations), and scientific institutions, which possess the necessary professional skills in the field of water protection and use.

4.3. The sources of physiographic, hydrological, hydrogeological and hydrometeorological information on water bodies of the river basin are as follows:

- The State Water Cadastre;
- The State Land Cadastre;
- The official statistical information on water management (use);
- Monitoring data of surface water and monitoring data of groundwater;
- Results of earlier scientific-research works of studying water bodies in the river basin;
- Results of previous complex geological and hydrogeological works.

5. Requirements for Designing Draft Plans

5.1. The development of Draft Plans assumes performance of the following work types:

5.1.1. Preparatory works:

- Selection of necessary cartographic materials;
- Collection and systematization of information on hydrobiological, hydromorphological and hydrochemical indicators of surface water bodies;
- Collection and systematization of information on hydrogeological characteristics of groundwater bodies in the river basin under study;
- Collection and systematization of information on the hydrometeorological characteristics of the river basin;
- Data on the river flow of the basin;
- Data on pollution sources of surface water and groundwater;
- Information on observation points of the state observation (monitoring) network over the status of surface water and groundwater;
- Data and materials describing the existing natural conditions and the nature of land use, including the terrain relief and land types;
- Analysis of functional use of the territory under study;
- Identification (delineation) of surface water and groundwater bodies with the definition of the final number of water bodies of the river basin for which anthropogenic loads on them must be assessed;
- The definition of water bodies at risk not to achieve the "good" ecological status. For groundwater bodies – of the "good" chemical and quantitative status.

5.1.2. Field works (studies):

- A survey of surface water bodies at risk and not covered by regular observations.

5.1.3. Cameral works:

- Analysis and generalization of the results of field works;
- Definition of loads and possible impact thereof on water bodies;
- Awarding surface water bodies (parts thereof) with ecological status;
- Drawing up a location scheme (layout) of observation points over the status of surface water and groundwater of the state observation (monitoring) network;
- Other cartographic materials prepared with the use of geoinformation systems.

5.2. Based on the results of the works carried out, the environmental problems of the river basin and the ways of their solution are identified; the perspective use of water resources in the river basin under study is defined; proposals for optimizing the layout of observation points of the state monitoring network of surface water and groundwater are developed; as

well as activities (measures) are developed aimed at improving the ecological status of water bodies (or parts thereof). The list of activities is formed based on the ranking of their implementation in terms of importance for achieving the "good" ecological status of the surface water bodies (or parts thereof).

6. Requirements for Compiling Draft Plans

6.1. The Draft Plans shall contain the following sections:

- "Characteristics of the river basin"
- "Measures to define the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof)"
- "Identification of ecological problems of the river basin and ways to solve them"
- "Monitoring of surface water and monitoring of groundwater, including the layout of the state network of observation (monitoring) points over the status of surface water and groundwater and proposals for optimization thereof"
- "Results of studies on the promising use of water resources"
- "Water economic balances"
- "Activities (measures) aimed at improving the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof)"

6.2. The Section "Characteristics of the river basin" shall include:

- An assessment of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the status of water within the river basin;
- Data on the hydrobiologic, hydromorphological and hydrochemical indicators of surface water bodies, as well as on hydrogeological characteristics of groundwater bodies in the studied river basin;
- Data on hydrometeorological characteristics of the river basin, river runoff (flow) and resources and reserves of the groundwater of the basin;
- Data and materials describing the existing natural conditions and the nature of land use, including the terrain relief and land types;
- Data on the surface water bodies related to inland waterways open to navigation;
- General information on the hydropower potential of the river basin water resources; identification (delineation) of surface water and groundwater bodies with the definition of the finite number of the water bodies of the river basin, for which anthropogenic loads shall be estimated;
- Data on protected areas (territories).

The criterion for identification (delineation) of a watercourse (river) is the catchment area of this watercourse of more than 100 km^2.

The criterion for identification (delineation) of a body of water (lake, pond, reservoir) is the area of its water surface of more than 1 km^2.

The identification (delineation) of groundwater bodies shall be carried out by the spread area of aquifers (complexes), including the first aquifer from the ground surface and the aquifers (complexes) that are used (or can be used in future) for domestic and drinking needs.

The data on protected areas shall include information on water protection zones and coastal strips, on specially protected natural areas (territories), on sanitary protection zones for drinking water sources located within the river basin.

6.3. The Section "Measures to define the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof)" shall include the definition of the ecological status of all identified surface water bodies based on hydrobiological indicators using hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators.

For each identified (delineated) surface water body, an evaluation of hydrobiological, hydrochemical and hydromorphological indicators shall be made in accordance with TKP 17.13-04, STB 17.13.04-01 and STB 17.13.04-02.

The definition of the ecological status of surface water bodies with account of hydrobiological, hydromorphological, hydrochemical indicators shall be carried out in accordance with TKP 17.13-21.

For surface water and groundwater bodies, the assessment shall be based on the observation data of the National Environmental Monitoring System of the Republic of Belarus. In the absence of such data, the assessment shall be based on field studies and the results of scientific-research works.

For groundwater bodies, the assessment of the chemical status shall be carried out in accordance with sanitary norms and rules [3].

6.4. The Section "Identification of ecological problems of the river basin and ways to solve them" shall include the information on:

- Point and dispersed (diffuse) sources of polluting surface water and groundwater;
- The recreational load on surface water bodies;
- Surface water bodies at risk from pollution by wastewater discharges;
- Hydromorphological changes of surface water bodies.

In order to assess the anthropogenic load, identify causes and sources of polluting water bodies as a result of economic activities, identifying environmental problems and measures for solving them, an analysis is undertaken of the information obtained from the undertaken field studies, from the State Water Cadastre, on economic development of the river basin territory, volumes of extraction (intake) of water from water bodies, and discharges of sewage into surface water bodies of the river basin in question, including the following:

- Characteristics of agricultural use of the territory within the river basin (the area and types of agricultural lands; the specific weight of crop production and livestock in the volume of gross agricultural production; data on the types of fertilizers and chemical protection products used; information on the facilities for storage and disposal of chemical plant protection products; characteristics of livestock facilities; information on irrigation fields with wastewater with an assessment of compliance with the established irrigation standards, etc.);
- Characteristics of industrial use of water resources and water bodies in the river basin (volumes, annual distribution and dynamics of water extraction and discharges, and wastewater discharges, etc.);
- Characteristics of the use of water resources for energy purposes;
- Characteristics of household and domestic water use within the river basin (volumes, intra-annual distribution and dynamics of water extraction (intake) and discharges, water consumption per capita, losses and unaccounted water expenditures, etc.);
- Characteristics of transport use of water bodies of the river basin (navigable ways and their parameters, etc.);
- Characteristics of recreational use of water bodies within the river basin;

- Characteristics of specially protected natural areas of the river basin (boundaries and areas, restrictions on economic activities, etc.).

The definition of the anthropogenic load shall be carried out with account of all the sources that have a negative impact on water bodies.

A list shall be compiled of surface water bodies, for which the "good" or "excellent" ecological status will not be reached by the end of the plan's period; and the sources that negatively affect the water bodies are also established and ranked according to the degree of significance. Proposals shall be formulated to address identified environmental problems in the river basin.

6.5. The Section "Monitoring of surface water and monitoring of groundwater, including the layout of the state network of observation (monitoring) points over the status of surface water and groundwater and proposals for optimization thereof" shall contain information on the existing observation (monitoring) network of surface water and groundwater in the river basin, as well as proposals on the optimization thereof.

Based on the analysis of the existing state observation (monitoring) network over the status of surface water and groundwater, and identified environmental problems of the river basin, proposals shall be formulated on how to optimize the existing observation (monitoring) points (stations), as well as to develop automated quality control systems of surface water.

Suggestions for optimizing the existing network of surface water monitoring are developed with account of the requirements of TKP 17-13-07.

6.6. The Section "Results of studies on the promising use of water resources" shall include an economic analysis of water use, carried out to define the perspective use of water resources in the river basin.

For this purpose, information shall be retrieved from state bodies and other organizations, including the following:

- Data on the surface water bodies provided into separate (isolated) water management and lease;
- Data on water intakes from groundwater (complexes of hydro-technical facilities and structures);
- Data on places of using surface water bodies for recreation, sports and tourism;
- Data on the socio-economic development of the river basin territory, including changes in the population, plans and programmes for the development of industrial and agricultural sectors, environment protection, etc.;
- Data on management systems for the use and protection of water bodies in terms of protection from the harmful effects of water in the area of the river basin in question.

Based on the results of the researches, proposals shall be formulated on promising directions for the use of the river basin water resources.

6.7. The Section "Water economic balances" shall include the calculation materials, which allow comparing the demand for water with the quantity and quality of available water resources at certain times in the territory of the river basin.

The aim of compiling water economic balances is to assess the adequacy of water resources within the river basin to meet the needs of water users, while avoiding the depletion of water resources and deterioration of water quality of water bodies.

The calculation and completion of water economic balances shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of TKP 17.06-03.

6.8. The Section "Activities (measures) aimed at improving the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof)" shall include activities aimed at reducing the flow of pollutants into water bodies from point and diffuse pollution sources, and activities aimed at rational (sustainable) use of water resources, and reducing the negative impact of other sources, leading to deterioration in the ecological status of water bodies.

The list of activities is formed based on the ranking of their implementation by the importance degree, and shall include the following:

- Priority (first-order) measures, the implementation of which will help maintaining the "good" or "excellent" ecological status of water bodies and progressive reduction of the negative impact on water bodies;
- Additional measures, the implementation of which will improve the ecological status of those surface water bodies that are at risk of not achieving the "good" ecological status.

The list of activities (measures) shall define the timeframes and expected indicators of implementing thereof in accordance with Table 21 of the Annex to this Code.

7. Requirements for Completing Draft Plans

7.1. Draft Plans are issued in the form of an explanatory note (not more than 100 pages) and graphic materials (on paper and electronic carriers). If there is a discrepancy between the records on paper and electronic carriers, the priority belongs to paper records.

7.2. Graphic materials consist of:

- Tables drawn up in accordance with the Annex to this Code; and
- Cartographic materials prepared using geoinformation systems.

The cartographic materials shall include:

- An administrative-territorial map-layout of the river basin;
- A landscape map-layout with highlighted specially protected natural areas and recreation zones;
- An identification map of surface water bodies;
- A hydrogeological map-chart;
- Maps-layouts of groundwater protection;
- A map-layout of land use (land types);
- A map-layout of point pollution sources of (fuelling stations, purification facilities, including filtration fields, livestock farms (complexes), facilities for storing fertilizers and petroleum products, waste storage facilities, etc.), with indication of observation points of local monitoring;
- A map-layout of the location of observation points over the status of surface water;
- A map-layout of the location of observation points over the status of groundwater;
- A map-layout of ecological status of surface water bodies;

- A map-layout of the forecasted changes in the river flow of the basin under study for the plan period (with account various scenarios of climate change);
- A map-layout for optimizing the observation points over the status of surface water and of groundwater.

7.3. After the expiration of the approved plan, its subsequent version shall additionally include an assessment of the effectiveness of the implemented measures aimed at improving the ecological status of surface water bodies (or parts thereof), as well as the reasons for which the planned activities have not been fully implemented [4].

7.4. It is allowed to include into the Draft Plan other sections, tabular and cartographic materials, in addition to those envisaged, with account of the specifics of the river basin.

Literature

[1] Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Environment Protection" of November 26, 1992, No. 1982-XII

[2] Water Code of the Republic of Belarus of April 30, 2014, No. 149-З

[3] SanPiN 10-124 RB 99 (Sanitary Norms and Rules). Potable Water. Hygienic Requirements for the Quality of Water Supplied by Centralized Water Supply Systems. Quality Control

[4] Directive 2000/60/EC	Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000, establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

Annex (recommended)

Table 1 – Description of River Flow within River Basin

River Flow Rate, km^3/year				
Local		Overall		
Average Annual Flow	With Security of 95%	Average Annual Flow	With Security of 95%	In 20___

Table 2 – Groundwater Resources Reserves within River Basin

Region	Groundwater Resources, km^3/year		Stocks Available, km^3/year	Groundwater Extraction in 20__, km^3/year
	Natural	Forecasted		

Table 3 – Main Characteristics of Surface Water Bodies (Reservoirs) within River Basin

No. on Map	Name and Location of Water Body	Water Body Type	Water Surface Area, F, ha	Length, L, m	Average Width, B_{av}, m	Maximum Width, B_{max}, m	Average Depth, H_{av}, m	Current Use of Water Body	Use of Adjacent Territory	Perspective Use of Territory

Table 4 – Main Characteristics of surface Water Bodies (Watercourses) within River Basin

No. on Map	Name and Location of Water Body	Water Body Type	Length, L, m	Catch-ment Area, m^2	Current Use of Water Body	Utilization of Adjacent Territory	Perspective Use of Territory

Table 5 – Description of Water Use within River Basin, in million m^3

Region	Volume of Extracted Water		Volume of Consumed Water							Volume of Water Discharged into Environment		Irretrievable Water Consumption	Water Consumption in Recycling-Successive Water Systems	Water Consumption in Recycling Water Systems
				Split by Water Uses										
	Ground water	Surface Water	Total	For Household Use and Drinking	For Industry	For Agriculture	For Energy Sector	For Medical Use	For Other Purposes	Total	Into Surface Water Bodies			

Table 6 – Data on Water Consumers Harmfully Affecting Surface Water Bodies*

Name of of Water Consumer	Name and Location of Water Receiver	Influence Type	Influence Indicator	Impact Percentage of the Total for River Basin	Share of Contaminants in Waste Water, Discharged into Surface Water Body, in Total Weight of These Substances for the River Basin				
					Contaminant Name (Quality Indicator)	Contaminant Name (Quality Indicator)	Contaminant Name (Quality Indicator)	Contaminant Name (Quality Indicator)	Contaminant Name (Quality Indicator)

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* Average annual data for the last 5 years prior to the start of designing the Draft Plan

Table 7 – Surface Water Bodies under the Greatest Anthropogenic Load from Waste Water Discharge*

Name of Water Body (Monitoring Point)	Volume of Discharged Waste Water Containing Contaminants, Million m^3		Priority Contaminant
	Total	Insufficiently Purified	

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* Average annual data for the last 5 years prior to the start of designing the Draft Plan

Table 8 – List of Working Hydrology Posts in Rivers and Canals

Post No.	Name of Water Body	Post Location (Name)	Distance from Estuary, km	Watershed Area, km^2	Zero Mark of the Post		Opening Date of the Post
					Height, m	Altitude System	

Table 9 – List of Working Hydrology Posts on Lakes and Reservoirs

Post No.	Name of Water Body	Post Location (Name)	Area, km^2		Zero Mark of the Post		Opening Date of the Post
			Of Watershed	Of Reservoir Water Surface	Height, m	Altitude System	

Table 10 – List of Monitoring Stations Over Surface Water Bodies by Hydrochemical Indicators

No.	Name of Water Body	Location of Monitoring Point (Cross-Section)	Distance from Estuary, km	Opening Year of Point

Table 11 – List of Monitoring Stations Over Surface Water Bodies by Hydrobiological Indicators

No.	Name of Water Body	Location of Monitoring Point (Cross-Section)	Distance from Estuary, km	Opening Year of Point

Table 12 – List of Monitoring Stations Over Surface Water Bodies by Hydromorphological Indicators

No.	Name of Water Body	Location of Monitoring Point (Cross-Section)	Distance from Estuary, km	Opening Year of Point

Table 13 – Ecological Status of Surface Water Bodies in 20__

Name of Water Body	Monitoring Point	Ecological Status

Table 14 – List of Monitoring Points Over Groundwater in the Territory of River Basin

Name of Monitoring Point	Well No.	Geological Index of Aquifer (Complex)	Controlled Indicators

Table 15 – List of Surface Water Bodies, Granted into Separate Water Management in 20__

Name of Water Body	Name of Water Consumer	Decision of Local Executive and Regulatory Body	Period of Separate Water Use	Aims of Water Use	Length of watercourse Section, Provided for Separate Water Management, km

Table 16 – List of Surface Water Bodies, Granted into Lease for Fishery in 20__

Name of Water Body	Renter's Name	Decision of Local Executive and Regulatory Body	Lease Term	Water Use Purpose

Table 17 – List of Surface Water Bodies, Considered as Internal Water Routes Opened for Navigation

Name of Water Body	Location of borders of Fairway Section of Water Body	Length of Fairway Section, km

Table 18 – Data on Water Protected Areas and Shore Strips for Identified Surface Water Bodies

Name of Water Body	Dimension (Width)		Document Establishing the Width of Water Protection Area and Shore Strip
	Of Water Protection Area	Of Shore Strip	

Table 19 – Data on of Surface Water Bodies, Used for Recreation, Sports and Tourism, in Localities, Assigned by Local Executive and Regulating Bodies for 20__

Name of Surface Water Body	Place of Using Surface Water Body for Recreation, Sports and Tourism (Region, District, Dwelling Settlement)	Decision of Local Executive and Regulatory Body, Defining the Place of Using Surface Water Body for Recreation, Sports and Tourism	Existing Recreation Load	Recreation Potential

Table 20 – Data on Facilities Causing Damage to Quality of Surface and Groundwater Bodies, Located in Water Protection Areas and Shore Strips

Name of Organization, Location, Surname, Name (If Available) of Individual Entrepreneur, Residence Address	Name of Facility Negatively Affection Water Quality	Location of the Facility Negatively Affecting Water Quality (Water Protection Area or Sore Strip)	Recommended Measures	Execution Dates

Table 21 – Measures Aimed at Improving Ecological Status of Surface Water Bodies (Parts Thereof)

Description of Measures	Aim of Measures	Expected Results after Measures Implemented	Implementation Dates
First-Order (Priority) Measures			
Additional Measures			

PERFORMERS

Annex 8 - Assessment of RBMP compliance with WFD annex VII

Assessment of RBMP compliance with WFD annex VII – "Upper Dnieper River Basin Management Plan, Belarus – April 2016"

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
1 Characterisation				
Map of river basin delineation and sub-basin breakdown	Presence	General map at European scale without the whole Dnieper basin. Map of Belarusian Dnieper basin with river basin and administrative (District) borders.	General map with the whole Dnieper basin (3 countries concerned).	General map with the whole Dnieper basin (3 countries concerned).
Map of surface water bodies (location and boundaries)	Presence	RB >100km² and lakes >1km². Map of surface water bodies with their catchment area, all in the same colour.		
Map of the ecoregions and surface water body types	n/a	No map necessary because just one ecoregion concerned (n°16 East European Plain)	/	
Identification of reference conditions for the surface water body types	Presence	Detailed in annexe F and a specific report (July 2015)		
Map of groundwater bodies (location and boundaries)	Presence	Map of the 7 groundwater bodies		
2 Pressures assessment				

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for domestic uses	Partly	Water balance estimated in economic analysis chapter with annual calculation.	Transferring from "economic analysis" chapter to "pressures" chapter. Estimation during low water period. Remaining of hydrological characterisation from "river basin analysis" report.	
Evaluation of point source pollution: domestic	Presence	Map of around 80 major wastewater point sources (domestic, industrial) including the 23 which discharge 90% of total volume (table in surface water chapter). No data about discharges quality.	Remaining of discharges quality characterisation from "river basin analysis" report.	Improvement and merging of maps 3.1 and 3.10 about point sources pollution.
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for industrial uses	Partly	Paragraph on depression cone on groundwater around Minsk.		
Evaluation of point source pollution: industrial	Presence	Map of chemical and dumps (groundwater chapter).	Splitting pressures between SW and GW is not relevant	Global description of pressures. Description of possible impacts on surface water and groundwater.
Evaluation of pressures on quantitative status, abstractions for irrigation	Absence	May be not a problem.		

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Evaluation of point source pollution: agriculture	Presence	Map of industrial farms (groundwater chapter)		
Evaluation of diffuse source pollution: crops, livestock, etc	Presence	Map of the specific quantities of livestock per 1 ha of agricultural land. 3 maps of levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and organic fertilizing per 1 ha of agricultural land (kg or t/ha). The maps give an estimation of agricultural diffuse pressure.	Just raw pressures maps. Data about net pressures (after crops exports) and manure management (actually weak) could be welcomed for the second cycle. Phosphorus unit needs to be clearly defined (P or P2O5) as well as nitrogen (total nitrogen fertilisers or kg N/ha). Organic fertilising needs to be converted into N and P input. Data about pesticides could be welcomed for the second cycle. A map about types of crops would provide hypothesis about pesticides risks.	Finalise estimation of pollution flows from agriculture (chemicals, manure).
Summary of land use	Absence	No map. Just some global statistics.	General map could be welcomed.	General map of land use in Dnieper river basin in Belarus.

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Analysis of other impacts of human activity on water status		Tables and maps of straightening works, reservoirs, discontinuity	For the second generation, heights of fall could be characterised with specific indicators of "split rate": sum of artificial falls height / natural elevation and/or sum of artificial falls height / river length.	
3 Identification and mapping of protected areas:		Map and description of water protection zones (buffer zones along water-courses)		
– Drinking water abstraction for human consumption,	Partly	Description of the principle		
– economically significant species (fish, shells),	Absence			First map to produce from water users register
– bathing waters,	Absence			First map to produce
– vulnerable zones (nitrates from agriculture),	Absence			To do from National on-go-ing test.
– sensitive areas (nutrients from treatment plants),	Absence			
– special areas of conserva-tion (habitats),	Presence	Map of republican reserves (biological, hydrological, landscape), biosphere re-serve (Berezinsky), radiation ecological reserve.	Map just with water-related reserves.	
– special protection areas (birds)	Partly	Map of republican reserves (biological), biosphere reserve (Berezinsky).		

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
4 Monitoring				
Map of the monitoring network	Presence	Map available and sampling description		
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for surface water (watercourses, lakes, estuaries, coastal water; ecological and chemical)	Presence	Map, complete description, risk analysis and environmental objectives available.	Transferring "environmental objectives" to the dedicated chapter.	Up dated monitoring results from available and comparison with previous water bodies status. Move "environmental objectives" and "risk analysis" to the chapter dedicated to "environmental objectives".
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for groundwater (chemical and quantitative)	Presence	Map, complete description, risk analysis and environmental objectives available.	Transferring "environmental objectives" to the dedicated chapter.	Move "environmental objectives" and "risk analysis" to the chapter dedicated to "environmental objectives".
Map of the results of the monitoring programmes for protected areas	Partly	Rough description		
5 Environmental objectives definition				
List of the environmental objectives for surface waters, groundwater and protected areas	Presence	Description of thresholds for status assessment and current status of water bodies. Description of environmental objectives in chapter "monitoring". No objective for protected areas.	Transferring these elements to chapter "results of monitoring programme". Improve presentation in a pedagogical way. Propose objectives for protected areas.	Improve this chapter including risk analysis. Reorganisation of the concerned chapter could be welcomed. This chapter must be inserted between Monitoring and Economic Analysis.

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
				Propose objectives for protected areas.
Justification of deadlines extension to achieve the objectives	Presence	Available in chapter “monitoring”		
Justification of less stringent environmental objectives	Absence	Acceptable for the first generation of RBMP		
Justification for Heavy Modified Water Bodies designation	Absence	Acceptable for the first generation of RBMP		
6 Economic analysis				
Summary of the economic analysis of water use (Article 5 and Annex III)	Partly to absence	“Economic analysis” contains: . Pressures description by uses: domestic, industrial, agricultural, transports, energy . Register and summary of other programmes (measures, objectives) . Quantitative water uses description, quantitative balance estimation. The content of this section is compliant with TKP requirement « water balances ».	The 3 parts of this so-called economic analysis could be inserted respectively in: 2, 8, and 2. Improvement of economic analysis could begin with: 1) socio-economic weights of water-related activities; 2) water prices, global incomes; 2) expenditures, funding; 3) recovery costs.	Convert title “economic analysis” into “water balances” according to TKP. Create an “economic analysis” section with: 1) socio-economic of water-related activities; 2) First description of water prices by use, user, territory, etc.
7 Programme of measures				
Summary of the programmes of measures (incl. measures costing):				

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Summary of the measures required to implement Community legislation	Partly	List of measures but not costed.	Measures need to be costed in particular for economic analysis.	Rough estimation of the measures (available in another version). It needs to estimate unit costs by measure and/or task. These unit costs will be useful for all the Belarusian RBMP. Improve the presentation of the measures: global map, indicators, costs, responsible. Measures to be updated according to works already implemented.
Report on practical steps and measures to apply the principle of cost recovery	Partly	"Arrangements" for the application of the principle of cost recovery for water use are proposed through 4 measures		
Summary of the measures taken to meet the requirements of Article 7 (abstraction for drinking water)	Partly	List of measures but not costed.		
Summary of the controls on abstraction and impoundment of water	Partly	List of measures but not costed.		

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Summary of the controls adopted for point source discharges and other activities	Partly	List of measures but not costed.		
Identification of the cases where direct discharges to groundwater have been authorised	Partly	List of measures but not costed.		
Summary of the measures on priority substances (article 16)	Partly	List of measures but not costed.		
Summary of the measures taken to prevent or reduce the impact of accidental pollution incidents	Absence	Just one general measure.		
Summary of the measures for water bodies which are unlikely to achieve the objectives	Presence	List of costed measures.		
Details of the supplementary measures	Presence	Supplementary measures concerning WB at risk are described and costed. They essentially concern wastewater management and treatment.		
Details of the measures taken to avoid increase in pollution of marine waters	n/a			
Governance				
8 Register and summary of any more detailed programmes and management plans	Presence	Register and summary of other programmes (measures, objectives) but in chapter “economic analysis”		Create a new chapter from *“economic analysis”* elements (current RBMP).

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
9 Summary of the public information and consultation measures taken, results and impacts on the plan	Partly	Establishment of Dnieper basin council (16 people for 5 years, involving high level representatives of 3 Oblast, local authorities, representatives of other Ministries, etc). No data about public information.	Was public information done?	
10 List of competent authorities defined	Presence	The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus organises the development of draft of RBMP with participation of concerned state bodies. In accordance with article 15 of the Water Code of the Republic of Belarus, RBMP are approved by joint decision of regional, Minsk city executive. The upper Dnieper RBMP must be submitted for approval in Minsk city, Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, and Mogilev regional executive committees.		
11 Contact points and procedures for obtaining the background documentation and information	Presence			

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
Team in charge of RBMP preparation (coordination of the preparation of the RBMP, technical aspects, etc.) defined.	Presence	Complete description with names		
Main necessary competences (planning, monitoring, data management, communication) present.	Presence	The Upper Dnieper RBMP was elaborated by the Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources and Republican Center on Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Pollution and Environ-mental Monitoring, Belarus, with support of national budget and EPIRB project but there are shortcomings due to time and budget constraints: economic analysis, adaptation to climate change...		
Procedure for the consultation on the RBMP defined	Absence			
Procedure for the approval on the RBMP defined	Presence	Detailed procedure (regulation and specific process for Upper Dnieper RBMP) detailed in specific report (April 2016)		
6-year time schedule of the RBMP synchronised with EU countries	Partly	Regarding expected RBMP adoption in 2016, RMBP implementation during 10 years, first deadline 2026. But RBMP will be adopted in 2018. In the docu-		Cycle duration to clarify (6 years cycle proposal: 2018-2023; 2024-2029; 2030-2035)

Contents	Status*	Comments	Remedial action	Action to be done in the frame of EUWI+ project:
		ment, following dates appear: interme-diate evaluation in 2021, good status for all the waterbodies in 2033.		

**presence, absence, partly, n/a*

Specific comment: be careful with the proportion of the maps (steady ratio “height/width”).

Global comment: a lot of information disseminated inside different reports. Main improvements: right organisation of the content of the chapters, economic analysis, measures description, global map.

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