

Brussels, 28/10/2015

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PEER REVIEW SECRETARIAT
TO THE STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION GROUP
MEETING OF THE 9 NOVEMBER 2015

Agenda point 5.e: Proposal for the organisation of the peer review workshops in coordination with the CIS and news up-date on the peer-review mechanism for the improvement of WFD implementation

STATUS BOX

This is updated information on the peer review mechanism, following the last communication from the secretariat made at the SCG meeting a year ago. Based on the first call launched at the beginning of the year 2015, 16 Receiving Competent Authorities (RCAs) from River Basin Districts located in 10 EU and European Economic Area Countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden) have parts of their river basin management planning process being reviewed by their European colleagues (reviewing experts, or "Peers"). In parallel, over 60 persons from 15 Member States have registered so far as candidate to be Reviewing Experts by sending their Europass CV and profile form to the secretariat. The Peer Review missions are currently be implemented in the 16 RCAs and will be held until spring 2016. **New RCA and experts can still volunteering to take part in the peer review mechanism as 4 new missions can be programmed in the current phase of the project.**

Hands-on workshop has been identified as a complementary tool in the peer review mechanism, in order to share and enhance the results of the peer review missions organised between the receiving competent authorities (RCA) and the reviewing experts from the different Member States. This is particularly useful for topics that have been identified by several RCAs and for which such a multilateral approach has been considered appropriate. It is anticipated that up to 4 hands-on workshops could be organised in the project time frame i.e. until September 2016.

The main focus of this communication is to **get the SCG members view on a proposal for the organisation of these workshops in close coordination with the new CIS.** In addition, SCG remaining the main channel to homogenously exchange with the Member Sates on the peer-review mechanism, a presentation of the final results of the project including a discussion on the possible evolution of the mechanism could be presented to SCG meeting in the final phase of the project in autumn 2016.

The SCG is invited to:

- Give a feedback on the proposal for the organisation of the peer review workshops in coordination with the new CIS and identify MS and/or RCA which would volunteer to contribute to the preparation of the future peer review events together with the secretariat.
- Reactivate the call for new Receiving Competent Authorities who are willing to benefit from a peer review mission and to Reviewing Experts to contact the secretariat to register, as up to 4 new missions can be programmed in the current phase of the project.

The contact detail of the peer review secretariat is: peer.review@oieau.fr.

Proposal for the organisation of the peer review hands-on workshops in coordination with CIS technical WGs

The hands-on workshops in the peer review mechanism

Hands-on workshop has been identified as a complementary tool in the peer review mechanism, in order to share and enhance the results of the peer review missions organised between the receiving competent authorities (RCA) and the reviewing experts from the different Member States. It is anticipated that up to 4 hands-on workshops could be organised in the frame of the project (September 2014-September 2016).

During the first call for expression of interest run in the preparatory phase, the RCAs could indicate if they were willing to organise hands-on workshop(s), in addition with or rather than the PR mission. The PR Secretariat has analysed the answer which confirm their wish to use the workshops as a complementary tool to individual PR.

As the first peer review are being implemented, it gives a vision on the most common topic selected by the RCA for their peer review in connexion with the preparation and implementation of their River Basin Management Plans.

Lastly, some competencies happens to be rare among the reviewing experts candidates, making it worth organising a workshop to share this particular expertise, in a format more condense in time but with a broader number of participants who could benefit from it.

Proposal for the hands-on workshops' implementation logic

Following the Commission's suggestion to organise the hands-on workshops in close connexion with the CIS activities, the Peer Review Secretariat would like to propose the organisation of the workshop back to back with a CIS working group meetings to be closely coordinated with the focus of the group and ease the logistic.

These peer review workshops would be an opportunity for the RCAs to introduce the strength and weakness for WFD implementation in their country and present the issues they have worked out in their district during previous PR missions. Extra solutions will be discussed in return with the CIS working group members and conclusions will lead to highlight existing good practices across Europe.

Agenda of such workshop would be prepared in collaboration between the chair of the CIS group, the RCAs who have benefit from a peer review in related topic and the secretariat. It is anticipated a one-day exchange workshops the day after the CIS WG meetings, inviting the Working Group members to prolong their participation and invite in parallel selected RCA and extra practitioners to be mobilised by the different working group members in relation with the selected topic.

Proceedings of the workshop will be then compiled and disseminated. It would include a synthesis on main issues in the targeted domain and good practices to tackle them.

What technical topic for a hands-on workshop?

Based on the first call launched in January 2015, 16 RCAs from River Basin Districts located in 10 EU and EEA Countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden) have parts of their river basin management planning process being reviewed by their European colleagues (reviewing experts, or "Peers").

When analysing the main groups of topics included in the demand of the RCAs presented below, the CIS Working Groups that appears to be the most relevant to cooperate with could be "economic analysis", "program of measures", "groundwater" and "data info sharing", with the "objective" topic being addressed in these workshops when consistent.

The Workshops could then be organised back-to-back with the permanent technical working group meetings on Groundwater and Data Information and Sharing and the task group on Economic analysis and Programmes of Measures to treat selected issues.

For example, a workshop back-to-back the CIS WG on Groundwater would include in its agenda the presentation of the following Peer Review missions:

- Water Management Agency in Luxembourg on Groundwater monitoring and assessment methodologies
- Alto Adriatico River Basin Authority in Italy on Groundwater bodies chemical and quantitative status, trend evaluation
- South Baltic Water District in Sweden on Monitoring and characterisation of Groundwater

The most commonly solicited topics in the peer reviews are so far as presented in the following table:

Topics covered	Receiving Competent Authorities
Economic analysis	Catalan Water Agency, Spain
Economic analysis	River Basin District of River Kokemäenjoki – Finland
Economic analysis: environmental costs and values	Duero River Basin Authority, Spain
Economic analysis: disproportionate costs	Rhine-Meuse Water Agency – France
Economic analysis: environmental costs and values	South Baltic Water District, Sweden

Program of measures - Exemptions	Northern Baltic Sea Water District Authority – Sweden
Program of measures - Priorisation	Northern Baltic Sea Water District Authority – Sweden
Program of measures - Uncertainties	Northern Baltic Sea Water District Authority – Sweden
Program of measures and public participation	Malta
Programme of measures	South Baltic Water District, Sweden
Programme of measures	River Basin District of River Kokemäenjoki – Finland
Programme of measures - Environmental objectives	Duero River Basin Authority, Spain
Programme of measures - Environmental objectives	Miño-Sil River Basin Authority – Spain
Groundwater chemical status	Autorità di Bacino dell'Alto Adriatico, Italy
Groundwater monitoring	South Baltic Water District, Sweden
Groundwater monitoring	Water Management Agency, Luxembourg
Groundwater monitoring	Autorità di Bacino dell'Alto Adriatico, Italy
Groundwater quality monitoring	Catalan Water Agency, Spain
Groundwater quantitative status	Autorità di Bacino dell'Alto Adriatico, Italy
Characterisation and objectives	River Basin District of River Kokemäenjoki - Finland
Characterisation and objectives	Miño-Sil River Basin Authority – Spain
Environmental objectives	Tiber Basin Authority, Italy
Environmental objectives	Duero River Basin Authority, Spain
Environmental objectives	Jucar River Basin Authority, Spain
Exemptions	Water Management Agency, Luxembourg
Objectives and exemptions	South Baltic Water District, Sweden
Water information system	South Baltic Water District, Sweden
Water information system	Tiber Basin Authority, Italy
Consultation process and data sharing	River Basin District of River Kokemäenjoki - Finland
Reporting-WIS-GIS	Miño-Sil River Basin Authority – Spain

Contacts:

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