



**United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe**



## **Network of basins working on water and climate change adaptation**

### **Information note**

The preparatory process of the sixth World Water Forum (Marseille, France, 12-17 March 2012), target 3.3.2, led by UNESCO and the French Water Academy, resulted in the following recommendation 3:

By 2012: provide a networking platform of basins for the collection and exchange of best practices and experiences on the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in the field of water resources planning and management, relying on existing initiatives of UNECE<sup>1</sup> and INBO<sup>2</sup> and involving regional and international programmes.

### **Background**

Under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourse and International Lakes<sup>3</sup> (Water Convention) and its Task Force on Water and Climate a programme of pilot projects in 8 transboundary basins in the pan-European region has since 2010 promoted adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context<sup>4</sup> ().

From 2013, this programme will be broadened to include additional basins also from other regions of the world. This network will be managed by UNECE, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) as well as other potential partners such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

### **Aims**

The programme and network aim to promote cooperation on adaptation in (transboundary) basins, to compare different methodologies and approaches for adapting to climate change and promote a shared vision between the participating basins. While the different basins primarily work on their adaptation activities themselves in accordance with the agreed decisions of their governing bodies or with the terms of reference of international projects, joining the network would allow for the exchange of experience, learning from each other, establishing contacts between basins and their experts, discussing challenges and lessons learnt etc. The network will include annual meetings of all basins, regular larger workshops and other ways of exchanging experience, depending on interest, demand and resources.

In addition, the network will allow the preparation of a document summarizing the experiences and lessons learnt from the basins in terms of adaptation to climate change at the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

<sup>2</sup> International Network of Basin Organizations, <http://www.inbo-news.org/>

<sup>3</sup> See [www.unece.org/env/water](http://www.unece.org/env/water)

<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.unece.org/env/water/water\\_climate\\_activ.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_climate_activ.html) as well as <http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>

transboundary level, to be presented at the seventh World Water Forum (2015, South Korea).

### **Deliverables**

- Organization of annual core group meeting of all basins in the network and larger workshops in order to exchange experiences
- Elaboration of a document summarizing experiences, good practices and lessons learnt from the basins to be presented at the seventh World Water Forum
- Dissemination and promotion at various occasions such as UNECE and INBO events, World Water Week etc.

### **Provisional timeplan:**

12-17 March 2012, Marseille: sixth World Water Forum

25-27 April 2012, Geneva, Switzerland: third UNECE workshop on water and climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and fifth meeting of the Task Force on water and climate: discussion on the aims, modalities etc. of the network

17-19 October 2012, Istanbul, Turkey: General assembly of EURO-INBO, promotion of the Projects

June-December 2012: collection of expression of interest of basins willing to join the network on the basis of a template for this purpose; selection of basins, fundraising

28-30 November 2012, Rome, Italy: sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention

20-21 February 2013 (tbc), Geneva, Switzerland: first meeting of the core group of basins with all basins: discussion on the aims, modalities etc. of the network

2013: INBO General Assembly in Brazil

25-27 June 2013 (tbc): workshop

2013-2015: regular exchange of experience between the basins

2014-2015: production of a document summarizing experiences and lessons learnt

2015: presentation of the document and outcomes of the network at the seventh World Water Forum in South Korea