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The information bulletin of Organization "Gromadyanska Initsiatyva"(OGI) International
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TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (TEC) Project.
Region: Ukraine – Russian Federation.

The introduction

In the Declaration of the 4-th Environment Ministers Conference (June 23-25, 1998, Aarhus, Denmark) the Ministers specifically stressed the importance of the NGO participation in the environmental policy making process and the necessity of close cooperation between different sectors of society in the decision making process.

The Organization "Gromadyanska Initsiatyva" (OGI) International in partnership with the United Nations Development Program in Ukraine and under support of the International "Renaissance" (George Soros) Foundation: East - East Program convened two regional meetings "Transboundary environmental problems: achievement, needs, ways of resolving by common efforts" for regions Ukraine - Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - Russian Federation. The main objectives of these meetings are

- the development of recommendations on resolving transboundary environmental problems on the boundaries between Ukraine and Republic of Moldova (first meeting - on February 8-11, 1999, Kyiv) and between Ukraine and Russian Federation (second meeting - on March 29 - April 1, 1999, Kyiv) by common efforts;
- facilitating dialogue between the appropriate official institutions, local authorities of bordering territories, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) on issues of practical resolving of urgent transboundary environmental problems and related socio-economic problems as well.

The realization of similar meetings is planned also between Ukraine and other neighboring countries.

The meetings on transboundary environmental issues are the continuation of work started within the SOFIA+3 Project on the NGO evaluation of National Environmental Action Plans in the NIS, which was presented on the 4-th Environment Ministers Conference in Aarhus in June, 1998, where the nongovernmental organizations from the NIS have approved the results of the Project and have determined main directions of NGO common activity for the future.

The basis for the NGO participation in the environmentally sound social and economic development is the Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice

in environmental matters, and also paragraphs 2, 43 and 44 of the 4-th Environment Ministers Conference Declaration.

Why the OGI have begun to promote the LEAPs development and implementation by carrying out the meetings with emphasize on transboundary environmental issues? There are a number of reasons:

1. According to results of the SOFIA+3 Project the coordination of Major Groups' activities on environmental issues and coordination of efforts between appropriate official institutions of Ukraine and neighbouring countries remains weak. Better coordination of efforts on resolving of common environmental problems is necessary to prevent or resolve common environmental problems more effectively.
2. The integration of common coordinated activities into LEAPs will essentially reduce expenses of the countries involved on implementation of LEAPs, what is not only economically beneficial. It will create a favorable political climate for partial involvement of external financial sources, what comes up from the articles 5 and 45 of the 4-th Environment Ministers Conference Declaration.
3. The activity stimulate cooperation and participation of Major Groups of neighbouring countries in the decision making process and promote more effective realization of the Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters.

The information about the regional workshop Ukraine - Republic of Moldova is submitted in the [Information bulletin 16](#) Organization "Gromadyanska Initsiatyva" International dated February, 1999.

Bilateral meeting on issues of transboundary environmental cooperation in region Ukraine - Russian Federation

(March 29 - April 1, 1999, Kyiv)

From side of Russian Federation the First secretary of the Embassy of Russian Federation in Ukraine Oleg Korobkov, the representatives of State Duma, State Committee of the environmental protection, Ministry of natural resources, territorial Committees of the environmental protection from neighboring to Ukraine territories, nongovernmental and other interested organizations of Russian Federation took part in the workshop.

From side of Ukraine the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Anatoly Yatsyk, representatives of the appropriate Divisions of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety, Administration of the President, National Academy of Sciences, experts of the UNDP in Ukraine, State Divisions of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety from the territories neighboring to Russian Federation, and also representatives of nongovernmental organizations took part in the meeting.

During the meeting the urgent transboundary environmental problems, which take place on the border between Ukraine and Russian Federation were determined, and the recommendation on ways of practical resolving them by common efforts were suggested. The questions related to possible forms of cooperation between Mayor Groups of Ukraine and Russian Federation to enable more effective resolving of these problems, and opportunities for integration of the recommendations into Local Environmental Action Plans as part of local programs on socio-economic development of territories had been also discussed at the meeting.

THE FINAL DOCUMENT

Problems, aims	Priorities within block	Ways of the solving
<i>Resources</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection and rational use of water resources. 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development and implementation intergovernmental environmental basin programs and projects. ● Formation of unisystem of the especially protected ethnic and natural territories. ● New not violent technologies to restore migratory fish populations. ● Organizing joint inspection activity to struggle with poaching ● Harmonization of Russian and Ukraine legislation; introduction of responsibility for illegal trade. Elaboration of system for work with the confiscation objects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection and reproduction of wild flora and fauna. 	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regeneration of fish resources. Saving and reactivation of Azov's migratory fish natural regeneration. 	2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International trade by natural resources, objects of wild flora and fauna under threat of extinction. 		
<i>Anthropogenous influences</i>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem of sea dumps and bottom deepening. 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Realization of coordinated policy of economic activities in the water collectors area. Selection of the transboundary water object for launching the pilot project on the administrative decisions making. ● Arrangement of common scientific researches. Adoption of the common regulatory documents. ● Development of common actions on fulfilment of the international Conventions, contracts, agreements on the transboundary air contamination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem of bottom sediments. 	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem of water collection of small rivers. 	1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem of the transboundary transfer of pollutants in the atmospheric air. 	2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decrease of the transboundary transfer of Severskij Donets river. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection of the Black and Azov seas against the anthropogenous influences. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preventing destruction of the Azov-Black Seas coastal zone. 		

Functions, means and methods of management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring of the transboundary transfer of pollutants in water and air environments. 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of common programs of monitoring. ● Regular informing of both parties about the ecological condition of the dangerous industrial objects. ● Conducting of joint environmental expertises of the economic activity with the transboundary influence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Radioecological monitoring in the transboundary zone. 	3	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The control of water quality in the transboundary rivers used as source of drinking water supply. 	2
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Normative - legal base

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harmonization of legislative and normative base of two countries: 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of the mechanism for the preparation and implementation of joint investment projects. The coordination of methodological approaches on the Environmental Impact Assessment carrying out, environmental expertise and environmental audit. ● The intergovernmental agreement on the control of the dangerous wastes transboundary transportation. ● Development of common standards and requirements on all kinds of the transportation facilities' usage. ● Certification of the coastal water areas ● Basin agreement..
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Norms and standards of quality of the environment, including Miximum Allowed Concentrations; 	1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mechanism of penalty for the violation of the environmental legislation on the interstate level; 	2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial and economic mechanism of joint programs' and investment projects' implementation. 	3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of the mechanism of public participation within resolving of transboundary environmental problems. 		

Methodical maintenance

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Methodical base of two countries, including the technique of the damage value definition and compensation in case of the accident. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To prepare and adopt the agreement at the intergovernmental level on the common methodical maintenance of activity in the environmental protection field and management of nature within the framework of common programs and projects.
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The organizational unit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation permanent: the Ukrainian part of the Azov inter-parliamentary commission, common expert council, foundation of the development of the Azov basin.. 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of common informational system at basin's level. ● Renewal of the Committees on the rivers' basins. ● Preparation and concluding the Agreements between the boundary state institutions in the environmental protection field. ● Creation of common organizational-methodological center "Azoviya-XXI century". ● Implementation of the coordinated activity program. ● Practical implementation of the two-sided intergovernmental agreement in the environmental protection field, including the appropriate activity program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Absence of common informational system at basin's level. 	1	

The socio-economic unit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental problems and socio-economic development. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrangement of common scientific researches.
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