Facilitating Transboundary Water Co-operation through Data and Information Exchange

Via Zoom, Tuesday 22 August, 07:00 – 08:00 CEST

Water is a strategic and valuable resource and an essential element of national and regional security. There are more than 150 river and lake basins shared by two or more countries in the OSCE region. Water management challenges can potentially trigger conflicts; equally, water management can also create valuable opportunities for co-operation. Data and information exchange concerning water availability and patterns is essential for economic development, managing planning and building trust between riparian countries.

Digital tools in the water sector enhance transparency and accountability in water management, contributing to strengthened transboundary water co-operation. The effective management and governance of transboundary water resources depends on the data and information available to implement the main principles of international water law. An adequate understanding of the conditions, challenges, needs and priorities in transboundary water management facilitates the development of management plans, policies, laws and agreements. Such understanding can be achieved through the regular exchange of data and information.

The session will highlight the importance of data and information exchange in transboundary water management and provide an overview of innovative mechanisms to address water diplomacy for peace and regional security.

Agenda

**Moderated by Saule Ospanova, Senior Environmental Affairs Adviser, OSCE**

**07:00 – 07:10 Welcoming Remarks**

- **Ms. Sylvie Goyet**, Deputy Co-ordinator of Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, OSCE
- **Mr. Simon Zbinden**, Head of Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**07:10 – 07:15 Setting the scene: Digitalization in the water sector**

**Mr. Antti Rautavaara**, Special Envoy for Water, Centre for Peace Mediation MFA Finland
07:15 – 07:30  Presentation of “Data and Information Exchange Toolkit:
Facilitating transboundary water management and governance through cooperation”

- Mr. Diego Jara IUCN Environmental Law Center

07:30 – 07:50  Interactive Panel on Digitalization in the Water Sector

- Dr. Christian Bréthaut, Geneva Water Hub, UNESCO Chair on Hydropolitics, University of Geneva
- Mr. Kerry Schneider, Senior Programme Manager, SIWI
- Ms. Cholpon Aitakhunova, Regional Co-ordinator, CAY4W

07:50 – 08:00 Wrap up and closing remarks