

NATO PILOT STUDY PROJECT
“SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES -
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT - BELARUS, POLAND, UKRAINE”

Meeting in Szack (Ukraine) – 2-4 September 2008

On 2nd -4th September 2008 in Szack (Ukraine) the IV meeting of NATO pilot study project “Sustainable Use and Protection of Groundwater Resources - Transboundary Water Management - Belarus, Poland, Ukraine” took place.

During previous meetings main assumptions for groundwater monitoring on the transboundary area were presented. The main goal of the current meeting was the presentation of practical aspects concerning sampling methods and the equipment used by geological surveys. That is why the main participants of this meeting were field experts conducting the monitoring. Their task was to present the field works methodology and its practical aspects. Representatives for the Polish and Ukrainian geological surveys presented their experience on groundwater monitoring on territories of their countries.

Afterwards some examples of the monitoring points from the transboundary area, with their geological description, were presented. This information initiated an intensive discussion. Experts exchanged their experiences and debated on a possibility of creating a transboundary measurement network and implications of such action on individual survey works. As an example of an efficient monitoring the Polish side presented the project of the transboundary groundwater monitoring conducted with geological survey of Lithuania. On the basis of prepared material basic assumptions for the future transboundary cooperation project were accepted.

One of main assumptions of the meeting was the agreement on technical issues related to the monitoring. That is why the place of the debate was localized in Szack, for its closeness to the point of contact of the three countries boundaries, and also for its location near the automatic monitoring point being within the Ukrainian survey monitoring network (the Switez Lake). This point served as a testing object for presenting the field methodic used by individual surveys. One of sessions was dedicated to field works and during the session groundwater samples were collected. Experts introduced methodic, as well as techniques of samples collecting, that are used for monitoring routine works in their countries.

The next essential goal of the field works was also the comparison of chemical analysis methods performed on water samples. That is the reason for the collected samples to be sent

to the PGI Central Chemical Laboratory, Zachukrgelogia company's laboratory. Received results are going to be the next element in the process of the future creating of common research methods. For comparison, the samples were also sent to two laboratories in Israel (Israel Geological Survey and Mekorot Israel National Water Company), and are going to be the reference for the tests done in Poland and Ukraine. The experience of experts from Israel, who participate in the works from the very beginning of the project, is crucial for developing the integrated transboundary monitoring system.

Previous experiences, theoretical as well as practical, collected during the series of NATO framework project meetings are going to be gathered and on their basis an attempt is going to be made to develop a common research methodology, which concept is going to be presented on the next summary meeting.