

JOINT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013

REPAIR - Regional Cooperation for Black Sea River Basins Environment Protection from Agricultural Polluters

Common borders. Common solutions.

NEWSLETTER No.6 - November 2014



HIGHLIGHTS

- Sakarya River
- REPAIR expedition in Turkey
- Training „Regional Cooperation for the Black Sea River Basin Environmental Protection from Agricultural Polluters - REPAIR”

Sakarya River

Sakarya stream has 824 km length. It has 58160 km² of catchment area and 188.70 m³/s flow rate annually. The catchment area consists of 3 regions; these are the upper, middle and lower Sakarya. Porsuk and Ankara streams are the most important tributaries of Sakarya stream.

Sakarya delta in the lower Sakarya region has the feature of a natural conservation area and holding important ecological values for Georgia. 28 plants from the region are in the red book list. Being on migrating birds' route, rich in wetlands and wildlife is among other ecological values for the catchment area.

Porsuk stream, which is connected to Sakarya stream in the middle part, carries wastes, especially from food and textile industry to the stream. According to researches, it seems that heavy metal levels, especially Ni and Cu, are above acceptable levels. In the lower parts of the stream, forest industries and irrigation areas are present.

According to the information above, it could be said that Sakarya stream and its catchment area are being subject to various negative effects, especially of anthropogenic origin. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals and, above all, pesticides, should be monitored in both waters and sediments. Because these pollutants accumulate in the living tissue, attach to the food chain and affect both human and other living organisms' life quality.

REPAIR expedition in Turkey

From 22 to 30 October 2014, in Turkey was organized the expedition on the River Sakarya in the framework of the project REPAIR.

The expedition team was formed by the representatives of project implementer organizations - ABC - Georgia, AHDER - Turkey, ECCG - Romania, BDCA - Bulgaria and REC Moldova and Prorural-invest from Republic of Moldova. The experts of the expedition had meeting with representatives of environmental NGOs and local government of four districts. The experts were informed about the agricultural practiced and the measures undertaken by local government and environmental NGOs in promoting organic farming and protection of water sources.

Before the expedition, several field studies conducted and 12 soil, sediment and water samples were collected along Lower Sakarya Basin. Also, 9 samples were taken from Black Sea. These sampling points were around the point where Sakarya River flows into the Black Sea. Evaluation and analyses on these water, soil and sediment samples are still ongoing.

During the expedition 5 water samples 3 sediment samples and 3 soil samples from agricultural fields were taken. Each sample was taken in 3 duplicates. Water samples split in two parts and one part was used to make spectrometrically analysed for Nitrite (NO₂), Nitrate (NO₃), Ammonia (NH₃) and Orthophosphate (PO₄) using Hach-Lange DR5000 UV-VIS spectrophotometer. Also, dissolved oxygen, salinity, conductivity, chlorophyll-a, temperature, pH, turbidity and total dissolved solid measurements were made in the field using Hydrolab DS5 Data Sonde. Remaining samples of water, soil and sediment were transferred to Kocaeli University Hydrobiology Laboratory for further analysing.

During the expedition, REPAIR Team met with WWF Turkey. Team also met with a person who is a representative of Local Agricultural, Food and Livestock Directorship. During the expedition in Sakarya, the team visited local farms and discuss about usage of pesticides in their farms.



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Training „Regional Cooperation for the Black Sea River Basin Environmental Protection from Agricultural Polluters - REPAIR”

Eco Counselling Centre Galati (ECCG/CCEG) organized a training session within the REPAIR PROJECT on 23-24 October 2014 at ECCG HQ's.

The project's general objective is to contribute to strengthening partnerships and cooperation in the region, to promote and apply mutual environmental solutions, create equal gender opportunities, get the civic society and public administration involved so as to secure better protection to the environment, mitigate gender discrimination, update the knowledge and information and promote new tools and methods.

The main goal of our training session was to provide the latest information regarding the management and river basin management plan within the Prut-Barlad Basin so as to improve the active involvement of the Civic Organizations, NGOs and local administration. Also, to share the experience of project partners regarding river basins, experience gained about legislative issues, integrated river planning, in-field expeditions in the partner's countries, as well.

The topics and activities in the training:

- *E.U.'s Romania's aquatic resources management-overview;*
- *Water Framework Directive and Nitrates Directive*
- *Significant Water Management Issues in the PRUT - BARLAD RB(ABA, Iasi);*
- *Measures to reduce pollution caused by agriculture in the Galati County;*
- *Impact of the Aquaculture - specific type of activities consid-*

ering the problems caused by the effluents from fish farms (Galati, Lower Danube University of Galati);

- *Public participation in water conservation. Institutions, target groups, key stakeholders; The role of coastal communities and NGOs*
- *Flood, drought, bank erosion: initiatives, measure to mitigate their impact;*
- *Water quality monitoring in river basin Kamchia.*

The event was organized and hosted by the ECCG with the participation of the water management specialist, Mrs. Anca Savin from Prut-Barlad River Basin Administration and capacity building specialist, Mr. Biser Banev from BDCA, Bulgaria.

The training session provided the 22 participants, representatives of the local authorities, NGOs and educational units such as teachers and university professors.

CONCLUSION

The training event helped participants to be more cooperative and open to the new aspects in water management, forge new friendships and partnerships, all having in mind how to better protect the environment, mitigate gender discrimination and promote new tools and methods.

The project implementation benefits new contacts and resource persons, wider framework for potential future cooperation.



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