

Belarus • Moldova • Ukraine Eastern Europe ENVSEC in 2008



HIGHLIGHTS 2008

- winter launch of ENVSEC assessment in Ukraine: more than 100 participants in Kyiv and Donetsk, synergy with UNECE (the Environmental Performance Review of Ukraine launched at the same time), good discussions and press
- spring start of a series of training events for the detection and prevention of cross-border trafficking of hazardous waste
- summer Chisinau - Tiraspol breakthrough on environmental cooperation; expert field visits to Donbas; Ukrainian - Belarus expedition on the Pripjat
- autumn series of events in Donetsk: "Mining for closure" interagency workshop, regional training and press tour for environmental journalists; media relations training for 'ENVSEC oblasts' in Ukraine; start of field work in the Polesie Radiation Reserve in Belarus
- new funding: Belgium, Finland, Norway, NATO, mélange (via OSCE).

ZOOM-IN

Context and summary

In 2008 the regional context has remained largely unchanged. On the environmental side, extreme summer floods drew renewed attention to tangible consequences of climate change but also illegal logging (and environmental crime in general), as well as to the need to be better prepared nationally and cooperate internationally (not least on exchanging information and early warning across state and agency borders). On the political side, an intensified Chisinau – Tiraspol dialogue in the first half of the year provided ample opportunities to bring up environmental cooperation. Political (and consequently, administrative) uncertainties in Ukraine towards the end of 2008 have made longer-term planning more difficult, although good and dynamic cooperation remains.

All dimensions and partners of ENVSEC have been active in the region. Many new activities started and old activities gained pace, altogether moving from the 2007 focus on awareness towards solutions for concrete regional and topical issues. The institutional network that supports coordination and project work is solid. So is the funding base for ENVSEC work programme, although gaps exist both within ongoing projects and with respect to new ideas emerging on the environment-security border. The latter require fresh thinking and fresh funding.

Projects continued

Dniester basin cooperation (Ukraine – Moldova) progressed from phase 2 to phase 3, towards a full implementation of the Dniester basin action programme. Drisvyaty lake information exchange (Belarus – Lithuania) is gaining speed, and a feasibility study for integrated basin management will be completed by 2009. In Crimea (Ukraine) the focus for integrating environmental component in development planning has moved to the district level; improved access to environmental information will also be supported. Appraisal of environmental management practices in mining was carried out in Donbas (Ukraine), culminating in an interagency exchange on environmentally-sound mining strategies; and a regional system for reporting emissions and movement of pollutants was initiated in the Donetsk oblast. Regional research on sustainability of energy planning continues gradually engaging countries' own expertise. Due to successful fundraising, phase I of mélange cleanup is ready to start in Ukraine. And there was steep progress in Moldova's Transnistrian region with respect to prospects for environmental cooperation, lately hampered again by the post-war-in-Ossetia landscape rearrangement in Europe.

Projects started

Leaning on new funding, projects were started: in the Pripjat river basin (Belarus – Ukraine) with a joint field mission collecting data to form a base for water distribution mechanism between the countries; in the Danube delta (Ukraine – Moldova – Romania) aimed at exchange of information and joint appraisal of environmental and resource issue with the help of ICPDR (Danube Commission); in Belarus, addressing needs to in-depth study transuranic pollution near Chernobyl and the migration or radioactivity across the border; also in Belarus for eliminating near-border depots of obsolete pesticides. A major undertaking to help Ukraine (but also Belarus and Moldova) to prevent illegal traffic of hazardous waste has been a series of training events for border and environmental authorities.

Projects completed

NATO's support to transboundary water monitoring in the Prut and the Dniester rivers has come to an end, somewhat unfortunately as the installed monitoring infrastructure was washed away by 2008 extreme floods (further efforts will need to be made by the countries). The current (repackaging) phase of NAMS pesticide project in Moldova has also been completed, next phase requiring new resources for destroying the chemicals.

Coordination and promotion

Meetings with country partners took place in all countries (in Kyiv in February, Chisinau & Tiraspol in June, Minsk in September 2008). A regional discussion was organised in Brussels back to back with the November 'Environment and Security conference'. Regular communication with partner agencies and focal points has been maintained by correspondence and through information bulletins. Regional media have covered events and activities throughout the year, with special-focus training events organised in Kyiv and Donetsk in October 2008.

NEW IDEAS

Projects under development include flood monitoring on the Pripjat river (Ukraine and Belarus), environmental rehabilitation of the Pryluky airbase (Ukraine), and the removal of obsolete pesticides from Transnistria (Moldova). Next stage follow-up is expected in some

areas with currently active and funded projects (Danube, Drysviaty, Donetsk). Other ideas under discussion include further and more systematic support to joint river management through better information sharing, addressing specific transboundary impacts with the Espoo convention, prevention of transboundary accidents, promotion of cross-border nature protection, and – most recently – understanding and tackling the security dimension of regional climate change.

FUNDING BASE

Following the 2005-7 regional assessment of environment and security in Eastern Europe – supported by Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and NATO – critical resources for follow-up project implementation were contributed by Canada and Sweden. These two countries who remain the largest ‘programmatic donors’ for ENVSEC in the region. Several NATO-supported projects associated with ENVSEC and became part of its work programme (with Belgium, Finland and Germany having contributed via OSCE to the now completed NATO-lead pesticide project in Moldova). More donors have pledged fresh funding for projects in 2008 including Belgium (waste trafficking and illegal logging), Finland (Dniester cooperation), Norway (Pripyat river management), and NATO (two projects in Belarus, two more under development in Ukraine and Belarus). OSCE undertook a major and successful effort with a variety of sources in securing funds for mélange clean-up in Ukraine. All ENVSEC partner agencies also contribute their own ‘core resources’, matching external funding and maintaining the continuity of the work. The current value of ENVSEC’s ongoing projects portfolio in Eastern Europe is **EUR 3M** (not counting completed projects nor mélange destruction with EUR 7M budget managed outside of ENVSEC framework). Gaps remain, both for small- to medium-scale activities and for larger and ‘harder’ operations (e.g. pesticides and mélange clean-up). Fresh funds are also required to develop and put to life new environment – security ideas.

OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES 2009

- continue to implement the ENVSEC work programme
- remain responsive and generate new ideas
- maintain and strengthen funding base
- focus awareness work on results



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Location of ENVSEC projects in Belarus • Moldova • Ukraine



NB: squares / rectangles show the locations of geographically-specific projects

Summary of ENVSEC activities in Belarus • Moldova • Ukraine / per November 2008

Projects in the work programme	Implementation		Funding available
	Organisations	Countries	
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin: implementation of the action programme	UNECE OSCE UNEP	MD, UA	Finland Sweden
Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drisviaty / Druksiai lake basin	UNEP REC	BY (with LT, LV)	Sweden Canada
Sustainable management of shared water resources in the upper Pripjat basin	UNEP OSCE UNDP	BY, UA	Norway Canada
Joint environmental monitoring, assessment and exchange of information for integrated management of the Danube delta	UNECE OSCE UNEP	UA, MD (with RO)	Canada ICPDR
Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea	UNDP UNEP	UA	Canada UNDP
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in transboundary basins and near-border areas	NATO	BY, MD	NATO
Development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention	UNECE	BY, UA	Dormant
Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Soligorsk regions	UNEP	BY, UA	Sweden Canada UNEP
Study of Plutonium, Americium and other radionuclides in the Belarus sector of the Chernobyl power plant's exclusion zone	NATO	BY with UA	NATO
Sustainability assessment of energy security strategies	UNDP UNEP	BY, MD, UA	Canada UNDP
Training, awareness raising and institutional support to address environmental effects of defence activities	OSCE (UA)	UA with BY, MD	Dormant
Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)	OSCE (UA)	UA	Misc. sources
Needs assessment, technical, institutional and legal strengthening of environmental cooperation and management in Transnistria	OSCE UNEP	MD	Canada OSCE
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities	OSCE (UA)	UA with BY, MD	Belgium
Illegal logging: governance, implementation and enforcement	REC	UA (with SEE)	Belgium (SEE) Canada
Awareness, public participation and education on environment and security risks and linkages	UNEP OSCE	BY, MD, UA	Canada UNEP

Projects under development for their potential inclusion in ENVSEC work programme

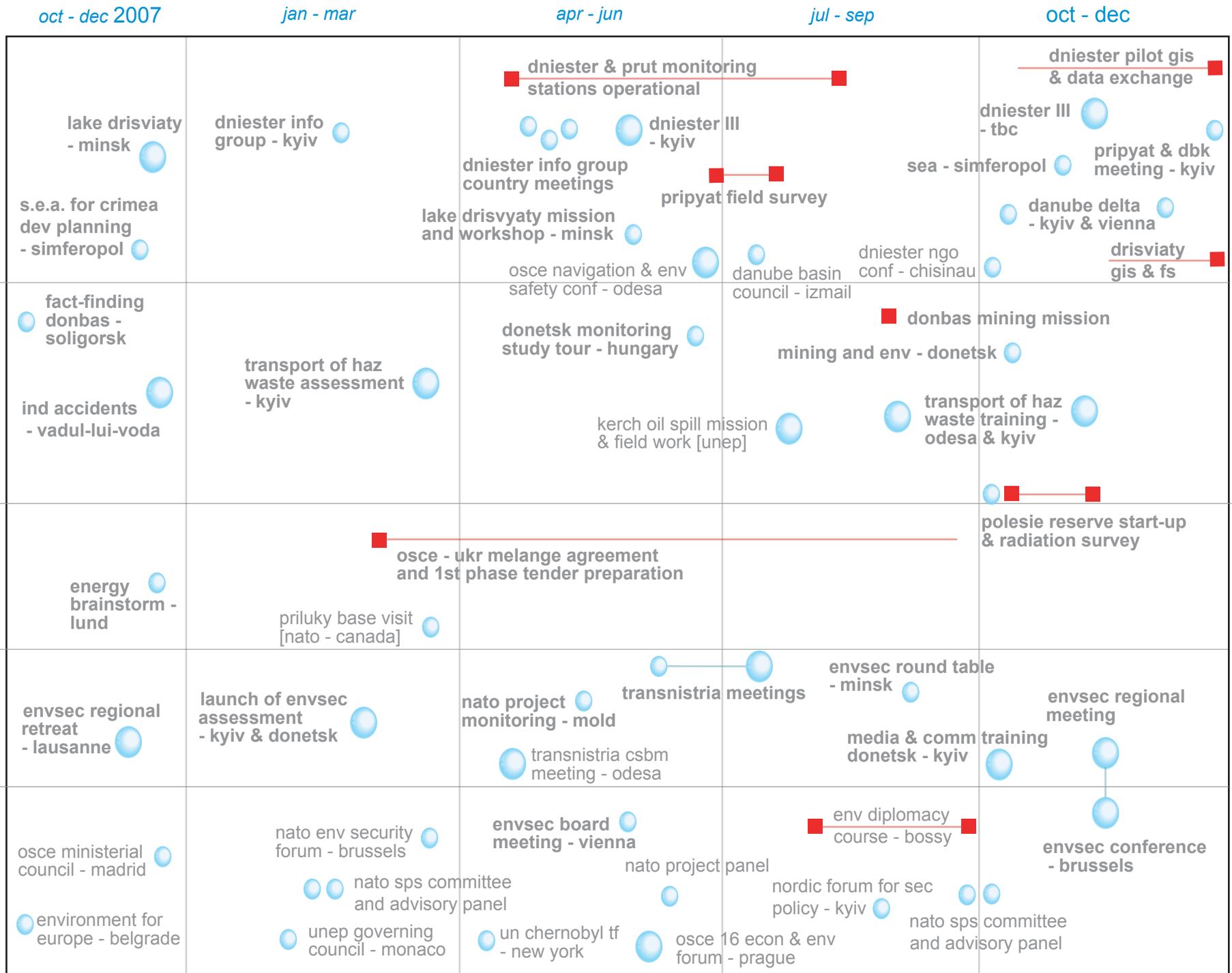
Strengthening of flood monitoring & forecasting in the Pripjat river basin	NATO UNEP	BY, UA	NATO Norway
Technology for environmental rehabilitation of the Pryluky airfield	NATO	UA	NATO
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in the Transnistrian region of Moldova	OSCE UNEP	MD	t.b.i.

envsec e. europe • 2008 • calendar of events

per november 2008

-  event
-  activity / output
- bold** = envsec / associated
- plain = external event

"tbc": to be confirmed



NB: Only major outputs / activities are shown. Information is per november 2008, the timing and placement of events is based on the best available knowledge at the time of compilation.