

WMO OMM

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER
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World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

Ref.: 32125/2017-1.0 LCP

Our ref.: 31407/2017/DRA/ROE

28 August 2017

Annexes: 4 (Annex IV available in English only)

Subject: Joint RA II / RA VI Workshop on WIGOS, Minsk, Belarus,
12-14 September 2017

Action required: Nominate a specialist on WIGOS related matters, preferably the National WIGOS Focal Point, to attend the Workshop, by returning to WMO the duly filled and signed Participant Nomination Form, as soon as possible, but **not later than 4 September 2017**.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a follow-up to the seventeenth WMO Congress (Cg-17) decision on the regional and national activities in the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase (2016-2019), in order to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of WIGOS in Regions II and VI, it is proposed to hold a three-day Joint RA II / RA VI Workshop on WIGOS. More details about the workshop, including its purpose and scope, are provided in the attached Concept Note (Annex I).

At the kind invitation of the State institution "Republican Center for Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Pollution and Environmental Monitoring" of the Republic of Belarus (Belhydromet), the workshop will be held in Minsk, Belarus, from 12 to 14 September 2017. The Preliminary Programme (Annex II) and the Information Note on local arrangements (Annex III) are attached.

You are kindly invited to nominate a high-level NMHS representative responsible for observing systems, e.g. Head of Observations Departments or the National WIGOS Focal Point, through the attached Participant Nomination Form (Annex IV), to be returned to WMO, as soon as possible, but not later than **4 September 2017**.

WMO Secretariat will provide, upon request, financial support to one participant from each invited country to cover the participation-related costs, such as travel to / from Minsk, accommodation and meals.

Yours faithfully,

(W. Zhang)

for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives, WIGOS National Focal Points

**Joint RA II/RA VI Workshop on WIGOS
Minsk, Belarus**

September 12-14 2017

CONCEPT NOTE (Rev. 4)

WIGOS Project Office (August 15 2017)

Ref.: 32125/2017-1.0 LCP

Background

In 2015, the World Meteorological Congress, at its seventeenth session, decided that additional emphasis should be given to regional and national activities in the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase (2016-2019). In addition, the following five priority areas were identified:

- a) WIGOS Regulatory Material, supplemented with necessary guidance material;
- b) WIGOS Information Resource, including the Observing Systems Capabilities analysis and Review tool (OSCAR), especially OSCAR/Surface;
- c) WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS);
- d) Regional Structure; Regional WIGOS Centres;
- e) National WIGOS Implementation, coordination and governance mechanisms

Following this decision, a series of regional WIGOS Workshops are now being held in support of the activities listed above, in particular items b) through e). Due to the size and diversity of the WMO Regions, these events and subsequent activities tend to be structured along existing cultural, political and economic boundaries rather than strictly by Regions. Successful past WIGOS events in Region II have involved the ASEAN members in Southeast Asia (October 2015) and the Members in the Gulf region (November 2016). In RA VI, past efforts have concentrated on the involvement of the EUMETNET members (November 2015 and subsequent EUMETNET meetings). So far, we have had relatively little engagement from the Members in the Eurasian Region.

RA II/VI Workshop

In order to strengthen and accelerate the implementation of WIGOS in Regions II and VI, it is proposed to hold a two and a half-day *Joint RA II/RA VI Workshop on WIGOS*, tentatively proposed for 12-14 September 2017. The meeting will start at 1.30 p.m. on September 12 and will end at 5.30 p.m. on September 14.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of the Workshop is three-fold: (i) to inform the participants about the main technical elements being rolled out during the current Pre-operational Phase of WIGOS, namely OSCAR/Surface and WDQMS, and to strengthen the involvement of the Members in these efforts (ii) to explore the possibility of implementing a Regional WIGOS Centre in pilot mode in the region, and (iii) to prepare, as appropriate, input for an update to the Region VI WIGOS Implementation Plan, to be submitted to RA VI-16, in 2018.

In addition, the workshop results are planned to be presented at the annual session of the Interstate Council on Hydrometeorology (ICH) of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Tashkent, October 2017), with the aim of obtaining ICH endorsement of a regional WIGOS implementation plan for the concerned countries, including the establishment of a Regional WIGOS Centre.

Working language

The Workshop will be conducted in Russian with interpretation into / from English.

Participants

High-level NMHS representatives responsible for observing systems (e.g. Heads of Observations Departments) from the following countries in Regions II and VI;

1. Armenia
2. Azerbaijan
3. Belarus
4. Georgia
5. Kazakhstan
6. Kyrgyzstan
7. Moldova
8. Mongolia
9. Russian Federation
10. Tajikistan
11. Turkmenistan
12. Ukraine
13. Uzbekistan

Invited experts:

- President of RA VI
- Chairperson of the RA VI Task Team on WIGOS
- Chairperson of the RA II Expert Group on WIGOS
- WMO Secretariat representatives from the Regional Office for Europe and WIGOS Project Office

Requirements for participants

Each of the participants representing the RA II and RA VI Members is requested to provide a short (15-minute) presentation addressing the following main issues for their country:

- Overview of current national observing systems
 - Primary national driver for observing requirements
 - Primary gaps in national observing capabilities (if any)
 - National observing strategy (if one exists)
 - Current or planned involvement in WIGOS, or WIGOS technical elements, such as OSCAR/Surface or the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System
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**WMO Joint RA II/RA VI Workshop on WIGOS
Minsk, Belarus**

September 12-14 2017

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 12 September

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14:00	Opening	MC: Natalia Berghi, WMO Secretariat
14:05 – 14:15	Welcome remarks	Maria Germenchuk, PR Belarus with WMO
14:15 – 14:25	Statement on behalf of WMO Secretary-General	Lars Peter Riishojgaard, WMO Secretariat
14:25 – 14:35	Programme review and endorsement; Information on local arrangements	
Session I: The WIGOS Pre-operational Phase; guidance from WMO (Chairperson: Mr Ercan Büyükbas, Turkey)		
14:35 – 15:00	Guidance from WMO Congress and Executive	Lars Peter Riishojgaard
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Group photo & Coffee / Tea Break</i>	
15:30 – 15:55	Guidance from ICG-WIGOS	Ivan Cacic, Croatia, President RA VI
15:55 – 16:20	WIGOS Implementation activities in Region II	Yongqing Chen
16:20 – 16:45	WIGOS Implementation activities in Region VI	Ercan Büyükbas
16:45 – 17:00	Day 1 wrap-up discussion	Chairperson

Wednesday 13 September

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Session II: National WIGOS activities; Member Presentations (Chairperson: Milan Dacic)		Speaker
09:00 – 09:15	Armenia	TBD
09:15 – 09:30	Azerbaijan	TBD
09:30 – 09:45	Belarus	TBD
09:45 – 10:00	Georgia	TBD
10:00 – 10:15	Kazakhstan	TBD
10:15 – 10:30	Kyrgyzstan	TBD
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>	
11:00 – 11:15	Moldova	TBD
11:15 – 11:30	Mongolia	TBD
11:30 – 11:45	Russian Federation	TBD
11:45 – 12:00	Tajikistan	TBD
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30 – 13:45	Turkmenistan	TBD
13:45 – 14:00	Ukraine	TBD
14:00 – 14:15	Uzbekistan	TBD
14:15 – 14:45	Review of the status of WIGOS Implementation among participating Members	Lars Peter Riishojgaard
14:45 - 15:00	WIGOS technical systems; Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool (OSCAR/Surface), WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System	Lars Peter Riishojgaard
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30	WMO Information System	Steve Foreman (remote presentation, Q&A)
16:30 – 16:45	WMO Radar Database	Ercan Büyükbaz
16:45 – 17:00	Day 2 wrap-up discussion	Chairperson

Thursday 14 September

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Session III: Regional Plans and Structures (Chairperson: Ivan Cacic)		Speaker
09:00 – 09:30	Introduction to Regional WIGOS Centres	Lars Peter Riishojgaard
09:30 – 10:30	Regional WIGOS Centres across Regions II and VI	Group discussion
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee / Tea Break	
11:00 – 11:20	Existing WIGOS-related activities in Region VI and support of the Regional Office for Europe (RA VI Regional WIGOS Centre, Adriatic sea ocean observations, South East European Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Advisory System)	Milan Dacic / Ivan Cacic
11:20 – 11:40	Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for Region VI	Ercan Büyükbas
11:40 – 12:00	Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for Region II	Yongqing Chen
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
Closing Session (Chairperson: Yongqing Chen)		
13:30 – 14:00	Proposed updates to Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for Regions II & VI	Group discussion
14:00 – 15:00	Preparation of input to the RA VI 17 th session and CIS Interstate Council on Hydrometeorology 29 th session	All (Breakout groups)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee / Tea Break	
15:30 – 16:00	Review of input to RA VI 17 th session and Interstate Council on Hydrometeorology 29 th session	All
16:00 – 16:30	Workshop recommendations	All
16:30 – 17:00	Closing remarks	Ivan Cacic, Milan Dacic, Lars Peter Riishojgaard

Joint RA II / RA VI Workshop on WIGOS

12 to 14 September 2017

Minsk, Belarus



INFORMATION NOTE

On local arrangements



MEETING ORGANIZATION

Venue

The Eurasian Workshop on WIGOS will be held in the Headquarter of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Republic of Belarus, 220050, Minsk, 17, Kirova street



Working Language

The working language of the meeting is RUSSIAN with interpretation from and into ENGLISH.



VISA INFORMATION

According to the Presidential Decree “On establishment of visa-free entry and exit of foreign nationals”, foreign **citizens of 80 countries*** can enter Belarus for up to **5 days**** and exit from the territory of Belarus **only through the State border checkpoint of the Republic of Belarus “Minsk National Airport”**.

The given order of visa-free movement through the airport **does not extend to persons coming to Belarus by plane from the Russian Federation, as well as to those who intend to fly to the airports of the Russian Federation** (such flights are considered as internal ones and do not have border control).

To enter the Republic of Belarus in the visa-free regime via the checkpoint “Minsk National Airport”, foreign nationals must have the following **documents**:

- a valid **ordinary** passport (not diplomatic);
- financial means: at least 25 Euro (or equal amount in dollars or Belarusian rubles) for each day of stay;

- medical insurance with coverage for at least 10,000 Euros that covers the territory of Belarus (available at the airport).

For more information please click the following web link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/>.



AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

The national airport "Minsk" is located 42 km from the center of the capital.

You can get there from the airport by bus, shuttle bus or order an official transfer service of the National Airport Minsk (anywhere in Minsk). You can order a service by dialing the short number 7373 (from any operator). In addition, there is the possibility of renting a car.

[Http://airport.by/en/tourism/transfer](http://airport.by/en/tourism/transfer)



ACCOMMODATION

A preliminary booking of single and double rooms for the Workshop participants has been done at the Garni Hotel, located in the historical, cultural and business center of the capital.

This beautiful building was built in the eclectic style of the 19th century and is an architectural monument. Inside the building, interiors in the style of the 19th century are recreated, which successfully combine with modern technologies, creating comfortable conditions for relaxing outside the house and are perfectly complemented by attentive and friendly service.

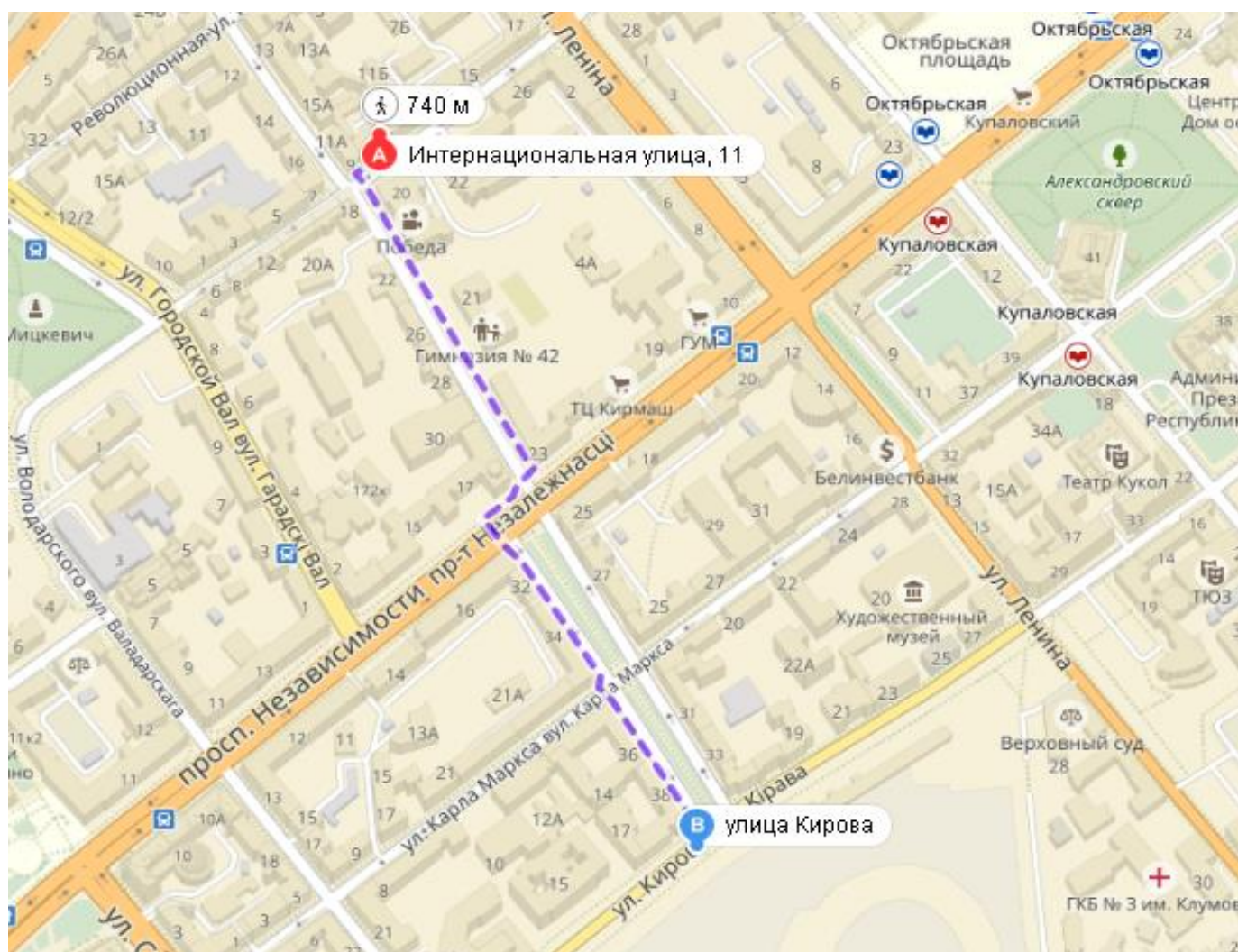
The rooms are equipped with free wireless Internet (WI-FI), air conditioning, mini-bar, LCD-TV, cable TV, hairdryer. The price with a discount is about 72 US dollars and includes breakfast.

More information is available on the hotel web site: <http://hotel-garni.by>.

The participants are kindly asked to confirm their participation and the stay in the Garni hotel, by sending, as soon as possible, a confirmation message to the local organizers at: interdoc@hmc.by.



The route from the hotel "Garni" to the venue of the meeting to the building of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.



Computer and Internet Access

It is strongly recommended that each participant of the meeting bring his own laptop. Access to the Internet is via mobile communication.

Free wireless Internet (WI-FI) is provided in the rooms of the Hotel Garni.



OTHER USEFUL TIPS



Foreign Exchange Rates

The official currency of Belarus is the ruble (BYN).

1 USD = 1.9540 BYN

1 EUR = 2.2800 BYN

100 RUB = 3.2450 BYN

There are exchange offices at the airport and in the city.



Time Zone

Local time is UTC +3H



Weather and Climate

The weather regime in Belarus is under the influence of natural factors that influence its formation. The location of the territory in the temperate geographical zone, the flat terrain, the absence of mountains and the relative proximity of the Atlantic determine the main characteristics of the climate: the availability of seasonality, softness, small temperature deviations, sufficient precipitation, unstable weather patterns.

The average air temperature in the middle of September in Minsk is + 13 °.

<http://probelarus.by/belarus/information/facts/klimat.html>



Electricity

Voltage / Frequency / Plug type: 220 volts / 60Hz.

In Republic of Belarus the power sockets used are of type F/L Please, check if you may need an adapter and/or a transformer.



LOCAL Contact Points

Maria Germenchuk
First deputy head of Belhydromet

Tel. + 375-17-268-04-79
Tel./Fax.+ 375- 17 -267-22-31
margermen@gmail.com

Anna Matsevilo
Head of International Cooperation Division of Belhydromet

Tel. + 375 17 267 25 63
Tel./Fax.+ 375 17 267 03 33
E-mail: nach_market@hmc.by

WMO

For programme related matters:

Lars Peter Riishojgaard
WIGOS Project Manager

Tel.: +41 22 730 8193
E-mail: LRiishojgaard@wmo.int

Milan Dacic
WMO Representative for Europe

Tel: + 41 (0) 22 730 8135
E-mail: mdacic@wmo.int

Natalia Berghi
Programme Officer Regional Office for Europe

Phone: [+ 41 22 730 8298](tel:+41227308298)
Fax: [+ 41 22 730 8047](tel:+41227308047)
E-mail: nberghi@wmo.int

WELCOME TO BELARUS !!!

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

RA II / RA VI Workshop on WIGOS

Minsk, Belarus, 12-14 September 2017

PARTICIPANT NOMINATION FORM - Annex IV

The Government ofnominates
the following expert as a participant for the above-captioned Session:

1. Title: (a) Prof. (b) Dr (c) Mr (e) Ms _____

2. Family name: _____

3. Sex: (a) Male (b) Female _____

4. Job position: _____

5. Full address: _____

6. Tel. No.:(office) _____ Fax No.: _____ E-mail: _____

7. Please complete if financial assistance is required from WMO:

Support required:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
(i) Travel:	_____	_____
(ii) DSA:	_____	_____

Date: _____ Signature of Permanent Representative _____

This form is to be completed and returned via facsimile to the WMO Secretariat at:
+41227308047, with a scanned copy to Mrs Yingchu Chu (YChu@wmo.int), **as soon as possible but preferably not later than 30 August 2017.**