Current state of surface waters' quality monitoring in Armenia and related issues

Armenia is a high mountainous country with mainly semiarid climate. Thereby, all surface waters vulnerable due to climate change. The biggest lake in Armenia – Lake Sevan is one of the biggest high mountainous freshwater lakes in the world and the biggest reservoir of freshwater in South Caucasus. This unique ecosystem is unstable as a result of artificial fluctuations of its water level. Even though the river system is kind a dense but all of them impacted by different spheres of socio-economical activity. Currently, main factors influencing river systems in Armenia are agriculture, domestic sewages and different spheres of industry (especially mining). Surface waters in Armenia are often using by multiple ways by rural and urban people, which in some cases compete and even collide, and over-use by one specific group of society may have detrimental effects on the benefits that other societal groups may gain from a given river or lake. These challenges are also expected to grow significantly with climate change. On the other hand the weakest side in Armenian surface water monitoring system is hydrobiological monitoring. As in many non EU member countries Armenia also faces big problems in establishment of water quality assessment multimetric systems instead of using single biotic indices. Thereby, Armenian hydrobiological monitoring system is far from to be corresponding with EU WFD established in 2000. And harmonization of Armenian hydrobiological monitoring system to EU standards is one of the scientific topics interested our government. All mentioned issues and some more will be presented during the meeting.