

GWP CACENA in September 2005

During 20-21 September in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan it was organized the 2d Regional ToolBox Workshop. The agenda of the workshop was prepared by the CEE and MED experts. The workshop was titled "Integrating economics into water management and policy". The principal workshop conductor was Danka Thalmeinerova (GWP CEE, Slovakia). The main objective was to provide participants with the basic elements of environmental economics and translation of economic principles in water management. A high attention was devoted to economic analysis of water uses, effective use of economic instruments. This was very essential, as these issues stay in theoretical level due to many reasons, among which an absence of economic expertise is applied in water sector. The working documents were prepared in English, exercises and group works were translated into Russian language. The agenda of the workshop and working documents were disseminated to all participants (totally 38, representing CACENA countries, except Kazakhstan). All participants were highly prepared and aware that resulted in fruitful discussion. In addition, practical sessions illustrating the case studies were conducted.

Again in Ashgabat on 22 September there was held the GWP CACENA RTAC meeting to discuss progress with on-going activities in all countries and also proposal for work program 2006. In relation to the ToolBox dissemination it was recommended to continue in 2006 with the series of trainings in the CACENA with support from GWP CEE in the following issues: a) application of IWRM in transboundary river basins, b) practical seminar for development of CS (already drafted).

During 28-30 September in Dundee, Scotland it was held joint seminar of the GWP CACENA and the International Water Law Research Institute at Dundee University (Director Dr. Patricia Wouters). The seminar title was «Transboundary Aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management». Totally 20 persons – Ministers and senior government officials accompany with some GWP CACENA RTAC members from all 8 countries – were attended to the seminar at Dundee. It was possible due to special funding which was provided to the GWP CACENA by the Government of Finland to support processes towards IWRM. The basic idea of the seminar was to discuss the issues when the national IWRM planning processes started in the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus have to consider the transboundary realities. These must aim at addressing needs for mutual agreements of the existing problems along transboundary basins in the region. The main focus is a legal and institutional framework for transboundary water management, which requires, *inter alia*, development of the following principal issues:

- Definition of transboundary and national basins and shared water resources;
- Limitation of the states' responsibilities for waters use in transboundary basins;
- Criteria for water use and allocation;
- Criteria for environmental sustainability and environmental water requirements;
- Appropriate conditions for creating and developing interstate institutions;
- Formulation of transboundary agreements.