

Central and Eastern Europe Fact Sheet



GWP Central and Eastern Europe Country Water Partnerships

Country Water Partnerships are up and running in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

They actively support the development of national policies by convening IWRM multi-stakeholder dialogues.

The dialogues create a better understanding of IWRM in the context of Water Framework Directive and cover water and supply and sanitation, an issue that cuts across all water sectors.

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Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are located mainly in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea Basins.

Throughout the region many aquatic ecosystems have suffered from degradation or are partly still threatened by pollution, overuse of surface and groundwater and habitat losses.

The application of integrated approaches to water resources management remains a key challenge and a rationale for the 12 Country Water Partnerships forming the Regional Water Partnership of GWP CEE.

Water situation

The region of Central and Eastern Europe, covered by Global Water Partnership (GWP), has a total area of over 2.03 million km². Rivers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine discharge their flows to the Eastern Baltic Sea.

Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine are located in the Danube, Dniester and Dnieper River basins which flow into the Black Sea.

Countries of Central and Eastern Europe have a long history of water management and water related legislation dating back to the end of the 18th century.

The traditional fragmented or so-called sector approach has its limitations in the sense that it does not support mutual cooperation, communication and common solutions with stakeholders and the participation of the public.

In addition to purely technical solutions for the protection and use of water resources, authorities should apply modern management principles including landscape planning, communication and conflict resolution.

This integrated approach can only be implemented through consultation and the exchange of experiences and expertise of all involved parties.

GWP CEE Strategy 2009-2013

The GWP CEE strategy 2009-2013 is developed in the context of European water policies, in particular the EU Neighborhood Policies and the European Union Water Framework Directive implementation.

It involves inter-regional cooperation with the GWP Central Asia and Caucasus region via UN Economic Commission for Europe and regional non-governmental organizations such as Coalition Clean Baltic.

Strategic Goal 1: National Dialogues

There is active involvement of the Country Water Partnerships to support the national polices by convening IWRM dialogues since 2000.

Recent Policy Dialogues led to common declarations with governments, changes in legislation and strengthening cooperation with major stakeholders.

In Romania, for example, a Common Declaration considers IWRM as the overarching aim to which European Union water related directives contribute and create synergic effects.

Strategic Goal 1: Public Participation

There has been a steady increase in interest for public participation, as well as recognition for it on different governance levels, in a wide range of sectors and contexts.

To respond to this, GWP CEE has established the Public Participation Task Force covering Eastern Baltic region and the Danube River basin.

In 2010, the Task Force coordinated input to European Union Strategy for the Danube Region.

GWP CEE has an observer status to two major international commissions in the region – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Helsinki Commission.

Strategic Goal 2: Sustainable Sanitation

The issue cuts across sectors of water, environment and rural development, addressing the demands of the poor and of populations in small settlements.

A recent GWP CEE study has revealed that 20 million Europeans, especially in new member states, are lacking access to sanitation services.

Strategic Goal 2: Floods and Droughts

Thematic issues of climate change adaptation include cooperation with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on floods and droughts.

In framework of WMO/GWP Programme on *Floods Management, Guidance on Flash Flood Management: Recent Experiences from CEE* was published in 2007.

Strategic Goal 3: Communication and ToolBox

Communication is done through publications and extended web-based activities including GWP ToolBox.

The ToolBox is a free and open database with a library of case studies and references to support broad audiences in implementing IWRM principles.

Strategic Goal 4: Fundraising

In order to secure financial sustainability fundraising activities will target programs of the European Union, UN organizations, Official Development Assistance and a private sector.

