

The GWP network celebrates World Water Day



World Water Day

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Clean Water for a Healthy World

"CLEAN WATER FOR A HEALTHY WORLD" WAS THE THEME OF THE 2010 WORLD WATER DAY. It is still a reality that an estimated 1.1 billion people rely on unsafe drinking-water sources, and every year 1,500 cubic kilometers of wastewater are produced globally. The GWP CEE network, with more than 150 partners across the

region, celebrated World Water Day on 22 March with a number of activities and events in different countries of the region, including participation in seminars and the organisation of workshops for experts and policy makers.

In Bulgaria, the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Scientific-Technical Union of Water Affairs organized a national celebration in the city of Sofia on 22-23 March. The Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water, in cooperation with GWP Bulgaria, hosted a regional conference in the town of Veliko Tarnovo on 22 March. GWP partners discussed various aspects of Integrated Water Resource Management such as "Sustainable Sanitation – a Challenge for Water Framework Directive Implementation," "Precipitation in the Lower Danube River" and "Results of Economic Analysis Actualization as a Part of River Basin Management Plans". The presentations showed the seasonal variations of precipitation since 1961 and the subsequent rise of drought periods in the Lower Danube River. According to the Water Framework Directive Economic Analysis until 2015, state and municipal authorities will face serious problems in financing expensive waste water treatment and drinking water technical solutions. GWP Bulgaria recommended a sustainable sanitation approach as one possibility to meet the needs of local people.

Calendar of Events

Danube Day
29 June 2010
Danube Region

GWP Consulting Partners Meeting
3-4 September 2010
Stockholm, Sweden

2010 World Water Week in Stockholm
5-11 September 2010
Stockholm, Sweden

On 23 March, a seminar related to World Water Day was organized in Vilnius by GWP Lithuania. The Nemunas River Basin Management Plan was presented and discussed with 46 stakeholders.

The international organization Humanitas organized a conference entitled "Water as a Global Challenge" on 18 March in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The conference was part of the European wide campaign "WATER: Water Access through Empowerment of Rights" which seeks the recognition of everyone's right to water. Mr. Samuel Zbogar, the Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave the keynote speech. Mr. Tomo Kriznar, a well known Slovenian human rights activist who has worked in Darfur and Sudan, spoke about the turbulent struggle for water, which was in fact one of the basic reasons for



World Water Day celebration in Ljubljana



Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samuel Zbogar at Water as a Global Challenge Conference

conflicts there. During the expert panel, Ms. Martina Zupan, from GWP Slovenia, delivered a presentation on GWP activities and the main challenges related to the preparation process of river basin management plans in Slovenia from a civil society point of view. ■

GWP CEE at the Danube Conferences

THE GWP CEE PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCES ON THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION.

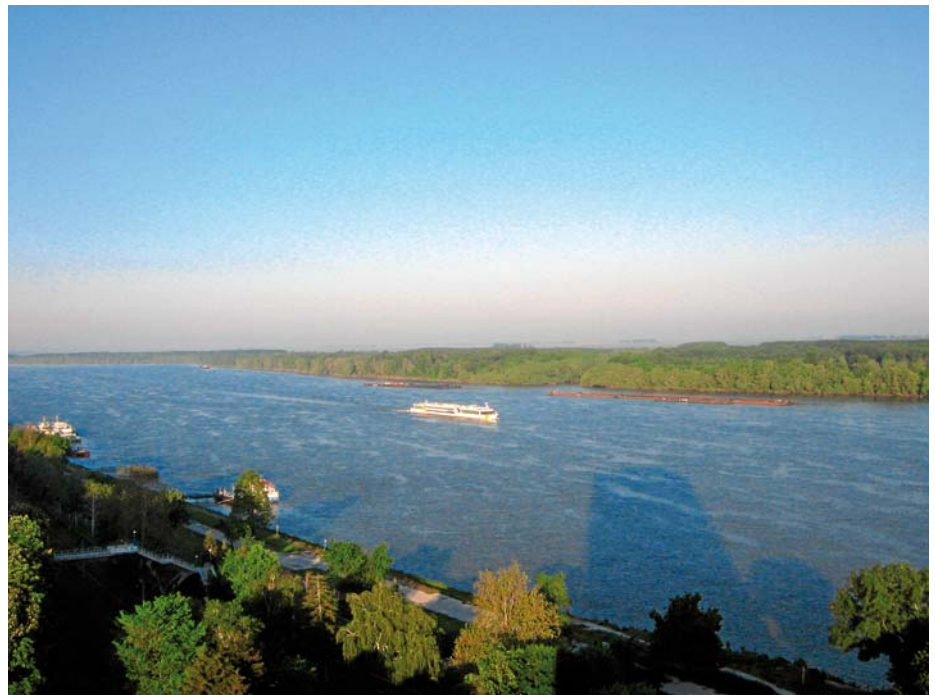
The Danube is the longest river in the European Union. After the Volga, it is Europe's second longest river and home to almost 80 million people. In the region of GWP Central and Eastern Europe, eight countries - Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine - are located in the Danube River Basin.

Setting the scene

The goal of the strategy is to strengthen macro-regional cooperation in Europe. In order to get feedback from relevant stakeholders, several conferences were organized across the Danube River Basin. The first conference of the EU Strategy series for the Danube Region was held in Ulm, Germany on 1-2 February 2010. Regional Chair, Mr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu, Regional Coordinator, Mr. Milan Matuska and Public Participation Task Force Leader, Ms. Monika Jetzin participated on behalf of GWP CEE. This event explained why a strategy was needed and its added value. It gathered more than 350 relevant stakeholders who expressed their willingness to contribute to the preparation of the strategy. European Commission representatives presented the preparatory process and received the first input on possible topics to be addressed by the strategy.

Focus on energy, environment and transport

The third conference was held in Vienna and Bratislava on 19-21 April 2010. The GWP CEE delegation was comprised of Mr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu, Mr. Milan Matuska and Communication Officer, Mr. Richard Muller. The objective



Danube River forms a natural border between Bulgaria and Romania

CREDIT: GALIA BARDARSKA/GWP BULGARIA

of the conference was to discuss the issues of transport, energy, urban areas, the environment and the information society. All of these issues are high on the agenda of the European Union (EU) as confirmed by the recently proposed strategy 'EU2020' - A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. GWP CEE provided its views on specific topics related to IWRM such as floods, nature protection and water quality. Mr. Popescu highlighted the importance of a basin-wide water monitoring network. As a concrete example, Milan Matuska stated, "GWP CEE's sustainable sanitation initiative was mentioned as an integrated and efficient solution for rural and socially exclud-

ed communities facing waste water treatment challenges." The conference ensured interaction between different perspectives to underline the integrated approach of the strategy.

What's next

The objective of the fourth conference was to discuss the governance and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. It was held on 10-11 May in Ruse, Bulgaria and Giurgiu, Romania. Regional Chair, Mr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu and Ms. Galia Bardarska, of GWP Bulgaria, took part. GWP CEE provided its views on how to implement a Danube Strategy with specific transboundary projects related to integrated water resource management principles. Participants of previous Danube Conferences called for an integration approach as a key to successful Strategy implementation in the current programming period 2009-2013 and beyond. According to Ms. Bardarska, in the future, GWP CEE "will propose a sustainable sanitation initiative as a region-wide, crosscutting and efficient solution for the poorest communities struggling with access to affordable waste water treatment facilities." The conference topics included Danube Strategy implementation, mobilisation of resources, including the contribution of a Cohesion Policy and capacity-building and institutional cooperation for the further development and integration of the Danube macro-region. ■

CREDIT: RICHARD MULLER/GWP CEE



Plenary session in Bratislava

For more information, please visit:
ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm

ICPDR Ministerial Meeting

MINISTERS AGREE ON DETAILED ACTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN.

Ministers and high-level representatives responsible for water management from the Danube River Basin countries Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the European Commission have endorsed the 'Danube Declaration' at a ministerial meeting held on 16 February in Vienna, Austria and hosted by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

"The Danube waters are shared by us all and therefore we also share the responsibility," said ICPDR President Mitja Bricelj. "We meet to ensure that the resources of the Danube Basin are managed in an environmentally sustainable manner."

The Danube River Basin Management Plan outlines concrete measures to be implemented by the year 2015 to improve the environmental condition of the Danube and its tributaries.

These include the reduction of organic and nutrient pollution stemming from settlements and agriculture, stopping negative effects of man-made changes to the river, for example



through the construction of fish-passes, the introduction of phosphate-free detergents in all markets and effective risk management of accidental pollution. Measures to protect and reconnect wetlands will also be taken. The plan addresses key requirements of the European Union Water Framework Directive.

"The agreement on coordinated actions to improve the waters in the most international river basin in the world is a remarkable achievement and requires the strong political commitment that was expressed at today's meeting", explains Philip Weller, ICPDR Executive Secretary.

Flood action plans for the 17 sub-basins in

the Danube catchment area were also adopted at the ministerial meeting. These sub-basin plans, which have been developed in the framework of the ICPDR Action Programme for Sustainable Flood Prevention, contain hundreds of concrete measures including re-naturalization of wetlands, creation of natural flood barriers, upgrading of dykes and improvement of alarm and forecasting systems. The Danube countries will take these actions to protect their populations from floods and to mitigate flood damage and losses, such as those caused in the years 2002, 2005 and 2006.

"Our success will be measured on the results achieved for the 80 million people calling the Danube Basin their home," Mr. Bricelj concluded. "The Danube and its tributaries such as the Sava and the Tisza are lifelines for man and nature. The actions for protection are set – their joint implementation will follow".

GWP Network Officer Mr. Bjorn Guterstam, accompanied by GWP CEE Chair Mr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu, presented statement on behalf of all observer organizations to ICPDR. ■

For more information, please visit www.icpdr.org



Danube ministers and high representatives for water management formally adopted the Danube River Basin Management Plan

CREDIT: ICPDR

GWP CEE Helps Kaliningrad to Advance Water Agenda

REPRESENTATIVES OF GWP LITHUANIA AND GWP POLAND PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKSHOP "INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE KALININGRAD OBLAST & BALTIC SEA REGION".

The workshop, organized by GWP Poland in cooperation with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) took place on 15-17 March in Warsaw. Bernardas Paukstys, Chair of GWP Lithuania, together with Tomasz Okruszko, Chair of GWP Poland and prof. Janusz Kindler, the former Chair and Bjorn Guterstam, the GWP Network Officer, participated in the workshop. It is a part of the Stockholm International Water Institute's (SIWI) project supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to



administration on water reform. The Kaliningrad Oblast representatives were invited to present a project approach at Stockholm World Water Week in September 2010. In the future, project partners will help the Kaliningrad administration to implement effective water resource management.

presented experiences from integrated water resource management planning at the district level and the implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive.

Janusz Kindler and Tomasz Okruszko, from GWP Poland, stressed the importance of a joint river basin management plan for the Pregola River Basin District in Poland and Kaliningrad in a presentation entitled "Polish Experience and Progress in Implementing Water Resource Management Frameworks." Bernardas Paukstys, of GWP Lithuania, focused on Lithuanian experience and progress in implementing water resource management frameworks. "It is important to develop a joint river basin management plan for the Nemunas (Neman) River Basin District in Lithuania, Poland and the Kaliningrad Oblast," says Paukstys.

Bjorn Guterstam, the Network Officer for China, Central Asia-Caucasus, and Central and Eastern Europe, presented "Regional Lessons in Implementing Integrated Water Resource Management Frameworks." GWP's mission to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels were explained and examples of good water management practice were presented.

The workshop resulted in a plan for a brief on water resource reform for economic growth and environmental sustainability in Kaliningrad and the wider Baltic Sea Region. It also explored other possible avenues of engaging the Kaliningrad administration in reforms providing improved livelihoods and regional cooperation. In the future, "we are interested in further assisting the Kaliningrad Oblast in integrated water resource management planning," concluded Paukstys. ■



Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast share Curonian Lagoon

assist the Kaliningrad Oblast in water resource management, using the experience of neighboring countries. Presentations on Lithuanian, Swedish and Polish experiences and progress in implementing water resource management frameworks were delivered.

At the beginning of the workshop, Jacob Granit, SIWI Project Director, presented the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop and future steps. The project seeks to support the Kaliningrad Oblast in developing a strategic water resource planning framework, proposing strategies for engaging Kaliningrad's administration on water reform and developing a road map for the briefing of Kaliningrad's ad-

Integration is the key

Andreas Lindström, from SIWI, then presented "Potential Benefits of Good Water Management in Kaliningrad." Natalya Smorodinskaya, of the Institute of Economy at the Academy of Science, Moscow, focused on Kaliningrad's baseline scenarios of social and economic development in the 2000s. Vladimir Dmitrevsky and Lina Kramen, of the Northern Dimension Foundation, underlined the importance of stakeholder analyses, the legal framework and the on-the ground perspective. Mats Hellstrom, from Sweden, highlighted the strategic cooperation with Russia in the field of regional environment issues, challenges and opportunities. Lennart Sorby, of the Vastmanland County Administrative Board of Sweden, pre-



The Lithuanian Baltic Sea coast

Scaling up Sanitation and Hygiene in Slovakia

A RECENT STUDY HAS ASSESSED THE ALTERNATIVES OF WASTE WATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF RICHNAVA IN EASTERN SLOVAKIA.



The village is located in Eastern Slovakia, 400 kilometres from the capital city of Bratislava. It has a growing population of 2400 inhabitants, out of which 700 live in the village and 1700 live in an illegal Roma settlement. The village lacks a public drinking water supply and a waste water treatment plant. Local water courses flow into the Hornad River which is part of the wider Danube River basin.

Richnava announced a tender for a feasibility study to map the possible alternatives of waste water collection and treatment in May 2009. Dr. Igor Bodik, from the Technical University in Bratislava, initiated a group of experts that was further facilitated by GWP Slovakia. The Expert group was comprised of Milan Matuska – team leader, Elena Fatulova – responsible for nature conditions and the legal and financial aspects, Igor Bodik – responsible for the waste water disposal and treatment proposals, Robert Zvara – responsible for the decentralized waste water sewage system for the Roma settlement.

After the initial exchange of information between the expert group and the local municipality representatives regarding the feasibility study, the expert team made a field trip in August 2009. The visit resulted in the clarification of the feasibility study's goals and content which was further revised by e-mail. In addition, the team made a visit to the nearby Roma settlement; this visit provided valuable information for the waste water disposal system proposal.

The goals of the feasibility study were established according to information gained during the field trip, the study of archive documents and correspondence with the Ministry of Environment. The study comprises a short analysis of the natural conditions, the status of existing pollution sources, legislation related to local municipality possibilities and responsibilities in the field of waste water, identification of funding sources and alternative proposals for waste water collection and treatment. The proposed alternatives include centralized and decentralized systems with traditional and alternative technologies using natural waste water treatment, a financial analy-



Richnava village in Eastern Slovakia

sis of investment and maintenance costs and a comparison of their strengths and weaknesses.

Get the public involved

Another study for the shelf? Certainly not. The municipality of Richnava plans to discuss the alternatives within its council and with citizens during a meeting in June 2010. Based on the results of consultations, the municipality shall decide on a suitable alternative for which a project for waste water disposal and treatment in Richnava and the Roma settlement will be developed. However, public consultation needs to be carefully prepared with the possible involvement of public participation experts. This process is quite unique because to date, the pre-selected technical solutions have often been implemented without consultation with the public. According to Milan Matuska, "it will be crucial to invite the state water administration to the public consultation, because it will only be possible to permit the selected alternative with its seal of approval."

"The design project should be prepared by a certified expert or organization because it is one of the conditions for obtaining co-funding from European Union funds or any other fund for the construction of selected waste water disposal and treatment systems," says Matuska.

The study describes 13 alternatives that are feasible from a technical point of view. This includes traditional approaches as well as extensive waste water treatment methods based on natural processes that permanently improve the quality of the treated waste water. It is important to mention that estimates of the construction and operating costs introduced in the study may differ significantly from a detailed project selected by the local municipality. Therefore, a financial analysis is only descriptive and helps to compare individual alternatives in the study because the data were gathered using the same methodology based on known unit prices for similar waste water treatment plants



Roma settlement is located in southern part of the village

and sewage networks. This is valid for traditional systems and extensive waste water treatment systems.

Too many variables

One of uncertainties is the existence of the illegal Roma settlement which, according to legislation, must be taken into account. Despite the fact that the Roma citizens are officially registered in Richnava, they have the status of homeless persons. Nevertheless, they have to be included in the waste water collection and

treatment project because they produce a significant amount of waste water. Their population is twice the size of the population of Richnava. Whole families, including children and the elderly, are living on forestland in poor dwellings located above the village. The problem of the Roma settlement can not be solved immediately and for many reasons (human rights, risk of epidemic diseases, unsuitable location for permanent settlement) it will be necessary to arrive at an interim and effective solution on how to help the population. The success of

any of the proposed alternatives for the Roma settlement strongly depends on close cooperation between the local municipality and state administration.

An answer could be the implementation of a state programme for the inclusion of the Roma population that has yet to be fully implemented. Richnava should certainly follow this programme because it would be impossible to decide on any alternative without or with the Roma settlement. ■

Local municipalities lack basic infrastructure

ACCORDING TO RECENT RESEARCH, THE TOP PRIORITY FOR RURAL MUNICIPALITIES IN SLOVAKIA IN THE COMING YEARS WILL BE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

So far, the evaluation of the Structural Fund's impact on the local environment has not been properly addressed by similar research. Existing studies focus more on the regional level (NUTS III and II) due to the availability of data for statistical analysis. The research carried out between 2006 and 2009 used evaluation methodology with a special emphasis on quantitative methods for the assessment of the impact of Structural Funds on local sustainable development, especially on the quality of rural environment.

The evaluation of the Structural Fund's identified water infrastructure is one of the most critical challenges for the development of local municipalities (NUTS V). Small local municipalities need to build or upgrade existing waste water treatment plants, sewage networks and drinking water supply systems in order to satisfy the needs of their inhabitants and comply with national and EU regulations.

In comparison to other EU countries, Slovakia has a dense structure of settlements with a majority of small municipalities with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants. Overall, there are 2,831 municipalities, out of which 70% (1,984) have fewer than 1,000 people (17% of the total population).

Recent research in the Nitra District (NUTS IV) in Western Slovakia established how European Union Structural Funds could affect the quality of the local environment in rural areas. According to the 2001 census, there were 163,000 inhabitants in the Nitra District. Part of the research was devoted to the water infrastructure (waste water treatment plans and sewage networks and drinking water supply) in the villages of the Nitra District. Until recently, the water infrastructure was financed from state subsidies rather than Structural Funds.



Jelenec Water Reservoir, Slovakia

CREDIT: RICHARD MULLER/GWP CEE

networks. Out of the total number of people connected to public sewage networks, 81,777 live in the towns of Nitra and Vrable (96%) and 3,260 live in local municipalities (4%).

The situation regarding the drinking water supply is better, although water resources in the Nitra District do not meet the growing demand for water. Currently, the deficiency is 395 liters per second, which will increase to 555 liters per second by 2015. Therefore, the majority of local municipalities rely on a long distance drinking water supply from groundwater reservoirs in the Zitny Island near Gabcikovo. Four villages lack a drinking water supply system.

Research also indicated that innovative projects are not in the pipeline of local municipality offices and businesses. A few notable exemptions included local energy generation from biomass and the development of ecological farming. ■

For more information please visit www.gwpceeforum.org

Out of 60 local municipalities (villages) only 11 have up and running waste water treatment plants and 12 are connected to public sewage



Jelenec Reservoir Water Discharge, Slovakia

CREDIT: RICHARD MULLER/GWP CEE

GWP CEE at Waste Water Roundtable

THE GWP CEE PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON DECENTRALIZED WASTE WATER TREATMENT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES ON 18 MARCH IN SOFIA.



GWP CEE Chair, Eng. Liviu Nicolae Popescu and Dr. Galia Bardarska (GWP Bulgaria) took part in the roundtable, organized by Women in Eur-

ope for a Common Future and Bulgarian NGO "Earth Forever" (GWP partner). The event focused on waste water treatment technologies for settlements with less than 10,000 people, where actually a large part of the Bulgarian and Romanian populations live. The participants also discussed the implementation of European wastewater directives in Romania and Bulgaria. Good practices were presented from other countries such as Germany, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

"We need to demonstrate these low-cost systems," said Dr. Galia Bardarska of GWP Bulgaria; "too many too expensive waste water treatment plants are being built. People here cannot afford to pay the same fees for waste water as in other European countries. Citizens need to be involved in the decision making, and know what technology choices will mean

for future consumer charges." Liviu Nicolae Popescu presented GWP CEE work on sustainable sanitation that could be beneficial for rural communities throughout the region. The Open Waste Water Planning process, recommended by Swedish sustainable sanitation experts, helps local decision makers, stakeholders and citizens select the most available waste water treatment option that best suits their local economy, social conditions and state of environment.

The final declaration recommends the use of more natural and less expensive ways of sanitation infrastructure and the need for a pilot natural wetland waste treatment plant in Bulgaria and Romania respectively. ■

For more information, Dr. Bardarska e-mail: bwp@dir.bg

GWP CEE launches new project

GWP CEE LAUNCHED THE PROJECT "TOOLS FOR BETTER TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE" IN MAY.

Overall, the goal of the project is to enhance the GWP ToolBox with transboundary cooperation tools and to document and share lessons learned from IWRM implementation in the Central and Eastern European region. The project complies with the overall GWP Strategy 2009 – 2013 and the Regional CEE Water Partnership Strategy.

"While IWRM processes are well recognized in national water-related legislation, the complicated features of transboundary waters are far more challenging, including stakeholder participation, the legal jurisdiction of transboundary basins, harmonizing the interests of international water users and the implementation of environmental management tools such as polluter pay principles, the cost recovery principle and water pricing", says Dr. Danka Thalmeinerova, ToolBox Officer at GWP Secretariat.

The GWP ToolBox includes several recommendations and discusses the implications of the management of water resources in a transboundary context. "However, the only tool that specifically addresses transboundary cooperation relates to institutional roles", adds Dr. Thalmeinerova. The current GWP ToolBox is limited in exploring other key tools, such as international water treaties, funding opportunities and the challenges at transboundary basins, the management and processing of hydrological



and resource use data of transboundary basins, conflict management and stakeholder participation on the transboundary level and the joint basin planning and implementation of IWRM plans spanning the administrative, economic and social spheres of an individual country.



Management of hydrological transboundary data is a challenge for GWP ToolBox

The project builds on the solid experience and regional technical expertise of the CEE region in managing transboundary waters in the region. The project is also a concrete contribution of the GWP CEE region to the enhancement of global technical knowledge, specifically, its experience in managing transboundary waters. Over the next 12 months, GWP CEE will carry out an analysis of ToolBox tools and recommend improvements in specific areas, including the legal aspects of transboundary cooperation, arrangements of transboundary cooperation, institutional arrangements, stakeholder involvement and conflict management, and management tools for the implementation of IWRM plans on the transboundary level.

In addition to the analysis of tools, GWP CEE will develop six case studies and reference documents from two transboundary commissions in CEE, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). The case studies will summarize experiences, especially those related to the transboundary water management planning process and when appropriate, the adaptation to climate change and flood prevention. The GWP CEE Regional Secretariat will also identify potential case studies from IW:LEARN funded projects. In the future, the project can be replicated in other GWP regions to enrich ToolBox with their region specific tools. ■

For more information, please contact GWP CEE Regional Secretariat at gwpcce@shmu.sk

GWP at European Policy Forum

THE THEME OF THE POLICY FORUM WAS WATER 2030 – WHO CARES?

The Global Water Partnership Executive Secretary Dr Ania Grobicki and the GWP Central and Eastern Europe Chair Mr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu participated in the European event "Aquawareness Policy Forum" on World Water Day 22 March in Brussels, Belgium. The conference focused on the strengths, weaknesses and practical actions required to realize the European Water Vision.

The Forum was organized by the European Water Partnership with the aim of advancing the European Water Vision that was launched in June 2008. The European Water Vision has the ambition that by 2030 Europe will be able to announce: We have achieved sustainable water resource management and universal access to modern and safe water supply and sanitation because we value water in all its dimensions – in its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance.

At the Forum the policy recommendations were discussed and fine-tuned together with the new European decision and policy makers – the new Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and



the Council Presidency. This multi-stakeholder event linked high-level policy makers with practitioners coming from business, industry, agriculture and civil society, set out practical actions needing to be taken on the pan-European level in order to realize the vision's aims and thus achieve sustainable water management. Dr Grobicki, who delivered a closing address at the conference, commented: "as the focus of World Water Day 2010 is on Clean Water for a Healthy World, the know-how and lessons learned from the European approach to water quality issues

are of tremendous value to communities and policy-makers everywhere."

The Global Water Partnership and the European Water Partnership signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 August 2009 in Stockholm where both organizations acknowledged their "common interest in improving water resources management for sustainable development". ■

For more information, please visit www.ewp.eu/events/special-events/2010/policy-forum

New ToolBox Case Study

NATIONAL DIALOGUES FOR BETTER RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS.

The case study summarizes lessons learned from National IWRM Dialogues run by GWP CEE Country Water Partnerships in 2006-2007. Goal of the dialogues was to address national IWRM priorities, strengthen cooperation with major stakeholders and initiate

changes in policies and legislation. They reflected priorities on the national level ranging from river basin planning, sustainable sanitation, water governance, and cross sectoral cooperation. The dialogues were the opportunity for Country Water Partnerships to clarify the EU concept of river basin planning brought by Water Framework Directive and IWRM planning. They also helped to identify

gaps that were later addressed by GWP or its partner organizations. In most cases outcomes of the dialogues were instrumental to governments reporting on the progress of IWRM plans and EU Water Framework Directive as well. ■

For more information, please visit www.gwptoolbox.org