

NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE

Report from the first National Dialogue on Adaptation to Climate Change and Drought in frame of IDMP

1. General Data

<u>Country:</u>	Slovenia
<u>Organizer:</u>	National consultation on adaptation to climate change and drought was organized by Global Water Partnership Slovenija (GWP Slovenija) and Centre for Management of Drought in South-Eastern Europe (DMCSEE)
<u>Date & Place:</u>	6 February 2014 at the Slovenian Environment Agency in Ljubljana
<u>Participants:</u> (name & institution & email)	<p>Invitation was sent to 115 addresses, 46 of them participated to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slovenian Environment Agency (Agencija RS za okolje), 7 participants (But, Cegnar, Frantar, Gregorič, Hosta, Sušnik, Žust) • Biotechnical Faculty, University Ljubljana (Biotehniška fakulteta UL), 4 participants (Kajfež Bogataj, Cvejič, Črepinšek, Pogačar) • Biotechnical Education Centre Biotehniški izobraževalni center), 1 participant (Matevž Kramer) • Biotechnical Faculty, University Ljubljana (Biotehniška fakulteta UL), 4 participants (Kajfež Bogataj, Cvejič, Črepinšek, Pogačar) • Slovenian Centre of Excellence Space-SI (Center odličnosti Vesolje –SI), 1 participant (Marjan Jarnjak) • Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering University Ljubljana (Fakulteta za gradbeništvo in geodezijo UL), 1 participant (Kobold) • Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije), 1 participant (Benčina) • Slovenian Forestry Institute (Gozdarski inštitut Slovenije), 1 participant (Vilhar) • GWP CEE 1 participant (Bokal), • GWP Slovenija, 1 participant (Zupan) • Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing (Inštitut za hmeljarstvo in pivovarstvo Slovenije), 2 participants (Naglič, Zupančič) • Institute for Sustainable Development (Inštitut za trajnostni razvoj), 1 participant (Šebenik) • Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (Inštitut za vode RS), 3 participants (Blummauer, Meljo, Velkavrh)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry Murska Sobota (KGZ Murska Sobota), 2 participants (Kapun, Flisar-Novak) • Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (Kmetijsko gospodarska zbornica Slovenije), 3 participants (Jesenko, Majer, Naglič) • Limnos, 2 participants (Istenič, Pugelj) • Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo in okolje), 5 participants (Bolte, Oberstar, Petelinc, Stronak, Zavšek-Urbančič) • Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministrstvo za zunanje zadeve), 1 participant (Deželak) • Water Management Bureau Maribor (VGB Maribor), 2 participants (Juvan, Kovačič) • VO-KA (Water Supply and Sewage System Ljubljana), 1 participant (Bračič-Železnik) • ZaVita, 1 participant (Strmšnik) • Faculty of Natural Sciences University Ljubljana (Naravoslovno tehniška fakulteta UL), 2 participants (Čenčur-Curk, Žvab-Rožič) • Public, 3 participants (Kikec, Valher, Zadavec)
<p><u>Attachments:</u> (attendance list, photos, etc.)</p>	<p><i>Participants list, photos</i></p>

2. Agenda

Objective: To discuss iDMP and drought issues in Slovenia with key stakeholders. To discuss the questionnaire and adopt conclusions

Agenda – presentations:

8.30-9.00: Registration of participants

9:00-9.10: Opening and welcome by Martina Zupan, GWP Slovenija and Gregor Gregorič, DMCSEE

9.10- 9.25: WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Program in Central and Eastern Europe, Sabina Bokal, GWP CEE

9.25-9.45: It is time for Adaptation to Climate Change, Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana

9.45-10.05: Water, Climate and People, Tanja Cegnar, Slovenian Environment Agency

10.05-10.50: Discussion in groups

10.50-11.20: Coffee break and talk

11.20-11.40: Drought Monitoring at the Slovenian Environmental Agency, Gregor Gregorič, DMCSEE

11.40-12.00: Agricultural Drought - from Measurement to Management, Andreja Sušnik, Slovenian Environment Agency

12.00-12.20: Sustainable Systems for Local Water Retention, Darja Istenič, GWP Slovenija

12.20-12.40: Questionnaire on the Drought Management, Drought Management Plan and RBMP 2015,

Martina Zupan, GWP Slovenija

12.40-13.00: Water Management Plan for the Danube River Basin and the Adriatic Sea and Drought Management, Jana Meljo, Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

See also attached invitation leaflet (file Vabilo.pdf)

Main points of discussion:

Climate change issues and the impact on the water cycle in Slovenia, necessary activities at the national level. Presentation of the activities within the IDMP in Slovenia.

3. Report

Slovenia water resources are one of the wealthier in Europe. Nevertheless, during periods of drought in some parts of the country there are problems with water supplies and extensive damage to agriculture. In the last twenty years there have been six agricultural droughts that have reached the dimensions of a natural disaster. The last two droughts in 2012 and 2103 led to more than 50% reduced agricultural production. In addition, low water levels may threaten biodiversity and the energy sector, water quality deteriorates and causes problems in drinking water supply. The phenomena of drought again raises the question of how much damage is caused by drought, to whom, and where, who will pay for the damage? Much less is discussed about how damage can be prevented or at least to reduce the damage and costs in the future. Calculations show that the preventive measures and adaptation would be incomparable cheaper than the payment of damages in the past. In the project WMO / GWP "Integrated Drought Management in Central and Eastern Europe" we want to show, based on expert knowledge and data, that adaptation to climate change and reducing the vulnerability to drought is possible and useful.

Involvement of the interested public could contribute to the project a lot of practical knowledge, opinions and experiences. It is expected it will contribute to the understanding of the problem and the need to support the preparation of the "National Plan on Drought Management", required by the EU Water Framework Directive and the inclusion of it in the river basin management plans. The project aims firstly to help the country, which is responsible for the realization of the latter, on the other hand, even the tax payers, who pay for the damage caused due to drought.

4. Conclusions

Outcome of the public consultation:

Around 50 experts participating in the discussion have adopted the following conclusions:

- Climate change is a fact; it is possible they will increase faster and strongly than current estimates predict.

- Timely adaptation is more effective and less costly than adaptation at the last minute or elimination the damage. Better adaptation to existing climate variability and dangerous weather events can deliver immediate benefits. Timely adjustment can also bring new opportunities.
- Water is a prerequisite for economic growth and should be given priority as an important factor in protecting the environment, ecosystems, biodiversity and human health preservation.
- The Government has a major role in ensuring sustainable management of natural resources. Very important is timely involvement of stakeholders and the public in the preparation of strategic documents and management at all levels, local, national and transboundary.
- Solving of problems in water management is needed both at the institutional and individual level, the key is education about the possibilities of mitigation and adaptation.
- Promoting innovative ideas, across sectors and with the public harmonized approaches and disseminating of good practice examples.
- On average Slovenia has enough water; with problems we face during longer dry periods and on the other side during flood events as well. The problems are the extremes that are becoming increasingly frequent.
- During longer dry periods the supply of drinking water of adequate quality and providing water for agriculture cause major problems.
- A strategy of large-scale natural disasters should be prepared and adopted.
- Reinforce knowledge, experiences and good practices sharing between researchers and users.
- To establish and maintain a fast, transparent and effective access to information.
- To take advantage of existing opportunities to adapt and seek for the new ones at the local level.
- To utilize traditional knowledge and good solutions from the past.
- The drought management plan should be prepared and proposed measures included to RBMP 2015.
- In the process of preparing RBMP 2015 is necessary to ensure the timely involvement of stakeholders and the interested public.
- It is necessary to prepare a shorter version of a RBMP 2015 with all the relevant information for decision-makers and interested public at the state and local level.

Proposals for further steps:

- Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation at the horizontal level;
- The interested public should be invited to the preparation of the Drought Management Plan and RBMP 2015 at its initial stage.

The presentations, report and conclusions of the consultation are published in Slovenian at Slovenian Environment Agency web site.