

WP2: National Planning Processes

Activity 2.1: Guidelines for the Drought Management Plan

The IDMP CEE focuses mainly on current gaps in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). One of the WFD requirements for a River Basin Management Plan is to develop a Drought Management Plan as a supplementary measure, in case obligatory measures are not sufficient to avoid water scarcity. However, this requirement was not fulfilled in any of the participating CEE countries. This, therefore, is the main reason why the IDMP CEE aims to develop Guidelines as a support tool for preparing Drought Management Plans in each participating country.

In recent years, drought planning has been moving from a crisis management approach, based on national or regional drought emergency programmes, to a risk management approach, based on the development of comprehensive, long-term drought preparedness policies and plans of actions intended to significantly reduce the risks of, and vulnerabilities to, extreme weather events. Drought management plans (DMPs) can present important instruments to achieve the latter. The main objective of a DMP is to minimize adverse impacts on the economy, social life and environment when drought appears. DMPs are directly linked to EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) criteria and objectives and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). DMPs should be prepared in advance before they are needed, based on relevant country-specific conditions and after careful studies focused on the characterization of drought in a country, its effects and mitigation measures.

All IDMP CEE participating countries support this activity because existing guidelines developed through the Common Implementation Strategy for WFD (CIS) in 2007 are too general and focus on DMP content rather than the methodology for developing the main parts of the DMP (e.g. indicator system, early warning system).

The development of the Guidelines will respect the following principles:

- Be in line with current EU drought policy as expressed in relevant official documents (e.g. *A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources*; UNCCD Convention);
- Apply an integrated approach in agreement with WFD objectives for RBMPs;
- Follow existing relevant official documents (e.g. reports, guidelines) developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for WFD (CIS), under coordination of the EC;
- Be a practical tool based on the practical experiences of countries which prepared DMPs (e.g. Slovak case study, DMPs in the participating countries);
- Respect country-specific conditions (i.e. experiences from the individual participating countries).

Activity 2.2: National consultation dialogues

This activity will support the national process of the development of a Drought Management Plan in each participating country through national consultation dialogues.

The consultation dialogues will be taking place on the national level and will focus on:

- Collecting national practical experiences, existing guidelines and other relevant information related to drought planning;
- Elaborating on comments, corrections, suggestions and amendments related to the draft Guidelines for the Drought Management Plan, based on national experiences and taking into account country-specific conditions;
- Communication and discussion among all participating countries, with the aim of completing the final version of the Guidelines for the Drought Management Plan.

A national consultation process requires the participation of institutions and experts from different sectors dealing with drought-related issues. Key experts should come from national hydro-met services, agricultural institutions and, eventually, from state institutions or agencies dealing with drought planning.

The suggested approach is in line with the Inception report (*for the GWP CEE part of the WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme*) where it is emphasized that Drought Management Plans should be prepared by using a “bottom-up” approach with the participation of different sectors at different levels.

WP3 and WP4 do not apply to the Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe.