

NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE

Report from the First National Consultation Dialogue in the Czech Republic

1. General Data

<u>Country:</u>	The Czech Republic
<u>Organizer:</u>	Research Institute For Soil And Water Conservation in Prague
<u>Date & Place:</u>	3.12.2013, Prague, the Czech Republic
<u>Participants:</u> (name & institution & email)	<p><i>Ministry of Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of the Environment</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of the Environment</i></p> <p><i>T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute</i></p> <p><i>Directorate of Povodi Labe, state enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Directorate of Povodi Labe, state enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Directorate of Povodí Moravy</i></p> <p><i>Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation</i></p> <p><i>Czech Hydrometeorological Institute</i></p> <p><i>Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation</i></p> <p><i>Mendel University in Brno</i></p> <p><i>Povodí Ohře</i></p> <p><i>Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise</i></p> <p><i>Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise</i></p>

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<p>Attachments: (Attendance list, photos, etc.)</p>	<p>- attendance list</p> <p>- link to photos: http://idmptanja.rajce.idnes.cz/First national dialogue in Prague/</p>

2. Agenda

Objective:

To introduce the IDMP project and to discuss the Questionnaire.

Agenda – presentations:

- General information about IDMP
- General Introduction of activity 1.2 – Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to EU WFD information about IDMP
- Questionnaire
- Introduction of the Activity 2.1 Guideline for Drought Management Plans and 2.2 National Consultation Dialogue
- Presentation of associated documents

Main points of discussion: drought issues in the Czech Republic, Questionnaire

3. Report

Introduction: The meeting was opened by Ing. Jiří Hladík, PhD., Director of the Research Institute for

Soil and Water Conservation in Prague. He informed all the participants about the activities of the research institute and existing experience in drought issues.

General information about IDMP: Ing. Eva Mlejnská informed about the activities of Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) which is funded by GWP. This programme is divided into few activities. The Czech Republic is involved in some of them, too.

Introduction of activity 1.2 – Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to EU WFD:

Ing. Petra Kulířová introduced activity 1.2, which main goal is to collect relevant data from all participated members of IDMP. This activity is lead by Elena Fatulová from Slovakia. The main goal of this year is to fill in the questionnaire. From these information other activities can be followed, mainly the activity 2.1. - Guidelines for Drought Management Plan. One tool is activity 2.2. – National consultation dialogues.

Questionnaire: The questionnaire was the crucial point of this first national consultation dialogue. Ing. Petra Kulířová informed all participants about the reason for creation of this questionnaire and she went through each task of the questionnaire. Some of the main point of successful discussion:

- Initially, the need to define drought itself and its indicators was aroused. Due to the needs of the Czech Republic everybody agreed that currently it is necessary to solve mainly drought in agricultural landscape. We already have much valuable information, which can be used for that. For example data from climatic drought, which are able to use in relation to agricultural soil, or the outputs of surveys, which are currently running or has already occurred (e.g. T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute deals with drought issue in a complex way – they create definitions and focus on agricultural drought and drought of water recourses; they also recorded detailed research on model area of a partial river basin of Morava and processed analysis of Karlovy Vary district about future drought solving).
- Currently there exist Tools for Drought management. The Ministry of the environment works with the accepted conception of environmental security, which is divided into anthropogenic and natural origin of danger. Natural part includes mainly drought but also its indicators and degrees. On the Ministry of Agriculture the Framework document was established, which also contains drought issues. In cases of extreme drought (on the basis of evaluation of recorded data of Czech Hydro Meteorological Institute) the government approves subsidies for farmers.
- Within the water management planning drought is identified as a problem also in National plans of river basins; however its solution is not sufficient in the plans. But in fact in case of origin of the plans for drought management it would be convenient to keep current principles and terminology in water management planning, which comes out from the Water Act (Act no. 254/2001 Coll., on Waters and Amendments to some acts) and Water Framework Directive. We suppose to establish drought at the Water Act or at the Crisis Act (Act N. 240/2000 Coll. on Crisis Management and on amendments of certain acts).
- From the discussion emerged the necessity of interconnection of involved institutions (everybody is working on something, but there is no inter-institutional connection) and unification of current procedures. In case of the creation of the drought management plans it will be possible to use the outputs of project and plans as a scheme (partial issues are already processed), which exists in Germany and Bavaria.
- Drought is identified in many documents. The plan of river Dyje has identified and specified

problems, among others also the drought issue. There also exists the so called International group of the river basin Labe – which has specific problems, among which drought is also stated. However nowadays the issue of drought is eliminated as for an international group drought issue is not actual.

- Another problem of the Czech Republic is degradation of wetlands. It is not possible to calculate the total economic losses, however for some branches like agriculture or tourism the unfavorable impact of drought is possible to calculate.
- The issue of drought can be also found in the Plans of partial river basins (chapter D plan of drought and floods) or in the Plans of flood crises, which is processed by the ministry.
- From the river basin administration's point of view there is no problem with drought, as mainly hydrologic drought is being solved and sampling of the surface and ground water are carried out. In cases, when drought is expected, long-term permits are not issued and in some regions/districts commissions of drought exist locally.
- However the problem is in agriculture, where there are losses of milliards. The examples can be droughts in years 2011 or 2003, where there were huge losses in yields. That drought was not significantly projected in the sources of surface and ground waters, but it caused huge problems in the agriculture. The problems are identified in the Czech Republic within the agricultural drought.
- Regarding questions 2.4. and 2.5. of the questionnaire, the first points are valid for states, which do not have legislation for groundwater taking. The permits for excessive taking of groundwater should not involve EU. However in the Czech Republic more points from listing were identified.
- The impacts of climatic changes are solved within the program of rural development.
- Excessive taking of groundwater is an issue for small municipalities, but it is solved only on the level of municipalities.
- For determination of dry years we won't find precise data neither for hydrologic or agricultural drought. We can use data for climatologic drought (evaporation – calculation, water balance). Definition of soil drought does not mean anything, data are not able to use – it is averaged. From the point of climate view, our country is very variable, with the occurrence of random drought. Dry months are lost within the average. In years 2000 and 2003 there was drought on the whole country + random occurrence of drought.
- Air temperature (it does not have to have an impact on drought if rains) and snow reserve are not relevant for the determination of drought in the Czech Republic.
- Classification system is developed so far within the security research.
- Drought management is partially solved by legislation, but it is not solved systematically. Many plans exist, for example: program of rural development is not specific within the questionnaire, Public plan for supply – regional document, Plans for development of water pipelines and canalizations – are being updating, National platform for catastrophe risks – there is also a drought included, Identification of impact on drought – national program of risks and crises by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- There were few misunderstanding with the translation of the questionnaire; on the requirement an original questionnaire in English will be sent to all participants.

Introduction of the Activity 2.1 Guideline for Drought Management Plans and 2.2 National Consultation Dialogue: Ing. Marek Batysta introduced the two other activities to all the participants. He informed about the main output of the project – the Guidelines, which should define requirements and help with the creation of drought management plans. He also informed about the next National dialogue and workshops, which are planned for the next years within IDMP CEE

Programme.

Presentation of associated documents: Ing. Petra Kulířová informed about current document Drought management plan report (Including Agricultural, Drought Indicators and Climate Change Aspects) and other materials, which were established on the EU level in the last years.

The next National Consultation Dialogue will be probably carried out in June 2014.

4. Conclusions

Outcome of the public consultation:

National consultation dialogue has brought a whole range of new answers and opened the way to cooperation of participating experts, who were involved in a very lively discussion. Apart from the new knowledge it opened a whole range of questions, on which participants have not found yet satisfying answers. The attendees did not reach an agreement neither on what type of drought should be solved in DMP nor causes of insufficient way of drought solving. However, they reached an agreement, that DMP should be as much as possible similar to RBMP including terminology. The biggest damages caused by drought in the Czech Republic are on agricultural production, hydrologic drought occurs only sporadically. The elements which would help water retention are missing in the landscape. As a result of the previous political regime barks, groves and ponds were removed from the landscape and the wetlands were dried by unsuitable ameliorative interventions. The Czech Republic has not been able to revitalize from these interventions during the last 20 years. That is why it is necessary to return these elements to the landscape and to restore the natural water regime, by which the ability of the landscape to resist drought periods would be increased. It is necessary to set clear rules how to behave in the drought period, how to prevent these periods and how to deal with the damages caused by drought to reach as low losses as possible. These serious questions will served as discussion topics for the next meetings.

Proposals for further steps:

- to cooperate with all participating institutions regarding drought issue
- next meetings will be expanded by experts mainly from agricultural and water management field
- to invite all of them to the next consultation dialogue to discuss the guidelines together