



DEAR READERS,

*The King is dead, long live the King!*

Based on the tender procedure applied in the first half of this year, the GWP CEE Secretariat has been moved from Budapest to Bratislava. The Secretariat can work efficiently if the staff is available to fulfil tasks connected with keeping operational activities alive in the region and serving as a substantial support for the development and implementation of IWRM ideas throughout the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe. As a result, another tender for employment of the staff was organized and the Secretariat has been fully operational since July 1, 2003.

Milan Matushka, chosen by the Selection Committee for the post of Regional Coordinator, is in fact a leading person in the Secretariat. For many years he has been involved in the various areas of water management – starting from water studies and continuing through dyke reconstruction, project designs, water monitoring network design and implementation and ending at the highest management level at the ministry, which also deals with all the other environmental departments. This kind of experience helps him to apply a holistic approach

to the environmental issues that are so important for the main task of GWP – the implementation of IWRM. The international aspect of GWP's scope is covered by his experience in positions as the former Water Director of Slovakia, a member of the Water Director's Board of Europe responsible for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and others under the umbrella of the ECE/UN Water Convention and as a member of Expert Steering Bodies established within the International Commission for the Danube River (ICPDR).

Renata Mashanova was recommended by the Selection Committee and appointed by the Regional Coordinator for the post of Communications Officer. This will allow her to use her experience gained during her time as the leader of the Focal Point of Slovakia, which functioned in the course of the Danube Environmental Program in the region. Recently she has been working in the private sector where she gained valuable experience in financial operations so essential for the daily practical work of the Secretariat.

The daily routine work of the secretariat is covered by Hanka Klinovska who has come over from the staff of the host organization, the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. She has also been engaged in the Focal Point of Slovakia. As a result, she is well informed on the issues covered by the GWP CEE Secretariat.

The smooth start-up of the present Secretariat was substantially facilitated before its opening through very useful discussions with Jozsef Gayer and Monika Jetzin from the former office in Budapest. The present staff is extremely grateful to them for the documents and practical advice they

provided. Jozsef, Monika and Henrietta, all the best in your business and personal endeavors!

The commencement of the Secretariat has recently been completed but we're in the middle of an exciting period of the existence of GWP. Strategic documents are under new development, donors are applying new financial policies, the number of GWP regions is increasing and the financial allocation is the same now as it was a few years ago. We are at the end of the year; the time of balancing activities/finances is upon us once again. The first Council Meeting organized by the new Secretariat was convened in September; another one to be held on December 6-7, 2003, again in Bratislava, is in the planning phase. Bearing in mind the necessity of fundraising because of the lack of finances for all of the activities planned for coming year and up to 2008, relevant contacts have been initiated with ICPDR (especially in the field of Public Participation) and the European Commission (DG Environment, TAIEX – for finding support for organizing workshops and seminars). The private sector has also been addressed; Helsinki Water, which is skilled in know-how transfer mainly in the Baltic Sea region would like to move to Central and Southern (Balkan) Europe.

In conclusion, we are here to support Janusz Kindler, Chairman of the Regional Council whose spirit, all-round view and capability are envied by everyone. The Council Members and Presidents of the National Country Partners who enthusiastically dedicate their free time to GWP idea implementation are also in difficult positions. We are happy to do anything here at the Secretariat to make their efforts easier. ■

## Calendar of Events

*CSD 12 Meeting*

**14-30 April 2004**

*New York, USA*

As the beginning of the first 2-year cycle, the CSD-12 Review Session will focus on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements.

*GWP Steering Committee Meeting*

**11-12 May 2004**

*Berlin, Germany*

*Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health*

**23-25 June 2004**

*Budapest, Hungary*

The Budapest Conference is the fourth in a series started in 1989, bringing together ministers of health and environment and major stakeholders.

*Danube Day*

**29 June 2004**

*Main event in Vienna, Austria*

Danube Day is coordinated by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and celebrated in the countries of the Danube River basin.

*International Water Demand Management Conference*

**30 June – 3 July 2004**

*Amman, Jordan*

The event will be organised by the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Water Efficiency and the Public Information for Action programme (WEPIA) in Jordan.

*World Water Week*

**16-20 August 2004**

*Stockholm, Sweden*

World Water Week serves as a link between practice, science and policy and decision making in the search for sustainable solutions for water resources management.

## EU Takes over the Presidency of the International Commission For the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

VIENNA, 23 JANUARY (UN Information Service) – Today the European Union (EU) is taking over the Presidency of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) for the year 2004.



**CATHERINE DAY**, Director-General, Directorate General Environment, European Commission, will serve as the President during this year, and will be responsible for all ICPDR activities.

*"During my presidency I am committed to work jointly with the Danube Basin countries to continue to reduce the pollution of the river, and to promote development, which meets the hopes of the people and the needs of the nature", said Ms. Day.*

The EU is particularly pleased to hold the ICPDR Presidency in the year of the EU enlargement as four countries of the Danube Basin – the Czech Republic,



Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia – will join the EU on 1 May. Ms. Day is convinced that this enlargement is an important step towards the European integration process. *"In addition, I as the President will work hard to ensure that countries such as Serbia-Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova and Ukraine are fully engaged in the Danube cooperation in the frame of the ICPDR", she emphasized.*

Despite the different political situations in traditional and new EU Member States, applicant countries and other European countries, all of the Danube Basin Countries are committed to implement the EU Water Framework Directive. Water managers and

experts from all over the river basin are working toward the goal to achieve "good water quality by 2015" as required by the Directive.

This year will be an important year for the Danube Basin Countries. It marks the tenth anniversary of the Danube River Protection Convention, the legal basis for the international cooperation in water management. On this occasion, the ICPDR will launch the celebration of the Danube Day on 29 June.

A Ministerial Meeting is also planned for the end of 2004. At the meeting the first report on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive will be officially adopted by the Ministers of Water Management. The report will then be handed to the EU Commission.

The ICPDR Presidency rotates annually among the Contracting Parties of the Danube River Protection Convention. The EU follows Germany and will be succeeded by Hungary in 2005. ■

**For further information please contact:**  
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## Interview

Dr. Assoc. Prof. **SNEJANA MONCHEVA** is the Deputy Director of the Institute of Oceanology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna. The paradigm of marine phytoplankton and Black Sea ecosystem functions are among her major research interests, the investigation of blooms is becoming "professional hobby" in her scientific career. She is the author of more than 50 scientific publications in peer-reviewed international journals.

She has trained at Scripps University – USA, the Plymouth Marine Institute – UK, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute – USA and the Jacob Blaustein Institute in Sde Boker - Israel. During the last 10 years she has been involved in a remarkable number of international, regional and national projects (CoMSBlack, NATO-TU Black Sea, NATO SfP, BIOMARE, EUROCAT, MARBENA, SEA-SEARCH, ELME, etc.). She is a coordinator of one of the 3 Centre of Excellence Projects, INCO, 5FP, EU in Bulgaria the "Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Management of the Black Sea Region". She is also a member of several International organizations (ISHAB, EMECS, EERO, IWQA), a member of the International advisory board of the GEF/BSEP Project "Recovery of the Black Sea Ecosystem", an expert-evaluator in EU's 5 & 6th FP, a licensed expert at the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, a member of the National Monitoring Panel and Bio-diversity Platform. She was recognized by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science for her scientific and international activity. In 2003 she was selected as a member of the GWP Steering Committee.

### 1. Dr. Moncheva, as a new member of GWP-SC what are your ambitions and how will you transform your activity from the local to the global level?

First of all I should underline that my selection as a GWP-SC member is more a recognition of the Bulgarian GWP activity and its contribution to the CEE efforts towards Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) than a personal success; in short, for me this means responsibility. As you know GWP-BG has the largest number of members among CEE countries-more than 54; we are the only country with a Black Sea AWP set up in Varna. A number of forums for the discussion of IWRM and EU WFD have been successfully organized from 1999 to 2003. Of these, I would like to emphasize the three national dialogues on effective water governance, water – food - environment and financial flow. The recommendations of stakeholders and the presentations and discussions can be found on [www.gwpbg.org](http://www.gwpbg.org). Of course all these activities would not have been possible



without the financial support of GWP. However I have to acknowledge the personal role and contribution of the GWP CEE Council Member, Dr. Bardarska. The international projects I am personally involved in are very much in line with IWRM. I hope my professional knowledge and experience will add to the implementation of the GWP's main concept and the EU WFD principles to further the development of the GWP global strategy and the elaboration of adequate working plans for water resource management in the CEE countries. In this not easy task I will also rely on my personal contacts with professionals from most of the CEE countries (including the bilateral agreements for cooperation with the Black Sea countries, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia etc.).

### 2. One of the most important GWP-BG events in 2003 was its co-participation in the International Marine Conference, held in Hotel Dobrudja, in the Albena resort from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. May I have your personal comment?

The conference, entitled "Scientific and Policy Challenges towards Effective Management of the Marine Environment with an Emphasis on the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Regions" was initiated within the activity of the EU Project Center of Excellence (CESUM-BS), IO-BAN, Varna, which I am coordinating. The main sponsors were the EC and IOC/UNESCO, and several local sponsors, including the GWP-BG. More than 220 participants from 33 countries attended this conference, which was a forum for interdisciplinary discussions among the scientific community and representatives of

policy-makers and NGO's. A forum on the EU/ESA "GMES" initiative was promoted as a special event on the last day. In addition, the annual meetings of two of the other five FP Projects "ARENA" and "Sea-Search" were held; these cross-project discussions added to the success of the conference. The GWP CEE report on Effective Water Governance was presented during the opening session. The integration of environmental and socio-economic aspects was a strong point and was clearly underlined in the final recommendations as the main road to follow towards sustainable management. This is something I personally appreciate. As Dr. Emilio Gabbrielli, the GWP Executive Secretary, said in his opening address "In finding solutions it is vital that everyone understands that all users of water - governments, practitioners, academics, community groups, NGO's, the private sector, and other interest groups - need to get together to share information, understand data and work together to solve our problems."

### 3. What do you consider crucial for the sustainable management of the water resources in the CEE region?

My personal understanding of sustainable management is **Will** (political), **Insight** (deep scientific knowledge), **Social** appreciation and awareness as a "must prerequisite" to **Develop Options for Management** (efficient strategy), e.g. the secret is **WISDOM** at least in two aspects. The time has come to realize that mankind is part of the problem and it should be part of the solution. We have to reconsider our "contract" with nature and be wiser in our mind-set regarding its resources – to progress from exploitation to preservation. The CEE countries have different economic starting lines and different potential for implementing IWRM. In 2004, eight of the CEE countries will become full EU members, and these differences will grow deeper. In order to illustrate what I mean I will take the Black Sea as an example. Only 3 of the Black Sea countries (Bulgaria, Romania and recently Turkey) are in the pre-accession phase. The Ukraine, Georgia and Russia are far behind and out of the GWP network. If we talk about sustainable IWRM at the basin-wide scale, it ultimately means that all the countries around the Black Sea should be involved in the elaboration of common plans and common solutions. I think that expanding the GWP geographic map and the involvement of countries like Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, the Ukraine and Turkey might be helpful in the joint effort towards integrated water resource management in the CEE region. ■

Varna, November 10, 2003  
Reporter Savka Shishkova

## GWP Consulting Partners Meeting June 11-12, 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONSULTING PARTNERS (CP) OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP will be held on June 11–12, 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The CP, consisting of GWP partner representatives, meets once a year to review progress in the Partnership and to discuss related strategic issues.

The Consulting Partners meeting this year will focus on planning for sustainable water resources management in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) tar-

get for countries to prepare IWRM and water efficiency national plans by 2005. The meeting will focus on countries' progress on the IWRM planning process, the challenges being experienced together with the lessons learnt by countries as they work on this, and the way forward. Some of these challenges include issues such as the role of the GWP country water partnerships, public participation, how to reach out and receive inputs from other sectors, the requisite water governance structures, techniques of fostering political will, financing water infrastructure,

and building capacity for the implementation processes of improved water management.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GWP Consulting Partners is an integral part of 1<sup>st</sup> Malaysian Water Week, an event organized by the Malaysian Water Partnership (MyWP) running from June 7–12, 2004. Several activities are planned for the Malaysian Water Week including the three-day Malaysian Water Forum on June 8–10, an exhibition on water related products and services, and technical visits

to useful sites from a water resources management perspective. The integration of these events will enable the participants from Malaysia to interact with a broad range of stakeholders from other parts of the world and vice-versa. Thus, both audiences may, through this forum, find useful points of contact and share valuable experience and knowledge on common issues. For more information on the details of the program for Malaysian Water Week, please refer to the Malaysian Water Partnership webpage, <http://didnet.moa.my/mywp>. ■

## GWP activities in the region of Central and Eastern Europe

**GWP CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE CONSISTS OF TEN COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS** (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) that provide an inclusive platform from which to discuss the hot topics of concerned stakeholders. The program objective is to support countries in the further development and implementation of sound water resources management practices.

Over the next three years, GWP Central and Eastern Europe plans to undertake several initiatives including increased sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogues on water in the CEE countries, and raising political will for the adoption and implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the EU Framework Directive. Assistance in the EU Framework Directive is the centerpiece of the regional activities supported by the different dialogues. The Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment has revealed region-specific problems and led to the compilation of useful knowledge documents.

Throughout the region, there is an ongoing study to clarify investment needs, annual costs and prioritizing actions. Issues on public participation are on the frontline and decision makers are being approached at the country level. This has led to increased participation of civil society in discussion and decision-making and its role strengthened by proactive outreach and capacity building activities.

### Contact our Country Water Partnerships!

In this issue of Water Talk we will present Water Partnerships in three countries of Central and Eastern Europe - Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Estonia.

### GWP Bulgaria Water Partnership

Geographically and climatically, Bulgaria with nearly 7.9 million inhabitants can be categorized as semi-arid. According to the classification made by the European Economic Council, Bulgaria is among the countries with relatively poor water resources of 2376 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year. The average annual aggregate capacity of the captured and utilized water resources during dry periods is estimated at 16 km<sup>3</sup> and varies between 23.5 and 10.7 km<sup>3</sup>, depending on the year and, together with the water of the river Danube, amounts to 27.5 km<sup>3</sup> in wet years and 14.7 km<sup>3</sup> in dry years.

Waters are managed both at the national level (Council of the Ministers and Ministry of the Environment and Water) and at the river basin level (four River Basin Directorates at the Ministry of the Environment and Water, and River Basin Councils).

The Bulgaria Water Partnership and the Ministry of the Environment and Water signed an agreement of cooperation in April, 2002. Area water partnerships in the Danube River Basin (Sofia city and Rouse town) and the Black Sea Region (Varna town) were established during 1999–2002. More than 50 Bulgarian organizations are members of GWP. The Partnership publishes four issues per year of the newsletter "Water".



Established: November 2002  
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### GWP Czech Republic WaterPartnership

The Czech Republic has a total area of 78,866 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of Czech rivers flow into the North Sea (65%), less into the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea. The annual availability of surface water per capita is 1400 m<sup>3</sup> that is about one third of the European average. About 75% of the country's 10.3 million inhabitants live in urban areas. 88% of the population is supplied by public water systems, and 76% are connected to public sewerage systems. Water supply companies are privatized and in some regions organizations of infrastructure owners have been established.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment supervises water management. Some water issues lie within the competency of other ministries such as those for transport, industry and so on. Rivers are administered by five state owned companies that are connected to particular basins.

The Czech Water Partnership, called the Czech Water Club, was officially established in 2001 under the Czech Water Scientific and Technical Society (CVT VHS) and functions as an independent branch of this society. The Czech Water Club activities include translation of key IWRM publications and organizing important conferences.



Established: November 2001  
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### GWP Estonia Water Partnership

Estonia is rich in water resources. The average volume of the surface water available per capita per year is about 8000 m<sup>3</sup>. About 75% of the population is connected to a centralized water supply system. Estonia has some problems with the quality of groundwater and drinking water.

The Estonia Water Partnership is closely linked to the Estonia Water Association. As a result of this relationship, the Estonia Water Partnership has many water professionals involved in the GWP activities. The backbone of these activities is awareness raising and involvement of the interested public in river basin management plans according to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements, in the context of IWRM. A case study was compiled using the IWRM ToolBox on the Lake Peipsi Watershed. In 2002, there was a national dialogue on Effective Water Governance, on Financial Flows in Water Sector and on Water, Food, and Environment. Tallinn also hosted the GWP Central and Eastern Europe international workshop on Public Private Partnerships in the Municipal Water Sector. ■



Established: July 2001  
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## GWP Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) is strengthening its role in public participation

**MARGIT SÄRE**, the Project Manager of the Estonian Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation will lead the GWP CEE Public Participation Task Force in the Baltic region while **JOZSEF GAYER** will do the same in the Danube River basin. The Task Force leaders were elected by the GWP CEE Council in January 2004.

Public Participation Task Force leaders will contribute to increased public participation in river basin management planning in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Through its public participation efforts, the GWP CEE is addressing new opportunities posed by the European Union (EU)



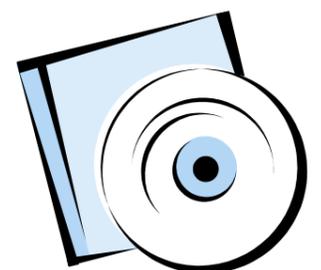
**Global Water Partnership**  
Central and Eastern Europe

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC for new EU member states and EU accession countries.

The Global Water Partnership was established in 1996 to endorse the sustainable management of water resources. The GWP has initiated Water Club/Partnership activities aiming to facilitate the practical implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by offering a country platform for all water stakeholders. ■

## Gender mainstreaming on CD

The e-conference was held in 4 languages – English, French, Spanish and Portuguese – in 2002. It evolved around successes and failures of gender mainstreaming in IWRM. The CD includes all discussions, background papers, summaries, case studies and evaluations, and will function as a great resource for all people working in the area of gender and water. If you would like to receive a copy of the CD for free, contact [d.vreke@iav.nl](mailto:d.vreke@iav.nl).



The information is also available on [www.genderandwateralliance.org](http://www.genderandwateralliance.org)

## 83 million people to celebrate Danube Day on June 29

ON JUNE 29, 83 MILLION PEOPLE FROM THE BLACK FOREST TO THE BLACK SEA WILL COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE MOST INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN IN THE WORLD – THE DANUBE BASIN. The event that will bring them together - the Danube Day - is launched for the first time this year to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Danube River Protection Convention.

When the Danube River Protection Convention was signed in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 29 June 1994, a lot of hope was put in what would be a concerted international effort to save the Danube from pollution. The last 10 years have shown that the hopes were realistic: cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organisations, scientific institutions and industries in and between the Basin countries has steadily increased and – despite being far from perfect – today serves as a model for the world.

The 10th anniversary of the signing of the Convention is the right moment to celebrate the past achievements in its implementation and think of the challenges that still lie ahead. The ICPDR has therefore decided to designate June 29 as the Danube Day. The Danube Day should become institutionalised; it should become a fixed event in the calendars of ministers and water organisations throughout the Danube Basin. In organising the first Danube Day celebration, the ICPDR will closely co-operate with the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project and with other organisations such as the Danube Environmental Forum, Global Water Partnership and WWF International.

## DANUBE DAY



The Danube Day is seen as a powerful tool for developing the “Danubian identity” of the people living in the Basin by reminding them that in spite of their different cultures and histories they have a shared responsibility to protect a shared, precious resource - the Danube River. The basin-wide celebration is also expected to strengthen the Danube Basin countries’ solidarity reflected in the slogan “everybody lives downstream”. Given this important mission the Danube Day has to fulfil, it is not surprising that the UNDP/GEF Regional Project has fully endorsed it and decided to support it financially.

The Danube Day should be a light-hearted and festive event featuring water-related games, exhibitions, field trips, round tables, workshops, educational and public awareness-raising activities. Organisations and institutions at every level of society, from kindergarten through high school, to churches, NGOs, scientific institutions and national or local governments are encouraged to participate.

National Planning Teams have been established to organise the different national events and harmonise them with the central event to take place in Vienna, the seat of the ICPDR. The ICPDR has agreed to provide the political frame for this truly international event and will work together with the company AQA ([www.aqa.at](http://www.aqa.at)) to make June 29 a remarkable day in 2004.

If you would like to do your bit for the Danube Day, please get in contact with your national Danube Day coordinator or the ICPDR Secretariat. Contributions - even in the form of a simple idea - are more than welcome. ■

Jasmine Bachmann  
[www.danubeday.org](http://www.danubeday.org) or [www.icpdr.org](http://www.icpdr.org)

## Danube Environmental Forum: A Network Weaved of Common Fates and Responsibilities

DANUBE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM (DEF) is a Danube Basin-wide network of 154 non-governmental, non-profit, politically independent, environmental organizations (NGOs) spanning thirteen countries. DEF is dedicated to sound water management in the Danube region for the preservation of regional biodiversity. Established in 1999, DEF formed at a critical point in the region’s socio-economic history: urbanization, intensive agriculture and river regulation. DEF’s three main aims are as follows:



Danube Environmental Forum

- **To influence sustainable development in the Danube River region** by ensuring NGO presence in governmental forums, programs and initiatives. Fostering close cooperation between governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental entities is thought to encourage an accountable and transparent decision-making process in matters pertaining to economic and environmental viability, diminishing the customary ‘behind-closed-doors’ approach to governance, involving those impacted most: the stakeholders.

- **To foster the virtues of cooperation and communication** among regional NGOs, and to forward such virtues to exchanges with relevant stakeholders: national and multi-national businesses, media and the local community. DEF thus provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and information. The forum is a communal effort in regional development deemed conducive to sustainable living, and to cultural and natural integrity.

- **To investigate and hone methods of public participation** to ensure decisions made regarding regional water management are representative of the local people, and beneficial to the cultural and natural heritage of the Danube River region

Though the above-mentioned aims are doubtless intertwined, it is the third aim occupying much of DEF’s time and effort at present. With implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive underway, DEF has been coordinating workshops for member NGOs for the purpose of enhancing capacities related to wetland management, nutrient reduction in

waters and public participation in water management.

In drafting the Directive, the EU recognized and acknowledged the critical role the public would play in its implementation. It thus seemed apt to involve NGOs in the implementation process, to utilize the rapport established between NGOs and local communities in realizing the Directive in everyday life. Conversely, DEF welcomes the Directive as an effective transboundary approach to water management in Europe, and is committed to successful Directive implementation.

Public participation, of course, follows from public awareness and environmental education campaigns. DEF member NGOs work with local communities, interpreting the relevance of water management issues to the local people. It is only through such outreach that NGOs can successfully involve the public in water management.

Linked by the winding river, Danube countries acknowledge an interlinked fate, and thus interlinked responsibilities in regional development. Similarly, NGOs in the region recognize the dangers unbridled economic development would pose to the environmental integrity and cultural heritage of the region. In such an atmosphere, DEF was borne, taking a proactive stance on regional water management issues. ■

Compiled by Dana L. English

For more information please contact **Monika Kovacova, DEF Secretariat** at [def@changenet.sk](mailto:def@changenet.sk)

DEF Speaker explaining the network structure and aims during an interview in Bulgaria



CREDIT: DEF

## Training for Toolbox Users

Svaty Jur, Slovakia, December 13, 2003

AT THE END OF 2003, ACADEMIA ISTROPOLITANA NOVA ORGANIZED A WORKSHOP FOR TOOLBOX USERS. The main purpose of the workshop was to bring together representatives of CEE countries interested in the dissemination and use of the Toolbox (the "TB") for the IWRM. The workshop was conducted in order to:

- support countries in the adoption and implementation of integrated, sustainable, and equitable water resources management practices that are illustrated in the TB
- disseminate and promote among potential TB users
- support countries in the use of the TB among a variety of water groups in the water oriented activities
- identify potential authors and case studies suitable for publishing on the TB web page.

The workshop was divided into several sessions. However, the main guiding principle was the discussion of the possible main users of the Toolbox based on the TB demonstration. It was agreed that the main users would be students, experts involved in education activities and young researchers. The second important group of users could be people working at NGOs. These users might find it to be an important guide in approaching policy makers, poli-

ticians and regulators. It is also important to highlight the involvement of "highly specialized" groups (such as water and wastewater engineers, technical designers of water infrastructure, hydrologists, water facilities managers) in the idea of the IWRM that is unique for the Toolbox. The participants agreed on the necessity of disseminating the IWRM approaches in the CEE countries for a better preparation of the EU Water Framework Directive implementation. Marek, a young Polish researcher said: "Thanks for an interesting course that gave me a thorough picture of how IWRM influences traditional approaches in our countries".

# ToolBox

Integrated Water Resources Management

The second session was focused on how to use the Toolbox. The participants practiced accessing the Toolbox in Internet rooms. Several case studies were used to demonstrate the format and main features. This practical session was also devoted to searching the Toolbox web page and finding arbitrary issues based on the selection of the participants. Different modes of operation were illustrated (searching according to tools, key words, advanced search). This session was highly appreciated with respect to the tremendous effort devoted to the case studies.

At the third session, the participants received the existing case studies available in different jour-

nals, books and conference proceedings. The point here was that there are many published examples and stories that could be entered in the Toolbox database. Then, the participants tried to design the potential case studies in the required Toolbox format.

This session was also devoted to group work aimed at proposing potential topics relevant for the CEE region that might be presented in the form of case studies. The participants stated that in spite of the long water management history in this part of the world, there are not so many examples that demonstrate the principles of the IWRM. They also stated that developing case studies feasible for Toolbox publishing requires experience and training. The main expectation of the workshop was to train participants to use Toolbox and to transfer experience from the regional Focal Point to the local (country) level. Another goal was to prepare the nuclei for searching for potential authors in individual countries of the CEE region. The participants agreed that the workshop was essential and well prepared. Five of the ten CEE countries were represented. They included Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Academia Istropolitana Nova students from Moldova and Kyrgyzstan also attended. All of the participants agreed that the workshop was fruitful even if it was squeezed into one full day. Borjana from Bulgaria said: "I am very satisfied with the meeting in AINOVA. Thank you very much for inviting me. However it was a pity that we didn't have the time to see your picturesque village; the workshop occupied all my time in Slovakia". ■

Danka Thalmeinerová  
Focal Point ToolBox for CEE

## Annual GWP National Conference November 28, 2003

BULGARIAN ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES, SOFIA

The new book "Drought in Bulgaria: a Contemporary Analogue for Climate Change, the Natural, Economic and Social Dimensions of the 1982-1994 Drought" was presented at the morning session in front of many stakeholders and media representatives. Many of the authors as well as GWP partners mentioned concepts of IWRM in their respective chapters. 2003 CWP/AWP reports were discussed as well as the second phase of the dialogue on "Water for Food and Environment" at the afternoon session. Two experts of the Executive Agency of the Environment at the Ministry of Environment and Water gave the latest information on the EU harmonization of the national water monitoring systems and the nitrate and pesticide content in the ground water. Arne Scholer, a special guest from Germany, made a presentation entitled "A Functional - Pragmatic Development of Ecosystems to Manage Water Resources under Arid Conditions". Many recommendations taking into account not only the drought but also the recent floods generalized in the draft flood brochure, were made for future GWP activities at the local and regional levels. ■

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## Sanitation in rural schools in Lithuania

THE PEOPLE OF LITHUANIA HAVE ENTERED THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AND WILL SOON JOIN THE EU. It has made advances in modern technology, but at the same time 471 rural schools with 22,500 children lack adequate sanitation facilities. They still use field toilets without any water, soap or paper. This situation is not only humiliating and oppressive but also unhealthy.

A campaign for improved sanitary facilities in schools was initiated by the weekly newspaper "Dialogas" and the Lithuanian Water Partnership in 2003. Several meetings were arranged with the vice-ministers of Ministries of Health and Science & Education. Questionnaires on this issue were sent to all municipalities and about 50 percent of them have been returned.

A seminar entitled "School Sanitation in Lithuania" was organised and held on October 15<sup>th</sup> of this year in Vilnius.

The 30 participants from various districts who attended the seminar included directors of schools and representatives from municipalities and ministries. Everyone seemed to be familiar with the problem but nobody felt responsible for solving it. Dainius Numgaudis, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Science and Education and Asta Aranaske, Head of the Strategic Department of the Ministry of Health presented the view of the ministries. Both acknowledged the problem of inadequate school sanitation but accused the principle owners of the schools - the municipalities, for not taking appropriate measures.

Based on the presentations and available information, it was concluded that basic sanitation is bad in three types of schools:

1. Small rural schools that will soon be closed;
2. Schools that only need better management to solve the sanitation problems;
3. Schools that really need large investments to improve the situation.



The schools without proper toilets are mainly rural schools built before 1965 where no space for indoor toilets was planned. Large investments are needed to provide the toilets, drill water supply wells and build wastewater treatment plants. Municipalities complain that the issue of school toilets is only one of many rural problems that create an unbearable financial burden.

During the seminar it was agreed that everyone would continue the awareness raising campaign and join forces in the search for financial resources.

A letter containing a general picture of the school sanitation situation and detailed information on each municipality has been drafted and sent to the Association of Municipalities, consisting of the mayors of the major Lithuanian cities and districts. ■

Seminar on school sanitation held in Vilnius, Lithuania

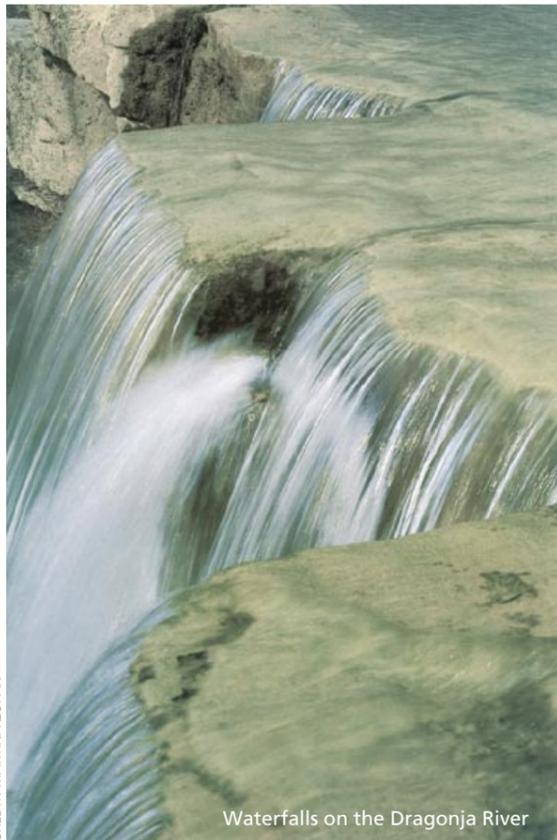


CREDIT: ELENA TERVIDYTE

## GWP SLOVENIA after one year activities

**THE DIVERSITY OF SLOVENIA THAT OCCURS WITHIN THIS CONFLUENCE OF EUROPE'S NATURAL PHENOMENA, CULTURES AND PEOPLE IS ENRICHED BY ITS WATERS.** Although a small country (20,256 km<sup>2</sup>) which doesn't have much room for large bodies of water, there are 7,400 km of water courses, thousands of springs, waterfalls, gorges and lakes, as well as the Adriatic sea. The theoretical knowledge about IWRM is quite high, however the implementation of it has just begun. In spite of the fact that we have average water quantity, we have problems with water management. The most critical points are groundwater pollution from agriculture in the northeast and some karstic regions of the country, water scarcity, and in some river sections, measures have to be taken to ensure the appropriate water quality for aquatic life.

GWP Slovenia was established in July 2002. The main goal was to offer an independent platform



Waterfalls on the Dragonja River

CREDIT: MARTINA ZUPAN

for discussion and dialogue between stakeholders. The involved target groups include governmental institutions (the Ministries of environment, agriculture, health and education), local governments, professional associations, research institutes, students, the private sector and NGO's. The leading body of GWP Slovenia is the Program Council, whose members include:

**GABRIJELA GRČAR**

Deputy State Secretary and Water Director, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy

**MITJA STAREC**

Director of the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

**Prof. Dr. MIRAN VESELIČ**

Director of the Agency of Radioactive Waste

**Prof. Dr. DANIJEL VRHOVSEK**

Limnos, GWP Slovenija's host institute

**MARTINA ZUPAN**

GWP Slovenija (elected as a GWP CEE Council Member)

The working plan of GWP Slovenija was adopted and the promoting of IWRM and the karst springs and groundwater pollution prevention were recognized as the most relevant issue in Slovenia. The implementation of WFD as a part of IWRM is an explicit priority in the country. GWP Slovenia was recognized as a potential partner in the process of establishing public participation in water management. As the diffuse pollution from agriculture was recognized as a substantial source of poor groundwater quality, ecological awareness raising in rural parts of Slovenia should be one of important activities of GWP Slovenia.

The promotion of IWRM started on the local level in the small Dragonja River Basin, which forms a border with Croatia. It flows through the Ramsar site, saltpan Sečovlje to the Adriatic Sea and is pro-

posed as a protected area. The main activities there are agriculture and tourism. We have the support of the local authorities for building an education path along the Dragonja. The stations along the river were identified (self-purification process, re-using wastewater, nature and hydrological characteristics). A leaflet entitled, Integrated Water Management for the Protection of the Dragonja River and a publication entitled, Pilot Project on Sustain-



Bohinj Lake in Triglav Natural Park

CREDIT: CHRISTIAN LEIBUNGUT

able Water Management for the Integrated Protection of the Dragonja River have been printed (in Slovenian and English). To provide information on the sea we also printed a leaflet about sustainable development in the Slovenian coastal zone in Slovenian and English. After discussions with the local authorities and as a result of the Workshop Kaverljag 007 held in September 2003 we decided not to build any infrastructure on the education path, because of the possible danger of ruining this beautiful and peaceful river valley. The printed publications will be used as information on the Dragonja River Basin.

In the small Dragonja River Basin we are promoting sustainable/co-natural water management and eco-remediation technology, which is very efficient and cost effective in small communities with no industry. This is in line with the new philosophy of water treatment (DESAR, see the article, "News from the Stockholm World Water Week" 2003).

## Become a Member of the Global Water Partnership!

**GWP MEMBERSHIP** is open to organizations that recognize the Dublin-Rio principles and are involved with issues related to integrated water resources management. We welcome your participation and membership if your organization is committed to putting these principles into practice through:

- freely sharing knowledge and experience on integrated water resources management with other GWP partners by actively participating in your respective regional Partnership,
- providing GWP partners with advice and professional input,
- helping to coordinate integrated water resources management activities with other organizations. In turn, the GWP is committed to assisting Members with:
- identifying critical needs, assessing demands, and arranging strategic assistance,
- launching programs and partnerships to address critical global and regional needs in integrated water resources management.

Celebration of World Water Day in Sofia, Bulgaria



CREDIT: GWP BULGARIA

**To apply for GWP membership, please contact the GWP Central and Eastern European secretariat, Address: Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute,**

**Jeseniova 17, 833 15 Bratislava, Slovakia, Tel./fax: +421 2 5941 5294, Tel.: +421 2 5941 5224, e-mail: gwpcee@shmu.sk**