

## New GWP CEE report on public participation

A NEW REPORT ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN BALTIC SEA REGION WAS PREPARED AS PART OF GWP CEE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES.



CREDIT: P. UINI/PEIPSI CTC

Lake Peipsi on the border between Estonia and Russia

Recent years have seen the rapid growth of interest in public participation in a wide range of sectors and contexts, including environmental management, agriculture and conservation. Public participation has gained wide recognition on different levels of governance as a key principle for water management. In 2000 the EU Water Framework Directive was adopted, thus establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy and stressing the importance of consultation with all in-

terested parties in the implementation of the directive. This and other EU environmental policy documents call for the wide partnership and participation of the society represented by diverse stakeholder groups in environmental management. Public participation is recognized as a tool that helps create awareness and ownership of decisions, which in turn is necessary for their successful implementation. Today a great number of examples (e.g. GWP Tool Box) prove that public participation strengthens democracy by showing stakeholders that they can exert influence over the decisions that are made. The report gives an overview on the progress of public involvement in water management in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. In addition, it analyzes public participation case studies and pilot projects and draws conclusions and recommendations for the future. The authors of the report are: Janusz Topilko; Regional Water Management Board, Gdansk, Poland; Dmitrij Zharkov, Center for Environmental Policy, Lithuania; Erika Lagzdina, The Regional Environmental Center for CEE (REC) Latvia and Margit Säre, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation; Estonia. You can find the full report on <http://www.riverdialogue.org/participation/> ■

## Calendar of Events

*GWP CEE Council Meeting*  
**9-10 April 2005**  
Krakow, Poland

*River Basin Management – progress towards implementation of the Water Framework Directive*  
**19-20 May 2005**  
Budapest, Hungary

The conference focuses on the fresh water components of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), to review progress to date, share experience and to identify possible future issues which may arise as the WFD is progressively implemented.

*GWP Network meeting of the Consulting Partners*  
**24-25 May 2005**  
Antigua, Guatemala

The Consulting Partners meeting will focus on progress in preparing national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency strategies by 2005.

*Third International Symposium on Flood Defence*  
**25-27 May 2005**  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Scientists, engineers and administrators involved in flood management are invited to participate.

*International Conference on Hydrology, Ecology and Water*  
**20-23 June 2005**  
Bergen, Norway

The conference will address a wide range of water related topics, linking together several themes in rural development, and soil and water conservation.

*Symposium for European freshwater sciences*  
**22-16 August 2005**  
Krakow, Poland

The symposium will be devoted to basic questions in freshwater biology and various aspects of applied freshwater science.

*SIWI Water Week*  
**21-27 August 2005**  
Stockholm, Sweden

Water Symposium, a part of Stockholm Water Week 2005, will explore the complementarities of soft and hard approaches in water management. The relations between the water sector and other sectors of society will be of special relevance.

## GWP CEE celebrated World Water Day

IN THE OCCASION OF 22 MARCH WORLD WATER DAY, GWP CEE COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS (CWPS) IN BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, HUNGARY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA ACTIVELY PROMOTED PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) THROUGH A SERIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL EVENTS. CWPs also participated in broader frame of celebrations together with other water stakeholders, e.g. GWP Lithuania organised drawing and photo competitions in close cooperation with local municipalities. GWP Bulgaria and their partners also contributed to 12th National Celebration of World Water Day in the capital city of Sofia, with presentations about IWRM, flash floods and economic aspects of EU Water Framework Directive. GWP Bulgaria also published an article about flash floods for "Water Affairs" magazine devoted specially to World Water Day. In Estonia, Estonian Water Association, Estonian Union of Waterworks and Ministry of the Environment organised a traditional Water Day conference. Main topics of the conference were floods and storms, in order to remind heavy storms which hit Baltic countries in the beginning of January 2005. Presentations covered a broad range of topics about marine environment, pollution, floods and forecasting systems. In addition, Water Saving Prize was awarded for an outstanding success and model behaviour in water management. ■

## Interview with Raimonds Vejonis, the Latvian Minister of Environment

IN CONTINUATION OF OUR SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH THE MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE 10 CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE PART OF GWP CEE REGION, WE BRING YOU THE INTERVIEW WITH LATVIAN MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, RAIMONDS VEJONIS.

RAIMONDS VEJONIS studied Water and Environmental Management at the University of Tampere, Finland and graduated from the University of Latvia. He has a strong background in biology, ecology and environmental engineering. During his professional career he has held various senior level positions in governmental organizations in Latvia. Vejonis also has vast experience in implementing environmental infrastructure projects such as wastewater treatment and waste disposal. He is currently a vice-chairman of the Green Party of Latvia.

**Water Talk:** GWP defines Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. How do you see the challenges of IWRM implementation in the practice in Latvia?

If we are talking about water resources per capita, Latvia, along with Canada, Sweden and Russia, is one of the very rich countries. However, half of our surface waters have their origin in neighboring countries and trans-boundary waters are strongly influenced by activities outside Latvia and even the EU. Therefore we are active not only in implementation of the EU WFD but in supporting UN/ECE Water Convention and other tools like the EU Water Initiative and the GWP. One could say that Latvia is on the lucky side with a rather low population density and an abundance of forests, including swampy forests, and wetlands, marches and bogs, which are good preconditions for the successful development of IWRM. Nevertheless, part of the country consists of lowlands, similar to those in Holland, where settlements can be located and agriculture developed only after water regulation activities have been successfully implemented. Our capital city of Riga is located on a territory formed by the interactions of rivers and the sea on sediment accumulation and wind activities less than a thousand years ago. Just like eight hundred

year old Riga, the Riga Port is well known from the Hansatic Union and the shipping channel or "fare water" which is artificially maintained by many hydro technical structures, all located roughly 20 kilometers from the sea. The buildings are stable and continue to work well; very few accidents have been recorded over many centuries. Only environmentally sustainable structures can survive under the pressure of natural elements, therefore we can thank the brilliant engineers from former generations. During the last century we have built three



large hydro power plants on the River Daugava. On the one hand we have reduced our dependence on energy imports. On the other, the Daugava was the biggest salmon river in the Baltic Sae area and one of the biggest in the world. Therefore nowadays we are trying to integrate carefully not only fish resources but all the wealth of hydro biological resources into water management. Latvia is located at the edge of inland waters and the sea and we should bear in mind that not only the Gulf of Riga but the entire Baltic Sea is vulnerable. Therefore we must feel more responsible for water resources management and introduce IWRM as the best tool we can apply.

**Water Talk:** Implementation of EU legislation for the new members, which entered the EU in May 2004, means an opportunity for improving the environmental infrastructure with co-financing from EU funds. To which measures in the area of water protection and use is the support from Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund for the programming period of 2004–2006 directed and who might ben-

efit from that support? How much money is needed for improving and developing the environmental water infrastructure in the near future?

The highest priority for acquiring EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund assistance is assigned to the development of municipal water supply and waste water collection and treatment systems in order to provide safe drinking water and ensure proper collection and treatment of wastewater. With the assistance of the ISPA pre-accession financial instrument, water services development projects are being implemented in 23 towns and cities, but through the use of Cohesion Fund and ERDF co-financing – water services will be developed in 67 agglom-

erations with populations above 2000, and in more than 120 agglomerations with populations below 2000. In order to fully implement legal requirements related to water infrastructure, estimates show that investments of over 900 million euro will be required.

**Water Talk:** WFD is the most complex set of goals, tools and commitments in the EU water sector to date. Two of the main WFD goals are the protection and improvement of water ecosystems quality and sustainable, balanced and equitable water use. This directive provides broad opportunities for public participation in river basin management and is probably transposed into Latvian legislation. How could the participation of the public and NGO's be ensured during implementation of this directive and especially in preparation of river basin management plans which must be completed by 2009?

The transposition of WFD in Latvia was not "probably" but definitely a very responsible step made by the adoption of the Law on Water Man-

agement in the Parliament just some days after Slovenia, which was the first of the EU acceding countries to do so. Our delay was caused by long and deep discussion on the law with the scientific community and NGO's. Stakeholder involvement and open and transparent discussion on all levels is a common approach in policy elaboration and implementation in Latvia; we ratified the Aarhus Convention in 2002 much earlier than most EU nations. The water sector municipalities and the Municipal Water Works together with the scientific and academic communities and representatives from the Technical Association and the NGO's are playing a great role. Nevertheless successful implementation of WFD requires much more than a good and open process and discussions with the strongest interest groups. Many small municipalities and parishes located on the outskirts of river basin districts far from the main streams have never considered themselves responsible for water management of the big river. Up to now they have recognized only their local rivers and lakes, which in many cases are not even considered as separate "Water Bodies" under WFD. All these small stakeholders should be informed and involved in the common actions towards implementation and management plans. Just now we are establishing an advisory board for each of the river basin district administrations as a forum to discuss draft management plans in 2005 and 2006, well before 2009. Already plenty of small river basins have voluntarily established stakeholders' cooperation. The River Salaca and Lake Burtnieku commissions and the River Barta and River Slocone organizations are examples. We do hope that these activities will be smoothly integrated into plans for larger River Basin Districts later.

**Water Talk: The implementation of EU Directives will be an important factor in mitigating the agricultural impact on the environment; however, it is necessary to involve farmers in the practical realization of environmental legislation. What kind of measures for mitigating impacts and enhancing environmental benefits are applied in Latvia?**

The farmers might be the easiest and latest step. The latest experience with WFD and the development of the European Marine Strategy clearly points out that the EU Common Agricultural Policy and common Fisheries Policy should be completely revised to decrease eutrophication by revising subsidies and limiting cattle and agricultural production per hectare. Latvia came to these conclusions during our HELCOM Presidency from 2002 –2004 when discussions with other Baltic Sea Environmental Ministers and with the OSPAR Ministers from the North Sea resulted in the common understanding that agriculture, fisheries and transport are the main sources of the pollution of inland waters including groundwater and the marine environment. But these are really future challenges which belong to the responsibilities of the Ministers of Environment and should be raised at the high EU level. On one hand Latvia has decreased its agriculture more than twice since 1990 and uses much less manure, artificial fertilizers and pesticides per hectare than the average EU member country. On the other hand, our farmers have recently been able to approach the EU for funds for manure storage and the purchase of modern technology. The farmers have already improved their knowledge under the Nitrates Directive and Good Agricultural Practice and are actively involved in many training activities. We are doing a lot to support green and biological agriculture. Direct payments for NATURA 2000 site management have also helped to lighten the load from agriculture by supporting alternative land use.

**Water Talk: Global climate changes in the form of flash floods and heavy storms are affecting all countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Which arrangements and measures should be adopted in order to reduce the results of this threat?**

Many European countries have suffered from heavy flooding at the end of nineties and even in recent years. Climate changes are becoming more visible and the last Report from the EU

JRC really shows changes in temperature and precipitation and identifies stronger winds and corresponding higher water levels on the seashores. Heavy storms and rainfall are becoming more frequent and even regular. Nevertheless, most floods in central Europe really show that even discharges much lower than historically recognized maximum results are becoming more visible and costly. Many rivers are canalized and huge territories in catchments are provided by storm water canalization systems which allow the draining of heavy rainfall volumes to the nearest river in less than one hour. The majority of flood plains have been changed to built-up territories and natural lakes and wetlands have been reduced dramatically, thus reducing storage capacities in some links or even for all catchments. Several central European EU member countries see the new EU Directive as a protective measure that will probably protect riverbeds and flood plains from further canalization and even restore some lost wetlands through strict legislation. Many northern European countries, where rivers are still natural and wetlands are maintained and serve as reservoirs, do not see any reason for legislative measures. On the other hand it's quite difficult to prepare one useful tool for countries located in mountains and for those located below sea level, for Mediterranean countries which suffer from a lack of precipitation and for regions with regular storms and rainfall. These conditions are rather different. But one thing is clear – the best flood protection is the natural capacity of the river and everyone should do their best to physically protect old river beds and wetlands, or to restore them, as it costs less than high barrages along river banks.

Latvia lost some wetlands in the middle of last century and many rivers have become drained. But we still have many old river beds, flood plains, lakes and wetlands. And we are protecting this wealth because well-integrated water management gives you integrated benefits like clean water, flood protection and bio-diversity. ■

## Network meeting of the Consulting Partners

THIS YEAR'S 10<sup>TH</sup> NETWORK MEETING OF THE CONSULTING PARTNERS (CP) OF THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE IN ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA ON 24-25 MAY 2005. The CP will focus on the progress in preparing national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency strategies by end of 2005. For more information on how to register, please click on [www.gwpforum.org](http://www.gwpforum.org). ■

## New GWP Handbook and Policy Brief supports governments' efforts to tackle water and economic development

A HANDBOOK AND A POLICY BRIEF for governments, on the practical steps for making national water management strategies, which support their efforts towards reaching the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), can be download on [www.gwpforum.org](http://www.gwpforum.org). Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded the production of the handbook. ■





## Wetlands Seminar on the Danube River Basin

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION – CEIE (A GWP PARTNER) AND THE “GREEN BALKANS” FEDERATION OF NATURE CONSERVATION organized a national seminar entitled “Strengthening the Capacity for Wetlands Restoration and Management and Nutrient Reduction in the Danube River Basin” on January 27-28, 2005 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This initiative was carried out within the framework of the Danube Regional Project (DRP) “Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River Basin”, and financed by the UNDP/GEF. The target groups of the seminar were local non-governmental organizations in the Danube River Basin which have implemented or are interested in wetland concepts, nutrient reduction and ecological health in the Danube River Basin. The aim of this educational event was to mobilize the potential of local NGO's in attracting the participation of local citizens and to raise the awareness of the EU WFD and its transposition into Bulgarian legislation.

The first seminar day was dedicated to the EU WFD. CEIE representatives presented the activities of the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) and public participation in decision-making to support the process of integrated water resource management. Milena Dimitrova (CEIE) gave a detailed presentation on the principles and mechanisms of the public participation process. In the afternoon, Danka Marinova presented the structure and function of the Danube River Basin Directorate and the main problems of the administrative working process. She also addressed an appeal for more active involvement from all interested parties in this process in order to achieve better results. Stanislava Boshnakova (REC) presented a new project “Improving the Access to Information and Public Participation in the Environmental Decision-making Process”, which was followed by discussion.

The second day of the event was devoted to wetlands and the national experience in wetland research and conservation. This subject has been a main DEF activity since the World Wetlands Day celebrations in February 2002. Lubomir Profirov (Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation) introduced the wetland conception and its progress in recent decades; he also presented his wetland conservation and management work relating to the

Bourgas Lakes. Gradimir Gradev (Green Balkans) highlighted the years of wetlands experience in the Maritza River Basin, the Danube River Basin and other basins in Bulgaria. Ivan Hristov presented the past and present activities of the Balkan Wildlife Society in the Dragoman Marsh. Milkana Mochurova (GWP-Bulgaria) informed the participants about the current public participation project financed by the Phare Civil Society Development Programme. The lecture was followed by a trip to Dragoman Marsh, where Ivan Hristov introduced the participants to the natural beauty and incredible variety of wildlife there.

As a result of the seminar, local Danube NGO's used their enhanced knowledge of the forms of nature conservation to initiate various lo-



CREDIT: MILENA DIMITROVA/CEIE

Dragoman Marsh near Sofia city

cal level activities. However, there are still opportunities to increase our knowledge of procedures and mechanisms for accessing information. These issues were addressed by Danube Basin Directorate representatives, who pointed out that the best way for ensuring public participation is by establishing sub-basin councils. The most important outcome of this meeting was the opportunity given to local organizations to exchange information and experience on recent and forthcoming activities in the Danube River Basin and to build new partnerships. ■

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## Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) training in Bulgaria

GWP BULGARIA TOGETHER WITH THE CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE STUDIES - SOFIA, THE BULGARIAN INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL ASSOCIATION AND SOLIDARITY WATER EUROPE - STRASBOURG are implementing the Phare project entitled “Awareness Raising and Improving the Implementation of Acquis Communautaire in Water Protection”.

The main objective of the project is to raise awareness of the Acquis Communautaire in water protection and to support the implementation and improvement of existing Bulgarian legislation in this field. The main target group is com-

posed of managers of medium and large-sized enterprises in food, textile, machine-building and metal-processing industries in the southwest, south-central and northeast regions. Other beneficiaries are environmental NGO's, representatives of local and central authorities, the local media and the general public in the target regions. Public relations policy, targeted to potential users' needs, will be developed in order to ensure adequate dissemination of results. The following main activities are planned from November 2004 to November 2005: dissemination of EU WFD and IWRM principles, training sessions, development of comparative studies,

establishment of a map of compliance and proposals for legislative amendments. The project mainly focuses on issues concerning the regulation of integrated water resource management, coordination among different institutions and organizations, coordination of rights and obligations among sectors (government, business, NGO's), effective public participation in decision-making and private sector participation in water resource management. The project is supported by the Phare Civil Society Development 2002 Program. ■

*Milkana Mochurova*  
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# GWP Slovenia focuses on water and education

The Association of the Geographic Societies of Slovenia and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning organized on 6 December 2004 interdisciplinary conference "Slovenia - Water Education Path of the Europe". Presentations were given by university professors, teachers from different levels, coordinators of optional school activities, networks of schools on environmental activities, geologists, biologists, landscape architects and others. The chairman of GWP Slovenia, Martina Zupan, gave a lecture „Slovenian and global public takes care on wa-

ter resources". The most important outcome of the conference was the establishment of networks among education practitioners. School teachers expressed a strong need for cooperation with universities and experts to improve their knowledge about environment and nature through optional school activities. A close cooperation has been agreed between network of Ecoschools and GWP Slovenia in the framework of GWP CEE Water and Education project. ■

*Martina Zupan  
GWP Slovenia*



Short stretching exercises after lunch break

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## Lithuanian Water Partnership Runs Local IWRM Education Campaign

THE LITHUANIAN WATER PARTNERSHIP (LWP) HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EU STRUCTURAL FUND FOR THE PROJECT "SAVING WATER RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS".

The awarded project is a result of fund raising activities carried out by the LWP in 2004. The overall goal of the project is to educate local citizens on the sustainable use and protection of water resources and to encourage them to participate in local decision making processes. Timely and comprehensive information about the status of water resources is an essential precondition for the involvement of the society in decision and policy making. The primary target group of the project is comprised of school children. After close consultation with the Ministry of Education, eight socially and territorially separated rural schools were selected for the project. The following activities will be organized in schools: seminars for pupils, parents and teachers on important water topics, drawing and photo competitions, publishing and dissemination of brochures highlighting the need for water resource conservation and integrated water resource management, the creation and dissemination of educational video materials on water resources and the publication of articles about the project and water resources in local newspapers. Winners of the drawing and photo competitions will be presented with awards during a seminar organized on the occasion of World Water Day 2005. In addition, clean-up campaigns on riverbanks and lakes involving local communities will be organized in four Lithuanian districts. The second target group of the project is formed by members of the Water Club. A series of seminars on the implementation of EU water legislation and opportunities for the funding of water projects will be organized. The duration of the project is 18 months, however the LWP will continue to organize similar activities for at least 5 years after the termination of the project. ■

*Bernardas Paukštyš  
Chairman of the Lithuanian  
Water Partnership*

## GWP Slovenia takes part in the Sava River participatory processes

GWP SLOVENIA HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED AT THE WORKSHOP "THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF SAVA AGREEMENT". The venue was organized by Regional Environmental Centre in Educational Centre Ig near Ljubljana on 29-30 November 2004. Aim of the workshop was capacity building for efficient participation of stakeholders in water management and planning. Participants came from various sectors including ministries, municipalities, NGOs, private sector and Slovenian Chamber of Commerce. The participants discussed how presented public participation

methods and tools could be applied in their daily work. Reliable information, trust, education, and understanding of the problem have been identified as the most important chal-



The head of Slovenian delegation in Sava commission, Mr M. Bricelj, presented the Sava

lenges of modern water planning. The participants agreed that public participation process in the Sava River basin helps to build practical experience and capacity of involved experts from different sectors of the society. ■

*Martina Zupan  
GWP Slovenia*

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## Contact our Country Water Partnerships!

IN THIS ISSUE OF WATER TALK WE WILL PRESENT WATER PARTNERSHIPS IN ANOTHER FOUR COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE – POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA.

### GWP Poland Water Partnership

Located in the Baltic Sea Basin, Poland has a mean annual water resources per capita of approximately 1,600 m<sup>3</sup>, almost three times less than the mean value for Europe. In addition, the available resources are subject to great year-to-year variability. Devastating floods and local water scarcities are frequent. Water quality management is one of the key problems, creating problems for people's livelihoods and the environment. Several river basin authorities were established in 1991. The main objectives of the Poland Water Partnership are to promote the principles of IWRM and provide a forum for bringing water stakeholders together for knowledge exchange and implementation of action programs. It comprises about 100 members representing government, water authorities, academia, non-governmental ecological organizations and various sectors of economy. The current programs deal especially with water, environment and sustainable development of rural regions, water governance improvements, and promotion of economic instruments in the area water and environmental management. Application of the EU Water Framework Directive is the focus of all activities. Actions include stakeholder meetings, baseline studies, local pilot actions, guidelines and publications, all contributing to achieving the Partnership's objectives.



Established:  
February 2001  
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### GWP Romania Water Partnership

Romania's water resources, being formed of surface waters – inland rivers, lakes and

reservoirs, the Danube River – and ground-water are relatively poor and unequally distributed in time and space. The Danube Delta, where the river flows into the Black Sea, is an ecological system unique in Europe. Its ecological value is inestimable. It covers an area of about 550,000 hectares of Romanian territory, with a hydrological network including main branches, secondary branches, channels and lakes. It contains a wide variety of species of plants, fish and birds, most of which are migratory. Because of this biodiversity the whole zone has been declared a protected area and a World Natural Heritage Site. The Global Water Partnership was first introduced into Romania in 1998 when the country became a member of GWP Central and Eastern Europe. The Romania Water Partnership is registered in the Special Register of the Court of Bucharest as an Association and is located in Bucharest.



Established:  
August 2002  
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### GWP Slovakia Water Partnership

The Slovak Republic is divided between the Danube River basin (96%) and the Vistula River basin (4%). Surface water and ground-water resources are plentiful. As in most other Central European countries, available water resources are subject to great variability and the country experiences both devastating floods and droughts. Groundwater is used as drinking water for approximately 80% of the 5.4 million inhabitants. The Global Water Partnership was first introduced into the Slovak Republic in 1998 when the country became a member of GWP Central and Eastern Europe. Since then, a number of activities have been carried out in promoting IWRM principles and building bridges between different stakeholders and sectors using water resources. The Partnership consists of members representing governmental and

non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals.



Established:  
November 2001  
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### GWP Slovenia Water Partnership

Slovenia is a diverse country with a multitude of cultures and people, enriched by its vast water resources. There is really no space for large water bodies, being a small country, but there is 7400 km of water courses, thousands of springs, waterfalls, gorges and lakes. GWP Slovenia Water Partnership was established in 2002. It is working as an independent platform for discussion, offering stakeholders a neutral ground in their dialogue. The stakeholders include governmental institutions (Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Economics), local governments, professional associations, research institutions, students, private sector, NGOs and so on. The Partnership is involved in the implementation of the Water Act requirements and EU Water Framework Directive. GWP Slovenia Water Partnership was recognized as potential partner in the process of establishing public participation in water management. The main activity is to promote IWRM at the local level, in the elementary and secondary schools through local authorities, the Biology Teachers Association and local communities. ■



Established:  
July 2002  
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# Capacity 2015

## Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

CAPACITY 2015 AS A NEW CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM WAS LAUNCHED BY UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) DURING THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. It is based on the results, successes, achievements and lessons derived from a decade of successful innovations in capacity development for sustainable development by Capacity 21 and other partners. Capacity 21 was launched at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNCED), and worked with developing countries and countries in transition to find the best ways to achieve sustainable development and meet the goals of Agenda 21. For more information please visit [www.undp.org/capacity21](http://www.undp.org/capacity21). Capacity 2015 is a global program that is aiming at enhancing local capacities to develop and implement policies and practices that will advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development at the local level. For more information on MDG please visit [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals). Capacity 2015 provides a platform for partnering and sharing experience in tackling the key cross-cutting aspects of capacity development and sustainability. Regional Capacity 2015 strategies were recently prepared and embedded under the Global Capacity 2015 program. They aim at addressing region-specific challenges and opportunities to sustainable development through tailor-made and strategic national and sub-regional capacity development, knowledge management and networking initiatives.

### Capacity 2015 Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS)

The main objective of the Capacity 2015 ECIS Regional Program is creating enabling environment for sustainable integrated local development and thus, contributing to the achievement of the MDGs. Actions oriented programmes on capacity community development, supported by Capacity 2015, in a way emphasize the implementation aspect of MDGs. Capacity 2015 interventions are implemented at three levels: regional, national and local; and in two

modalities: policy, programmes and strategies formulation and advocacy; and support to pilot projects. The Capacity 2015 in the ECIS has three main thematic areas:

- Creation of enabling political and legal national frameworks for sustainable local development;
- Practical support to sustainable development and good governance at the local level;
- Transfer of knowledge and networking.

both countries. The outcome of the project will be the formulation of two regional development strategies for Giurgiu - Russe area (aimed on tourism) and for Zimnicea - Svishtov area (aimed on ferryboat transportation). The two Strategies that will address the shared development priorities of the partner municipalities are expected to provide the framework that will facilitate the mobilization of resources for cross-border cooperation initiatives from EU funds.



CREDIT: GMP/CEE

Capacity 2015's regional office for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS) is based at UNDP Regional Centre in Bratislava, Slovakia

By beginning of 2005 Capacity 2015 in Europe and the CIS region supported projects in seven countries that focus on partnerships and meaningful alliances for the fulfilment of the MDGs. The C2015 projects were supported in Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Romania. For short description of the supported projects please visit [www.undp.org/capacity2015/europe](http://www.undp.org/capacity2015/europe).

### Capacity 2015 – Danube Cross border project in Romania and Bulgaria

The overall objective of the project "Capacity Development for Reaching the Millennium Development Goals through Fostering Cross-Border Cooperation between Bulgaria and Romania" is to strengthen and enhance operational capacities on both sides of the Danube river border in joint participatory strategic planning. In addition, it aims at promoting cross-border cooperation between Romania and Bulgaria based on the successful experience and lessons derived from the Local Agenda 21 implementation process in

Giurgiu - Russe project designs a joint tourism development strategy and a common website containing information on existing tourist sites and facilities. The objective of the initiative is to propose an integrated tourist product to Danube leisure cruise tourists. Zimnicea - Svishtov project supports the preparation of an economic and technical feasibility study for a ferryboat service with the objective of attracting private investors. ■

*Prepared by: Dafina Gercheva and Milan Chrenko, UNDP/Capacity 2015*

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# Biannual Conference – Drinking Water 2004

THE CZECH WATER CLUB GWP WAS CO-ORGANIZER OF THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE ENTITLED DRINKING WATER 2004, WHICH WAS HELD IN TABOR, THE CZECH REPUBLIC ON JUNE



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Professor Pavel Pitter is giving his excellent invited lecture on recent developments in aquatic chemistry 7-10, 2004. The main aim of this conference series is to search for interaction between the watershed, water sources (e.g. reservoirs), water treatment and the water distribution system. This means that the conference covers the entire system from the watershed to the consumers' tap. This is a reflection and implementation of IWRM principles being put into practice. The

conference was attended by 231 participants. A total of 75 papers were presented by speakers primarily from the Czech Republic and Slovakia; one speaker was from the U.S. and one was from the UK. The sessions were devoted to conceptual questions of drinking water supply, watershed protection and protection zones, reservoir limnology and water quality, ground water quality, drinking water treatment and technology, drinking water quality and changes in drinking water quality in the distribution system. The proceedings contained 430 pages. The conference program also included five lectures given by invited speakers, who were highly qualified experts in the field. The invited speakers gave the following papers:

- Developments in Aquatic Chemistry and Analysis (Prof. P. Pitter)
- Disinfection of Drinking Water Disinfection By-products (Prof. V. Janda)
- Sludge Treatment and the Use of Water Treatment Sludge in Agriculture (Dr. L. Benešová)
- New Trends in Drinking Water Hygiene (Dr. F. Kožíšek)
- Drinking Water Reservoirs – Their Assessment and Management (Dr. J. Duras)

The conference program offered also panel discussions on the following four hot topics of water supply:

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- cyanobacterial toxins (convener Assoc. Prof. B. Maršálek)
- new trends in drinking water filtration (convener Assoc. Prof. P. Dolejš)
- use of chlorine dioxide and disinfection by-product formation (convener Dr. V. Mergl)
- education in the drinking water sector (conveners Prof. J. Wanner and Assoc. Prof. J. Hlavác)

All of the panel discussions were open and lively and the topics were discussed in depth. They were highly appreciated by the participants and highlighted what the water field clearly requires – interaction between the research, consulting, practice, regulatory and managerial spheres. For the first time, the Czech Water Club GWP awarded a prize for the best young speaker's presentation. The jury included the entire scientific committee of the conference and the winner was Dr. Petra Nováková, who gave an excellent presentation of her paper on water quality and protection zones of the Vranov nad Dyjí Reservoir, which is used as a raw water source for the drinking water supply of the Třebíč region of South Moravia. One of the prizes consisted of free admission to the next conference, which will be organized in 2006. ■



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Lively discussions occurred during conference sessions (Dr. Pavel Hucko of the Water Research Institute in Bratislava chairing the session, and from the left Dr. Frantisek Kožíšek, Ing. Zuzana Bratská and Dr. Jaroslav Mega)



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Winner of the GWP Young Speakers Competition giving her paper - Dr. Petra Nováková of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno