

1st NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE in Bulgaria

1. General Data

<u>Country:</u>	Bulgaria
<u>Organizer:</u>	GWP-Bulgaria
<u>Date & Place:</u>	3 th April 2014, Sofia, National House of Science and Engineering
<u>Participants:</u> (name & institution & email)	41 participants Names and institutions are in the attached list of participants
<u>Attachments:</u> (attendance list, photos, etc.)	attendance list, photos, 2 presentations, financial report

2. Agenda

Objective:

- To identify key stakeholders and gather together experts from the different institutions dealing with drought issues;
- To disseminate general information about objectives of the IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe;
- To provide detail information on IDMP firsts activities (Act.1.2 and Act. 5.2);
- To gain all kind of information relating to drought available in the individual institutions, stakeholders (e.g. data on drought impacts, projects, studies);
- To open the discussion (national dialogue) about the drought indicators and content of drought guidelines as a result of IDMP.

Agenda – presentations:

- Opening the seminar - Mr. Vladimir Stratiev - moderator (former Bulgarian water director in EC 2010-2012)
- Greetings on behalf of Deputy minister of environment and water Mr. Atanas Kostadinov (Boriana Kabzimalska – Ministry of Environment and Water)
- Presentations:
 - Dr. Galia Bardarska: Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe – objectives, activities, first results
 - prof. Vesselin Alexandrov: Climate change scenarios
 - Discussion, conclusions

Main points of discussion:

- Final Report of Activity 1.2 (drought indicators) and Milestones 1-2 of Activity 5.2
- Identification of local experts, working on drought problems
- Identification of the problems for implementation of drought measures
- Availability of the drought information system

3. Report

The dialogue has started with discussion of the Final Report of Activity 1.2 “Review of the current status of the implementation of Drought management plans and measures within RBMP according to WFD”. The data about Bulgaria have been confirmed. The main remark was that the implementation of drought measures depends on financial and political support. Many of drought measures in 2001 Drought Programme and in RBMPs 2009-2015 haven't been implemented yet for these reasons.

Representatives of different institutions have difficulties with access to drought data because there is not a national drought information system.

More time was spent on discussion of drought monitored indicators and drought impact indicators. Main remark was that drought indexes are missing. Also, the list of indicators does not cover all indicators which are essential for drought management. Example, wind velocity is very important factor about evapotranspiration. The ecologists insisted that also bird migration indicator should be one of the drought impact indicators.

All participants agreed that agriculture activities in IDMP are very important for Bulgaria also. Prof. Zornitsa Popova from Institute of Soil Science »Nikola Poushkarov«, Sofia, disseminated the summary of the results from the drought project «Drought Management Center for Southeastern Europe (DMCSEE)» in which Bulgaria was actively involved. She explained that the Bulgarian experiences in simulation models on risk assessment of drought in agriculture and irrigation management received regional approval.

4. Conclusions

Outcome of the public consultation:

- The participants welcomed an initiative of GWP CEE focused on drought, activities included into the IDMP CEE and intention to solve this problem in cooperation with the Central and Eastern Europe countries.
- The representatives of the Soil Science Institute “Nikola Poushkarov” (prof. Zornitsa Popova et al.) expressed their willingness to join the agricultural activities of IDMP CEE. The experience of the book »Risk assessment of drought in agriculture and irrigation management through simulation models. Z. Popova (editor). Sofia, 2012, 242 p.« could be useful for agricultural activities of IDMP CEE.
- All participants are interested in Guidelines for development of the Drought Management Plan. The Black Sea Basin Directorate will use it in RBMP 2016-2021.
- Following weaknesses of the drought management planning process have been identified: insufficient political will and financial resources to solve the drought problems, lack of national drought information system, lack of knowledge on integrated drought risk management, not sufficient public participation and stakeholders interests in the planning process during the

production of RBMPs and DMP.

Proposals for further steps:

- To send a letter to Ministry of Environment and Water asking them to develop the drought indicators/indexes under the frame of desertification program.
- To arrange the next dialogue when the draft of the Guidelines for development of the Drought Management Plan is ready.



Greetings on behalf of Deputy Minister of Environment and Water Mr. Atanas Kostadinov



**Prof. Vesselin Alexandrov –
PPT on climate change scenarios**



Mr. Vlado Stratiev-moderator



Participants at drought dialogue



Prof. Ivan Raev about Act. 5.2 of IDMP



Prof. Vesselin Alexandrov about Act. 5.2 of IDMP



**Dr. Anna Bratoeva-National Institute for
Meteorology and Hydrology**



Prof. Christo Christov – Water Affairs Union

First National Dialogue on IDMP CEE, National house of science and engineering, Sofia, April 3, 2014

www.gwpcee.org; www.droughtmanagement.info

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