

Integrated Drought Management in Central and Eastern Europe

MONTHLY REPORT

(November & December 2013)

Short summary of the programme activities

- IDMP CEE has participated in three international events:
 - **2nd Pan-EU Drought Dialogue Forum** (6 November, 2013)
 - **EUROPE-INBO 2013**: 11th European conference on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation (13-16 November 2013)
 - **ICPDR 16th Ordinary Meeting** (10-11 December 2013) in Vienna, Austria
- Continuation of the “regional activities”; partners from all 10 countries were completing the Questionnaire which will be the main input for the “Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to EU WFD” (act. 1.2).
- 6 Country Water Partnerships organized their first National Consultation Dialogues. They identified and invited national key partners dealing with or being responsible for drought management issues. Main topics discussed at first National consultation dialogues were: current status of drought management and implementation of mitigation measures in the country, identifying the main constraints connected with the public participation and data availability, elements (components) of the drought management system which require a special attention in the guideline and the main weaknesses in preparation of Drought Management Plans.
- 4 capacity building trainings and/or workshops within demonstration projects have been organized in November and December 2013.
- IDMP CEE administration issues and communication strategy were discussed between Regional Secretariat staff and Programme Manager at the first coordination meeting in Graz on 26-28 November 2013. The main focus was on the preparation of different promotional materials and planning the IDMP CEE communication strategy, as well as clarifying some administrative issues.

Progress within IDMP CEE activities

Work package 1	Regional and Transboundary Cooperation
Activity	Act. 1.1: Cooperation with international basin commissions and regional organizations
Responsible	RWP Coordinator, IDMP CEE Programme Manager
<p>On 6 November Programme Manager attended 2nd Pan-EU Drought Dialogue Forum which was held in Brussels. The objective of the Drought Dialogue Forum is to create an exchange platform among policy-makers, stakeholders and the scientific community on science-policy interactions. The Forum is an interactive drought dialogue that aims at the reduction of future Europe's vulnerability and risk to drought by using results provided by the research community. This forum and the project (DROUGHT-R&SPI) very much connect with the objectives of IDMP CEE, i.e. addressing policy level, filling gaps in Water Framework Directive implementation to support process of preparation of the drought management plans within the 2nd cycle of river basin management planning and process of preparation of drought management policies, etc. For this reason, Programme Manager has participated as an observer in order to get information how "western-European" countries are tackling drought management issues.</p> <p>Liviu Nicolae Popescu (GWP Romania Chair) and Richard Müller (Regional Coordinator) participated in EUROPE-INBO 2013: <u>11th European conference on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation 13-16 November 2013</u>. Liviu Nicolae Popescu participated in Workshop on Monitoring held back-to-back conference on 13 November 2013. The goal of the workshop was to compare practices and practical experiences of monitoring, and to promote the exchange of questions and solutions. The main theme was "From fulfilling the WFD requirements to actual implementation and uses of results of monitoring".</p> <p>EURO-INBO 2013 was organized around five roundtables dealing with the updated issues of the Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, the Implementation of the EU Flood Directive, strategies to face scarcity and droughts and in general the measures to be introduced for adaptation of water resources management to the effect of the climate changes and Science - Policy Interface. Richard Müller had a presentation of Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe within Roundtable 1.</p> <p>Important for IDMP CEE was a presentation by Natacha Amorsi from Office International des'Eau about a new project "Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) Initiative", launched by DG Environment. It aims at integration of natural water retention measures in river basin management. By October 2014, this initiative will provide a web based knowledge on NWRM embedded into four regional networks - Danube, Mediterranean, Northern Europe and Western Europe. Regional networks plan to organize workshops in January and May 2014. This is an opportunity for IDMP CEE demonstration project on small water retention to participate and establish links.</p>	

Martina Zupan (GWP CEE Chair) and Richard Müller (Regional Coordinator) participated in the **16th Ordinary Meeting of International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)** on 10-11 December 2013 in Vienna, Austria. IDMP CEE was presented during a contribution in plenary on 11 December 2013. Contacts were made with REC with regard to Natural Water Retention Measures Project and participation in upcoming regional workshops in winter and spring 2014. In order to make a link between IDMP CEE and ICPDR, it would be advisable to nominate IDMP CEE Guideline Activity Leader as an observer to ICPDR River Basin Management Expert Group.

Activity	Act. 1.2: Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to EU WFD
Activity Leader	Elena Fatulova GWP Slovakia elena.fatulova@gmail.com
Partners	All 10 countries

All countries involved in the activity have been working on completion of the Questionnaire distributed on 30 October 2013. Most of them discussed the questionnaire at the National Consultation Dialogues which were held in December 2013. On the basis of the completed questionnaires Activity leader will prepare joint report which will summarize assessment of the drought relevance within the region and identify the gaps in the national drought management strategies in comparison to EU strategy.

Activity	Act. 1.3: Drought information exchange Platform
Activity Leader	Gregor Gregorič Slovenian Environmental Agency /DMCSEE Gregor.Gregoric@gov.si
Partners	All 10 countries

External expert of the DMCSEE (Drought Management Centre for South East Europe) was preparing *Implementation guide on Drought information exchange platform*. The Guide is divided into three parts:

- overview of existing platforms,
- presentation of the proposed IDMP CEE platform (European Drought Observatory - EDO) with reasons for selection,
- description of Geographical information systems and web mapping.

Final version of this manual will be prepared with a little bit of a delay – till mid-January 2014.

Detailed procedure for integration of data into proposed already existing platform with examples will be available in the final version of the Implementation guide in April 2014. After that a technical workshop will be organized for all partners with the purpose to show them how to integrate national data into the platform.

Work package 2	National planning processes
Activity	Act. 2.1: Guidelines for Drought Management Plan (WP2)
Activity Leader	Elena Fatulova GWP Slovakia elena.fatulova@gmail.com
Partners	All 10 countries
<p>The work connected with the technical specifications of the agreements with the key partners of the Slovak case study and contribution from the involved countries have been finalised. The expert work on the Slovak case study has been launched. The involved partners SHMU and VUPOP carried out preliminary assessment of the climatic, hydrologic and agricultural drought indicators for the years 2011-2012 (the last drought episode in Slovakia). The results were presented and discussed during the National Consultation Dialogue held on November 26, 2013 with the experts from professional institutions. The draft of WMO Guidelines for National Drought Management Policies and Preparedness Plans has been commented. The cooperation on development of the Guidelines with the working group established for the demonstration project 5.4 Drought Risk Management scheme has been started during the joint meeting held on 28-29 November 2013 in Wroclaw.</p>	
Activity	Act. 2.2: National Consultation dialogues (WP2)
Activity Leader	Elena Fatulova GWP Slovakia elena.fatulova@gmail.com
Partners	All 10 Country Water Partnerships
<p>During November and December 2013 the following six Country Water Partnerships organised the first national workshops with the aim to open the national dialogue on drought issues: Slovakia (26 November), Czech Republic (3 December), Hungary (3 December) Ukraine (10 December), Moldova (12 December), Lithuania (19 December). The main objective of these actions was to assemble experts from the different institutions dealing with drought and open the expert discussion on this topic. All GWPs elaborated reports from their National dialogues containing detail information concerning the participants, workshop agenda and adopted conclusions. In each country the participants were informed about the on-going and future activities within IDMP. The main item of the programme was discussion on the current drought situation in the country in connection with the questions included in the questionnaire. In conclusions the next steps for continuation of the national dialogue were outlined. Also some useful ideas and recommendations for the development of the Guidelines were provided (e.g. terminology, legislation, risk assessment).</p> <p>Some countries (Slovenia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania) were not able to organize NCDs this year because they could not get together key stakeholders in such a short time. They all already set the dates for the next year and also prepare a programme, venue, etc.</p>	

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Work package 5 Demonstration Projects	
Activity	Act. 5.1: Drought management by agricultural practices and measures-increasing soil water holding capacity (WP5)
Activity Leader	Pavol Bielek Slovak University of Agriculture pavol.bielek@gmail.com
Partners	Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation (Czech Republic) Institute of Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland) Biotechnical Faculty (Slovenia)
<p>Partners within this demonstration project are testing several approaches to agricultural practices which can improve the conditions for soil water holding capacity (traditional tillage, mouldboard ploughing, no-till farming, subsoiling, fertilizing (organic fertilizers) and combinations of them.</p> <p>They have finished their second milestone “Theoretical review of problems and first results of experiments” where all have described their field experiments, findings so far and future plans. Field experiments in all four countries started at the beginning of the Summer 2013 and they will continue through the whole next year.</p> <p>Partners have met for the first time and discuss in detail their plans at the workshop which was held in Prague, from 4-5 December. First part of the workshop was focusing on their work done so far (<i>inventory of soil ability for identification of water retention capacity, identification of pilot areas in Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia where compacted soils are present, etc.</i>). In the second part each partner presented different techniques/principals which can be used in farming practices and are being tested with their field experiments.</p>	
Activity	Act. 5.2: Assessment of drought impact on forest ecosystems (WP5)
Activity Leader	Galia Bardarska GWP Bulgaria bardarska@dir.bg
Partners	Vilnius university; Dept. of Hydrology & Climatology (Lithuania) Institute of Forestry; Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (Lithuania) Slovenian Forestry Institute, Department for forest ecology (Slovenia) National Scientific Centre for Global Changes (Bulgaria) Forest Research Institute (Bulgaria) Ukrainian Research Institute of Forest and Forest Melioration (Ukraine)
<p>All partners have met on their first training on 14-15 November, which was held in Ljubljana. Focus of the training was on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative analysis of different methodologies about climate change scenarios in 2050 (realistic) and 2100 (optimistic, realistic and pessimistic) and approval of more suitable methodology for Activity 5.2 • Discussion of different methods for determination of vulnerability zones of forests ecosystems in 2050 (realistic scenario) and 2100 (optimistic, realistic and pessimistic scenario) - De Marton, Holdridge etc., and approval for more suitable method for Activity 5.2 • Data availability and experience for elaboration of forests maps for current climate (1961-1990), 	

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realistic scenario in 2050 and optimistic, realistic and pessimistic scenarios in 2100 in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia and pilot area in Ukraine.

After the training they have finalized their first Output Establishment of methodology for assessment of drought impact on forest ecosystems (they chose two different years for testing – 2050 and 2100).

Activity **Act. 5.3:** Natural small water retention measures (WP5)

Activity Leader **Tomasz Okruszko**

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Partners

University of Debrecen (Hungary)

HYCOMP (Slovakia)

Limnos Ltd (Slovenia)

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Activity **Act. 5.4:** Drought Risk Management Scheme: a decision support system (WP5)

Activity Leader **Tamara Tokarczyk**

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Partners

Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (Poland)

Vilnius University, Department of Hydrology and Climatology (Lithuania)

National Meteorological Administration (Romania)

Partners were finalizing their first output “Measures for the assessment of susceptibility and vulnerability to drought”. They have prepared inventory of drought measures (indicators) that are applied to evaluate susceptibility to drought, to evaluate drought impacts and vulnerability to drought in countries involved into this activity. On one hand this inventory covers the measures for drought assessment that are deployed in the national drought monitoring and early warning systems as well identification of the end-users at national level and their needs for the information on drought. On the other hand it covers the methodology to characterize drought impacts and vulnerability assessment along with the revision of the most vulnerable national sectors to drought and the stakeholders identification.

Partners in Poland started with their case study on Odra river. They have prepared the report which summarizes the objectives for the drought risk management at regional level for the operational applications. They have reviewed the current status in the Odra River basin and formulated the recommendations to build integrated drought risk management scheme.

On 27-30 November activity working group met in Wroclaw for the workshop within this activity. The main objective was to agree on the main definitions and terminology used in the activity and find connections with the process of preparation of the Guidelines for Drought Management Plans (act. 2.1). During the workshop they have focused on the current implementation of their activity and discussed further steps.

Activity	Act. 5.5: Policy oriented study on remote sensing agricultural drought monitoring methods (WP5)
Activity Leader	János Tamás University of Debrecen (Hungary) tamas@agr.unideb.hu
Partners	Institute of Hydrology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia) University of Oradea (Romania)
<p>Partners within this activity have been working for the last few months on their Output 1 - Green and brown water resources on watersheds. They have prepared an analysis report on the role of soil and crop water content status in water balance within different agricultural, land use and water management practices at rain fed and irrigated systems for the most important crops and fruit (wheat, corn and apple).</p> <p>All three partners have met in Szarvas on 22-23 November and organized training for farmers and other stakeholders in order to raise the awareness of the importance of drought monitoring and to gather drought mitigation systems.</p> <p>Part of the meeting was also round table where different experts together with stakeholders discussed drought mitigation. There was also opportunity for stakeholders and participants to get acquainted by the role of geoinformatics and software systems for more effective mitigation of drought.</p>	
Activity	Act. 5.6 Upgrading agricultural drought monitoring and forecasting: the case of Ukraine and Moldova (WP5)
Activity Leader	Tatiana Adamenko HydroMet Centre of Ukraine (Ukraine) adamenko@meteo.gov.ua Ecaterina Kuharuk Soil Research Institute (Moldova) ecostrategii@yahoo.com
Partners	State Agency of Water Resources (Ukraine) GWP Ukraine GWP Moldova
<p>Partners within this activity were working on completing their second milestone report “Analysis of long term monitoring data on water holding capacity in different soil layers of typical field in Ukraine and Moldova”. This is the basis for their first two outputs with which they want to upgrade climate-zoning of Ukraine territory and Dniester River Basin territory and prepare agricultural drought risk maps as a basis for drought management in these territories.</p>	

Work Package 6	Capacity Development
Activity	Act. 6.1 Workshops
Preparations for the 2 nd IDMP CEE workshop which will be held on 8-9 April 2014 in Ljubljana has started.	
Activity	Act. 6.2 Capacity building trainings
In November and December 2013 several capacity building trainings and/or workshop within	

demonstration projects were organized. More about each training / workshop can be found under the description of each demonstration project:

- Training for partners in act. 5.2 in Ljubljana, 14-15 November, 2013: *Climate change scenarios, vulnerability zones of forest ecosystems and forest maps*
- Workshop of demonstration project 5.5 in Szarvas, 22-23 November, 2013: *Introduction of remote sensing application for planning drought management plan*
- Workshop of demonstration project 5.4 in Wroclaw, 29 November, 2013: *Drought Risk Management Scheme: a decision support system*
- Workshop of demonstration project 5.1 in Prague, 4-5 December, 2013: *Drought management by agricultural activities*

Work Package 7 Knowledge and awareness

Activity Act. 7.1: Good practice Compendium

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Activity Act. 7.2: Rising awareness (dissemination activities)

On 26-28 November Regional Secretariat staff and Programme Manager met at the 1st coordination meeting in Graz, Austria. The main focus was on the preparation of different promotional materials and actions:

- 1st IDMP CEE informational leaflet was prepared and will be published after the New Year.
- Structure of the special web page within GWP CEE web page was prepared. Web page will officially go online after the New Year.
- Other promotional activities which will take place next year are: promotional video, small video/interviews of the demonstration projects, workshop for journalists, photo competition, etc.

Communication officer will prepare "IDMP CEE Communication Strategy" with more detail plan for all communication activities within IDMP CEE.

Work Package 8 Governance and Fundraising

Activity Act. 8.1: Improving fundraising capacity of CWP and RWP

Contracting to programme partners was completed as scheduled in 2013. Total 59 agreements were prepared in 2013 covering programme period until March 2015. IDMP CEE Programme Manager and Regional Secretariat liaised with Country Water Partnerships to coordinate financial reporting of national dialogues, demonstration project workshops and audit in 2013.

IDMP CEE in media

➤ ***News on GWP CEE web site***

➤ ***News in other media***

- [News about National Consultation Dialogue in Ukraine](#)
- [Short clip](#) on Körös TV News (from 7:04 – 9:50) about the training in Szarvas; 22-23 November 2013

Coming events

- National Consultation Dialogue in Poland – 9 January 2014
- Representative of Small retention demonstration project will present IDMP CEE at the 1st Danube Region Workshop which will take place on 28-29 January 2014 in Szentendre, Hungary
- Programme Manager will participate in the visit of GWPO at GWP CEE Regional Secretariat in Bratislava on 3-7 February 2014 in Bratislava
- National Consultation Dialogue in Slovenia – 6 February 2014