Integrated Drought Management in Central and Eastern Europe

MONKEY... MONTHLY REPORT

(September 2013)

1. Activities or Outputs:

1.1. General information

- In September we were still finalizing the rest of the agreements with our experts.
- After the Regional Days in Stockholm we have finalized our programme proposal. The only thing that was missing was table of WCP Indicators which is now prepared and it is waiting for approval.
- Together with the Regional Secretariat we were preparing programme and arranging logistical issues for participants at the 1st IDMP workshop which will be held in Slovakia (more info below in "Coming Events").
- We have officially established IDMP CEE Peer Review Group with following members: Henny van Lanen (European Drought Centre, Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management Group, Wageningen University), Janusz Kindler (Warsaw University of Technology), Sandor Szalai (Szent István University) and Robert Stefanski (World Meteorological Organization Agricultural Meteorology Programme).
- Activity Working Groups within each Demonstration projects have continue with the work on their first milestones.

1.2. Progress within IDMP CEE activities

- *Act. 1.2: Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to EU WFD*

Key partners (one from each country who will be responsible for filling out the questionnaire) were selected with the help of CWPs. Activity leader started developing a draft of questionnaire reviewing the current status of development of the Drought Management Plans in the context of WFD in CEE region. Information needed for assessment will be collected from all 10 countries till the end of this year.

- *Act. 1.3: Drought information exchange Platform*

Activity leader started with the preparation of the Implementation guide on Drought information exchange platform which will provide partners with information on IT platform , its use and technical details (introduction and overview of existing platforms, basic properties of proposed IDMP CEE platform, technical specifications for contributors). Further information regarding this activity will be explained at the IDMP CEE 1st workshop.

- *Act. 2.1 & 2.2: Guideline for Drought Management Plan & National Consultation dialogues*

Detail plan for implementation of both activities was further developed with Activity Leader, Programme Manager and Regional Coordinator. First IDMP CEE workshop will devote a lot of time to these two activities to discussed with key partners what are their expectations from the guidelines, what they need, how to organize national and mutual communication, etc.

- *Act. 5.1: Drought management by agricultural practices and measures-increasing soil water holding capacity*

They have finished with their first milestone which was "Set up of experiments & Starts of the theoretical study" in all four involved countries (Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia). This is a basis for continuation on their demonstration of concrete measures which will increase soil water holding capacity.

- *Act. 5.2: Assessment of drought impact on forest ecosystems*

Activity leader Galia Bardarska prepared the draft format of the 1st milestone in July, which has been disseminated to the experts from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovenia and Ukraine. The first part of the 1st milestone is an overview of current forest policy at UN, EU and national level. Partners from four GWP CEE countries were collecting existing forest data in their countries in September. Activity leader was collecting all these data into a joint report which will be prepared till the middle of October.

- *Act. 5.3: Natural small water retention measures*

They are finalizing their first milestone – collect countries practical and legal experiences in small water retention measures. Information will be collected on a basis of a template (table) prepared by Activity Leader. Activity Working Group is also planning to meet in Warsaw in the end of October to summarize the experiences and make future planning.

- *Act. 5.4: Drought Risk Management Scheme: a decision support system*

They have started working on their first milestones – identification of the national measures for drought susceptibility and drought vulnerability assessments.

- *Act. 5.5: Policy oriented study on remote sensing agricultural drought monitoring methods*

Activity working group have had discussions, meetings and field excursions in the last three months with the purpose to understand activity and project goals, to specify available data sources, to check data quality, etc. In September they have started with data integration for preparation of their first output – an analysis on the role of soil and crop water content status in waterbalance within different agriculture, landuse and water management practices at rain fed and irrigated systems for the most important crops and fruit (wheat, corn and apple).

- *Act. 5.6 Upgrading agricultural drought monitoring and forecasting: the case of Ukraine and Moldova*

Both countries together were finalizing their first milestone. They were collecting meteorological data and analysis which will be the basis for preparation of upgraded climate-zoning of Dniester river

basin (joint Moldova-Ukraine basin) in the context of increased drought risk caused by climate change (1st Output).

2. Outcomes

3. News

4. Coming events

First IDMP CEE workshop will take place (after the CEE Council meeting) in Hodrusa Hamre, Slovakia from 15–16 October 2013. 1st IDMP workshop will be more like a "project meeting" where focus will be:

- on presentation of each activity (presentation of the activity working groups, plan, etc.),
- presentation of the plan and discussion on activities where all 10 countries will participate (Review of the current status, Guidelines, Platform, etc.),
- discussion on other open issues (capacity building trainings, etc.).

5. Photos