

WP1: Regional and Transboundary Cooperation

Activity 1.1 – Cooperation with international river basin commissions (Danube, Odra, Elbe, Sava) and regional organizations

The programme aims to support regional and transboundary organizations, including international river basin commissions, to advance regional cooperation, integrated drought management and climate change adaptation in transboundary waters, and thereby enhance regional and economic development.

This activity aims to have continuous information and knowledge exchange with regional and international organizations in order to better support water resource management. Targeted organizations include the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPER) and the International Commission for the Protection of Odra River (ICPOR). Each of these international river basin commissions has already committed to implement the EU Water Framework Directive and govern the transboundary aspects of managing water resources. Accordingly, each commission must prepare a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) which must also include a Drought Management Plan for those countries experiencing problems with drought. In addition, cooperation with the following regional organizations will be enhanced: Drought Management Center for Southeastern Europe (DMCSSE), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), European Drought Observatory (EDO), European Drought Center (EDC), UNESCO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Activity 1.2 - Review of the current status of the implementation of Drought Management Plans (DMP) and measures within River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD)

This activity aims to analyze the current status of the implementation of drought management plans/measures within River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) according to the EU Water Framework Directive.

A review of the current status of the development and implementation of drought management plans and/or measures within RBMPs (adopted in December 2009) will be made. For Ukraine and Moldova (non-EU Member States), the review will focus on their National Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs). This assessment will be in line with the following: (1) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: *Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union (COM (2007)414 final, 18 July 2007)*; (2) *Drought Management Plan Report Including Agricultural, Drought Indicators and Climate Change* – the guideline developed by the Water Scarcity and Droughts Expert Network within the CIS (Common Implementation Strategy for WFD); and (3) the *EU Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources* (2012). The following information will be collected from each of the 10 countries involved:

- Situation analysis:
 - Information about the current status of Drought Management Plans within RBMPs or National Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) in each country;

- Information about the current status of drought management planning and measures adopted according to, or under, other national plans (such as agricultural development, or rural/spatial development plans);
- Information about current status in implementing obligations as stipulated in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to which all 10 countries are signatory.
 - Institutional analysis:
 - Identification of regional and national entities that are, or should be, involved in drought management. These key stakeholders will also be the target groups for capacity building activities (trainings and workshops);
 - Analysis of management measures/good practices:
 - Review of planned and already implemented measures for preventing and mitigating drought effects in each country. Some of the measures will also be implemented in Activities 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 (Demonstration Projects).

Activity 1.3 – Drought information exchange platform

This activity will review existing platforms and make a proposal for the integration of IDMP CEE products and data into one of them, in order to design a common concept of capacity development and knowledge transfer.

A drought management platform is being considered within the IDM CEE project. Such a platform is an information architecture and an intelligent infrastructure that enables the exchange of data that is relevant for drought analysis, as well as for continuous automated sensing, monitoring, and decision support for drought risk management operations. The platform would also be the first step toward developing an early warning system for drought. Existing and available infrastructure in the broader region will be reviewed as potential platforms for integrating project results, thereby avoiding the need to create a new platform. To begin with, these include the European Drought Observatory (EDO), developed by the Joint Research Centre of the EC, and the Drought Management Centre for South Eastern Europe (DMCSEE). All countries that participate in the IDMP CEE project are already involved in at least one of these two platforms. In addition, an analysis will be conducted to explore the possibility of establishing a new platform under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

An Implementation Guide will define the most feasible platforms and build on success stories (such as the Helpdesk of the WMO Associated Programme on Flood Management). The Guide will also identify links between the drought management platform and existing databases of international organizations (e.g. UNECE, international river basin commissions). The emphasis will be placed on the exchange of data relevant for drought detection and monitoring. In agreement with participating institutions, a set of indicators (both universal and national) will be compiled that can be used for drought assessment.