

Agenda for the Seventeenth Meeting of the
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)
 Tehran, Iran
 17 October 2011: 09.00-12:30 hours

Year of Establishment: 1995

Mandate: The mission of ERWG is to promote awareness about critical ICID relevant water issues at all levels in Europe and to pay special attention to the environmentally sustainable water management in Europe.

Members: (1) Vice President Dr. Laszlo Hayde, Chairman (2010) (Hungary, 2005); (2) Vice President Hon. Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko, Vice-Chairman (2005) (Ukraine, 1999); (3) Dr. Irina Bondarik, Secretary for Russian Speaking Countries (Russia, 2010); (4) VPH Dr.- Ing. Eiko Luebbe (Germany, 2002); (5) Vice President Hon. Prof. Dr. Brane Maticic (Slovenia, 1996); (6) Dr. Michele Angelo Cuccaro (Italy, 1996); (7) Prof. Dr. Ion Nicolaesco (Romania, 1996); (8) Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra (Portugal, 1996); (9) Mr. Nicos Tsiourtis (Cyprus, 1996); (10) Prof. Dr. Svatopluk Matula (Czech Rep., 1997); (11) Dr. Antanas Maziliauskas (Lithuania, 1997); (12) Dipl.-Ing. Frederick M. Cate (Austria, 1998); (13) Vice President Hon. Dr. Ricardo Segura (Spain, 1999); (14) Mr. Jaakko Sierla (Finland, 2001); (15) Dr. Davor Romic (Croatia, 2002); (16) Mr. Mati Tonismae (Estonia, 2002); (17) Prof. Dr. A. Poulouvassilis (Greece, 2003); (18) Dr. John Martin (Ireland, 2003); (19) Mr. Peter Pantelic (Serbia, 2003); (20) Mr. Pol Hakstege (The Netherlands, 2007); (21) Dr. Irina G. Pankova (Russia, 2007); (22) Mr. Claude Alain Vullier (Switzerland, 2007); (23) Dr. Sami Bouarfa (France 2010); and (24) Secretary General, ICID.

Member Honoraire: President Honoraire Peter Lee (UK).

Observer: (i) Mr. Mohammed Binbilidia (IME, France); Prof. Dr. Joachim Quast (Germany).

Ex-Officio Members: (i) VPH Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine), Chairman, ERWG Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management; (ii) VPH Dr. G.G. Gulyuk (Russia), Chairman, ERWG Work Team on Drainage; (iii) Chairman ERWG Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (to be appointed)

Website: <<http://www.erwg.icidonline.org>>.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 16th and the Interim meetings of the Working Group

The minutes of the 16th meeting of the Working Group held on 12 October 2010 at Yogyakarta (Indonesia) will be confirmed.

The minutes of the Interim Meeting of the Working Group held on 17 May 2011 at Groningen (The Netherlands) will be confirmed.

Item 2 : Review of membership of the Working Group

The ICID Central Office requested (26 May 2011) the British National Committee of ICID (ICID.UK) to send a fresh nomination of a professional for the membership of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) for consideration. Response is awaited. However, PH Peter S. Lee has actively and devotedly participated in the activities of ERWG in the last several meetings, as Member Honoraire.

The ICID Central Office requested (26 May 2011) the French National Committee of ICID (AFEID) to send a nomination. The French National Committee temporarily nominated Dr. Sami Bouarfa as a member of the WG until a final decision of the General Assembly of AFEID is announced. Response is awaited.

Prof. Joachim Quast (Germany) vide his e-mail of 8 May 2011 has informed that he will not be attending the Tehran meetings due to unclear funding.

The National Committees of Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland and Slovak Republic have become inactive in the past. The Central Office is in contact (25 July 2011) with these National Committees for their reactivation. The Central Office has also invited (25 July 2011) Albania, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Moldova, for ICID membership. VP

Laszlo Hayde was in negotiation with Bulgaria and recently contacted Macedonia for their return to ICID. Responses are awaited.

2.1 Election of New Secretary

VPH Dr. Eiko Lübbe (Germany) has been the Chairman of the ERWG since 2002 and during the 16th meeting of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) held on 12 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia he stepped down from the duties of Chairmanship.

Since VP Laszlo Hayde had been elected as the Chairman of the ERWG during the 16th meeting of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) held on 12 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and since he was the previous Secretary of the ERWG since 2005, new Secretary has to be elected as well. Dr. Irina Bondarik has been elected also during the 16th meeting of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) held on 12 October 2010 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as a second Secretary of the WG, to take care of the Russian speaking countries. Since a Working Group normally has only one Secretary, it is proposed to include Dr. Bondarik as an Observer and assist the WG with Russian speaking countries. This would also comply with 52nd IEC (2001) decision of "*not more than one membership from one country should normally be maintained*".

Following the discussions in Yogyakarta, Central Office invited (26 May 2011) proposals / expression of interest from the representatives of the National Committees in the European Regional Working Group. The Finnish National Committee has nominated for this position Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland) in their letter dated on 28 June, 2011. He has been present in the Interim Meeting where he has introduced himself, however the present 17th meeting of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) in Tehran, Iran has to officially approve his nomination. CV of Mr. Olli-Matti Verta will be made available during the meeting for consideration.

Before the formal approval of the nomination, the Chairman will inform the members on the January-February, 2011 e-mail exchange between him and the Central Office on the rules and regulations.

Item 3 : Links with regional and trans-national organizations for co-operation

At Yogyakarta, the Chairman apprised the members on new developments / cooperation, especially with regard to European Water Association (EWA), the International Commission for Protection of the Rivers Rhine, Danube, and Odra. The ERWG network includes 7 National Water Management Associations (**Annex 1**).

The ongoing contacts have been renewed with the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC). ICID-UNU co-operation commenced in 2009 with an activity in Tehran – organized by UNU with cooperation from IRNCID and would continue.

A side event by FAO/UNW-DPC /ICID during 8-9 October 2010 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia was organized under the Framework of Cooperation between FAO / UNW-DPC / ICID as a follow-up of the MoU. The goal of this event was to provide an overview of the most strategic applications of 'Aqua Crop' model of FAO in different agro-climate conditions. More information can be accessed at <www.unwater.unu.edu>.

Item 4 : Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment

At Yogyakarta, it was agreed that the ICID-ERWG, Central and Eastern Europe Global Water Partnership (CEE-GWP) and World Wide Fund and Nature (WWF) will continue to co-operate with each other and share invitations for conferences organized by ICID like European Regional Conferences and International Drainage Workshops.

ERWG members continued the dialogue on the topic on WFD implementation through tools of the Common Agriculture Policy in the year 2007-2013. The new Directives can be accessed at the following website:

<<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/>>

The Central Office is in contact (26 May 2011) with Chairman and members of the WG on the subject. Responses are awaited.

The Chairman may apprise the members on the progress, if any, on the dialogue process.

Item 5 : European Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA)

The idea of merging of Drought and Flood Work Teams under the frame of Risk Management was proposed (2007) by Dr. Vermes (Hungary). After detailed discussions on the proposed aims, the WG accepted the idea of merging European Work Team on Drought (EWTDRO) and European Work Team on Floods (EWTFFLO) to create a new

Work Team under the name Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA). The WG deliberated on the new mandate of the Work Team during New Delhi (2009) and Yogyakarta (2010) meetings and agreed to consider the impacts of extreme events on agricultural production at situations of water scarcity and inundation and to develop risk mitigation strategies. Agreeing to the importance of the WT, Dr. Sandor Szalai (Hungary), President of HUCID agreed kindly to provide an initial work plan which has been distributed in the Yogyakarta (2010) meeting and is attached to this Agenda as **Annex 2**. Comments and additional ideas have been requested from the members and their National Committees till the end of the year 2010. However, no responses have been received so far.

The Central Office has invited (26 May 2011) nominations from member countries in ERWG for membership of the new Work Team. Responses are awaited.

Item 6 : European Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (EWTSIM)

The German National Committee of ICID (GECID) has nominated (20 July 2011) Dipl. Ing-Agr. Sabine Walser (Germany) for the membership of European Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (EWTSIM). CV of Dipl. Ing-Agr. Sabine Walser will be made available during the meeting for consideration.

The document on "*Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries*", based on the project results (Phase I), has been published (2006) and distributed as a hard copy and CD-ROM. Vice President Hon. Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine) distributed a new proposal for the Phase-II of the project "*Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries*", prepared by the Ukrainian National Committee and President Hon. Bart Schultz (The Netherlands). Due to financial constraints, this could not be taken up and has been postponed.

VPH Kovalenko has contacted GTZ to explore funding opportunities. The new report (incorporating new irrigation technologies, water saving, efficiency, etc.) may serve as a "manual" for GTZ to raise awareness.

The Central Office contacted (26 May 2011) PH Bart Schultz and VPH Peter Kovalenko for an update, if any, on the above developments. Responses are awaited.

Prof. Kovalenko may apprise the members.

Item 7 : European Work Team on Drainage (EWTDR)

Future activities of the Work Team were deliberated in New Delhi (2009). The International Drainage Workshop at Helsinki / Tallinn in 2008, had focused on drained non-chernosem soils.

The ICID Central Office is in contact (26 May 2011) with Vice President Hon. Dr. Georgi Georgievich Gulyuk (Russia), WT Chairman for the full list of other activities of the WT for consideration during the Tehran (2011) meeting. Response is awaited.

VPH Dr. Gulyuk may apprise the WG.

Item 8 : Conferences supported by ERWG

- **Feedback from the 24th European Regional Conferences (ERC), Orléans, France**

The 24th European Regional Conference of ICID on the theme "*Groundwater Resource: An Essential Resource to be Saved and Managed*" was successfully held on 14-16 March 2011 in Orléans, France. The Conference was attended by 300 participants from 20 countries and more than 100 papers were presented and deliberated in two plenary sessions – Key Notes presentations and Beauce session and under six parallel topics.

The Keynote Session was inaugurated by President Prof. Dr. Chandra Madramootoo who spoke on global trends in the usage of the groundwater reserves and resulting pressures from overexploitation.

Dr. Margat, a world-renowned Hydro-geologist, Pr. Ghislain de Marsily, an eminent Hydrologist & Member of the French Academy of Science, Pr. B. Barraqué, Political Scientist and Economist with the French Centre International de Recherches sur l'Environnement et le Développement and Dr. Marcel Kuper on behalf of Dr. T. Shah, Senior Fellow of IWMI have made presentations during the Conference. These covered (i) the evolution of water management in Europe, and (ii) the status of groundwater resources moving from private to a common resource under Public Trust. The plenary 'Beauce session' looked exclusively into the development of irrigation in the French region of Beauce, an important region for grain production in France, and the system progressively put in place to manage volumetric demands on the aquifer. Five presentations provided different points of view on a 'shared

challenge'. The other key issues of groundwater management were addressed through paper presentations made under six topics.

The Proceedings and the presentations of the conference are available on the Conference website: <http://www.groundwater-2011.net/program_and_proceedings>.

Dr. Sami Bourfa (France) may wish to provide more details.

- **Feedback from the 25th European Regional Conference of ICID, 2011, The Netherlands**

ICID's 25th European Regional Conference on the theme "Deltas in Europe : Integrated water management for multiple land use in flat coastal areas" was successfully held on 16-20 May 2011 in Groningen, The Netherlands, hosted by The Netherlands National Committee of ICID (NETHCID) and co-hosted by the German National Committee of ICID (GECID). The Conference was attended by 150 participants from 24 countries and more than 57 papers were presented and deliberated in 11 Keynote presentations, several workshops and under four parallel topics. Three keynotes gave overviews of water management institutional arrangements in The Netherlands and Germany. ICID President Prof. Chandra Madramootoo (Canada) sketched a number of key global water management challenges facing the world.

The papers and keynote presentations are available on the conference website:<http://www.icid2011.nl/>

Mr. Pol Hakstege (NETHCID) may wish to provide more details.

- **11th International Drainage Workshop (IDW)**

The ICID's 11th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) will be hosted by the Egyptian National Committee of ICID (ENCID) during 23-27 September 2011 at Cairo, Egypt, with the support of the ICID Working Group on Drainage (WG-DRG). The main theme of the workshop is '*Agricultural Drainage Needs and Future Priorities*' under which six topics and 27 subtopics will be addressed. The first announcement and call for papers of the 11th IDW has been issued and widely circulated amongst ICID National Committees and International Organizations for dissemination amongst potential participants.

The 11th IDW will be organized under the guidance of VPH Prof. Dr. M.H. Amer, Chairman of ENCID (Email: encid@link.com.eg). Please access announcement of 11th IDW at <<http://www.encid.org.eg/idw11>> for more information.

The representative from ENCID may wish to apprise the members about the preparations and detailed planning of the 11th IDW.

- **12th International Drainage Workshop**

At Yogyakarta meeting, it was proposed by the National Committee of the Russian Federation on Irrigation and Drainage (RuCID) to host the 12th International Drainage Workshop (IDW) in June 2014 at St. Petersburg, Russia.

The ICID Central Office is in contact (03 March 2011) with RuCID to send the progress, if any, on the developments of the workshop. Response is awaited.

Dr. Irina G. Pankova (Russia) may wish to apprise the members about the preparations for the 12th IDW.

- **6th World Water Forum**

The 6th World Water Forum will be hosted by Europe and will take place in Marseille, from 12 to 17 March 2012.

The Chairman will apprise the member on the past related events and on the preparations.

Item 9 : ERWG Letter Editorial Board

The '*ERWG Letter 20*' was published (2010) and circulated among the members of the ERWG in Yogyakarta. Former ERWG Letters can be viewed at <<http://www.erwg.icidonline.org>>.

During the 16th meeting of the Working Group held on 12 October 2010 at Yogyakarta (Indonesia) VPH Dr. Eiko Lübke informed the WG that the Secretariat of GECID at ZALF will close down its activities in view of retirement of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Quast who was responsible for preparing the ERWG letters all these years. During 15 years 20 issues have been prepared.

ERWG appreciated the hard work of the Editorial Team, especially the Editorial Board members, mainly VPH Dr. Eiko Lübbe and Prof. Joachim Quast for preparing and publishing the ERWG Letter so regularly and on time year after year.

Due to the above developments, the National Committees in ERWG were and are still cordially invited to offer their proposals for the future work on the ERWG Letter.

Chairman may further apprise the WG.

Item 10 : Young Professional Fora

The Young Professional Fora have been routinely organized during the European Regional Conferences in the past and it has been observed that the responses of Young Professionals were always overwhelming.

The Young Professional Fora were successfully organized during the 24th and 25th ERCs in March and May 2011 at France and The Netherlands, respectively.

The Chairman or the organizers of the ERCs may apprise the WG.

Item 11 : Any other business

- **Henri Tardieu Award**

Central Office had received (07 January 2011) the information from Vice President Hon. Alain Vidal (France) to establish a tool to perpetuate the memory of the distinguished Vice President Hon. Henri Tardieu. AFEID has decided to create a "*Henri Tardieu Award*" annually.

ICID President Dr Chandra Madramootoo appreciated the AFEID efforts in creating this award and expressed the need for a decision in the Management Board (MB).

- **New Programme on Land Reclamation – RuCID**

Central Office received the information (8 February 2011) from Russian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (RUCID) that the RUCID would be intensifying its activities in ICID with the support of Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation. It was seen that they have to strengthen the new programme on land reclamation in the Russian Federation next year. We expected that Mrs. Elena Skrinnik, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation may join the Russian delegation for the upcoming 21st Congress in Tehran and provide an excellent opportunity to meet with ICID management and Chair-persons of various National Committees.

- **Change in structure and hosting of the Secretariat of GECID**

The Chairman of GECID has informed ICID Central Office and ERWG on changes taking place in 2011: The German Secretariat has moved from ZALF Muencheberg to vTI in Braunschweig.

German National Committee of ICID (GECID), Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Vorlop (Secretary), Bundesallee 50 D-38116 Braunschweig, Phone: ++49 531 596 4102; Fax: ++49 531 596 4199; Email: gecid@vti.bund.de

The new Secretary replacing Prof. Quast is Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Vorlop, Head of the Institute of Agricultural Technology and Biosystems Engineering within vTI. More information about vTI and its Research Institutes you can find under <www.vti.bund.de>.

The new Chairman of GECID replacing VPH Eiko Lübbe is Mr. MinR Theo Augustin from the same department in the ministry.

- **Change in structure and hosting of the Secretariat of NETHCID**

The Secretary of NETHCID has informed ICID Central Office and ERWG on changes taking place in 2011:

The new Secretary for NETHCID replacing Mr. Pol Hakstege is Ir. Gerrit van Vuren from the Wageningen University.

New address of NETHCID Secretariat is : Secretariat NETHCID, Ir. Gerrit van Vuren, Droevendaalsesteeg 3 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands, Phone: +31 317 482769 or +31 317 484190; E-mail: secretariat.nethcid@wur.nl

EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)

Profile

The European Regional Working Group (ERWG) of ICID was founded at the 46th IEC Meeting in Rome in September 1995, and is acting under the motto "Comprehensive land and water management in European river basins for the sustainable development of the rural landscape". The tasks of ERWG can be summarized as follows:

- Knowledge transfer and exchange of experience in matters of border crossing water and land management in European countries
- Co-operation of experts and organisations engaged in national, supranational and international objectives of water management and irrigated agriculture
- Development and promotion of border crossing projects and conferences
- Members are the ICID National Committees of 24 European countries, as below :

Country Representatives			
Austria	Mr. Frederick M. Cate	Lithuania	Dr. Antanas Maziliauskas
Croatia	Prof. Davor Romic	Macedonia*	Prof. Zvonimir Vukelic
Cyprus	Mr. Nicos Tsiourtis	Portugal	Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra
Czech Republic	Prof. Svatopluk Matula	Romania	Prof. Ion M. Nicolaescu
Estonia	Mr. Mati Tonismae	Russia	Dr. Irina G. Pankova
Finland	Mr. Jaakko Sierla	Serbia-Montenegro	Mr. Peter Pantelic
France	Dr. Sami Bouarfa	Slovenia	Prof. Brane Maticic
Germany	Dr.- Ing. Eiko Luebbe	Spain	Mr. Ricardo Segura Graino
Greece	Prof. Dr. A. Poulouvassilis	Switzerland	Mr. Claude Alain Vullier
Hungary	Dr. Laszlo Hayde	The Netherlands	Mr. Pol Hakstege
Ireland	Dr. John Martin	Ukraine	Prof. Peter Kovalenko
Italy	Dr. Michele A. Cuccaro	United Kingdom	Mr. Peter S. Lee
*The membership of Macedonia, due to non-payment of subscription has fallen under "inactive" category. The country representation would revive once the arrears are cleared.			

Chairman : Dr. Laszlo Hayde (Hungary)
Vice-Chairman : Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)
Secretary (1) : *To be elected* Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland)
Secretary (2) : Ms. Dr. Irina Bondarik (Russia) *for Russian speaking countries*
Observer : Mr. Mohammed Benblidia (IME)

Countries with observer status

Bosnia & Herzegovina : Prof. Dr. Mihovil Vlahinic
Moldova : Mr. Valeriu Catrinescu
Serbia : Prof. Dr. Svetimir Dragovic

Subordinate Work Teams

European Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA)

Chairman : *To be elected* (Dr. Sandor Szalai, Hungary)
Members : *To be elected*

European Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (EWTSIM)

Chairman Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)
Members Mrs. Helena Aijo (Finland),
Mr. Frederick M. Cate (Austria),
Mr. Jan Cermak (Czech Republic),
Mrs. Jasmina Taseva (Macedonia),
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Quast (Germany),
Dr. Olga Zhovtonog, Secretary (Ukraine),
Mrs. Ildiko Zima Szaloki (Hungary)

Observer World Bank representative

European Work Team on Drainage (EWTDR)

Chairman Dr. Georgiy G. Gulyuk (Russia)
Members Dr. Irena Bondarik, Secretary (Russia)
Prof. Brane Maticic (Slovenia),
Dr. Iulian Mihnea (Romania),
Mr. Toomas Timmusk (Estonia),
Dr. Nicola Yacik (Ukraine),
Mr. Daniel Zimmer (France)

Editorial Board of ERWG Letter (EBLET)

Editor to be elected
Secretary to be elected
Members Dr. Frantisek Dolezal (Czech Republic),
Mr. John Hennessy (UK),
Dr. Lajos Szlávik (Hungary)

Water Network

In addition to the European National Committees of ICID, the following organizations/association/institution have been incorporated in the ERWG Water Network :

5 European professional organizations

- CIPR - Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin
- EurAgEng - Special Interest Group on Soil and Water, European Society of Agricultural Engineers
- EWA - European Water Association
- EWRA - European Water Resources Association
- TECHWARE - Technology for Water Resources

7 National Water Management Associations

- BSHE - Bulgarian Society of Hydraulic Engineers
- DWA - German Association for Water Management, Waste Water and Waste
- DONBH - Society for Irrigation and Drainage of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- LZHS - Lithuanian Association of Land and Water Management Engineers
- MHT - Hungarian Hydrological Society
- RSRE - Russian Society of Reclamation Engineers
- SITWM - Polish Association for Water Plant Construction and Land Improvement Engineers and Technicians

6 European Water Management Institutes

- ACVAPROJECT - Water Management Design Institute (Moldova Republic)
 - DHI - Danish Hydraulic Institute
 - IIDS - Institute of Irrigation and Development Studies, University of Southampton (United Kingdom)
-

- RIIDHE - Research Institute for Irrigation, Drainage and Hydraulic Engineering (Bulgaria)
- VITUKI - Water Resources Research Centre Plc. (Hungary)
- IME - Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (France)

Work Results

- ERWG Letter No. 1 to 20 (newsletters)
- Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries (project report book/CD)
- European Sector Vision on Water for Food and Rural Development (report)
- ICID Guide "How to work out a drought mitigation strategy" (guideline)
- Water Resources Management in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia (book)
- Diffuse Entries in Rivers of the Odra Basin (research report)
- Proceedings of several European conferences
- First and Second CEE WFE Dialogue Reports (Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment – Dialogue on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Agriculture in the Central and East European Countries) (reports)
- Danube Valley : History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (book)

Current Projects

- Flood risk mitigation by agricultural non-structural measures
 - Drought mitigation strategies
 - Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive
 - Flood plain management on Odra, Nemunas and Vistula
 - Flood prevention strategies
 - Point and diffused pollutants in the Odra basin
 - Sustainable irrigation and drainage management under the conditions of transitional economy
 - Dialogue on water for food and environmental security in Central and Eastern Europe
-

EUROPEAN WORK TEAM ON WATER RELATED RISK ANALYSIS (EWTWRA)

Mandate of the Work Team

To identify the basic risk factors and impacts of the water related disasters by evaluating prevailing risk assessment practices in countries and to develop a common risk evaluation plan towards harmonized national risk management action plans.

Background

Largest part of the natural disasters is connected to the meteorological/climatological events. The number of such events is growing significantly, according to the climate change theory. The biggest damages are caused by the disasters in connection with water related extremes in Europe. Climate change scenarios project problems with the extreme water availability, like intensification of hydrological cycle, especially precipitation, and decreasing precipitation amount first of all in the South-European region. These two events can be parallel, i.e. the less precipitation can fall in a more intensive way, which has a tuning worsening effect on the surface water balance. The consequence of intensification can be for example the growing frequency of flash floods.

Many projects have among their objectives assessing one or other water related disasters. Unfortunately, quite many methodological bases are lacking or are not unified setting back the international comparability of the results of investigations. More explicit is the surplus water part, e.g. floods and their impacts, and more latent is the water deficit part, e.g. drought.

According to the latest results, we can assume that the frequency of these events has been changing, and their tendencies have different signs in different part of Europe.

The hydrological research turns to the scale of river basin investigations (WFD, etc.). These are mostly done in international co-operation in Europe. Therefore, methodological development, comparability studies and general overviews are required.

Aim

The aim of this co-operation is to identify the basic risk factors and impacts of the water related disasters. Applied methodologies of impact studies should be collected and an inventory should be done to summarise special advantages and disadvantages of the individual methods. Risk assessment of extreme events has similar theoretical basis even for different type of events. Probabilities (return periods, distributions etc.) are characteristic for the natural disasters and sensitivity, vulnerability are features of the sufferer (region, society, etc.). Real risk management includes both sides, e.g. the statistical features of the natural disaster and the level of development, adaptive capacity of region bearing the disaster. Therefore, the main task of this WT is to investigate these processes by common, or similar, but at least comparable methods. Comparability has to be the minimum condition, because not comparable methods (or methods still not have been compared) give not comparable results.

Methodology of such type of investigations is not agreed, the problems of vulnerability and sensitivity is not uniformly discussed.

Common, statistically well established methodology will be applied to characterize the risks and making them comparable internationally. As a second phase, risk evaluation and management action plans will be developed. These activities will improve the adaptive capacity of the countries and reduce their vulnerability.

Objectives

1. Inventory of the methods used in the water related risk assessments.
 2. Evaluation of the methods in the inventory.
 3. Harmonisation of countries (meetings, software, knowledge transfer etc.).
 4. Identify stakeholders, contact with them.
 5. Identify possible risk events, stress sources, relationships between sources and receptors.
-

6. Agreement in a common methodology.
7. Estimate the likelihood of risk events, exposure to the effects and its consequences, develop risk profile.
8. Impacts of extreme events on agricultural production
9. Compare events and total risks with targets and criteria.
10. Assess existing risk assessment practices against risk profile.
11. In course of development of working plan, stakeholder communication.

Basic actions

1. Overview of the present situation (questionnaire)
2. Determine the needs of individual countries and the possible support activities
3. Contact with stakeholders on national level and keep them informed
4. Publish a methodological survey, suggest the most usable methods
5. Apply the suggested methods in each country, preparation an international overview
6. Comparison of different national practices

Milestones

1. year: Set up an inventory and evaluate the methods
2. year: Comparability studies (pilot events), contact with the stakeholders
3. year: Pilot study based on common methodology
4. year: Dissemination of results

Applied tools

1. Statistical methods, software
 2. Data base or data availability on hydrological, meteorological fields, data from other fields of impact
 3. Visualisation
 4. Internet home page
-