

**Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)**

09 November 2016: 09:00-10:30 hours (Session-I)

09 November 2016: 11:00-12:30 hours (Session-II)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Presented by the Chairman**

**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 Present:** (1) Mr. Ian Makin (UK), Chairman; (2) VPH Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chairman; (3) Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland), Secretary; (4) Dr. Sami Bourfa (France) represented by VPH François BRELLE; (5) VPH Laszlo Hayde (Hungary); (6) Mr. Marco Arcieri (Italy); (7) Dr. (Mrs.) Irena G. Bondarik (Russia); and (8) Er. Avinash C. Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID Central Office, New Delhi.

**Observers:** (i) PH Prof. Bart Schultz (The Netherlands); (ii) Vice President Prof. Dr. Charlotte de Fraiture (The Netherlands); (iii) VPH Peter S. Lee (UK); (iv) Ir. Wenyong Wu (China); (v) Mr. Bernard Vincent (France); (vi) Ms. Caroline Coulon (France); (vii) Ir. Mika Turunen (Finland); (viii) Dr. Sándor Szalai (Hungary); (ix) Dr. Gurbachan Singh (India); (x) Dr. Graziano Ghinassi (Italy); and (xi) Mr. David Vanneck (UK).

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

**ERWG Minutes Item 1: Action Taken Report by Chair**

1. VP Ian Makin (UK), Chair of the WG presented a report actions taken on the decisions made during the last meeting of the group at Montpellier (2015), France. Chair reported on the limited activities which he has been able to undertake since 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ERWG, noting the relocation from UK to Sri Lanka that has made physical participation in European events more difficult than originally anticipated. With support of the ICID Central Office, Chair proposes the ERWG to make use of the video conference facilities during the 2016/17 period to coordinate activities and to progress the proposed work plan as mentioned in the Agenda of ERWG under item 2.

**ERWG Minutes Item 2: ICID Action Plan 2030: Activities relevant to European Region**

2. The Chairman of the Group presented and discussed the draft Action Plan 2030 of the WG. Members were of the view that not all goals are relevant to the activities of the ERWG. Based on the action plan was updated (**Annex**). Views expressed and suggestions made by the members in respect of various related goals are given below.

3. **Goal 2- Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices:** This goal was seen as relevant in view of the European contribution to international knowledge on effective water management that would be of help for other regions. The ERWG will prepare a plan for a review of the European water policy. Members suggested that it would be useful to consider how issues of climate change with reference to agricultural water management could be better addressed in the European water framework directive. The ERWG noted that many of their members have a wide international experience and therefore may be more effectively be utilized as a resource for other regions. **Activity 2.1** (Review of European Water Policy) is accepted – with a shortened target timeframe of 2019 to ensure the report retains relevance.

4. **Goal 3- Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology:** European countries are in a position to share their knowledge and experience with countries not within the ICID and even with international development agencies. Members from Italy informed that ITAL-ICID is planning to have a training courses for their professionals in the future and they are also in contact with University of Athens (Greece) encouraging Greece to rejoin ICID. Members suggested that IWF/ICID.UK could also try to make contacts with international organizations and encourage them to become member of ICID. WG Chair encouraged NCs to report their activities to the ICID Central Office for wider dissemination through e-Bulletin, News Update and ICID News.

5. Members from Italy and Hungary informed that their NCs are considering to organise regional conference in the forthcoming years and trying to arrange financial support for the same. Members were of the view that the topic for the European Regional Conference (ERC) could be related to the climate change and agriculture in WFD and the ERC's need to address cross-sectoral issues.

6. **Goal 5- Encourage research and support development of tools to extend innovation into field practices:** Although the members of the ERWG do undertake activities related to this goal but they felt that ERWG as a workbody may not be able to produce any deliverables under this goal.

7. **Goal 6- Facilitate capacity development:** Members were of the view that capacity development issue is a general issue for ICID and not limited to ERWG.

**ERWG Minutes Item 3: Review of policy issues impacting irrigation and drainage sector**

8. During deliberations in meeting of the Task Force on Revitalisation of ICID Network it was noted that European Union policies related to water resources sector have resulted in diminishing importance of policy making in irrigation and drainage in the countries. ERWG took note of this issue and included review of policy documents as one of the activity under Goal 2 “Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices”.

**ERWG Minutes Item 4: Links with regional and trans-national organizations for co-operation**

9. WG members briefed and discussed their membership, interaction and cooperation with a variety of regional and trans-national organisations. Members suggested that the ICID Central Office could send their e-Bulletin, News Update, ICID News and other publicity material directly to these organizations. Members further suggested that the e-Bulletin, News Update and ICID News could also be open for anybody to get through registration (subscribe and unsubscribe). WG Chair requested members and NCs to contact these organisations, review the list and update the contact details of the network so that ICID CO can send information directly to these organisations. ICID should also be increasingly active in social media, such as LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.

**ERWG Minutes Item 5: Activities of Focus Groups of ERWG**

10. The WG discussed the activities of various Focus Groups (FG) and their links to ICID Work Groups. Following decisions were taken based on the review and discussion during the meeting:

11. **Focus Group on History (VPH Laszlo Hayde):** The ICID WG-HIST is reformulating itself. The WG-HIST organised a side-event at the WIF2 in which FG took part. The ERWG noted that there are number of structures and systems in Europe that could be registered as a heritage (Historical Irrigation Structures). The Russian NC was congratulated for their effort on getting successful recognition of their one structure under HIS during WIF2. The ERWG encouraged all NCs to make nominations for the 2017 awards.

12. **Focus Group on Poverty Alleviation (PH Peter S. Lee):** PH Lee reported that the associated WG-POVERTY is no longer active so ERWG agreed to discontinue with this FG.

13. **Focus Group on Environment (Mr. Osmo Purhonen):** No discussion could take place in the absence of representatives from the WG as well as FG at the ERWG meeting so it was agreed that the WG Chair will follow-up with Mr. Osmo Purhonen to determine the status. Since the WG-ENV is active so the FG is likely to continue to be relevant and active.

14. **Focus Group on Drainage [renamed as Working Group on Sustainable Drainage, WG-SDRG] (Dr. Irina Bondarik):** Dr. Irina Bondarik reported that the FG holds an annual workshop on Drainage issues and the last workshop was held in 2016 workshop in Lithuania for the Baltic region (including Russia, Belarussia and Finland). The FG will continue to be relevant and active.

15. The ERWG questioned the wisdom of the WG on Sustainable Drainage using the acronym WG-SDG, which had already caused some confusion as to whether this was focused on sustainable development goals rather than drainage! PCSO and IEC may wish to consider revising the acronym for the WG on Sustainable Drainage.

16. **Focus Group on Water Related Risks (Prof. Klaus Roettcher & Mr. Olli-Matti Verta):** Mr. Olli-Matti Verta reported that the FG is contributing in the compilation of the publication on Adaptive Flood Management by the WG-CAFM.

17. **Focus Group on Project Partnership and Financing (Ir. Leon Winjnker):** The FG is no longer active.

18. **Focus Group Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation (WG-IDSST) (VPH Peter Kovalenko):** VPH Peter Kovalenko reported on the work of the WG Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation (WG-IDSST) and proposed a new FG is established in alignment with the WG-IDSST. VPH Kovalenko was requested to provide the leadership for the FG and to report on progress during the 2017 meeting in Mexico.

19. Based on the discussions during the meeting, the revised program of Focus Groups for 2016/17 is as follow:
- (a) Focus Group on History (VPH Laszlo Hayde)
  - (b) Focus Group on Environment (Mr. Osmo Purhonen)
  - (c) Focus Group on Sustainable Drainage (Dr. Irina Bondarik)
  - (d) Focus Group on Water Related Risks (Prof. Klaus Roettcher & Mr. Olli-Matti Verta)
  - (e) Focus Group Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation (VPH Peter Kovalenko)

**ERWG Minutes Item 6: Revitalization of ICID network**

20. ERWG noted that the issues of revitalization of the network (and the ICID Action plan) permeated all the agenda items. The main recommendation from the TF on Revitalization was noted as being to encourage NCs to reorganize to be less dependent on government support, including considering individual membership fees and increased support from private sector entities active in the I&D sector. The WG also considered the example from the UK, where the name has been revised to be the Irrigation and Water Forum (IWF) which has attracted an increased membership by young professionals and NGOs (such as WWF).

21. It was noted that although no European NCs had completed and submitted the TF-Revitalization questionnaire, Secretary General Er. Avinash C. Tyagi confirmed the questionnaire is still open and requested NCs to submit their response to questionnaire even now. Subsequently, IEC has decided that NCs may be given opportunity to submit their inputs up to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

22. ERWG acknowledged the recommendations of the TF and the report to be submitted to IEC (IEC Agenda item 12) noting that the TF has not been able to complete all the tasks it was assigned.

23. Therefore, the ERWG recommend IEC to extend the term of the TF-Revitalization by one year until Congress in Mexico (2017) to enable integration of the answers from European NCs in the final recommendations, which was later approved by IEC (**Refer IEC Minutes, Item 12, page 7**).

**ERWG Minutes Item 7: Dissemination of Information – Website**

24. WG Chair VP Ian Makin noted that the ERWG web page has not been active in 2015-16. He committed to work with the WG members in the coming months to revisit the content with a view to ensuring the valuable information already present is accessible and obvious.

25. The ERWG discussed whether the current dissemination of e-News, News Update etc. from ICID CO to NC representatives was successful and whether direct email to NC member would be a viable option. While recognizing that CO has noted that less than 25% of emails to NCs are opened, ERWG members also commented that they are inundated with emails, both official and unsolicited, so additional email loads are unlikely to be welcome. The ERWG members suggested that CO may consider providing a facility on the ICID home page for any visitors to sign-up and unsubscribe from e-News and other ICID information products as well as CO may provide a searchable archive of e-News and other information products on the ICID web site. This would enable ICID members to determine how they access ICID information, i.e passively by regular mail delivery or actively by search on the web page (<http://erwg.icidonline.org>).

26. WG Chair requested the group members to ensure that CO is provided a short summary of any events held by the NC for sharing with the wider network through News Update.

27. In addition, the WG was pleased to welcome the presence and participation of 3 young professionals during the meeting. The YPs were requested to share their thoughts and expectations of ICID and also their insights on the use of alternative communications and dissemination tools, including social media. The young professionals of European NCs noted they could assist the ERWG on how to disseminate information and provide their suggestions on use of ICT tools. Young professionals from UK, France and Finland agreed to work with ERWG on this aspect.

**ERWG Minutes Item 8: Review of the membership of the Working Group**

28. The membership of the ERWG was confirmed as consistent with ICID procedures, including participation in the WG operations either through communication and/or participation in meetings of the WG. It was noted that all NCs should ensure that CO is informed of changes in the nominated email contact for the NC to ensure continuity in case of retirements and change of positions. No new nominations for membership were received during the meeting. The membership status is given in **Annex 5 (page 33)**.

**ERWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business**

**Webinar/ web-based seminar**

29. WG supported and considered suggestion of organizing webinars which will promote sharing of vast expertise available with ICID fraternity with Members of the NCs. However, no decision was taken and it was agreed that this issue will be reviewed, possibly through a video conference in January 2017.



## Annex [Appendix V, Item 2]

## ICID ACTION PLAN VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES BY WORKBODIES

**Name of the Chairman and members filling this questionnaire:** VP Ian Makin (UK); VPH Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chair and Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland), Secretary

**Date:** 09 November 2016

	Activity	Outcomes / Outputs	Milestone for year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021
<b>Goal 2: Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices</b>	<b>WG Activity 2.1</b> Review of European/NC policy documents related to water resources that impact irrigation and drainage sector	Report	Compilation of various policies related to water resources by Members in their country and start review few most important policy document	Draft of policy review report with recommendation	Finalisation and issue of policy review report  Continuation of review of remaining policy document		
<b>Goal 3: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology</b>	<b>WG Activity 3.1</b> Organise Workshop / Seminar etc.	Proceedings of workshop/seminar etc.	To decide on theme and sub-themes for the workshop/seminar to be organised as internal/international workshop in the WG meeting	Workshop/seminar	Workshop/seminar including publication of outcome / recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop
	<b>WG Activity 3.2</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> ERC (once a three year)	Proceedings of conference	To decide on theme and sub-themes and preparation of activity plan	Host NC to organise conference			Host NC to organise conference
<b>Goal 6: Facilitate capacity development</b>	<b>WG Activity 6.1</b> To launch from Europe an international e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe for Young Professionals	Knowledge sharing and capacity development of YP	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe like as 'IYPeF' Organise a Side Event in WIF3	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe like as 'IYPeF'

