

News

sharing their experiences and successes on water scarcity and droughts management. Furthermore, the workshop will be a good chance to identify the needs of authorities and key stakeholders for capacity building in these regions and the opportunities for cooperation with the WATER CoRe project partners regarding developing and implementing a strategy and action plan on water scarcity and droughts management.

The Focal Point will also **launch a webpage**, providing information on request and disseminating information on the project progress, results and outputs via REC on-line magazine "Green Horizon".

The contact person of the REC Focal Point is Ms. Kaidi Tingas, ktingas@rec.org, phone: +36 20 38 39 841.

Project

WATER CoRe leads to improve water scarcity and drought management policies and instruments in all partner regions.

The duration of the project is three years and it counts with a budget of EUR 2.5 million, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). WATER CoRe focuses on the exchange of experiences addressed to the identification of problems and the development of best practices for drought management. The 14 partners from 7 EU Member States are committed to exchanging good practices and adapting these to their local or regional conditions.

The overall outcome will be a platform of European wide water management strategies available for everybody.



What's New !

The WATER CoRe project is co-financed by the ERDF and made possible by the INTERREG IVC Programme



Please, visit our webpage www.watercore.eu and access to the "WATER CoRe Good Practice Handbook" that collects over 100 experiences in the field of environment, divided in four working groups: water demand-side management, handling drought periods, climate change effects and public awareness and participation.

For additional information, please contact the project leader:

Ministry of Environment, Energy,
Agriculture and Consumer Protection
of Hessen
Barbara Ehrle-Manthey
Mainzer Strasse 80
65189 Wiesbaden

Phone: +49 (0) 611 / 8151314
Fax: +49 (0) 611 / 8151941
Email: barbara.ehrle-manthey@hmuelv.hessen.de
Internet: <http://www.hmuelv.hessen.de>



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Project progress and milestones

Study visit in Hérault

A delegation composed by Romania, Hungary, Spain, and Germany visited Montpellier the last 29 and 30 June 2011. This study visit gave the opportunity to introduce the Department of Hérault's water policy as well as the results of other European programmes Hérault is involved in. A collective work session also allowed the partners to advance towards the construction of new tools in terms of exchange as well as networking in the area of water management according to demand.

The second day consisted of visiting the heart of River Bassin Hérault with an inside look at the Water Development and Management Scheme (SAGE) of the Hérault River.

Workshop and study visit in Wiesbaden

On the 21st and the 22th of September 2011 the Hessian Agency for the Environment and Geology will host the "WATER CoRe Good practices Workshop" (incl. a study visit) which will focus on climate change adaptation strategies. Hessen as well as Noord Brabant (NL) will introduce their good practices. The topics will be the impacts of climate change on river runoffs, the climate change impact on groundwater management and the good practices related to climate policy integration and governance. The study visit workshop will be combined with an internal project workshop for the WATER CoRe Guide and the WATER CoRe E-learning module (23rd Sep).

Midterm-Conference and Regional Kick-off in Wiesbaden

From 18th to 20th May 2011, the Midterm-Conference of the WATER CoRe project took place, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Hessen.

The Conference had both technical and political meetings. **Technically**, the partners assessed the work done during the 17 months of project progress and planned the activities to be developed in the short and long term until the finishing point of the project in 2013.

During the **Platform of Ministers**, the Regional Ministers for the Environment and high-level representatives of the partner regions signed the Resolution of Ministers. This is the third

policy document that is signed between the partner regions of the project with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation in the European Union on issues related to water scarcity and droughts.

In this Resolution, the political representatives of WATER CoRe project feel confident that this cooperation will reinforce the aims of the European Union strategies, policies and legislation, such as the new Europe 2020 Strategy; the EU Sustainable Environment policy; the EU Climate Change policy, including the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; the EU Climate Energy package (the so called 20 20 20 package), the Communication on Water Scarcity and Drought and the Water Framework Directive. Moreover, they point out that this collaboration intends to support the implementation of these policies, as well as it will serve as an example of good practice for all regions of the European Union.

In addition, in the signed document the Platform of Ministers notes a strong need for public participation, improved water demand side management as well as efficient strategies for handling drought periods in order to increase the water efficiency in Europe and to mitigate drought effects. They also consider very useful to support this cooperation in order to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large scale information exchange and sharing of experience.



On May 19, 2011 the **Regional Kick off Conference** of Hessen was held by the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in cooperation with the Water Board "Hessisches Ried" and the Regional Council of Darmstadt. Apart from the WATER CoRe-Partners, the Hessian

stakeholders from farmer- and nature conservation associations as well as technical authorities and water boards were present. The purpose of this conference was to inform the Hessian stakeholders about the WATER CoRe Project and to exchange experiences. The most relevant issues were irrigation scheduling and adapting strategies to climate change.

The focus of the following study trip was the "Groundwater Management Plan Hessian Reed". The infiltration facilities, which are the heart of the groundwater management in South Hessen were shown to the WATER CoRe-Partners. Beside the technical plants there was a big interest how the plan is implemented in the administrative procedures. The idea of linking groundwater abstraction to lower critical levels was well appreciated by everybody.

Later a cutting edge drip irrigation was demonstrated by a local farmer, which consumes very little rainwater or Rhi-newater. Furthermore, a study visit on Benchmarking of Water Supply and Waste Water Companies were provided to the partners. All together over 40 experts participated in this exchange of experience.

REC became the Regional Focal Point of the WATER CoRe Project

During the Midterm-Conference held in Wiesbaden the Regional Focal Point of WATER CoRe project was launched which will be officially managed by REC.

Primary mission of the REC as Focal Point is to inform the key target groups in the **Central and South Eastern Europe and Turkey** about the ongoing project, its results and products (learning materials and guidelines) as well as to generate a dialogue with the relevant officials and with other related projects.

One of the main outputs of the Focal Point is the **upcoming regional experience sharing workshop combined with a study tour**. The event will take place in Hungary in November 2011. The workshop will share the results and good practices of WATER CoRe with authorities and key stakeholders of other EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe. It gives the opportunity of