

News

regional and local governments; water companies and water, agricultural and environmental authorities; farmers; industry; technical support services but also the civil society, NGO's and associations, students and scientists. The main structure is ready to be implemented and applied. It includes lessons on the main concepts, a survey of the major articles, projects and institutions related to water scarcity and drought in Europe and more. The WATER CoRe e-learning modules will be stand alone products, available on the website and free from registration, in English language at first but also translated into the languages of the regions involved in the project (German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian and Rumanian). Coming soon!

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.

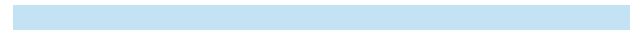


What's New !

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.



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Regional Experience Sharing Workshop “Connecting Regions and Stakeholders”

On 14th and 15th November 2011 a workshop in Morahalom (Hungary) was held with the aim to share the results and good practices of WATER CoRe project with authorities and key stakeholders of non-EU and EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop offered a chance to identify the need of authorities and key stakeholders for capacity building in these regions. In addition, this event was a great opportunity for establishing future cooperation opportunities between those regions and WATER CoRe project partners regarding the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan on water scarcity and droughts management.

More than forty participants coming from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Netherlands, Germany and Hungary took part in the event.



In the framework of this workshop, participants visited lake Nagyszekszos, which is a good practice example on water scarcity management near Szeged. As water resources decreased according to droughts in the Homokhat sub-region, water supply became inadequate and this resulted in increasing problems for the agricultural sector of this region. Therefore, a water replacement system was built and the internal area of the reservoir was reconstructed. Besides solving the drought problem, the reservoir is now home to a herd of water buffaloes and several red listed bird species. These additional factors are especially important for tourism and leisure in the region.

The main outcome of the workshop was the conclusion that good and successful practices on how to deal with droughts and water scarcity already exist in a variety of countries. However, it still exist the need to establish a transfer of this collected knowledge by WATER CoRe. Moreover, it is still needed to bridge the gap

between science/research and the policy-level. It was further concluded that while institutional support exists, the funding for projects is lacking. Capacity building and awareness rising on all levels is needed as well as an improvement of forecast and early warning systems.

Emilia-Romagna - Involvement and expectations in the project

Emilia-Romagna Region - Emilia-Romagna is one of the 20 regions of Italy, located in the North-East, where waters interact in a delicate balance: a complex hydrographical system that models and characterizes the morphology and the landscape of the entire territory.

There are two Emilia-Romagna partners involved in the WATER CoRe project: the Water Protection and Restoration Unit, on behalf of the General Directorate for Environment and for Soil and Coast Protection, and ARPA-SIMC (Regional Agency for Environmental Protection – Hydro-Meteo-Climate Service).

In coherence with the EU policies and frameworks and with the national legislation, the Water Protection and Restoration Unit carries out activities of analysis, planning and monitoring of the sustainable water management policies of the Region (www.ermesambiente.it/acque/). The Unit supports the Regional government guaranteeing water availability and quality in a sustainable development perspective. With this purpose, it issues guidelines and regulations for the water use and the wastewater discipline, and coordinates other local authorities and territorial facilities. Moreover, it manages the relationship with the National Ministry and EU bodies.

In 2005, the Emilia-Romagna Region approved the Regional Water Protection Plan, which represents the main tool to achieve the objectives defined by the Water Framework Directive by 2015. The regional strategy is based on an integrated approach which connects the qualitative and the quantitative aspects (“twin track approach”). Water saving and conservation strategies, water demand-side management and pollution control, together with innovative and eco-compatible infrastructural facilities, represent the core approach of the Emilia-Romagna environmental policies. The development and application of the regional water policies are related to important intersectorial activities, which involve different regional levels, first among all the Ministry of the Environment

and Urban Renewal of the Government of Emilia-Romagna. It acts especially through the Water Protection and Restoration Unit, and the other regional Units involved in the water management, to guarantee the protection of this vital and crucial resource.

In the WATER CoRe project, the Water Protection and Restoration Unit is in charge of the exchange of best practices concerning water demand-side management, climate change, drought management, communication and dissemination. The aim is the improvement in the partners Regions and in the EU Member States of existing policies and instruments as well as the development of new solutions to better manage water scarcity and drought events.

The Hydro-Meteo-Climate Service of the Environmental Agency of Emilia-Romagna (ARPA-SIMC) carries out operational activities, research and development in meteorology, climatology, hydrology, agro-meteorology, radar-meteorology and environmental meteorology (www.arpa.emr.it/sim/). ARPA-SIMC develops integrated systems, based on both mathematical models and GIS techniques to support the agro-environmental policies of the regional government. In WATER CoRe ARPA-SIMC shares data and know-how focusing on drought, extreme events and climate change and their impacts mainly in agriculture and river basins management.

E-learning module

The aim of the WATER CoRe project is the improvement of existing policies and instruments as well as the development of new solutions to better manage water scarcity and drought events in the partners Regions and in the EU Member States. With this purpose, all the best practices and the lessons learnt in the project will be re-edited under seven e-learning modules, concerning the main topics on water scarcity and drought: 1. Background on water demand side management; 2. Technological measures; 3. Economic and financial instruments; 4. Drought management; 5. Climate change; 6. Public communication, information and participation and 7. Regional approaches and action plans. The target audience of the modules involves all the stakeholders linked to the water management: national,