

# News

The Conference expects to gather over 30 Environmental ministers and political leaders from all regions within the European Union. Moreover, the event will count with the participation (via video-message) of EU Commissioner Janez Potocnik, former Dutch environment minister Jacqueline Cramer and Princess Laurentien van Oranje-Nassau.

The WATER CoRe project will take part in this important event by giving a presentation on the results achieved and the main characteristics of the project. This participation will enable WATER CoRe partners to establish alliances with other EU regions tackling water scarcity and drought.

# Project

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

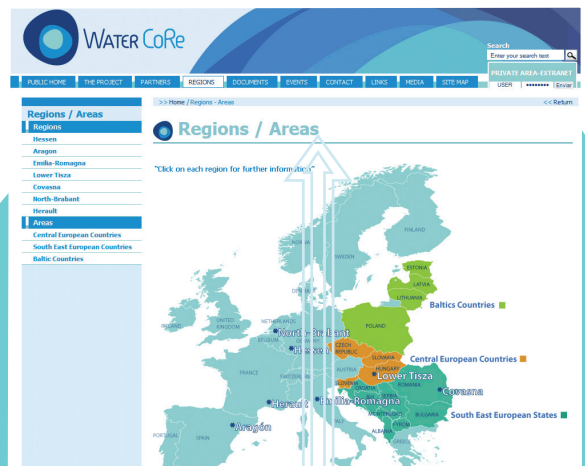
The duration of the project is three years and it counts with a budget of EUR 2.5 million, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). WATER CoRe focuses on the exchange of experiences addressed to the identification of problems and the development of best practices for drought management. 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



Take a look to our new section **REGIONS** where you will be able to see detailed information of our partner regions (Hessen, Aragon, Emilia Romagna, Lower-Tisza, Covasna, North Brabant, Hérault).

The section provides economic, geographic and population data from each region. It also contains information about Baltic, Central European and South Eastern countries.

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@hmuenv.hessen.de](mailto:barbara.ehrle-manthey@hmuenv.hessen.de)  
 Internet: <http://www.hmuenv.hessen.de>

# WATER CoRe news

## September 2012 - Issue 10



- Covasna gathers its training sessions, thematic workshops, study visits and Presidium meeting
- Hérault County takes action against water shortages
- WATER CoRe in the Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE)



## Covasna gathers its training sessions, thematic workshops, study visits and Presidium meeting



Over 70 experts gathered in the Romanian region of Covasna during 12-14 June with the aim to share experiences on water management as well as water scarcity and drought situations. The event was considered by the European Commission as a satellite event of the Green Week due to the quality of its content and its direct link to Green Week's this year theme "Every drop counts". Moreover, the Covasna event was held in the framework of the WATER CoRe project within INTERREG IV C.

The event was structured in two different parts. The first consisted in the presentation of good practices addressed to stakeholders in the region. The second consisted in a meeting of WATER CoRe project partners, which focused on the development of the e-learning module.

The meeting with the stakeholders aimed to disseminate the WATER CoRe project results within Covasna region, and therefore, to increase both media and non-media awareness on sustainable water use. The target profile mostly consisted in local experts from different fields related to water management. In addition experts in other fields such as agriculture or education also took part in the event. The speakers presented water management practices, while different political leaders mentioned certain case studies and local projects.

Moreover, participants had the opportunity to take part in several study visits. Participants could join an agriculture related visit to a farm nearby the capital city of the County

where different irrigation issues and practices were presented. At the County Hall, participants learnt several practices on water management, which were presented by a number of local experts in the field. Furthermore, partners could enjoy the untamed wild life of Covasna County by getting close to fine examples of the brown bear *Ursus Arctos*. The day ended at a unique place: Lake Saint Anna and the surrounding bog Mohos.

The meeting among project partners focused in the discussion and test of the e-learning module, which is currently under construction. Finally, project partners scheduled the next actions to be fulfilled before the completion of the project in April 2013.

## Hérault County takes action against water shortages

Hérault, a French County located in the South of France and bordering the Mediterranean sea, is one of the most popular counties in France. Every year it attracts a large number of tourists and an increasing number of residents. This has a significant impact on water demand as its population influx is essentially (80%) concentrated on the coastline. Considering that the coastal aquifers suffer from saltwater intrusion and that rivers have a critically low water flow downstream, it is no wonder that available water supply is a worrying topic for people living in Hérault County.

Local authorities – in charge of managing water resources – find it increasingly difficult to share these resources among the various users, mainly due to the unequal dispersion of the resources across the area. Hérault County is working to raise awareness on water resources and demand in order to restore their balance as well as to settle the proper conditions for greater solidarity in the water field. It currently leads a strong-willed policy based on several key topics set out in partnership with the State, the Region, the Water Board and other regional authorities. It provides notably technical and financial support to River Basin Unions providing river basin management know-how within the application of the Water Framework Directive. Hérault County also provides technical assistance and financial aid for local authorities in: the research of new resources, the protection of resources currently use, the development of drinking water and waste water disposal facilities, and the development and modernisation of irrigated agricultural

areas. It participates actively in the establishment of a very ambitious regional project -"Aqua Domitia"-, which works in the transfer of water from the Rhône River to Hérault County.

Hérault County is strongly involved in drought risk management and efficient management of resources. The County is proud to play an important role in the promotion of consumer's responsible behaviour, and toward the civil society and socio-professionals. Hérault produces and distributes information regarding water by means of its monitoring systems (piezometric, monitoring groundwater quality, low flows in rivers etc.), its Geographic Information System for cartographic production and the *Observatoire Départemental Eau et Environnement* (the ODEE, Departmental Observatory for Water and the Environment), which is the tool for sharing and spreading information regarding water in Hérault. Eager to strengthen its role as a catalyst and to put its participation in the WATER CoRe project to good use, the County aims to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices. Therefore, it has decided to develop its own tool for sharing these best practices, which will exist alongside the ODEE and will have the same conditions of access. This local platform, which will be inspired by the schemes and structure of the WATER CoRe platform, will be operational in 2013.

## WATER CoRe in the Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE)

Next 20-22 September the 10th edition of the biannually celebrated Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe (ENCORE) will take place in the Northern Netherlands (Assen, Paterswolde and Groningen).

The Conference will focus on soil, energy and climate change: fields in which regions play an important role according to the execution of EU policies.

The Conference will introduce a unique and innovative way of 'working apart together' by enabling the formation of alliances on these topics. Regional ministers and political leaders will agree alliances, which will be the start of regional actions to contribute actively to EU environmental policy and to tackle the environmental challenges discussed during the Conference.