



Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe

A water secure world - the mission of the Global Water Partnership is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.

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Only 3% of water on Earth is fresh water. Of all the freshwater, only about 0.3 percent is contained in rivers and lakes. The rest is locked up in glaciers and icecaps and stored below your feet as ground water.



Water situation

The region of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), covered by Global Water Partnership (GWP) has a population of 152 million people, a quarter of all Europeans. It has a total area of over 2.03 million km² and is mostly located in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea basins.

Rivers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine discharge their flows to the Baltic Sea. Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine are located in the Danube, Dniester and Dnieper River basins which flow into the Black Sea.

Water resources in the CEE region are important for the development of its countries, providing water for consumption, sanitation, irrigation, industrial use, navigation, fishing, recreation, and other

purposes. Ecosystems depending on water form the backbone of the region's biodiversity including lakes, river basins, wetlands, coastal areas and groundwater. Throughout the region, many water ecosystems have suffered from degradation or are threatened by pollution, overuse of surface and groundwater and habitat loss.

Countries of Central and Eastern Europe have a long history of water management and water related legislation dating back to the end of the 18th century. The traditional fragmented or so-called sector approach has its limitations in the sense that it does not support mutual cooperation, communication and common solutions with stakeholders and the participation of the public. In addition to purely technical solutions for the protection and use of water resources, authorities should apply modern management principles including landscape planning, communication and conflict resolution. This integrated approach can only be implemented through consultation and the exchange of experiences and expertise of all involved parties.

GWP CEE Strategy 2009-2013

The application of integrated approaches to water resources management remains a key challenge and a key rationale for the 12 Country Water Partnerships forming the Regional Water Partnership. GWP CEE Strategy 2009-2013 was developed as a tool for facilitating implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM)



principles in the context of European water policies. It has four strategic goals covering multi-sectoral dialogues, public participation, sustainable sanitation, floods and droughts, communication and network governance. It also involves inter-regional cooperation with the GWP Central Asia and Caucasus region via UN Economic Commission for Europe. The strategy is regularly updated with emerging issues such as climate adaptation.

Strategic Goal 1: National Dialogues

There is active involvement of the Country Water Partnerships to support the national policies by convening IWRM dialogues since 2000. National and regional dialogues are synthesized into regional reports. Regional water vision up to 2025 was a result of first dialogues “From Vision to Action” presented at the Hague World Water Forum in 2000. Next dialogues took up several cross sectoral issues such as gender, governance, food security, urban planning, environmental protection and financial flows. A series of IWRM National Policy Dialogues in 2006–2007 resulted in common declarations with governments, changes in legislation and closer cooperation with major stakeholders. In Romania, for example, a Common Declaration considers IWRM as overarching aim to which European Union water related directives contribute and create synergic effects. Three years after the dialogues, GWP Ukraine succeeded in embedding IWRM in National Environmental Strategy.

Strategic Goal 1: Public Participation

Public participation has emerged in Central and European countries’ culture over the last twenty years. In addition to public participation Aarhus Convention (1998) provides a legal framework regarding access

to information and access to justice. GWP CEE established Public Participation Task Force covering Eastern Baltic and the Danube River basin in 2004. The Task Force organized international Danube Day celebrations at Water and Sustainable Development Expo in Zaragoza in 2008, co-organized Danube Stakeholder Forum in 2009 and coordinated regional input to European Union Strategy for the Danube Region in 2010. GWP CEE has an observer status to two major international commissions in the region – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and the Helsinki Commission.

Strategic Goal 2: Sustainable Sanitation

The issue cuts across sectors of water, environment and rural development, addressing the demands of the poor and populations in small settlements. It seeks alternative and decentralized solution to sanitation services in IWRM context for rural population, constituting 20–40% of the total population in CEE countries. A group of experts prepared a regional book, *Sustainable Sanitation in Central and Eastern Europe: Addressing the Needs of Small and Medium-Size Settlements* translated into 12 CEE languages. The study has revealed that 20 million of Europeans, especially in new member states, are lacking access to sanitation services. In order to place sustainable sanitation high on international agenda, GWP CEE has advocated for sustainable sanitation at various forums and frameworks, including World Water Week and UNECE. Water Partnership also actively contributes to drafting *Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation* book that will be presented by UNECE, WHO and the French government at the Sixth World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012.



Strategic Goal 2: Floods and Droughts

Thematic issues of climate change adaptation include cooperation with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on floods and droughts. In frame of WMO/ GWP Programme on Floods Management, *Guidance on Flash Flood Management- Recent Experiences from Central and Eastern Europe*, was published in 2007. GWP CEE participated in development of a new WMO Integrated Drought Management Programme in 2010.

Strategic Goal 3: Communication and ToolBox

Communication, including experience sharing and capacity building is done through publications and extended web-based activities including GWP ToolBox. The ToolBox is a free and open database with a library of case studies and references to support broad audiences in implementing IWRM principles. Since 2008, for example, Corvinus University in Budapest has been using ToolBox as a part of its international ERASMUS programme. In 2010, GWP CEE enhanced GWP ToolBox with tools dealing with transboundary cooperation. Visit the ToolBox here: www.gwptoolbox.org.

Strategic Goal 4: Network governance and fundraising

In order to secure financial sustainability fundraising activities will target programs of UN organizations, European Union, international river basin commissions, national Official Development Assistance and a private sector.

Governance

Consulting Partners

GWP membership is open to all organizations involved in water and water

resource management. Currently the GWP CEE network has more than 140 member organizations called “Consulting Partners” in 12 countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Country Water Partnerships

Country Water Partnerships are up and running in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. They serve as information centers and actively support the development of national policies by convening IWRM multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Regional Council

The Council, headed by its Chair and representing the 12 Country Water Partnerships, is the highest decision making body of GWP CEE.

Secretariat

A small Secretariat is responsible for the coordination and implementation of regional workplan 2009-2013 and projects in close cooperation with the Council. The Secretariat is now based in Bratislava and is hosted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

GWP Network

GWP CEE is a part of Global Water Partnership network that was founded in 1996 by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to foster the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM): the



coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources by maximising economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment.

The network is open to all organisations involved in water resources management: developed and developing country government institutions, agencies of the United Nations, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector.

GWP's international network comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships, over 74 Country Water Partnerships, and more than 2,350 Partners located in 154 countries. The secretariat is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

The network is supported financially by Canada, Denmark, the European





Commission, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

More information: www.gwp.org.

Vision and Mission

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Its mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.



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