

BTOR

Places	Thessaloniki, Greece
Date	22-23 October 2015
Participants	Sabina Bokal, Liviu Nicolae Popescu and Richard Müller

Issue: EUROPE INBO 2015

The 13th “EUROPE-INBO 2015” International Conference was organized by the "Group of European Basin Authorities for the Implementation of the European Water Directives". It took place, at the invitation of the Greek Authorities, Ministry of Reconstruction of Production Environment and Energy, the Special Secretariat for Water, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB), KEODI and the Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management on 21-24 October 2015 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Within the context created by the European Commission “Blueprint”, the conference was organized around a preparatory workshop and with 4 roundtables dealing with the updated issues on the field implementation of the Water Framework Directive and other European Water Directives. The conference was focused on better integration examples of the processes, new measures to cope with the main challenges such as diffuse pollution, hydro-morphology, adaptation to climate change, and prevention of droughts and floods. The participants discussed ways how to involve stakeholders in the implementation of the directives, use of economic tools and funding of the programmes of measures. On the occasion of the conference, GWP CEE officially released [Guidelines Natural Small Water Retention Measures](#) together with the Case Studies.

GWP Central and Eastern Europe contributed with 3 presentations:

- How to integrate drought management into the RBMPs on base of the newly released “Guidelines for Preparation of the Drought Management Plans” as part of the National and or Trans-National RBMP’s introduced by Sabina Bokal in the Roundtable 1: Measures of adaptation to the climate change - "Water" Component of the COP21 in Paris in December 2015. Interest on the drought issues to be included into the RBMPs was raised and a lot of participants wanted to have additional information on the IDMP CEE and the Guidelines.
- Stakeholder participation in case studies (WaterInnEU and Maritsa River Basin) by Richard Muller in the Roundtable 4: Local Processes for the Application of the Directives (Tributaries, Aquifers, Bays) and the Participation of Local Stakeholders
- National Consultations on Water in UN- SDG Agenda post 2015; by Liviu Nicolae Popescu in the Roundtable International and Regional Initiatives, from international organisations and water component of COP21

Resources

- [EUROPE INBO 2015](#)
- [How to integrate drought management into the RBMPs](#) (presentation, PDF)
- [Stakeholder participation in case studies](#) (presentation, PDF)
- GWP CEE participation on [Twitter](#)
- [EUROPE INBO Declaration of Thessaloniki](#)

Next steps

- We agreed with Sonia Siauve of the International Office Water that case studies from IDMP CEE Small Water Retention Measures will be include into their collection of case studies at [European Natural Water Retention Platform](#).
- All organizations at EUROPE INBO 2015 were encouraged to sign up for [Paris Pact](#) on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers. Its INBO initiative for [COP 21](#).
- EUROPE INBO 2016 will be held in Lourdes, France.
- EUROPE INBO 2017 will take place in Dublin, Ireland.