

Integrated Drought Management in Central and Eastern Europe

ACTIVITY LIST

1. BASIC INFORMATION

<u>Number of Activity:</u>	Activity 2.1 & 2.2
<u>Title of the activity:</u>	Guideline for Drought Management Plans <i>(and act. 2.2 - “National consultation Dialogues” as supportive activity for Guideline development)</i>
<u>Duration of the activity:</u>	June 2013 – June 2015
<u>Activity leader:</u>	Elena Fatulova (SK)
<u>Chairman of the CWP:</u>	Elena Fatulova (elena.fatulova@gmail.com)
<u>Description of the activity:</u>	<p>In recent years drought planning is moving from a crisis management approach (based on the national or regional drought emergency programmes) to risk management based on the development of comprehensive, long-term drought preparedness policies and plans of actions intended to significantly reduce the risks and vulnerabilities to extreme weather events. Drought management plans (DMPs) can present important instruments to achieve this. The main objective of DMPs is to minimize the adverse impacts on the economy, social life and environment when drought appears. DMPs are directly linked to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) criteria and objectives, and the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). DMPs should be prepared in advance before they are needed, based on the relevant country specific conditions and after careful studies focused on characterization of the drought in the country, its effect and the mitigation measures.</p> <p>The main items needed to develop a DMP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators and thresholds establishing onset, ending, and severity levels for classification of the drought stages (e.g. pre-alert, alert, extreme), • Measures to be taken in each drought stage in order to mitigate negative drought effects. These measures may be of different type: strategic, operative, organizational, follow-up and recovery. • Organizational framework to deal with drought and subsequent revision and updating of the existing DMP as well as strengthening institutional arrangements, effective networking and coordination between competent authorities in water management at different levels

- Effective information systems, early warning systems and drought risk maps

The main objective of this activity is to prepare the Guideline which will serve as a support tool for the preparation of the DMPs. Many countries support this activity from two reasons:

- Existing guideline developed within Common Implementation strategy for WFD (CIS) in 2007 (Report 2007) is too general focusing rather on content of the DMP than methodology of the development of the main items of DMP (e.g. indicator system, early warning system)
- Guideline does not reflect progress made within CIS

Development of the Guideline will respect the following principles:

- to be in line with current EU drought policy as expressed in the relevant official documents (e.g. A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources, UNCCD Convention),
- to apply integrated approach in context with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives according the River Basin Management plans (RBMPs),
- to follow existing relevant official documents (reports, guidelines) developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for WFD (CIS), under coordination of EC,
- to be a practical tool based on practical experiences with the preparation of the DMP (e.g. Slovak case study, DMPs in the involved countries),
- to respect the country specific conditions (experiences from the individual involved countries).

Guideline will compile information, recommendations, experiences gained from the several sources. Basis for preparation of the Guideline will be:

- Drought Management Plan Report, Including Agricultural, Drought Indicators and Climate Change Aspects, First Draft of November 2007 (further mentioned only as "Report 2007" - document prepared by Water Scarcity and Droughts Expert Network in 2007 within CIS). This report already summarizes the main items needed to develop a Drought Management Plan,
- Report from the Slovak Case study "Application of the EU Guideline for Drought Management Plan in the Slovak national conditions" (further mentioned only as Slovak case study),
- National experience, existing guidelines and drought plans from the involved countries,
- Outputs from another activities of the IDM Programme (presented below)

Preparation of the Guideline will last almost through the entire project and will be divided into two phases.

First phase will include the following activities:

- Execution of the Slovak case study

- Development of the draft of the Guideline

Slovak case study

Preliminary assessment of the RBMPs revealed that generally the quality of DMPs in the first planning cycle (December 2009) was not satisfactory. Many EU countries identified drought as a “not relevant” problem, but this statement was not supported by reliable assessments or proofs. Example of good practice with DMP development is missing. The main objective of the Slovak case study is to provide an example of procedure how to develop the key items of DMP presented in the Report 2007. Practical experience gained during the execution of the study will be used as a basis for development of the Guideline draft. The scope of the study and methodology of the planned activities will follow general recommendations included in the Report 2007.

The concrete intention of the study is to analyse and characterize one drought period (2011/2012) using existing monitored data. The intention of this assessment is to process monitored data from one drought event with the aim to develop a representative national indicators systems and further basic items enabling to prepare DMPs on the national level. All available drought indicators will be tested (statistically, graphically in the maps) with the aim to propose procedure for the development of:

- Representative national indicator system to compare and define drought events;
- Drought warning system;
- Threshold values for classification of drought categories;
- Drought monitoring plan;
- Classification of mitigation measures (preventive, operational, organizational); Identification/illustration of areas impacted during the drought episode (2011/2012).

The concept of the drought risk assessment (including drought risk maps) will be developed on the basis of EU guidance document (currently a discussion document exists).

Practical experiences gained during the execution of the study will be summarised in the **Slovak Study Report**.

The second output of the first phase will be **Draft of the Guideline**. The development of the Guideline will follow general recommendations described in the Report 2007. The main stress will be laid on planning process on the national level taking into account insufficient current status of the DMPs development in many countries. Concerning the river basin level opportunities of DMPs harmonisation will be analysed taking into account future progress on EU level and current drought situation in the involved countries (drought occurrence and relevance). During implementation of the first phase working team will flexible react in the course of the IDMP to the last development of the recommendations for implementation of respective EU Guideline. Also some other documents or guidelines related to DMP which already exist will be reviewed and utilised (e.g. MEDROPLAN,

XECHORE, DMP of the Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe (Ljubljana), etc).

The draft of the Guideline will be prepared in parallel with the Slovak case study, Activity 1.2 (Review of the current status of the implementation of DM plans and measures within RBMP according to WFD) and Activity 1.3 (Platform, mainly mapping of EU-wide drought indicators) using all available information gathered within these separate activities. The draft of the Guideline will serve as a discussion document for the national dialogues and workshops planned within the activities 2.2 (National Consultation dialogues) and Activity 6.1 (Workshops).

Second phase

The main objective of the second phase will be development of the revised version of the Guideline draft and its completion in the form of final output of the Activity 2.1. During the second phase the content of Guideline draft will be discussed, commented, corrected and amended by all involved countries through the national and regional consultations. The consultation process will be launched in each of the involved country. The consultation dialogues will be taking place on the national level within Activity 2.2 (National consultation dialogues) and regional level during workshops planned in the Activity 6.1. The consultation process including Activity 2.2 and Activity 6.1 will be focused on:

- gathering of the national practical experiences, existing guidelines and another relevant information relating to drought planning (Activity 2.2),
- elaboration of comments, corrections, suggestions, amendments of the Guideline draft based on the national experiences taking into account country specific conditions (Activity 2.1),
- communication and discussion among all involved country with the aim to complete the final version of the Guideline. This activity will be carried out preferably by e-mail communication with activity leader and during workshops (activity 6.1).

National consultation process requires participation of the institutions and experts from different sectors dealing with drought related issues. Key experts should come from national Hidro-Met services, agricultural institutions and eventually from the state institutions or agencies dealing with drought planning. It is supposed that GWPs will nominate national experts who will take time and discuss issues regarding the guidelines (national consultation dialogues). GWPs will also organize and coordinate meetings under the Activity 2.2 (2000 euro/country). Activity leader 2.1 will define some key questions that need to be discussed at the national level and also what kind of input is expected from them for the Guideline development. Project manager will regularly communicate with GWPs and also will ask them to write short reports after each meeting or reporting back on a progress every two or three months.

This national expert team will also nominate among themselves one "national coordinator". The "national coordinator" should provide input for the Guideline – development of the national proposal for Guideline completion (together with the GWP who will collect information from this national consultation dialogue) and information for Activity 1.2. The "national coordinator" will also attend all the workshop and capacity building trainings (together with the second person he or she will choose).

The suggested approach is in line with the Inception report (*for the GWP CEE part of the WMO/GWP*

Integrated Drought Management Programme) where it is emphasized that Drought Management Plans should be prepared by using “bottom-up” approach by participation of different sectors at different levels and other stakeholders. This approach is also going to be used for preparation of the Guidelines itself while they will have practical value only if they are prepared together with those who will use it. The main users of the Guidelines will primarily be regional and national entities or individuals who are involved in drought management in each country or river basins (identified in act. 2.2 but not limited to them). These individuals will also participate at the capacity building activities organized by GWP experts (Act. 6.1). Guidelines will be a final product of IDMP.

Summary: Main input for the Guideline will represent the outputs from the rest of the project activities:

- Slovak case study
- Review of the current status of Drought Management Plan (activity 1.2) will reveal at what stage of the preparation process each involved country is, what are their main problems, which steps are the problematic ones, etc. With this information, from the users who will use the Guidelines, this document can be prepared in a way that certain steps in the preparation of the Drought Management Plan will be more clearly described.
- Measures (to prevent / mitigate drought in normal, pre-alert, alert and extreme conditions) collected in the Act. 7.1 are also important input for the Guidelines. Some of the measures will be also implemented and tested (act. 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5);
- The most important input for the Guidelines will be collected at the workshops (act. 6.1). Participants will be key actors (coordinators, GWPs) from all involved countries. They will contribute additional information and practical experiences which will be prepared or gained at the national level.
- The Draft of the Guideline will be the basic tool for GWP experts who will lead consultation process for each involved country (act. 2.2). The experiences from “the field” will additionally enriched the content of the Guidelines.
- Chosen good practices (act. 7.1) will also be included into the Guidelines as an example of already implemented measures, indicators and other drought related products.

Throughout the entire project, project manager will have constant communication with activity leader, coordinators and key stakeholders involved in this project and will try to incorporate their remarks, comments, and ideas into the Guideline.

2. PLAN for IMPLEMENTATION of the activity

Name of the output	Guideline for Drought Management
Type of the output (analysis, report, guideline, workshop, brochure, etc.):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guideline</i> • <i>Slovak Case Study Report</i>
Form (website, CD, printed, database, audio-visual, computer software, etc.):	<i>Website, CD, printed</i>
Purpose of the output:	<i>Support tool for the development/improvement of the Drought management plans</i>
Structure and description (contents, requirements for use, chapters, etc.)	<p><i>Slovak case study report</i> (tentative content):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction – description of activity objectives, scope of the work, partners involved</i> 2. <i>Definitions and concepts related to droughts</i> 3. <i>Review of the available monitoring data (hydrological, agricultural and another drought indicators)</i> 4. <i>Characterization of the drought event 2011/2012 – assessment of the chosen indicators (statistically, graphically)</i> 5. <i>Proposal for drought management – representative indicator system, drought warning system, classification of drought stages, drought monitoring plan, classification of mitigation measures</i> 6. <i>Conclusions – proposal for preparation of Drought management plan</i> 7. <i>Annexes – datasets, series of maps (indicator maps, map of drought affected area)</i> <p><i>Guideline</i> (tentative content):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction – description of the activity objectives</i> 2. <i>EU policy related to drought – legal aspects, EC policy documents, implementation measures adopted until</i>

	<p>now,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Current status of preparation and implementation of the Drought management plans – summary of results gained within the activity 1.2, identification of the gaps in the region and involved countries</i> 4. <i>Recommendations for preparation of the key items of the Drought management plan –six sub-chapters focused on methodology for setting the national indicator system, drought warning system, classification of drought stages, effective drought monitoring plan, classification and proposal of drought mitigation measures</i> 5. <i>Annex – Slovak case study</i>
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Tasks for implementation of the activity	Till when?	Who is responsible?
First phase:		
Slovak case study	March 2014	SK Elena Fatulova
Draft of the Guideline	May 2014	SK Elena Fatulova
Written proposals for adjustment, correction, amendment of the Guideline draft	December 2014	Coordinators from CZ, HU, PL, LIT, SLO, ROM, BG, UA, MD
FINAL OUTPUT: Guideline for Drought Management Plans or Guideline for Drought Management Plans including example of its application – revised version	April 2015	Elena Fatulova

3. LIST OF THE TASKS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. Guidelines for Drought Management Plans

The activity 2.1 will be focused on development of the Guideline for Drought Management Plans. The guideline will be designated on the basis of the Slovak case study and experiences from the participating countries.

Responsibility of the involved countries:

- communication with the activity leader,
- providing national information on existing guidelines for drought management (e.g. planning, mapping, monitoring) which will be gathered and processed during the national dialogues (Activity 2.2),
- elaboration of the written comments, proposals for adjustment, correction and amendments of the Guideline draft.

2. National Consultation Dialogue

The aim of the activity is gather information required for Activity 2.1 through the national dialogues organised separately in each involved countries.

Responsibility of the involved countries:

- elaboration of the action plan and time schedule for the national dialogues,
- identification of the national partners dealing with drought issues,
- organising national dialogues – meetings, seminars, workshops according the action plan
- gathering and processing of national information relating the drought management issues
- elaboration of the progress reports.