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Place	Centre de Congress AMAZONE; Brussels; Belgium
Date	6 November 2013
Events	2 nd Pan-EU Drought Dialogue Forum
Participant	Sabina Bokal, Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE), Programme Manager, GWP Central and Eastern Europe

The purpose of the trip

The objective of the Drought Dialogue Forum is to create an exchange platform among policy-makers, stakeholders and the scientific community on science-policy interactions. The Forum is an interactive drought dialogue that aims at the reduction of future Europe's vulnerability and risk to drought by using results provided by the research community. Policy makers and researchers were together in order to transfer the benefits from research to address real-life drought problems. That is why transferring the outcomes of research to forecast, prevent, and mitigate drought impacts, is a major challenge of the Drought Dialogue Forum and the DROUGHT-R&SPI project.

This forum and the project very much connect with the objectives of IDMP CEE, i.e. addressing policy level, filling gaps in Water Framework Directive implementation to support process of preparation of the drought management plans within the 2nd cycle of river basin management planning and process of preparation of drought management policies, etc. This is the reason for participation as an observer in order to observe how "western-European" countries are tackling drought management issues.

Meeting minutes

At the beginning, Mr. Henny van Lanen (project coordinator) and Dionysis Assimacopoulos presented overall objectives of the project and main purpose of the 2nd Drought Dialogue Forum.

They have emphasized that "policy makers need figures, predictions, evidences, etc. which only science can produce". Their focus is on filling the gap between science and policy in drought management field. Within their project they are focusing on four main activities:

- Improving early warning and monitoring
- Assessment of vulnerability for different regions and sectors
- Development of better planning for drought (Drought Management Plans)
- Improving science-policy interface

Main participants were different stakeholders, mostly from policy level (EU, river basin organizations, municipalities, ministries, etc.) and drought experts from different institutes/organizations.

The second part of the event was devoted to drought impacts and drought risk maps at pan-EU scale. They've presented their large database of collected drought impacts from all over the Europe (till now only project partners provided an input, next year database will be open to public and anyone will be able to add some missing impacts from previous droughts in their region, country, etc.). The main reason why are they creating this database is that they are trying to link different drought indicators with impacts on the field. At the end, they will try create drought risk maps which will help to support the decision-making process for a policy level.

After the introduction, all participants were divided into four different groups and we had "Word Café" style dialogue on the pan-EU maps. We were discussing on four different topics:

- Use and scale of risk maps

- Drought impacts
- Vulnerability factors at the pan-European scale
- Vulnerability assessment

Conclusions / next steps

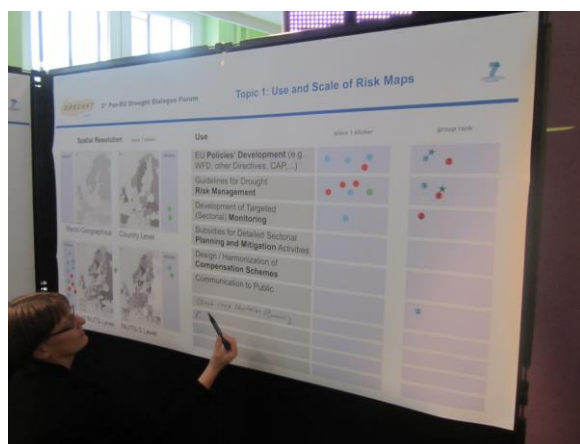
They will prepare the report and explain in it where and how the results from this workshop will be used in future steps.

They are planning to organize two more Drought Dialogue Forum (next year in Greece and together with the final conference of the Drought R&SPI project in Brussels)

Links

- 1st Pan-EU Drought Dialogue Forum: <http://www.eu-drought.org/newsevents/10813457/The-1st-pan-European-Drought-Dialogue-Forum>
- Drought R-SPI project web page: <http://www.eu-drought.org/>
- Agenda of the 2nd Pan-EU drought Dialogue Forum: <http://www.eu-drought.org/archive/10833288/DROUGHT-R-SPI-organises-2nd-pan-European-Drought-Dialogue-Forum-on-November-6-2013>

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Second Pan-European Union Drought Dialogue Forum. Photo credit: GWP CEE/Bokal.