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Place	University of Life Sciences; Warsaw; Poland
Date	28-29 October 2013
Events	Workshop of partners within IDMP CEE activity 5.3 (Natural small water retention measures)
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 purpose of the demonstration projects within IDMP CEE is to demonstrate the concrete measures which can be later included into Drought Management Plans. There are six different demonstration projects Within IDMP CEE and on the First Regional IDMP CEE workshop in Slovakia on 15-16 October 2013 it was decided that in the following weeks there will be organized workshops and trainings within each demonstration project.

The first workshop was held in 28-29 October in Warsaw and it brought together 4 partners from Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia working within Demonstration project Natural small water retention measures. The workshop was hosted by University of Life Sciences and led by the Chair of GWP Poland and activity leader Tomasz Okruzsko.

Meeting minutes

This demonstration project deals with small water retention to improve water holding potential of landscape and increase resilience against the effects of climate change. Such measures include small dikes and polders, restoration of wetlands and changes in forest and agriculture practices.

Main output of this demonstration project will be technical guidelines for individuals, civil society and policy makers how to plan and construct different kind of small water retention measures that lower flood risk and store water for dry periods.

First part of the workshop was devoted to the work done so far. During the preparation phase, experts analysed programmes and measures that can be considered as small retention measures in each of the four countries. They have also agreed on parts where they will update prepared State-of-the-art analysis so that it will be good background for continuation for their work.

In the second part of the workshop they have discussed common definition of "small water retention measures". The partners agreed that a common definition what small water retention is, is very much needed. They discussed how to define measures which collect water in a smaller scale and make it available at later stage for different purposes, especially in case of drought. At the end they have agreed on a draft version of the definition which will be additionally "shaped" by the activity leader and send to all in following weeks.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to drafting main chapters of guidelines and discussion about the content. The guidelines will define small retention measures and their purpose. Major part of the guidelines will be small retention cookbook focused on planning for policy makers and knowledge exchange through case studies from the whole region.

Small retention is often considered only as a flood protection measure; however, the experts agreed that floodwater stored by small retention dikes and polders is also an important source of

water for ecosystems, agriculture and forestry during drought in river basins.

Conclusions / next steps

- to update “State-of-the-art analysis” – national tables till the end of November;
- to prepare final version of the “small retention definition” - what type of activity they can cover;
- to publish an articles in Journal of Water and Land Development – like a review of each country (not scientific)
- to meet for the second time during the 2nd IDMP CEE workshop which will be held in Ljubljana
- to organize in September 2014 additional workshop with other CEE countries and collect additional case studies from other countries - to enrich their Guidelines;
- this activity is connected with two other demonstration projects (5.2 and 5.1) and they will try to follow the progress of other activities also – try to find some common points or when can they cooperate;
- Remaining challenge: Translate the guidelines into different languages (English version will not have that impact) - translate the guidelines into 4 languages (additional funds?)

Links

- *Article about the meeting and 5.3 activity on GWP CEE web site:*
<http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-CEE/gwp-cee-in-action/news-and-activities/>

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Workshop of partners within IDMP CEE activity 5.3 (Natural small water retention measures). Photo credit: GWP CEE/Bokal.