

# GWP Central and Eastern Europe

Established: October 2001

GWP Central and Eastern Europe  
Mr. Milan Matuska  
c/o Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute  
Jeseniova 17  
833 15 Bratislava, Slovak Republic  
Tel: +421 2 5941 5224  
Tel/fax: +421 2 5941 5294  
E-mail: [gwpcee@shmu.sk](mailto:gwpcee@shmu.sk)  
Website: [www.gwpceeforum.org](http://www.gwpceeforum.org)

## Water situation today

Central and Eastern Europe has a total area of nearly 1.1 million km<sup>2</sup> mainly located in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea basins. Rivers in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia discharge their flows to the Eastern Baltic Sea. The second group of countries – the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania – is located in the Danube River basin which flows into the Black Sea.

Water resources in the region are important for development, providing water for consumption, sanitation, irrigation, industrial use, navigation, fishing, recreation etc. Many water ecosystems in the region have suffered from degradation or are threatened by pollution, overuse of surface and ground-water, and habitat loss. The application of integrated approaches to water resources development, management and use, which meets the increasing demands and needs of aquatic ecosystems, remains a challenge.

## Programmes and action

GWP Central and Eastern Europe consists of ten country water partnerships that provide an inclusive and neutral platform for stakeholders. The programme objective is to support countries with integrated approaches to more sustainable water resources development, management and use. Over the next two years, the Partnership plans to undertake several initiatives including increased multi-sectoral dialogues, and raising political will for adoption of integrated water resources management (IWRM) principles – as part of implementing the EU Water Framework Directive.

There has been a steady increase in interest for public participation, as well as recognition for it on different governance levels, in a wide range of sectors and contexts, including environmental management. To respond to this, the Partnership established two sub-regional Public Participation Task Forces in the Eastern Baltic region and the Danube River basin. Another task force has focused on Water and Education. It promotes IWRM and water related curricula to primary and secondary schools.

There is an ongoing study on flash floods under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization, a GWP Associated Programme on Floods Management.

The inter-regional ToolBox work is currently focusing on Central Asia and Caucasus. In 2005, training packages on the application of integrated approaches to water resources management in the context of the EU Water Policy were developed and these were used in training workshops.

## GWP Bulgaria Water Partnership

Geographically and climatically, Bulgaria can be categorized as semi-arid. According to the classification made by the European Economic Council, Bulgaria is among the countries with relatively poor water resources of 2,376 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year. The average annual aggregate capacity of stored and utilized water resources varies between 23.5 and 10.7 km<sup>3</sup>, and together with the Danube River, it amounts to 27.5 km<sup>3</sup> in wet years and 14.7 km<sup>3</sup> in dry years.

Water is managed at both national level (Council of the Ministers and Ministry of the Environment and Water) and at the river basin level (four River Basin Directorates at the Ministry of the Environment and Water, and River Basin Councils). In 2002, GWP Bulgaria and the Ministry of the Environment and Water signed an agreement of cooperation.

During 1999–2002, area water partnerships were established in the Danube River Basin (Sofia city and Rouse town) and the Black Sea Region (Varna town). Currently, more than 50 Bulgarian organizations are members of GWP.

Established: November 2002  
Prof. Ivan Raev  
14, Hristo Belchev Str., Floor 1, Ap.1  
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Tel/fax: +359 2 9870 461  
Mobile: +359 887 602 672  
E-mail: [gwpbulgaria@dir.bg](mailto:gwpbulgaria@dir.bg)  
Website: [www.gwpbg.org](http://www.gwpbg.org)

## GWP Czech Water Partnership

The Czech Republic has a total area of 78,866 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of Czech rivers flow into the North Sea (65%), others into the Black and Baltic Sea. The annual availability of surface water per capita is 1,400 m<sup>3</sup>, that is, about one third of the European average. About 75% of the country's 10.3 million inhabitants live in urban areas. Of the total population, 88% is supplied by public water systems and 76% is connected to public sewerage systems. Water supply companies are privatized and in some regions, organizations of infrastructure owners have been established.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment supervises water management. Some water issues lie within the competency of other ministries such as those for transport and industry. Regarding the management of river basins, state owned enterprises are responsible for the administration and management of five major basins.

GWP Czech Republic, also called the Czech Water Club, was officially established in 2001 under the Czech Water Scientific and Technical Society (CVT VHS). Currently, the Water and Environmental Technology Team hosts the Partnership and translates key IWRM publications and organises conferences and other events.

Established: November 2001  
Prof. Petr Dolejs  
Water and Environmental Technology Team  
P.O. Box 27, Pisecka 2  
370 11 Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic  
Tel: +420 385 522 109  
Fax: +420 385 522 109  
E-mail: [petr.dolejs@cmail.cz](mailto:petr.dolejs@cmail.cz)

## GWP Estonia Water Partnership

Estonia is rich in water resources. The average volume of the surface water available per capita per year is about 8,000 m<sup>3</sup>. About 75% of the population is connected to a centralized water supply system. Estonia has some problems with the quality of groundwater and drinking water.

GWP Estonia is closely linked to the Estonia Water Association. As a result of this relationship, the Partnership has many water professionals involved in GWP activities. The backbone of these activities is awareness raising and involvement of the interested public in river basin management plans according to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements, in the context of IWRM.

The Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, an NGO active in Peipsi Lake, submitted several successful case studies for the IWRM ToolBox. In 2002, the Partnership organised a series of dialogues on Effective Water

Governance; Financial Flows in the Water Sector; and on Water, Food and Environment. In addition, the Partnership has hosted an international workshop on public private partnerships in the municipal water sector.

Established: July 2001  
Mr. Harry Liiv  
Estonian Water Association  
Mustamäe tee 33-116  
10616, Tallinn, Estonia  
Tel: +372 62 62850  
Fax: +372 62 62928  
E-mail: [harry.liiv@envir.ee](mailto:harry.liiv@envir.ee)  
Website: [www.veeyhing.ee](http://www.veeyhing.ee)

## GWP Hungary Water Partnership

The two main rivers – the Danube and the Tisza – and Lake Balaton, together with thermal springs, ensure safe water supplies for the country. Water however, may also cause serious problems: authorities, associations and other stakeholders in the water sector are facing challenges relating to quality, quantity, and floods, and consequently need to address institutional issues.

GWP Hungary is promoting co-operation between those interested in IWRM, with special regard to the protection of the aquatic environment, floods and excess water protection, and to the management of shared rivers or lake basins and the implementation of EU Water Framework Directive.

Established: February 2002  
Mr. Gyula Reich  
Etele u. 59-61  
H-1119 Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: +36 1 371 1333  
Fax: +36 1 371 1333  
E-mail: [gwpmo@gwpmo.hu](mailto:gwpmo@gwpmo.hu)  
Website: [www.gwpmo.hu](http://www.gwpmo.hu)

## GWP Latvia Water Partnership

The country has approximately 34 km<sup>3</sup> of surface water and 4.7 km<sup>3</sup> of groundwater resources available annually. Latvia generally does not have a water shortage problem as annual precipitation exceeds evaporation by 250 mm – in humid years even by 500–600 mm. There are more than 12,400 rivers and 2,256 lakes in the state, which together with water reservoirs for hydroelectric power stations cover 3.7% of the state territory. Wetland ecosystems make up 10% of Latvian territory.

GWP Latvia has a well-structured network in place for an exchange of ideas, information and good practices. The network consists of water management professionals and experts as well as representatives of municipal and state administration. Activities include the support of more integrated

approaches to water management and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive on the river basin level through participation in different projects.

Established: April 2004  
Mr. Ivars Sekacis  
Society "Daugavas Savieniba"  
Lacplesa street 1  
LV-5101 Aizkraukle, Latvia  
Tel: +371 51 22266  
Fax: +371 51 22238  
E-mail: [aizrp@apollo.lv](mailto:aizrp@apollo.lv)  
Website: [www.vvi.gov.lv/gwp](http://www.vvi.gov.lv/gwp)

## GWP Lithuania Water Partnership

In Lithuania, there are plentiful surface and groundwater resources. Surface water availability is 7.043 m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year and close to 1,000 litres/day of groundwater could be extracted without any damage to the environment.

Currently, GWP Lithuania has 80 members. The principal activities of the Partnership include awareness raising through seminars involving mass media on important water issues, for example on IWRM, public participation, the EU Water Framework Directive and other water related EU directives. On the local level, GWP Lithuania interacts with decision-makers and the public and involves them in regional and national activities. Through translating and distributing GWP

publications, the Partnership has successfully advocated and advanced GWP water initiatives throughout the country.

Established: September 2000  
Dr. Bernardas Paukstys  
Juozapaviciaus street 6/2  
LT-09310, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Tel: +370 5 2757 278  
Fax: +370 5 2757 278  
E-mail: bernadas@iti.lt  
Website: www.vandensklubas.lt

## GWP Romania Water Partnership

Romania's water resources are relatively poor and unequally distributed in time and space with 194 natural lakes and a potential annual amount of 9 billion m<sup>3</sup> of exploitable groundwater. In Romania, 98% of the territory lies within the Danube river basin, where the river is regulated over most of its course. The Danube Delta, where the river flows into the Black Sea, is unique ecological system in Europe. Because of its high biodiversity the whole zone has been declared a protected area and a World Natural Heritage Site.

Romania uses both surface water and groundwater. During the last 50 years huge infrastructure investments were made in order to increase the water resources availability and to improve flood protection.

GWP has been present in Romania since 1998. GWP Romania is registered in the Special Register of the Court of Bucharest as an Association and is located in capital city of Bucharest.

The main partners are the National Water Administration, the Ministry of Environment Water Management, the

Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, private companies and wastewater treatment enterprises. GWP Romania cooperates also with universities in the capital as well as in the countryside in dissemination of information on IWRM and organization of dialogues and discussions on more integrated approaches to water resources management.

Established: August 2002  
Dr. Liviu Nicolae Popescu  
Aleea Fizicienilor No 4,  
Bloc 3C, Floor 2, Ap 16, Sector 3,  
Cod 032113, Bucharest, Romania  
Tel: +40 21 3480 947  
Fax: +40 21 2215 684  
E-mail: lipopesc@icim.ro  
Website: www.gwp-romania.ro

## GWP Poland Water Partnership

Located in the Baltic Sea Basin, Poland has a mean annual water resources per capita of approximately 1,600m<sup>3</sup>, almost three times less than the mean value for Europe. In addition, the available resources are subject to great year-to-year variability. Devastating floods and local water scarcities are frequent. Water quality management is one of the key problems, creating problems for people's livelihoods and the environment. Several river basin authorities were established in 1991.

The main objectives of GWP Poland are to promote the principles of IWRM and provide a forum for bringing water stakeholders together for knowledge exchange and implementation of action programmes. It comprises about 100 members representing government, water authorities, academia, non-governmental ecological organizations and various sectors of economy. The current programmes deal especially with water, environment and sustainable development of rural regions, water governance improvements, and promo-

tion of economic instruments in the area of water and environmental management. Actions include stakeholder meetings, baseline studies, local pilot actions, guidelines and publications, all contributing to achieving the Partnership's objectives.

Established: February 2001  
Prof. Janusz Kindler  
Warsaw University of Technology  
Faculty of Environmental Engineering  
ul. Nowowiejska 20  
00-653 Warsaw, Poland  
Tel: +48 22 6607290  
Fax: +48 22 660 5362  
E-mail: Janusz.Kindler@is.pw.edu.pl

## GWP Slovak Republic Water Partnership

The Slovak Republic is divided between the Danube River basin (96%) and the Vistula River basin (4%). Surface water and groundwater resources are plentiful. As in most other countries in the region, available water resources are subject to great variability and the country experiences both devastating floods and droughts. Groundwater is used as drinking water for approximately 80% of the 5.4 million inhabitants.

GWP was first introduced in the Slovak Republic in 1998, when the country became a regular member of GWP Central and Eastern Europe. Since then, a number of activities have been carried out to promote IWRM principles and build bridges between different stakeholders and sectors that manage, develop and use water resources. GWP Slovakia consists of members representing governmental, non-governmental organizations and universities. Present programmes and activities include cross-sectoral issues of water and environment,

water and education and sustainable development of regions and local municipalities. The Partnership also participates in the implementation of the EU water legislation. In addition, it focuses on the education of socially excluded communities, living mainly in rural areas in Eastern Slovakia.

Established: November 2001  
Dr. Michal Makel  
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute  
Jeseniova 17  
833 15 Bratislava, Slovak Republic  
Tel: +421 2 5941 5233  
Fax: +421 2 5941 5393  
E-mail: peter.roncak@shmu.sk

# GWP Slovenia Water Partnership

The geographical position of Slovenia at the meeting point of the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Dinaric mountain chain, and the Pannonian plain influences the diversity of nature, cultures and people. The diversity is further enriched by the Slovenian waters. Although the small country (20,256 km<sup>2</sup>) does not offer much room for large water bodies, there are 7,400 km of water courses, thousands of springs, waterfalls, gorges and lakes, as well as the Adriatic Sea.

The main activity of the Partnership is to promote IWRM principles and to act as an independent platform for discussion, offering stakeholders a neutral ground for their dialogue. Main stakeholders include government institutions, local governments, professional associations, research institutions, students, private sector and NGOs. GWP Slovenia is also actively involved in the implementation of EU water

related legislation. It promotes the need for IWRM approaches for more sustainable water resources management at the local level, in schools through local authorities, the Geography Teachers Association and local communities.

Established: 2002  
Ms. Martina Zupan  
Limnos Company for Applied Ecology d.o.o.  
Podlimbarskega 31  
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Tel: +386 1 427 32 45  
Fax: +386 1 505 73 86  
E-mail: [martina.zupan@siol.net](mailto:martina.zupan@siol.net)  
Website: [www.gwpslovenija.org](http://www.gwpslovenija.org)

## Country Water Partnerships in GWP Central and Eastern Europe:

GWP Bulgaria Water Partnership  
GWP Czech Water Partnership  
GWP Estonia Water Partnership  
GWP Hungary Water Partnership  
GWP Latvia Water Partnership  
GWP Lithuania Water Partnership  
GWP Poland Water Partnership  
GWP Romania Water Partnership  
GWP Slovakia Water Partnership  
GWP Slovenia Water Partnership