



PRESS RELEASE

Project name: “Transnational integrated management of water resources in agriculture for the EU WATER emergency control”

Presently, conservation of water resources in general and of those involved in agricultural activities in particular is more important than ever, as increasingly larger volumes of water are utilized for food production, for the production of fibres and for the fuels needed by an expanding global population.

Through a joint strategy and its downscaling within each Project Partner's governance framework, EU.WATER project (which starts from the capitalization of the extreme & fragmented load of results of previous projects) aims to move towards (1) application of the EU Water and Nitrate Directives across SEE Countries (2) development of adaptive-learning practices and innovative solution to contribute at the transition of local agriculture towards innovative and environmental-friendly measures, and (3) incentives to farmers to adopt eco-prescriptive practices.

EU.WATER, carried out in 8 rural study areas belonging to 8 South East European Countries, tackles the emergency related to water consumption and contamination in Europe, and aims at spreading, at transnational level, integrated water resource management in agriculture based on the optimization of water consumption and cutback of groundwater pollution.

Scheduled to run from March 2009 to February 2012, this project has an overall budget of € 2,368,550.

I.N.C.D.I.F – ISPIF Bucharest, the formal project partner on behalf of Romania has been allocated an overall € 286,800.

Project activities are carried out by 8 project partners, representing the same number of SEE countries, as follows:

	Name	Country
1	Ferrara province	Italy
2	Rovigo province	Italy
3	Trans-Tisza Region Environmental, Nature Protection and Water Inspectorate	Hungary
4	University of Debrecen	Hungary
5	Region of Western Macedonia	Greece
6	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
7	National Research & Development Institute for Land Reclamation –Bucharest	Romania
8	Agency for rural development of Istria Ltd Pazin	Croatia
9	Institute of Agricultural Economics	Serbia
10	Odessa National Polytechnic University	Ukraine
11	Ialoveni Rayon Council	Moldova

Project coordination is ensured by Ferrara province partner from Italy.

In Romania project activities are concentrated within an area from Argeş-Vedea river basin which comprises a number of 20 localities initially designated as vulnerable to nitrates; administratively, these localities belong to Argeş, Teleorman, Călăraşi, Giurgiu and Ilfov counties.

Localities in Argeş county are: Călineşti, Topoloveni, Teiu and Leordeni.

Localities in Teleorman county are: Zimnicea, Turnu Măgurele, Drăgăneşti-Vlaşca, Peretu and Suhaia.

Localities in Călăraşi county are: Vasilaţi, Nana, Budeşti and Chirnogi.

Localities in Giurgiu county are: Călugăreni, Daia, Greaca, Adunaţii-Copăceni and Colibaşi.

Localities in Ilfov county are: Chitila and Măgurele.

The project's specific objectives are:

- capitalization and reorganization of the existing knowledge in the project areas with reference to the water-sensitive agricultural zones;
- definition of a joint transnational strategy (TSIWMA) for the integrated management of water in agriculture, coherent to EU Water Framework and Nitrate Directives, to be subsequently applied (vertically) in each participating region through local adaptive plans;
- development of practical actions and grants mechanisms for introducing new technologies and new productive systems in agriculture (e.g. sustainable fertilizing practices, low water consumption technologies for irrigation, etc.), with a direct impact on a wide number of farmers;
- support to public bodies in territorial planning, land-use management in rural areas and promotion of low environmental-impact agriculture, supporting the implementation of EU regulations on integrated water management;
- encouragement of the active role of local stakeholders towards tackling the problems, implementing the solutions, and reaping the corresponding benefits

For Romania, among the benefits of this project, most relevant are the following:

- implementation of the provisions of EU Directives (Water Frame and Nitrates) in rural areas of the Argeş-Vedea river basin, where agriculture currently relies on traditional practices, most of which belong to a subsistence type of farming;
- application of the National level Integrated Support System for the Monitoring, Control and Decision Reaching, designed to achieve a reduction of the loads of pollutants coming from agricultural sources that reach surface and underground waters.