

newsletter

EU.WATER

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Dear readers,

As the EU.WATER project has now reached its halfway point, we would like to update you with the several activities performed to date and share with you project midterm results that will lead to the development of the ambitious Transnational Strategy for the Integrated Water Management in Agriculture in the SEE cooperation space.

Moreover, in the current focus article we would like to draw your attention to the EU's new growth strategy - Europe 2020 - approved by the EC on June 17, 2010 that along with the ongoing reforming process of the Common Agriculture Policy, is extremely important for the definition of the EU.WATER integrated management methodology of water resources in the SEE agriculture areas.

Regarding EU.WATER communication activities, an important point of reference both for partnership and all our stakeholders is certainly the project official website, <http://www.eu-water.eu/>, constantly updated with all project news and outputs delivered in recent months. Project's first technical outcome addressed to the operators in the agricultural sector, concerns the development and launch of the online database, linked to active GIS maps system developed by partners, that provides specific agronomic information concerning various project areas. Entering in the aspects of agronomic techniques, the maps of vulnerability/sensitivity to nitrates will be ready soon, and will constitute an additional tool to support decisions for an even better management of crop fertilization in the agriculture of involved countries.

The partnership is already ready to meet the upcoming challenging activities scheduled for the next year and will keep you informed on all EU.WATER achievements.

Enjoy the read and our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful Year 2011 from the whole EU.WATER project team.

Riccardo Loberti and Marta Krakowiak
Province of Ferrara coordination team



Focus article: sustainable agricultural practices between Europe 2020 Strategy and the CAP reform

EU.WATER project was born when the dominant mainstreaming in the European Union were the Goteborg and Lisbon strategy. Indeed, the problem of a massive and low efficient use of water and fertilizers - both contributing to superficial and ground water resources deterioration - find an immediate synergy with three main priorities of the Gothenburg Agenda: climate change, public health and resource management. On the other hand, according to the Lisbon Strategy and main the addresses of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), education activities for experts and farmers are addressed to a more entrepreneurial approach which requires a change of a cultural and working habits and should encourage innovation and diversification in rural areas.

In 2010 the terms of reference have changed. In June the European Council finally adopted the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU's growth roadmap for the coming decade to support employment, productivity and social cohesion in Europe towards a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. Concretely, the EU, following the globalisation processes and the 2008 financial crisis, has set five ambitious objectives - on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy - to be reached by 2020. Thus, the EU 2020 strategy merges the processes deriving from the Lisbon (competitiveness) and the Goteborg (sustainable development) strategies. And this happens while the discussion over CAP reform after 2013 is getting into the core. In this frame, what the space for environment and agriculture in the new European strategies?

Climate and resource challenges, as well as global competition for natural resources that put pressure on the environment, require drastic action and this principle inspired one of the EU 2020 flagship initiative: its envisions an environmentally conscious by an active protection of the environment and prevention of biodiversity loss promote, as well as technologies and production methods that reduce natural resource use and increase investment in the EU's existing natural asset. Such environmental-dynamic ap-





proach must concern all human and productive sectors, including the agriculture, which is the largest consumptive user of water throughout the world and – at the same time – it represents the main threat for water resources because of the use of fertilizers.

At EU level, this is a matter actually under discussion: the Common Agricultural Policy, that since its creation has always been adapted to respond to the challenges of its time, is due to be reformed by 2013 and after a wide-ranging public debate the Commission presented on 18 November 2010 a Communication on “The CAP towards 2020”, which outlines options for the future CAP and launches the debate with the other institutions and with stakeholders. In this context, through its response to the new economic, social, environmental, climate-related and technological challenges facing our society, the CAP can contribute more to developing intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Even if more emphasis on agriculture in the Europe 2020 Strategy is requested by the majority of the Member States, the CAP could definitely play a central role in meeting the objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy and this potential is strongly connected to a significant reform process of the same CAP to ensure that it is reoriented towards the objectives of EU 2020 in order to maintain a competitive, productive and sustainable agricultural sector, as well as the inclusion of a point on competitiveness as a long-term strategy to place EU agriculture at the helm of standard-setting: in other terms, there is the need to take CAP on a new ‘multi-functional role’ leading to increased competitiveness while respecting natural resources.

EU.WATER in 2011 will develop one joint transnational strategy on the integrated water management in agriculture, one of the main objective of the project. The new challenge is to realign EU.WATER strategy towards the new 2020 philosophy and CAP reforms. The partnership thinks ambitious, again.

Marco Meggiolaro
Project Coordinator

EU.WATER
international
activities



EU.WATER Forum of Beograd.

Second Scientific Forum of Beograd

The second Scientific and Technical Partnership Forum of the EU.WATER project was organized by the Institute of Agricultural Economics in Belgrade on 22nd and 23rd April 2010. The forum focused on progress in the implementation of all activities scheduled within the WP3, with particular reference to the development of GIS vulnerability maps, according to the methodology proposed by the Aristotle University and subsequently approved by all PPs during the 1st ST Forum in Thessaloniki. The meeting also launched the structural discussion, led by LP and Region of Western Macedonia (WP leader), on crucial aspects towards definition of the Transnational Strategy for the Integrated Water Management in Agriculture (TSIWMA). Alongside the forum were organised the Steering Committee meeting that tackled project's administrative-financial and communication issues as well as the operational GIS training seminar, led by the Aristotle University and addressed to the GIS experts participating in the forum.

University of Aristotle study visit in Ferrara

In June 2010, the University of Aristotle University, leader of the work package "knowledge capitalization" visited the TECNO-POLO - spin-off of the University of Ferrara and lead partners' technical advisor - to finalize the methodology that supports the development of the GIS maps showing water management sprawl in agricultural areas. The collected maps will highlight issues, such as the water saving and water protection in agricultural regions from nitrates and other agriculture-related parameters, that will contribute at the transnational strategy and drive the development of targeted-interventions in the project pilot areas.



EU.WATER
goes glocal



European Commission appreciation for EU.WATER activities in Serbia

In July 2010 the European Commission implemented the external Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) to the EU.WATER IPA Partner - Institute of Agricultural Economics (IAE) in order to determine the progress of the Project and its overall performance, in the frame of projects and programmes of the EC External Cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey. On 13th July 2010 at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Belgrade and 14th July 2010 at the Institute TAMIS in Pancevo was performed monitoring mission regarding the participation and activities of the IAE in the EU.WATER project. On behalf of the Monitoring mission the institutes were visited by Mrs. Hristina Georgievski, who expressed particular interest for commitments of IAE in different Work Packages, especially related to the elaboration of GIS maps of the Serbian target area and training activities addressed to local stakeholders on EU.WATER water management approach.

Local stakeholder consultations in Ferrara reinforce the project's impact

In the frame of the pilot actions to be developed in Ferrara, 3 technical coordination meetings with the provincial stakeholders have been organized in the last year to explain the main objectives of EU.WATER project and the impact of experimental applications for the agricultural sector in Ferrara province. During the first meeting held on 2nd November 2009, farmers and technicians were asked to make available some rural plots of lands representing the main cultivations of the area (wheat and crop). In the second meeting organized on 15th of March 2010, the territorial samplings across the Province of Ferrara was planned. One local implementation network with the technician that made available the farms for the data collection (density, compositions, nitrogen etc..) was formed up to manage the first part of the pilot action. Finally, the second part of the pilot action was triggered during the third meeting held on 23rd October 2010, that will be running during the autumn 2010 / spring 2011: a replication of the analysis of the last spring, together with the installation of some drills is expected in the next months. All meetings were chaired by Riccardo Loberti from the Province of Ferrara and Giuseppe Castaldelli (PARCAGRI), scientific coordinator of EU.WATER project.



Horizons: Croatia towards EU, national and local strategies for a eco-friendly agricultural practices

How Croatia and Serbia are approaching EU adhesion on rural environmental topics? How Ukraine and Moldova are getting closer to EU water management standards in agriculture? "Horizons" reports in the next four newsletters

The Nitrate Directive (Council Directive 91/676/EEC) from 1991 is an EU Directive which aims to protect water quality by preventing pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. In this context, the most important document for the farmers in our country is the Ordinance on Good Agricultural Practice in the Application of Fertilizers (OG 56/08) which shall enter into force on the day of the accession of the Republic of Croatia into the EU. The Ordinance regulates: general principles of good agricultural practice in application of fertilizers; time within the year when application of fertilizers on agricultural land is not allowed; conditions for fertilizer application on steeply sloping ground, water saturated ground, flooded, frozen or snow covered ground; conditions for fertilizer application near water courses; procedures in application of mineral and organic fertilizers; minimum capacity and properties of storage facilities for livestock manure. In agricultural production the principles of circulation of nitrogen are of extreme importance: during nitrogen circulation on the farm, nitrogen is lost. However, good farm management can bring the loss to a minimum. The initial four-year period will limit the allowable intake of pure nitrogen via organic fertilizers to 210 kg N/ha per year. Following the initial period, a continual limit of the maximum allowable intake of pure nitrogen will be set at 170 kg N/ha per year. Such measures will provide long-term protection of groundwater, sustainable plant and livestock production, obtaining of environmental permits for further production development, obtaining of production subsidies and obtaining of grants from the EU funds.

Jasenka Kapuralin
Project Manager - AZRRI

EU.WATER talks to the stakeholders in Hungary and Romania



Project strategy to reach target groups is based on a community-led processes to improve awareness towards sustainable agriculture patterns, ownership of the problems and solution brought by the application of the project 's methodologies. Involvement of target groups in each area is formalized through the creation of Local Implementation Networks (LIN), which are permanent forums to foster communication and interaction between the stakeholders-decision makers and facilitate voluntary use of EU.WATER methodologies.

The 1st LIN roundtable of the EU.WATER project was held on 10th June at the headquarters of Trans-Tisza Region Environmental, Nature Protection and Water Inspectorate Debrecen, Hungary. The invited members (17) represent the professional institutions (agriculture, water management, fishery, nature protection etc.), municipalities, farmers, engineering agency etc. Their participation is expected to help in the project realization. During the 1st meeting Béla Kelemen and Zoltán Karácsonyi informed the LIN members about the objectives of EU.WATER project. After this presentations, the LIN members declared that they are very pleased and found useful the creation of the LIN, they are ready to help the LIN with their professional advice and they are expecting the result of the EU.WATER project.

The first meeting of the LIN of the EU.WATER project in Romania was held on 3rd October in Pitesti, the headquarters of Arges County. 21 participants reached the meeting from local institutions for implementing agriculture policies related to the Nitrate Directive (ND) (County Agriculture Directorate, Soil Testing Laboratories, County Management Unit for Rural Development Plan) and private agriculture sector (farmers having medium/big size animal farms). Project members presented the aims of the project in the frame of implementing ND. Nitrate vulnerable zones in the Arges-Vedea region have been presented together with the action programs for implementing the ND. Participants were very interested in using EU.WATER outputs for a better managing of nitrogen in the agriculture system. They will support the flow of information from EU.WATER project to the local stakeholders.

Judit Karacsonyi

University of Debrecen, EU.WATER Communication Manager

Who are the EU.WATER partners?



Presentation of the project team of Ukraine and Moldova

EU.WATER partnership includes two authorities from Ukraine and Moldova that are sponsored by the lead partner Province of Ferrara. The involvement of these partners in building the joint transnational strategies has positive effects for approaching the Community standards in the environmental and water management, as well as to support the ongoing agricultural reforms processes in the South-East Europe neighbouring regions.

Department of Marketing and Innovation Policy of the Odessa National Polytechnic University was established in 2005 for the cooperation between the universities in Odessa region. It provides the advices and information support for the other universities in Odessa and southern Ukraine region, partly acting as a typical regional university center. Team members Valery Lebed, Olena Vlasenko and Oleksandr O. Svitlychnyi are engaged in the development of grants procedures, in finding and attracting additional extra-budgetary sources, organization and maintenance of the different projects, conducting technical, scientific and marketing activities.

Ialoveni Rayon is one of the 37 regional administrative units of the Republic of Moldova. The Regional governance structure contains 34 villages. In terms of the legislation Ialoveni Rayon Council has decisional and financial autonomy. Rayon Council's mission involves developing and implementing policies regarding the consolidation of democracy, development of administrative structures related to EU standards, promoting economic and social cohesion, improving living standards and environmental protection. In EU.WATER Ialoveni develops GIS maps to identify water risk areas and contributes at the transnational strategy. Team members are Rodica Braga and Alina Bujor, supported by Costantin Nagorneac from INGEOCAD.



Province of Ferrara, Italy



Province of Rovigo, Italy



Trans-Tiszanian Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water, Hungary



University of Debrecen for Environmental Management and Policy, Hungary



Region of Western Macedonia, Greece



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Romania



National Institute for Research and Development in Soil Science, Agricultural Chemistry and Environment, Romania



Agency for Rural Development of Istria, Croatia



Institute of Agricultural Economics, Serbia



Odessa National Polytechnic University, Ukraine



Ialoveni Rayon Council, Republic of Moldova



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