

# News

climate policies; facilitates dialogue among stakeholders; and disseminates climate-related information in order to raise awareness and increase public participation.

**The Participatory Governance Topic Area** puts participatory governance into practice by supporting public access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice. It aims to strengthen key players in participatory governance as well as those responsible for the practical implementation of international, EU and national legislation (such as the Aarhus Convention, related EU directives and domestic laws). Support to civil society organizations is provided in the form of grants, capacity building, networking and viability programmes.

# Project

WATER CoRe leads to improve water scarcity and drought management policies and instruments in all partner regions.

The duration of the project is three years and it counts with a budget of EUR 2.5 million, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). WATER CoRe focuses on the exchange of experiences addressed to the identification of problems and the development of best practices for drought management. The 14 partners from 7 EU Member States are committed to exchanging good practices and adapting these to their local or regional conditions.

The overall outcome will be a platform of European wide water management strategies available for everybody.



# What's New !

The WATER CoRe project is co-financed by the ERDF and made possible by the INTERREG IVC Programme



Please visit [www.watercore.eu](http://www.watercore.eu) and go to MEDIA section. There you will find more than 50 articles about WATER CoRe project (Available in English, French, Spanish, German, Romanian, Hungarian and Italian)

For additional information, please contact the project leader:

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# WATER CoRe news



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- Presidium Meeting, Study Visit and Thematic Workshop in Bucharest
- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
- Regional Experience Sharing Workshop "Connecting Regions and Stakeholders" in Mórahalom



## Presidium Meeting, Study Visit and Thematic Workshop in Bucharest

On 5th and 7th October 2011, the National Meteorological Administration of Romania hosted at its headquarters in Bucharest the **Presidium Meeting** together with its **Thematic Workshop**, all within the WATER CoRe Project. Focus of the meeting was the enhancement of the WATER CoRe Guide and the Survey as base for the development of the E-learning module.

In addition, a poster session was organized in order to emphasize the results of National and International projects in the fields of water scarcity and drought management, all within the context of climate change was discussed.

In this sense, Ms. Henriette Faergemann, responsible for Water Scarcity and Drought issues within DG Environment of the European Commission, took the opportunity of the meeting to inform herself about the expected outcomes of the WATER CoRe project. She emphasized that project's outcomes might be taken into consideration for a coordinated approach within the European Union. On 6th October, a **Study Visit** to the Agricultural Research-Development Unit Draganesti-Vlasca in Teleorman County was organized. Teleorman is a region where effects of the pedological drought can be noticed and therefore, participants were provided of information on the agricultural autumn works for the agricultural year 2011-2012.

At Caracal Town Hall's headquarters, the Romanian partners made presentations which focused on recommendations and management options for improved land use systems on Romanian agricultural crop production, optimization of water resources allocation for different users and ecosystems during droughty periods, and the elaboration of the Emergency Plan for Drought Mitigation.



The expected results of the ongoing European projects implemented by local authorities in Caracal were also presented. A thematic movie on agricultural crops and applied technologies in Caracal agricultural area -one of the most vulnerable regions to drought in Romania- was played.

## Regional Experience Sharing Workshop in Hungary



**Regional Experience Sharing Workshop "Connecting Regions and Stakeholders"** will take place on 14-15th November 2011 in Mórahalom, Hungary.

The regional workshop aims:

- To present good practice examples on water scarcity and droughts by the Hungarian Lower Tisza Directorate and by REC;
- To share WATER CoRe project results (including good practices on water scarcity and droughts) with authorities' and key stakeholders' representatives from other European regions including EU and SEE countries;
- To exchange experiences and learn about a strategy and an action plan on water scarcity and droughts management, with regards to its current status as well as its further development and implementation;
- To identify the authorities' and key stakeholders' needs for capacity building in non WATER CoRe partner regions, as well as to explore opportunities for their cooperation with WATER CoRe partners.

Beside the in-house programme and presentations, a site visit to Lake Nagyszéksós (Southern-Great Plain Operational Programme - Complex water prevention programme in the river-system of Lake Nagyszéksós) will be organized.

For additional information about the programme and practical aspects, please check REC Focal Point website [www.rec.org/watercore](http://www.rec.org/watercore).

## The Regional Environmental Center (REC)

**The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) [www.rec.org](http://www.rec.org)** is an international environmental organization promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders. REC supports the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. REC's head office is currently located in Szentendre (Hungary). Moreover, REC has offices in 17 beneficiary countries in Central, Eastern and South East Europe, as well as in Turkey. REC's total staff consists of 180 people.

REC actively participates in key global, regional and local processes. It contributes to environmental and sustainability solutions within and beyond its country office network, transferring transitional knowledge and experience to countries and regions.

REC's work is organized in topic areas, three of which - water management, climate change and green energy, and participatory governance - are currently involved in WATER CoRe project.

**The Water Management Topic Area** focuses on water-efficient systems and training, and provides services in the effective use and management of water resources. It promotes improved water governance; implements capacity-building and awareness-raising activities; assists countries to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water management; encourages the improvement of mechanisms to mitigate the effects of climate change in relation to water scarcity, droughts and floods; and supports the integration of water resources management in other relevant sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, tourism, etc.

**The Climate Change and Green Energy Topic Area** supports the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. It endorses efforts to respond to climate change challenges by estimating greenhouse gas mitigation potential and identifying the best options for adaptation. It supports stakeholder involvement in shaping national