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**GWP CEE** - Global Water Partnership, Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia).

**ICID ERWG** - International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, European Regional Working Group (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom)

The main focus of the Water, Food and Environment activities in the CEE region should be the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the hope that by achieving good ecological status of waters (the objectives of the WFE) Dialogue process will be reached in the agricultural regions as well.

The specific conditions of the agricultural sector of the CEE region should be considered during the implementation of the WFD in the agricultural sector.

The recently adopted EU CAP reform provides a considerable number of tools seeking to improve or maintain the environmental profile of agriculture, these should be implemented across agriculture sectors and countries.
In CEE countries of economical transition the most critical issue how to develop the weak agricultural sector in an environment-friendly way, while building market economy.

It has become evident that the CEE countries need to develop a science-based consensus between all stakeholders - including governments, NGOs, research specialists and farmers’ organizations - which will help enhance agricultural production and environmental security, through sustainable water management.
The CEE Dialogue is a decentralised, multi-year process. The overall organisation and timing of the CEE Dialogue is co-ordinated with the Global Dialogue activities as well as with the overall work programme of the Common Implementation Strategy of the EU Water Framework Directive.

The EU Working Document on CAP and WFD was considered as the most important EU document developed by the European Commission in 2003 for the implementation of the WFD in the field of Water, Agriculture and Environment.

The Dialogue could be considered as a combined international, national, regional and local PP process. The Dialogue is organised in the framework of the Global WFE Dialogue (Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment).

The Water Framework Directive strongly emphasises the need for protection of water resources and requires the achievement of good ecological status of waters. The idea of the Dialogue, on the other hand, under the title “Water – Food – Environment” aims at providing sustainable development of rural areas.
The target of the Dialogue is to discuss problems associated with implementation of the WFD, to indicate possibilities and measures of its dissemination in rural areas, to stimulate contacts and cooperation between specialists of water management, agriculture and environmental protection.
The key questions discussed by the Dialogue Process Reports were as follows:

1) Who was the Dialogue convener?
2) Which external agencies were supporting the Dialogue?
3) How the governmental agencies were involved in the process?
4) How the Dialogue was linked to the political process and institutions?
5) How was the dialogue linked to the other programs/actions for the implementation of the WFD?
6) What are the key issues being addressed?
7) What are the major obstacles/constraints that need to be overcome?
8) How was the dialogue process organized/planned?
**The key questions**

9) Who were the key stakeholders in the dialogue process and what procedures have been applied to assure full stakeholder participation?

10) What Dialogue support tools have been used?

11) Is there sufficient research/knowledge backing to support the issue under discussion/consideration or there is a need for more background studies/research?

12) What outputs do you see emerging from this dialogue? How do you plan to document the learning, experiences and processes?

13) Do you require external support to conduct the future steps of the Dialogue? If so what type of support are you looking for?
The key issues that have been discussed during the national dialogue processes and considered as most important are as follows:

- environmental pressures and impacts caused by agriculture in the CEE region,
- the provisions of the EU WFD, the Nitrate Directive, and the Habitat Directive,
- elements of the Good Agricultural Practice,
- loss of wetlands,
- expected impacts of the climate change,
- privatisation, land use changes,
- financial difficulties of farmers,
- competitiveness of CEE agriculture,
The key issues

- coordination of rural development planning and the WFD,
- coordination of WFD and the new flood management policies and strategies,
- integration of environmental, economic and social objectives and integrated planning to achieve those objectives,
- possible EU funds to introduce the necessary agri-environment measures,
- the need for new education and training programmes,
- the need for improved information exchange,
- the role of farmers and farmer’s organizations in the implementation process of the WFD.
The conclusions of the DIALOGUE on the implementation of the WFD in agricultural water management are as follows:

**Conclusion 1**

The implementation of the existing EU environmental directives (in particular, the nitrates directive, the habitats directive, the environmental impact assessment directive, and the WFD) will be an important factor in mitigating the negative environmental impacts of current and future agriculture.
Conclusion 2

There is a growing sense that it is necessary to involve local farmers more directly in the implementation process of WFD, without much knowledge of how this can be done in practice. Many organisations recognise a need to strengthen consultation and partnership but much CEE WFE Dialogue experience to date suggests that this has not yet translated into river basin management and planning.
Conclusion 3

The form of implementation of the WFD in agricultural water management is influenced by the particular and highly diverse economic conditions, geographical circumstances, socio-cultural factors, government structures and traditions. Role of „national cultures” requires more attention. At the same time there are important similarities.
Conclusion 4

All participating CEE countries pay considerable attention to maintaining their agricultural environment and rural heritage which has been neglected in the past.
Conclusion 5

To promote the implementation of the WFD in agricultural water management and to promote sustainable rural development in the CEE region, the implementation of the WFD in agriculture will need:

- more effective, continues public participation;
- more resources;
- more recognition,
- more use of innovative tools of the dialogues and Public Participation processes; and
- more learning from examples across EU Member States and CEE countries.
Conclusion 6

More ambitious and flexible programmes to implement the WFD in agricultural water management, more tailored to national conditions as well as adaptation to the EU guidance documents should be considered.
Conclusion 7

The planners of the implementation activities of WFD in agriculture water management should recognise the links between environmental, social and economic processes and conditions, and sufficient consideration should be given to each. The integrated approach that is used for the implementation should be sensitive to issues of scale, from the local and regional through to the national and international, and ensure that solutions to problems are acceptable and beneficial to all stakeholders of the agriculture sector.
Conclusion 8

The principle of equity should be applied between environmental, social and economic interests, such that adequate consideration is given to each and as wide a possible consensus is reached.
Approaches to agriculture development should recognise that there are environmental limits to the development according to the WFD. It is not always clear where the implementation of WFD ends and planning of programmes of measures to harmonise different interests and to achieve the social and economic objectives begins.
Conclusion 10

A variety of measures is available for mitigating the negative impacts of agriculture and enhancing environmental benefits where these are achievable. Some of these are technical or site specific but many could be also applied to the implementation of the WFD in general at national, regional or local level.
Thank you for your attention