



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

MINISTER'S OFFICE



International Roundtable on “Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe”

Slovenia, 14-16 November 2007

Preliminary Agenda

Organized jointly by the
Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
and
Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

In the framework of

Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

and

GEF IW:LEARN

Day 1 - 14 November 2007

09.00 Welcome Address

Mr. Janez Podobnik, Slovenian Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning

09.20 Introductory Remarks

German Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
World Bank
GEF

10.00 Purpose of the Meeting and Organization of Work

Mr. Michael Scoullios, GWP-Med

10.15 Setting the stage – Is groundwater management the “forgotten child” in the Integrated Water Resources Management family? (Presentation followed by discussion)

World Bank / GW MATE

11.00 Coffee break

Presentation of the Global Experience, Understanding the Issues in the SEE Region

Shared groundwater management - Initiatives / Experiences

11.30 Shared Groundwater Management in South Eastern Europe

Current situation, challenges, trends - Institutional, legal, socio-economic, assessment and monitoring aspects.

Jacques Ganoulis UNESCO Chair / INWEB

12.00 Experiences of shared groundwater management from Europe, Northern Africa, Americas

Case study: Groundwater Resources of Karavnke Mountains (Slovenia, Austria)

Case study: Dobrudja/Dobrogea Area (Romania, Bulgaria)

Case study: North-Western Sahara Aquifer (Lybia, Algeria, Tunisia)

Case study: Nubian Sandstone Aquifer

Case study: Guarani aquifer

13.40 Field Trip

Lunch

Visit to nearby karstic spring, water supply systems

Discussions with key Stakeholders

Open discussion over cocktails “Do we understand the status and risks of shared groundwater management in SEE?”

End of Day 1

Day 2 – 15 November 2007

Moving from Issues to Actions

09.00 International and regional legal instruments and guidelines on shared groundwater management.

World Bank / GW MATE

09.30 Groundwater management under the UNECE Water Convention

UNECE

10.00 Groundwater management under the EU *acquis*. (*EU Water Framework Directive and EU Groundwater Directive*)

European Commission

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Topical Parallel Working Sessions

These will address issues such as assessment and monitoring, socio-economic aspects, linkages with ecosystem support, institutional and legal frameworks, capacity building and training, public participation etc.

Each of the working sessions will start with a presentation on the subject by the facilitator. The presentations will provide the framework of the discussions.

Group 1 - Resources assessment and linkages to freshwater and marine systems management

(e.g. monitoring quality and quantity of shared groundwater resources, assessment of risks, sharing of information, hydrogeological modelling etc.)

Group 2 - Land use and economic development.

(e.g. sectoral policies and agriculture and industrial development that affect groundwater, water pricing, ecosystem support, cost and benefits of improved management, etc.)

Group 3 - Institutional arrangements

(e.g. bilateral and regional mechanisms of cooperation, expansion of responsibilities of joint commissions, capacity building and knowledge sharing, legal agreements, role of private sector, civil society and academia, etc.)

13.30 Lunch break

15.00 Breakout session (plenary)

Question: What are the key steps needed to advance a strategy and action programme for the management of shared groundwater in the SEE region?

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Breakout session (continued)

18.00 End of Day 2

Day 3 - 16 November 2007

09.00 Presentation of the summary reports of the working groups (plenary)

The role of GEF in fostering groundwater management

09.30 Mediterranean Strategic Partnership for the Large Marine Ecosystems GEF PDF-B

09.45 The proposed Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer Systems project for SEE

10.00 Coffee Break

10.15 Discussion

10.45 Presentation of the conclusions of the Roundtable. Next steps (discussion).

11.45 Conclusive Remarks

Slovenia/ Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

German Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

World Bank

GEF

End of the International Roundtable