

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

1. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PERIOD JUNE 2000 - MAY 2002

The area of Croatia amounts to 56,538 km² of land and 33,200 km² of territorial sea. Water of Croatia belong to either Adriatic (about 40% of national land territory) or Black Seas (about 60% of n.l.t.). It means that Croatia is in the mean time part of the Danube river catchment and Mediterranean country.

1.1. Meetings of the National Committee

The Croatian IHP National Committee was established in April 1993 and reorganised in National Committee for IHP/OHP in January 1999. Croatian IHP/OHP National Committee the following members: Ognjen Bonacci (chairman), Josip Marušić, Dragutin Gereš, Dušan Trninić, Mladen Cvrlje, Željko Mustać, Karmen Cerar, Nenad Mikulić, Božidar Biondić, Mladen Petrićec, Nevenka Ožanić, Mijo Petrović and Željko Findri. They are representatives of: Ministry for Foreign Affaires, Ministry of Defance, Ministry of Science and Technology, State Water Directorate, Ministry for Environmental Protection, State Hydrometeoroloical Institute, Institute for Geology, Croatian Waters and Split and Zagreb Universities.

Frequency of meetings is one per year. The State Water Directorate is responsible for the activity of Croatian IHP/OHP NC. They control Committee's work and cover travel and accommodation expenses. Croatian IHP/OHP NC is closely linked to the National UNESCO Commission.

Main activities of Croatian IHP/OHP Committee are directed in regional Mediterranean and Danube countries co-operation. We encourage initiatives on water resources management issues from the bottom up, believing that improved communication and co-operation, not only between internal governmental departments but also between scientists on the job on an international level, will result in regional projects being formulated and achieved. With desinterested scientific advice for the overall good of a booth above mentioned regions, our Committees may persuade governments to better co-ordinate and harmonise their activities concerning transboundary waters, and to adapt a new approach where responsibility for water is shared rather than divided.

Water is often a cause for conflict, may better be used as a tool for peace in booth regions. Regional concerns over water issues may serve to unite rather than to divide, to bring countries together in their joint desire and efforts to improve water quality, and to ensure the long-term sustainable management of the water environment.

In the framework of IHP-IV, representatives of Croatia took part in scientific - technical cooperation with the Central and Eastern Europe countries, in regional co-operation of Danube countries and in the working group on water resources management of Mediterranean countries.

Croatian IHP/OHP Committee takes active part in regional co-operation of the Danube countries. The projects are:

- Long-term fluctuations of precipitation in the Danube basin (co-ordinator is Austrian NC);
- Update of the Hydrological Monography of the Danube basin (co-ordinators are Germanian, Slovakian and Romanian NCs);
- River bad conditions of the Danube river (co-ordinators are Slovakian and Hungarian NCs);
- Regional analysis of annual peak discharges in the Danube basin (co-ordinator is Romanian NC);
- Hydrological bibliography related to the Danube basin (co-ordinators are Germanian and Slovenian NCs).

We work together with some Mediterranean and northern Europe countries on the UNESCO project “Urban development and freshwater resources: small coastal cities”. Until now in this project are included NCs of: Maroco, France, Italy, Egypt, Liban, Tunisia, Denmark, Yugoslavia and Croatia.

1.2. Activities at a national and international levels in the framework of the IHP

The main activities of Croatian IHP/OHP National Committee were:

- Organization of workshop “Hydrology and Water Resources of the Sava River in New Conditions”;
- Organisation of workshop “Urban Hydrology”;
- Organisation of 16th working meeting of representatives and experts from South East European (SEE) countries in order to elaborate a common project proposal on “Sustainable Utilisation, Management and Protection of Internationally Shared Ground Water Resources in SEE countries;
- Preparation for organisation of “3rd Croatian Conference on Water”.

The Croatian IHP/OHP Committee organised international workshop “Hydrology and Water Resources of the Sava River in New Conditions”. It was attended by about 200 participants from Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The meeting took place in

Slavonski Brod from 7 to 8 November 2000. The Proceedings of the Workshop had been published with 52 papers orally presented at the meeting.

The Croatian IHP/OHP Committee organised national workshop "Urban Hydrology". It was attended by more than 150 participants. The meeting took place in Split from 25 to 26 April 2002. The Proceedings of the Workshop had been published with 16 papers orally presented at the meeting.

The 16th Working meeting of the representatives and experts of the Regional co-operation at the Danube countries in the frame of the IHP-UNESCO was from 27 to 29 May 2002 in Zagreb. In order to promote implementation of new projects and with respect to the planned activities and support of UVO-ROSTE, on 28 May 2002, the Delegated experts meeting on "Water Balance of the Danube River Basin" took place.

In accordance with the discussion and conclusion of the IHP UNESCO Regional Meeting of the IHP National Committees of the Electoral Groups I and II of UNESCO in Berlin (18 and 19 February 2002) Croatian National IHP/OHP Committee and Croatian Waters will organise 3-day preparatory meeting of the representatives of 11 countries. The aim of it discussion and elaborating a common project proposal on Sustainable Utilisation, Management and Protection of Internationally Shared Ground Water resources in SEE Countries. The meeting will take place in Zagreb from 27 to 29 June 2002.

A few members of the Croatian IHP/OHP Committee took active part in next three meetings and working sessions of representatives and experts of the co-operation of the Danube countries in the frame of IHP-UNESCO: 1) Paris (5-8 June 2000 - 14th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council); 2) Deggendorf (7-9 May 2001 - 15th Working meeting of the representatives and experts of the Regional co-operation of the Danube countries in the frame of the IHP-UNESCO); 3) Berlin (18-19 February 2002 - IHP-UNESCO Regional meeting of the National Committees of the Electoral Groups I and II of UNESCO).

Chairman of the Croatian IHP/OHP Committee took active part as invited speaker on the UN/ECE Helsinki Convention Workshop "On the Protection of Groundwaters Used as a Source of Drinking Water Supply" (Budapest, 8-10 November 2001) with paper "Management of transboundary karst groundwater resources".

Our NC try to organise work on international project "Water balance of the Adriatic Sea".

Following a workshop on "Water in the Balkans" held in Thessaloniki in October 1999, in which representatives from all ten Balkans countries took part, the framework for establishing an "International Network of Water - Environmental Centres for the Balkans" (INWEB) was

unanimously adopted. Croatian IHP/OHP Committee will take active part in this international project.

The 3rd Croatian Conference of Water will take place in Osijek on May 2003.

Further activities which will be very important not only for our National IHP/OHP Committee are: 1) Influence of drought and floods on environment with special references on karst regions; 2) Protection of seawater intusion in coastal springs and aquifers; 3) Management of transboundary groundwater resources in karst and flatland areas; 4) Development of new methodology for ecologically acceptable flow definition and stream coridore restoration.

Chairman of Croatian IHP/OHP National Committee

Prof. Ognjen Bonacci