

**Greece / Grèce**

**(618)**

**UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme**

**Progress Report**

**Period of activity: 2009**

**UNESCO Chair/International Network of Water-Environment Centres  
for the Balkans (INWEB) on "Sustainable Management of Water and  
Conflict Resolution"**

**Report established by:** Prof. Jacques Ganoulis, UNESCO Chairholder and  
Coordinator of the UNITWIN Network, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**I. Activities**

**1. Education/ Training/ Research**

*Education*

- **Title:** Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development  
**Duration:** 1 Semester  
**Target groups:** Graduate students  
**Geographical coverage:** National
- **Title:** Decision Theory and Risk Analysis  
**Duration:** 1 Semester  
**Target groups:** Graduate students  
**Geographical coverage:** National

*Research*

UNESCO IHP, UNESCO BRESCE (ROSTE), ECE, GEF, UNDP and ESCWA Research,  
Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- **Title:** Sound Management of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DiKTAS).  
**Duration:** 2 years (from 2008)  
**Target groups:** Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, public institutions and administrators  
**Geographical coverage:** Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, FYR Macedonia, Slovenia, Italy, Greece  
**Website:** <http://dinaric.iwlearn.org/>

- **Title:** Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) Programme: The case of the Mesta/Nestos River

**Duration:** From 2004 – indefinite

**Target groups:** Public institutions and administrators, all citizens

**Geographical coverage:** Europe, Africa, Asia

**Website:** <http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/help>

### EU and National Research, Cooperation and Policy Programmes

- *Monitoring of Marine Environment in Northern Greece.* Greek Ministry of Environment, 2009
- *Research on Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Drama Prefecture,* Northern Greece, 2009
- *Environmental Risk Assessment from Nitrates in the Nestos River Delta.* Latsis Foundation, 2009-2010
- *Sustainable large scale water sharing schemes to counteract risks related to long-term climate changes effects on the hydrological cycle (NEREIDES)* (3-year project)
- *A New Strategy for Hydropower in Europe (HP Strategy)* (2-year project)
- *Climate Change Impacts on Snow and Ice-derived Water Resources and Adaptation Strategies in Mediterranean Mountain Regions (MountSnowMed)* (4-year project)
- *Support and Training for SMEs Production Plants in MED Area for the Implementation of Environmental Technologies Dedicated to the Elimination of Priority Pollutants Identified by WFD” SMEDET-WFD.* Submitted to MED Programme 2010 – 2012.
- *Transnational Mitigation of the Organotin Contamination of the Mediterranean Sea TraMOTMed.* Submitted to MED Programme 2010 – 2012
- *Regenerating Potential Fresh Water Resources from Coastal Karstic Springs: the Case of Almyros, Heraklion.* Submitted to the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religion, Thales programme.

### **2. Conferences/Congresses/Meetings**

- *International conference on Greening Borders: Cooperation, Security and Diplomacy*  
**Date and place:** 18-20 November 2009, Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, San Diego, USA, in cooperation with: UNESCO/PC-CP programme
- *UNESCO Chair/INWEB’s lecture on “Integrated Management of Water Resources in Coastal Areas: applications in Greece”*  
**Date and place:** 30 November 2009, University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Greece
- *Annual Conference of the FEMISE university network*  
**Date and place:** 14-15 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- *Sustainability of the Karst Environment - Dinaric Karst and other Karst Regions*  
**Date and place:** 23-26 September 2009, Plitvice Lakes, Croatia
- *Environmental Informatics and Industrial Environmental Protection: Concepts, Methods and Tools*  
**Date and place:** 9-11 September 2009, Berlin, Germany

- *33rd International Association of Hydraulic Engineering & Research (IAHR) Biennial Congress on “Water Engineering for a Sustainable Environment”*

**Date and place:** 9-14 August 2009, Vancouver, Canada

- *The 18th World IMACS Congress and MODSIM09 International Congress on Modelling and Simulation*

**Date and place:** 13-17 July 2009, Cairns, Australia

- *UNESCO Chair/INWEB’s General Assembly*

**Date and place:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Participants:** 9 from Greece

- *UNESCO Chair/INWEB’s Board of Management meeting*

**Date and place:** 15 February 2009, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Participants:** 7 from Greece, Slovenia and Croatia

### **3. Publications/ Interuniversity exchanges/ Partnerships**

#### *Publications*

#### Brochures

- UNESCO ISARM brochure including the inventory of 65 transboundary aquifers "Internationally Shared Aquifers in the Balkan Region: Preliminary Assessment", completing Phase I of ISARM/Balkans.

#### Articles on conference proceedings

- Skoulikaris, Ch., Ganoulis, J., and Monget J.M. 2009. Integrated modelling of a new dam: a case study from the “HELP” Mesta/Nestos River In: Anderssen, R.S., R.D. Braddock and L.T.H. Newham (eds) 18th World IMACS Congress and MODSIM09 International Congress on Modelling and Simulation. Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand and International Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation, July 2009, pp. 4050-4056.
- Skoulikaris, Ch., Ganoulis, J., and Monget J.M. 2009. Impact of Climate Change on River Water Flow: The Case of the Transboundary Mesta/Nestos River Between Bulgaria and Greece In: Proc. 33rd IAHR Congress: Water Engineering for a Sustainable Environment, Vancouver, Canada, Aug. 2009, pp. 1108-1115.

#### *Interuniversity exchanges*

Within the EU Socrates Programme, the UNESCO Chair/International Network participates in interuniversity exchanges (2 to 5 students a year) with institutions in France, Germany, Austria and Greece.

## **II. Outcomes**

The UNESCO Chair/INWEB is a network of academic and non-academic institutions. Each of the 10 Balkan member countries has a focal point for its own country's members. Focused on transboundary issues, the UNESCO Chair/INWEB promotes a multi-disciplinary approach to water resources management issues, involving scientists, engineers, economists, legal experts and sociologists. It encourages initiatives from the bottom up, and promotes joint training projects and the sharing of expertise.

In 2009, the UNESCO Chair/INWEB's activities aimed at ensuring a "Sustainable Management of Water and Conflict Resolution", particularly in South-Eastern Europe (the Balkans), through various research projects, cooperation and training activities. Its activities address the European policies and initiatives on environment and water, particularly affect the European cooperation in the Balkans, generate a cooperation mechanism in support of the EU Water Initiative and help to meet the water-related Millennium Development Goals.

The UNESCO Chair/INWEB shares the idea that the "water crisis is mainly a crisis of governance" and its activities have a short and long term impact on socio-economic development and on integrated water management. One of the main problems of water governance is the "paradigm lock", which is the lack of communication between scientists and professional decision makers. In order to break the "paradigm lock" and to make water governance more effective, the UNESCO Chair/INWEB promotes the linking of education, research and professional in the field, as well as partnerships between public, private and civil society actors.

The UNESCO Chair/INWEB also enhances the integration of research groups in the Balkans that are involved in integrated water resources management at the catchment scale and strengthens thereby the European Research Area by developing approaches for integrated regional modelling as well as integrated scenarios and by creating links between ongoing and planned research programmes and coordinating initiatives at the national and international levels.

Dissemination remains a major feature of the UNESCO Chair/INWEB, ensuring that the practical use of project results will reach substantially beyond the immediate participants of the project. Its most important dissemination channels and tools are its website ([www.inweb.gr](http://www.inweb.gr)), press releases and newsletters.

## **III. Forthcoming activities**

For the coming years (2010-2011), the UNESCO Chair/INWEB has planned the following main activities:

- Participation in the UNESCO/ISARM Balkan Programme
- Participation in the GEF/UNESCO/DIKTAS project
- Participation in the UNESCO/PC-CP programme
- Upgrading UNESCO Chair/INWEB as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre.

#### **IV. Development prospects**

Short and medium term: Expanding education and training activities; conducting research on Karst and integrated modelling of water resources phenomena.

Long term: Developing a MSc programme on Transboundary Waters and Conflict Resolution, expanding research activities, broadening partnerships.