

SUSTAINABLE AND INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NETWORK- SIWMANET

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The context of sustainable water management requires an integrated approach that considers, in association with specific policies and legal frameworks, multidisciplinary research (sciences, engineering, management), education and training, communication, public participation and cooperation at both national and international scale, embedded in an overall approach that consider water flow and usage in its cycle of supply, use and reuse/recycling, affected either by natural or human factors. In the framework of the CEEX Research for Excellency Programme of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research (Module III), a consortium lead by the "Gh. Asachi" Technical University of Iasi which has as partners *Politehnica University of Timisoara, Politehnica University of Bucharest, Transilvania University of Brasov and North University of Baia Mare* has received financing through grant competition for the SIWMANET project. Supporting project partners are: *Technical University of Munich, Germany; International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, Lund University, Sweden; University of Manchester, United Kingdom; Institute for Advanced Studies on Sustainability, Munich, Germany; Technical University of Denmark.*

The major objective of the SIWMANET project is the development of a network formed from poles of excellence in research in the field of sustainable and integrated water resources management, a network that is capable of attracting co-operations in both international and national programs (due to its existent expertise in environmental sciences, engineering and management, the existent and potential collaborations with universities from Romania and abroad and the well balanced national distribution of the project partners), so as to increase the visibility of the Romanian universities and their participation at the European and international research programs.

The specific objectives are listed below:

1. *Development of the capacities of Romanian researchers to participate as coordinators of work packages or projects in European programs such as FP7 or any other EC/international programs;*

2. *Development of viable partnerships at European level that would further facilitate the research cooperation and knowledge transfer in the field of sustainable and integrated water management and in general of sustainable development;*

3. *Correlation and visibility of the Romanian research for excellence activities with the European programs for integrated water resources management, in the fields of policies, research, knowledge transfer and dissemination;*

4. *Dissemination of the significant project results at the level of the national and international scientific community, to the governmental organizations dealing with*

integrated water management (WaterWorks and Water Supply companies, Environmental Protection Agencies, local and regional authorities), as well as to the civil society.

The whole structure of the SIWMANET project and its activities relies upon the integrated concept of managing the water resources, and the relations that can be established for each level or water use, reuse, protection of ecosystems and human health with the major stakeholders

The SIWMANET Project mainly includes the following activities:

- Promotion of the existent researches and potential of the Romanian universities (through short and medium research stages of the Romanian young and senior researchers/scientific personalities, participation in training sessions and in proposal preparation seminars for European projects, exchange of results and experiences between the Romanian and European researchers through knowledge transfer and dissemination of the corresponding S/T results);
- Organization of national and international scientific events with invited European scientific personalities;
- Organization and participation at meetings and support activities concerning the development of the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform or ERA-net projects.

The international events include:

- *organization of an international workshop using the European Awareness Scenario Workshop methodology to involve co-operation of stakeholders in sustainable and integrated water resource management and to depict the main directions of research in Romania in relation to the European policies, current developments and activities;*

- *co-organization of the 4th International Conference on Environmental Engineering and Management (ICEEM04) which brings together engineers, scientists and managers, activating in the field of environmental protection, from universities, industry, local authorities, policy makers and non-governmental organizations, to discuss and analyze environmental problems, to share practical solutions and information on recent developments and to contribute to public awareness and ecological education and thus contributing to sustainable development.*

For these two events, an important role will be played by the internationally recognized personalities in the field of integrated water resources management that have accepted to cooperate within the SIWMANET Project as supporting partners. For additional information regarding the SIWMANET Project please visit its site at:

<http://instrumentation.cs.tuiasi.ro/sites/siwmnet/default.aspx>

Prof.dr.ing. Carmen Teodosiu, Project Director
Department of Environmental Engineering and Management
"Gh. Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania, cteo@ch.tuiasi.ro

