

# Flood Risk Management and the Water Framework Directive

Knowledge exchange and networking with Central  
and Eastern European EU accession countries

A MTEC (MATRA) training course in the Netherlands

31 May – 11 June 2010



EVD – Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs



UNESCO IHE

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## Key Information

Objectives:	Training of policy makers and specialists in Integrated River Basin Management, the Water Framework Directive and Flood Risk Management.
Period:	31 May – 11 June 2010
Location:	Delft, the Netherlands
Venue:	UNESCO-IHE
Candidates:	Maximum 50 policy makers, experts and specialists from governmental and non-governmental water management organisations, who have to deal with Integrated River Basin Management, the Water Framework Directive or the Flood Directive.
Eligible countries:	Croatia, Turkey, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.
Applications:	<a href="http://www.cross-agency.nl">www.cross-agency.nl</a> (read first the details below)
Submit ultimately on:	April 2nd 2010

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## Background

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes the collaboration between the EU-accession countries and The Netherlands. The Ministry finances the MATRA programme MTEC to train senior officials in the areas relevant for the relations with the EU. The focus countries for this training are: Croatia, Turkey and Macedonia (candidate member states), and Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia (potential candidate member states).

The training will concentrate on three themes:

- Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM);
- The Water framework Directive (WFD: 2000/60/EC, “establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy”);
- The Flood Directive (FD: 2007/60/EC, “on the assessment and management of flood risks”).

The best model for a single system of water management is a river basin - the natural geographical and hydrological unit - instead of according to administrative or political boundaries. While several EU Member States already take a river basin approach, this is at present not the case everywhere.

The EU Water Framework Directive from 2000 enforces the river basin approach and divides the EU in ‘river basin district’, some of which will traverse national frontiers. The WFD requires that the quality of surface waters and groundwaters within the districts reach at least ‘good’ status by 2015. A ‘river basin management plan’ will need to be established and updated every six years for these districts.

The ‘Flood Directive (FD)’ entered into force on 26 November 2007. With this Directive some principles were introduced concerning flood risk management. The EU Member States are required to prepare a flood risk assessment, flood hazard and flood risk maps, and flood risk management plans. The FD is strongly linked to the WFD, with river basins as the basis for management.

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## Objectives

The objective of the Dutch governmental training programme MTEC (MATRA-funding) is to train senior officials (experts and policy makers) in the areas relevant for the relations with the EU in the accession countries. In this case the subjects are integrated river basin management (IRBM), the Water Framework Directive (WFD), and the Flood Directive (FD).

EU Member States need to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the WFD and FD directives. The aim of the training course is to contribute to narrowing the gap between the participating countries, and between these countries and the EU-members in full WFD/ FD implementation. This will be realised through:

1. Knowledge transfer/ exchange
2. Networking

This means that the training participants will learn the ins and outs of IRBM, the WFD and the FD; both at various technical levels and at various policy/ planning levels. In addition, they will meet people working on these subjects from their own country, from neighbouring countries and from the Netherlands.

## Course set-up

The training course includes four types of modules:

- Theory;
- Practical skills: exercises, case studies ('back home action plans');
- Study visits (offices, field);
- Social programmes, excursions, and joint lunches/ dinners.

The training covers two weeks. In the first week the accent will be on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In the second week the Flood Directive (FD) will be the central subject.

<b>Week 1</b> <b>IRBM, WFD</b>	<i>morning</i>	<i>afternoon</i>	<i>Evening</i>
Sunday	Arrival, registration		Dinner
Monday	Opening, intro	Theory	Dinner
Tuesday	Theory	Exercises	...
Wednesday	Study visit	Game	Dinner emb.
Thursday	Theory	Exercises	...
Friday	Study visit	Social	...
Saturday	Options: 1) Excursion, 2) Day off		

<b>Week 2</b>	<i>morning</i>	<i>afternoon</i>	<i>Evening</i>
<b>FD</b>			
Sunday	Options: 1) Excursion, 2) Day off		
Monday	Theory	Exercises	Case study
Tuesday	Study visit	Study visit	Dinner
Wednesday	Theory	Exercises	Case study
Thursday	Theory	Case study	Study visit
Friday	Presentation case study	Closure	Social
Saturday	Departure		

## Course content

As mentioned above, the course will contain four types of modules:

- Theory;
- Practical skills: exercises, case studies ('back home action plans');
- Study visits (offices, field);
- Social programmes, excursions, and joint lunches/ dinners.

The **theory** modules will discuss the technical and non-technical aspects of Integrated River basin Management, the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Flood Directive (FD). The following objects and themes will be part of the IRBM, WFD and FD theory:

- Surface waters: rivers, lakes, wetlands, coasts
- Groundwater
- Climate and climate change
- Common methods and practises
- Public participation
- Policy and planning
- Institutional aspects
- Legal issues
- Economic/ financial aspects
- Social and environmental issues
- Computer modelling
- Status quo and developments

The trainees will have ample **practise** opportunities during the course. These will be realised in two ways: through exercises related to the discussed theory, and through case studies.

### *Exercises*

The theory discussed in the four morning sessions will be elaborated in the early afternoon by the trainees in the form of exercises. These exercises will help the trainee to better understand the subjects and will vary from management type of questions to basic calculations and drawings. The trainees will work in small groups of about 5 persons each and will consist of a mix of nationalities. They will be assisted by trainers. The solutions will be discussed with the whole group.

### *Case studies ('back home action plan')*

Several weeks before the start of the training course the selected participants will be approached to indicate their specific interest in IRBM, the WFD and FD. Based on the feedback from each country a topic will be selected for each country, which will be the base for a country-specific case study. In four afternoons and one morning this case study will be developed by each country into a back home action plan. On the last course day the countries will present their plan to a panel. The plan can be used as a base for a follow-up after the course.

Five **study visits** are foreseen, including Ministries, Water Boards, an integrated water cycle company and a dedicated flood prevention institute. One will be an 'office' visit only; the other four visits combine a the office with the field.

Study visits are for three reasons considered essential for the trainees:

- To see IRBM, the WFD and the FD translated from paper documents into realised and functional works in the field (knowledge transfer);
- To discuss with the Dutch and EU people behind IRBM, the WFD and the FD the process, planning, issues etc, i.e. the whole road from legal documents to realised and functioning works (knowledge transfer);
- To establish relations with the relevant Dutch counterparts (networking).

The **social programme** encompasses formal and informal components. Their purpose is two-fold: networking and recreational.

The formal programme includes two Friday afternoons in which Den Haag/ Scheveningen will be visited and will involve a boat tour in Delft. In the first week the trainees will be asked their particular interests for these visits. There will be several joint lunches and dinners. For one of these dinners country representatives in the Netherlands of the ten participating nationalities will be invited.

The informal programme concerns the weekend between week 1 and 2. On Saturday a (voluntary) excursion by train to Amsterdam will be arranged, while on Sunday a (guided) bus tour to the Delta Works may be organised.

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## Organisation & trainers

The course will be organised by three consortium parties: Royal Haskoning, UNESCO-IHE and Witteveen + Bos. They combine all the characteristics required for a successful training course on the three themes IRBM, the WFD and the FD:

- UNESCO-IHE is specialised in international training courses on water management, and deals on a daily basis with international students;
- Engineering consultants Royal Haskoning and Witteveen + Bos both work (and have offices) in most of the EU and EU accession countries on water projects involving the WFD and flood management. The work varies from assistance at ministerial level, to supervision of construction works, to involvement of the public. Currently several staff members are on secondment within the Ministry of Waterways and Public Works and within Water Boards in the Netherlands. Some of them will coordinate the office/ field visits.

More information on the involved companies can be found on Internet:

- [www.unesco-ihe.org](http://www.unesco-ihe.org)
- [www.royalhaskoning.com](http://www.royalhaskoning.com)
- [www.witteveenbos.nl](http://www.witteveenbos.nl)

The trainers are specialists and generalists within the three themes IRBM, WFD and FD. They have ample training experience and many have worked in Central and Eastern European countries.

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## **Practical information**

### **Course period**

The course will take place from Sunday 30 May (arrival date) up to Saturday 12 June 2010 (departure date). Registration will be in the afternoon of the arrival date (30 May), followed in the evening by a joint dinner.

### **Location, venue and accommodation**

The course venue is the UNESCO-IHE in Delft, the Netherlands. The IHE-building is located opposite the railway station of Delft. Accommodation for the two weeks will be in the nearby facilities of the IHE. The venue includes facilities for various religions.

### **Costs**

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will cover the costs of the course, including the expenses of the participants. These include the travel (economy class), accommodation, joint meals, visa, insurance, lectures, training facilities and materials, and the organised excursions. The participants will receive pocket money to cover the other living expenses.

### **Logistics**

All logistics will be handled by the organisers Royal Haskoning, UNESCO-IHE and Witteveen + Bos. The participants will receive clear guidance/ instructions, an information package including contact details, and there will always be someone available for assistance.

### **Requirements**

The participants are nationals of the following countries: Bulgaria and Romania (new EU member states), Croatia, Turkey and Macedonia (candidate member states), and Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia (potential candidate member states).

The participants work in their country as policy maker, expert or specialist for a governmental or non-governmental organisation in the field of water management. They have to deal directly or indirectly with integrated river basin management, the Water Framework Directive or the Flood Directive.

Furthermore, the participant:

- should be fluent in spoken and written English,
- should show occupational relevance,
- should clearly demonstrate a need for training on IRBM, the WFD and/or the FD,
- should be comfortable with sharing their knowledge,
- should be motivated and enthusiastic.

Only 50 people will be able to participate in the course. The applicants that fulfil best the above requirements will be selected.

## Applications

Applications should be made through the Netherlands Embassy or Consulate in the applicant's country. Application forms have to be completed on the website:

**[www.cross-agency.nl](http://www.cross-agency.nl)**

Select *English*, go to *Downloads*, click on *Application form* for the 2010 course, choose your country [OK], select your course [OK], complete the online form, review it and then submit. Through a link send to our email address you will have to confirm your application. A printed version will need to be signed by your superior and must be sent to the Dutch Embassy or Consulate in your country. The website gives also clear instructions.

Applicants should submit their applications ultimately on:

**April 2nd 2010**

On this date all forms, including the signed employer statement, must be received by the Royal Netherlands Embassy or Consulate.

Only fully documented applications will be considered. Admission will be on a competitive basis. The participants will be selected by a steering committee. This committee will need two weeks after the application deadline to announce the selected participants.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to attend. In case of no-shows or cancellations within 3 weeks before the start of the course, the organisers reserve the right to claim any costs incurred (e.g. pre-paid flight tickets) from the applicant's employer.

### Need more information ?

Mail address: Royal Haskoning  
P.O. Box 525  
5201 AM 's-Hertogenbosch  
The Netherlands  
Telephone: INT+31 73 6874 151  
E-mail: [b.westerhout@royalhaskoning.com](mailto:b.westerhout@royalhaskoning.com)  
Contact person: Ms Barbara Westerhout

For further information on the courses developed under the MTEC programme, you can contact either the Royal Netherlands Embassy/ Consulate in your country or the EVD:

Mail address: **NL EVD Internationaal  
Agentschap NL**  
P.O. Box 20105  
2500 EC Den Haag  
The Netherlands  
Telephone: +31 88 602 81 49  
Website: [www.cross-agency.nl](http://www.cross-agency.nl)  
E-mail: [crossonline@info.evd.nl](mailto:crossonline@info.evd.nl)  
Contact person: Joyce Ten Holter (project officers)

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