

GWP Lithuania at glance



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Lithuanian Water Partnership (LWP) was officially established in September 2000

There are about 100 individual and 9 institutional LWP members in 2006, representing governmental agencies, NGOs, academic sector, professional associations and private companies.



LWP is managed by the elected Council consisting of 4 persons. Chairman of the LWP is responsible for a day-to-day operation of the partnership.

Council members and Chairman are working on the voluntary basis.

Secretary is hired only for logistic assistance before the seminars and workshops

Development of the Partnership therefore fully depends on the enthusiasm of several people.

Milestone No1:

Preparation of national Water Vision report which was included into GWPCEE regional Vision to Action Report and presented at the WWF-2 in the Hague.

The working group consisting of 10 specialists was established for preparation of National Vision report.

Vice-minister of Environment was appointed Chairman of the working group, and LWP Chair - vice-chairman of the working group.

At the end of 1999 after consultations with water stakeholders National Vision report was approved by the Minister of Environment

Water for the 21st Century:
Vision to Action

Since then GWP Lithuania maintains good working relations with main governmental institutions: ministries of Environment, Health, Agriculture, Education, and also with NGOs, academicians, professional associations and private companies.

INCREASING POLITICAL WILL

High level policy makers have been involved in LWP activities:

1999: Network Officer Meike van Ginneken and Bernardas Paukstys visited the Minister of Environment and introduced to him the GWP.

2001: Vice-minister of Environment I.Lazdinis made a presentation on Lithuanian water issues at the Regional CEE stakeholder meeting in Budapest “Hague+1”.

2002: Vice-minister of Environment E. Gustainis and Vice-minister of Finance Ms. Ungulaitiene participated in the M. Camdesus Panel Meeting on Financial Flows. Vice-minister of Environment made a presentation on water supply in Lithuania that was well accepted.

2002: World Water Day, 26 March. Vice-minister of Environment made a presentation at the LWP meeting.

2003: LWP chairman discussed school sanitation issues with the vice-minister of Health and vice – minister of Education

LWP ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

- **Awareness raising seminars and workshops. Totally 37 seminars with over 2000 participants were involved during 6 years.**
- **Increasing political will and involvement of high level decision makers into GWP activities;**
- **Translation and dissemination of GWP background papers and other documents;**
- **Dialogues on water governance, financial flows, water, food and environment;**
- **Task forces on public participation, water and education, sustainable sanitation, flood management, etc.**
- **Relations with society via mass media, (TV, journals, etc.).**

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **CP meetings**
- **WWF-2 and WWF-3**
- **Regular GWPCEE Council meetings**
- **Large international meetings (EHWATEC-2002, Moscow, WSSCC meeting in Brasil, GWP meetings in Bonn, Stockholm, etc.)**

It is rather important to involve high level decision makers into GWP activities but due to continuity reasons it is also necessary that medium level administrators (directors of departments) are involved.

All above mentioned vice-ministers have been replaced due to changes of governments but directors of departments are still in their positions. There is no need to re-introduce LWP when the governments change.

Due to continuity reasons LWP policy is to actively involve young generation into water management. Children and schools therefore deserve a special LWP attention.

Two educational 20-25 minute long TV films on water:

- Long Journey of Rain***
and
- Water for future***

were produced, disseminated and became very popular among water stakeholders and schools.

FUND RAISING:



Project for local schools and municipalities “Saving water resources for future generations”, 2005-2006 was funded by the EU Structural Fund. Co-financing from the EU Structural Fund has reached 45,000 Euro.

SAVING WATER RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In this project LWP plays a role of organiser/facilitator/disseminator of information and hires experts who make presentations, print brochures and educational material

In 2005-2006 sixteen seminars with particular focus on IWRM and the need to secure water resources for future generations have been held in rural schools. 1300 participants (school children, teachers, parents) attended the seminars.



The main goal of Lithuanian Water Partnership is to bring people, who represent different interests, together in order to discuss, listen and reach a mutual understanding.

ADDED VALUE:

After 6 years of activities LWP is the NGO recognized by the environmental governmental institutions that is focusing on promotion of IWRM.

LWP, since its establishment, acts as a means for implementation of GWP policy and is involved in awareness raising on water issues, trying to particularly highlight the IWRM.

GWPO'S ROLE IN FACILITATING THE LWP ACTIONS.

All activities mentioned above and many others would not be possible without financial and methodical assistance of the GWPO. This assistance allows national partnerships to be independent and neutral. Discussion about self-sufficiency of national partnerships means that in future CWPs will, like other NGOs, be competing for the projects. In this situation it will be difficult (if at all possible) to be neutral and find time and money for awareness raising and increasing political will.

CONSTRAINTS:

Limited work could be done when working on a voluntary basis with limited human and financial resources. It is also difficult to find additional funds just for awareness raising as most donors (including EU) support only practical projects.

FUTURE PLANS:

Continue awareness raising campaigns and promotion of the IWRM and RBM concepts involving wider circles of water professionals, decisions makers and society; there is still a need for seminars on important water topics, cross-sectorial dialogues and dialogues between water professionals and society

Strive for a stronger position in public participation and public involvement in a process of IWRM and RB planning.

Ministry of Environment is responsible for development of PP process in RB management. But they have limited human resources to perform this work. LWP shall try to intervene and prove the ability to assist in this important national task.

THANK YOU!

