

**FREE and open source software tools for WATer resource Management (FREEWAT)**

**Focus Group Minutes**

Focus Group Number and Title:

***Focus group no 1 – Stakeholder involvement in running case study***

Date & Location:

***24.11.2016, Bucarest***

Date of Preparation of minutes:

***6.11.2016, Bucarest***

Partner Name:

***National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management***

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| **Agenda** |
| * **Introduction to the FREEWAT project**
* **Objectives to reach by using FREEWAT platform**
* **Presentation of the results from Task 6.1.**
* **Presentation of the case study**
* **Disscusions**
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| **Focus Group Objectives** |
| * - to present the project, the platform and the case study to the stakeholders
* - to discus with the stakeholders about their expectations related to the use of the platform in their current activity
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| **Focus Group Questions** |
| 1. Do you consider interesting the utilization of the FREEWAT platform in the domain of the integrated water management?
2. Are you interested to use the platform in your current activity and how?
3. Are you interested to participate in the development of the case study with your idea about the actual necessities in the study area?
4. Are you interested to participate at the future trainings for utilization of the platform? How do you prefer to be organize the training sessions?
5. There are other modules for the platform that you are interested to be developed within the project or in in another project?
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| **Summary of Replies to Questions**  |
| 1. All stakeholders’ representatives considered that the platform could be implemented with success in activities regarding the integrated water resources management, at national and local level. There are 2 main conditions for assuring the platform success – existence of enough data necessaries for platform utilization and existence of personnel trained for utilization of the platform. There is also need to assure the cooperation between the INHGA team - which know how to use the platform and can assure some trainings, with the local experts, which know the local situation of the water exploitation and demands.

A very important aspect is to use the platform for both aspects of the water resources management – quantitative and qualitative. 1. As was mentioned, the stakeholders invited were from 2 different domains – authority in water management and universities, so the response are different:
* The platform can be use especially at local level, within the local authorities for water resources management (river basin administration) by realizing models for the local aquifers and using the platform for different scenario simulation, based on the local necessities – involvement of local institutions and water users are very important.
* For the universities the platform can be used as demo for training the students as modelers and as future peoples involved in activities like water resource management or environment protection.
* One of the issues mentioned as being very interesting by the both type of stakeholders was the nitrates pollution – the platform can be used for realizing some nitrates maps and also for educational purposes for the local authorities.
1. It was agreed that probably is most efficient to involve the local stakeholders for the development of the case study, due to their better knowledge of the local necessities. But also the universities representatives can be involved, especially for realization of the aquifer model. It was discussed also how the platform can include the surface water also into the model, due to fact that some stakeholders could be interested more in the surface water qualitative management.
2. All stakeholders’ representatives were interested in utilization of the platform and participation to the future trainings. Regarding the organizing aspects, fore some of them is better to organize the training on the INHGA premises – the colleagues from the river basin administrations can be invited to INHGA headquarter. Also the alternative to organize some trainings on the premises of the 2 universities was discussed. There are some administrative aspects that must be take into consideration and discussed before effective organization of the trainings.
3. There were 2 issues discussed – necessity of modelisation in detail of the relation between surface water and groundwater and study the impact of the groundwater on related ecosystems; also it was mentioned that are very interesting to develop modules for surface water only – hydraulic models to be used for flooding area determination (maybe in another project, if it is not possible now).
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| **Target Audience** |
| * - national authorities in the water management domain (representatives from the National Administration Romanian Waters)
* - scientific world (representatives from 2 universities from Bucarest )
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| **Activities carried out (e.g. roundtable discussions; brainstorming)** |
| * - welcome speech and introduction of the participants
* - presentation of the project by the project responsible for INHGA
* - presentation of the FREEWAT platform with their modules by a member of the INHGA project team
* - presentation of the case study by a member of the INHGA project team
* - roundtable discussions between project team and the stakeholders representatives
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| **Speakers** |
| * Ada Pandele – INHGA project responsible, project presentation
* - Vasile Teodora, Manea Valentina – INHGA experts, presentation of the platform
* - Irina Serpescu, Emil Radu – INHGA experts, presentation of the case study
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| **Participants (e.g. partners, stakeholders) (please attach registration sheet)** |
| * - ***National Administration Romanian Waters***: Elvira Marchidan, Florin Vartolomei, Monica Mainerici
* - ***Ecological University of Bucarest-Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Protection***: Mihaela Vasilescu, Delia Popescu
* - ***Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucarest-Groundwater Engineering Research Center***: Gheorghe Vitek
* - ***INHGA*** – Ada Pandele, Irina Serpescu, Emil Radu, Neagu Dumitru, Paunescu Teodora, Vasile Teodora, Manea Valentina
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| **Focus Group Material Prepared (please attach a copy to these minutes)** |
| * - power point presentations: “FREEWAT – prezentare generala”, “FREEWAT-module si instrumente”, “FREEWAT – studiu de caz”
* - different documents from the project website – the 2 english newsletters, FREEWAT leaflet and presentation sheet, presentations from different conferences
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| **Results & Conclusions in relation to the objectives set** |
| * The FREEWAT platform can be a very interesting and powerful tool to be used by the local authorities acting in water resources management domain
* Universities’ representatives are interested in use of the platform in their educational programme
* All stakeholders representatives mentioned their interest in use the platform and participate to the trainings
* There were already proposed 2 directions for developing the platform – detailed modelisation of the relation surface water – groundwater and hydraulic modelisation of the surface water
* It was mentioned the necessity to organize a similar meeting with the local stakeholders from the study area – River Basin Administration Banat, AQUA TIM (local water utility), County Environmental Protection Agency and others
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| **Next Steps** |
| * Organizing the second FG with the stakeholders representatives from Bucharest for deepening the realization of the model for the case study, discussions regarding the used data and discussions regarding the organization of the future trainings – during period 16-20 January 2017
* Organizing a first FG within study area, at Timisoara, with representatives from the local stakeholders for presenting the project and case study and for asking what are their proposal for utilization of the model and what scenarios are most interesting for them – end of January 2017.
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