

Output Factsheet

Output title: Training on use of Drought User Service – impacts

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

Output presents training material, regional training on impacts assessment intended for project partners and national trainings organized by project partners to train national stakeholders on how to use Drought User Service (DUS) in connection with impact results and how to maintain and manage National reporting networks for drought impacts assessment (NRN).

Regional training of the trainers on use of Drought User Service–impacts was organised on 11 October 2018 in Bucharest, Romania. At the training, experts have presented the use of the methodology for drought impact assessment and forecast to the project partners, especially in connection with national reporting networks and how to transfer the knowledge to stakeholders.

After regional training, each project partners organized national training. In total, lower hundreds of reporters have been trained across the DriDanube region. At the trainings, the complete use of the methodology for drought impact assessment and forecast including the use of the Drought User Service has been provided. National trainings focused at coordination and unification of national drought impact/forecast reports into even more coherent Danube area product. We are convinced that the training activity has been successful. Apart from the training itself, also a range of training materials that might and will be used in further trainings have been made available.

Contribution to the project and Programme objectives (max. 1500 characters)

Training has been designed to explain the use of the methodology for drought impact assessment and forecast including the use of the User Service. The national training activities have been organized by respective national partners using the common protocol that will be introduced at the regional training event. Output directly contributes to:

Project specific objective no. 3: “Proactive drought emergency response” through strengthening stakeholders’ capacities to be informed about drought impacts early in their development and respond sooner.

DTP Priority Axis 2: ‘Strengthen transnational water management and flood risk prevention. Improve preparedness for environmental risk management.

DTP Priority Axis 4 ‘Improve institutional capacities to tackle major social challenges. Support to the governance and implementation of the EUSDR’.

Transnational impact (max. 1500 characters)

The training materials on the use of Drought User Service–impacts and accompanied methodologies for drought impact assessment and impact forecast are freely available and can

be used also in other countries to perform training on regional or national levels.

Both trainings were based on one key message of the DriDanube i.e. that droughts are difficult to avert but their effects can be mitigated. As droughts rarely observe national borders, it has special importance to have access to information on drought impacts and drought forecasts of neighbouring countries. By assessing drought impacts through the same approach and scale, it allows global/regional users of drought impacts maps to observe reported damage to vegetation at the comparable scale.

Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)

DriDanube training events combined complex remote sensing products with drought impacts data provided directly by the trainees. This view is in line with addressing some actions under PA7 'Knowledge Society' as planned in the project proposal. Output 4.2 indirectly contributes to EUSDR Priority Area 10 'To step up institutional capacity and cooperation'. However, the primary goal of the output has been to train data providers and data users in order to create the well-trained base of the drought reporting network.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

Not applicable.

Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)

Trainings have been prepared for the actual users of the service as farmers National public Authority, Sectoral Agency, Interest Groups including NGOs, International Organisation. The aim of the training is to introduce the whole system to target groups and to motivate those to action. The target groups are being directly involved as both the users and providers of the information. Farmer's group have also been obviously benefiting from drought forecasts as this is being provided them with important stocks etc. The key state agencies responsible for drought event management and response are included in the project either as target groups and in some countries as ASPs. The information on the observed drought impacts and the impact forecast is of particular interest to these stakeholders as the newly introduce systems aims to provide timely, regular and standardized assessments of drought impacts (including forecasts of these impacts).

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

Training material itself addresses DriDanube countries coverage with weekly drought impact maps and yield predictions. However, the approach that training material embeds on educating potential users on a methodology for assessing drought impacts in connection with DUS can be used in any country independent of geographical location.

Durability (max. 1500 characters)

The manual for drought impacts, an algorithm for impact forecast with training material on the use of Drought User Service – impacts are timeless products and they can be used as a material for any kind of future learning interactions on drought impact assessment and forecast. Training-of-trainers approach to achieve this can be a good practice of knowledge-transfer anytime.

Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and/or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

The trained network of observers clearly provides great advantage for any further activities and is especially important in developing responses on the river basin scale. The network of reporters could be asked for collaboration on further projects in the future.

Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)

The training has been critical for proper implementation of DriDanube Output 4.1–Methodology for drought impact assessment.