



Virtual First Coordination Meeting

Hosted by

The International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Headquarters

Vienna, Austria

5 to 6 June 2024

Ref. No.: ME-RER7017-2400180

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of this 1st coordination meeting is to provide an overview of the objective and expected results of RER7017, introduce participating countries, present regional water resources aspects and potential case studies (content, participants and main steps), revise the workplan of the project along with the support to be provided to participating countries (including procurement component) and to consolidate the recommendations for project implementation.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **24 May 2024** will not be considered.

Project Background

More than half of the world's freshwater bodies are shared, and cooperation in their management is imperative. According to progress tracked for the United Nations Global Goal on transboundary waters, barely more than half of the shared waters are covered by an operational arrangement. Given the degraded state of shared freshwater ecosystems, and the related knock-on socio-economic effects, it is critical to put proper cooperative arrangements in place. The regional monitoring network, sustained and consolidated during the RER7013 project, has shown that regional cooperation is key to enable sustainable and integrated water management of transboundary water resources, thus improving the national and regional water security. Furthermore, the phase two project will continue to address an issue of insufficient institutional and technical capacity efficiently by transferring knowledge and capacity from advanced to less advanced Member States.

The project builds on the achievements of RER7013 - Evaluating Groundwater Resources and Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions in the Context of Adapting to Climate Change, which provided a first overview of groundwater and surface water resources, including transboundary water resources, in 32 participating Member States and sought to improve the capacity and self-reliance of participating Member States to introduce isotope hydrology in water resources planning, management, and development at national and transboundary levels. The phase two project seeks to increase coverage and capacity of the regional network in the European TC (TCEU) region, which was consolidated during RER7013, for the monitoring and evaluation of water resource quality and quantity using isotope techniques. To promote greater regional cooperation, the project continues to encourage participating countries to work together to improve the characterization of shared water resources, address identified data gaps, and facilitate the use of isotope hydrology for the formulation of water-related policies. This third aspect is outlined as a new component of the project, given the need and interest of several participating countries. The overall aim of the project is to enhance evidence-based decision-making for integrated water management to improve water security in Member States of Europe and Central Asia.

The objective of RER7017 is to improve water security in Member States by means of evidence-based policy making in the integrated management of trans-boundary water resources. The expected outcome is to achieve an enhanced evidence-based decision-making in integrated water management through improved characterisation, and monitoring of groundwater and surface water resources, including trans boundary water systems. By the end of the project, it is expected to have an:

- 1 Enhanced understanding of climate change impact on water quality and quantity in transboundary basins;
- 2 Strengthened institutional and technical capacity of participating isotope hydrology institutions;
- 3 Enhanced integration of isotope hydrology into the policy making.

Expected Outputs

The expected main outputs of this event are:

- The project participants are introduced
- The case studies are selected
- The workplan is revised and procurement list drafted
- Consolidated report with recommendations and action plan for project implementation is developed

Scope and Nature

The event will be organized including several sessions: (i) propose the joint case studies, (ii) to present Member States work and interest in the context of their integration in the project and case studies, (iii) finalize the procurement list and (iv) to discuss the recommendations and action plan for the project implementation. Selected participants will be invited to present on their related work during presentations and their interest to join the different case studies. The invited participants are expected to actively share their experience during the discussion sessions.

Participation

The meeting is open to Member States participating in the RER7017.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The participants should be the counterpart and other institutions to actively participate in RER7017 coming from governmental organisations/entities/bodies authorised/appointed to perform tasks related to water management and isotope hydrology and possess a technical profile in the use of hydrological, hydrogeological or hydrochemical techniques or in water resources assessment and/or management.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;

- b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
- c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2400180) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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