

# **Minutes from the kick-off meeting of the CHASE-PL Project in Poznan**

## **Monday 17 - Tuesday 18 February 2014**

The kick-off meeting of the CHASE-PL (Climate change impact assessment for selected sectors in Poland) Project was held in the premises of the Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan on Monday, 17 and Tuesday, 18 February 2014. The meeting was opened by Professor Kundzewicz who stressed that the competition between candidates in Polish-Norwegian call for proposals was very strong. He stressed that the CHASE-PL Project augured very well and expressed his great expectations.

Since all the earlier contacts of Project partners were undertaken via internet, several Project scientists did not know each other in person, hence it was important to conduct a tour de table – short self-presentation of all meeting participants.

Next, brief presentation of institutional consortium partners was delivered. Professor Kundzewicz presented the Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IAFE PAS), Professor Hov delivered extensive information about the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (Met Norway) and Professor Okruszko introduced the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). Information about institutional partners of the Project consortium included review of institutes' missions, objectives, structures, interests, competences, thematic areas, project experiences, etc.

Prof. Kundzewicz delivered presentation of the CHASE-PL Project, its general objectives, and structure of work packages. Next he reviewed individual work packages with their objectives and listed obligations (milestones and deliverables). After this general introduction came presentation and discussion of individual work packages, with contributions of work package leaders. In particular, focus was on those work packages that start early in the project and those that are planned to produce early milestones and deliverables.

Discussion of data situation took place next. Both Polish institutional partners have formal agreements with the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – State Research Institute, related to access to data holdings of the Institute. Nevertheless, there are severe restrictions on the use of these data. Polish institutes can (and do) also apply for data in relation to doctoral or habilitation procedures and this is another avenue to be explored. Yet, hydrological modeling of the drainage basins of two large rivers – the Vistula and the Odra – requires a very extensive data set. It was proposed that the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, a pendant to Polish hydromet service could apply to its Polish counterpart for making Polish data available for use in the Polish-Norwegian CHASE-PL Project. On the top of Polish station data from the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – State Research Institute, use will be made of international data holdings and results of re-analysis, covering Poland, that are freely available in open access mode. Nevertheless, comparison of data sets with stations data would be necessary.

Vigorous discussion of the web portal took place. Speakers expressed the need to produce a web portal with valuable information for a range of stakeholders.

Discussion of models was also held. Professor Okruszko and Dr Kardel informed the meeting about their experience in the use of hydrological models. It is planned to use the watershed SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) model, eventually the SWIM model, related to SWAT. Prof. Okruszko and Dr Kardel informed the meeting about the other necessary external information: Digital Elevation Model and thematic maps to be acquired from KZGW, PIG-PIB, and IUNG.

Administrative issues embraced plans for project management and operation of the project. Since the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) had prior experience in Polish-Norwegian research projects, other consortium partners were eager to hear their advice. However, since the operator of the Polish-Norwegian research programme at the Polish end has changed (now it is NCBiR), experience related to programme operated by OPI is of limited value. The conditions have changed considerably.

It was decided that Executive Board, consisting of representatives of all three Project consortium partners - Prof. Kundzewicz, Prof. Hof, and Prof. Okruszko (or their

substitutes) will mostly interact electronically, to reduce the need for costly and time-consuming travels. Yet, every Project consortium meeting should be used to also arrange an Executive Board meeting.

A funding problem was recognized, related to the fact that the first advance payment cannot exceed 30% of the total budget of the three-year project. Since the project, of the total planned duration of three years, starts on 1 January 2014, it was planned to deliver very intense work in the first year of the Project as well as to proceed with purchases. Under 30% restriction, Project partners have to either reduce their costs in the first year, or to cover the expenses from their internal sources, to be reimbursed from the Project in 2015. Nevertheless, the funding restriction in the first year is not critical and plans were made to overcome this restriction without a detrimental effect to the course of the Project.

Since the signed Project contract was received from Programme Operator, it was expected that the first installment of financial means should follow within two weeks. Within two weeks after receipt of the funds by Project promoter, financial means earmarked for consortium partners will be transferred to their bank accounts.

In discussion of ideas allowing to make the CHASE-PL Project a success, partners expressed their expectations and firm belief in achievements of all the goals of the Project, including planned deliverables and milestones. It is expected that the CHASE-PL Project will help in better understanding of climate change and its sectoral impacts in Poland. Since researchers increasingly work under the “publish or perish” rule, all project participants have vested interest in preparation of joint publications, in a win-win / co-benefit mode. In particular, peer reviewed journal papers are needed that bring many credit points to scientists and their institutions in evaluations, but there is also a plan to publish a book in Polish and in English. This is all an ambitious publication plan for a three-year project, but it was found feasible. In order to fulfil the publication plan it was found necessary to start exchanging ideas about joint papers as early as possible.

## **Annex**

### **Agenda of the kick-off meeting of the CHASE-PL Project**

**Poznan, Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February 2014:**

1. Opening
2. Tour de table – short self-presentation of participants
3. Presentation of consortium partners
  - PL1
  - N
  - PL2
4. Presentation of the CHASE-PL project
5. Review of ongoing WPs
  - WP1 (PL1)
  - WP3 (PL2)
  - WPs (N)
  - WP6 (PL1), WP7 (PL1)
6. Data
7. Models
8. Administrative issues
9. Anticipated problems. How to overcome the 2014 funding restriction?
10. How to make the CHASE-PL project a success? - Suggestions, ideas, discussion
11. Any other matters