

DRAFT

**Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Hydrology in RA VI
for the period 2009 – 2013
(Submitted by the chairperson of the Working Group)**

In reference to WMO RAVI Strategic Plan and specially the expected results 3 – Enhanced capabilities of Members to provide more accurate hydrological forecasts and assessments, the Working Group on Hydrology will associate representatives of hydrological services and other bodies with motivation to support:

- Professional activities of National Hydrological Services in Europe
- Cooperation with meteorological services at national level especially in the countries where hydrological and meteorological services are separated
- Cooperation with European Commission and other EC bodies dealing with water related issues
- Coordination with CHy activities, to share common issues and avoid duplications
- Cooperation with WMO meteorological, climatic and disaster reduction programmes on regional level
- Cooperation with UNESCO International Hydrological Programme
- Cooperation with European ongoing projects regarding standardization in the field of hydrology

Specific objectives:

- To facilitate activities of NHSs in the region for improvement of hydrological forecasting including new activities as probabilistic methods of forecasting, flash flood warnings and others
- To promote co-operation between meteorologists, hydrologists and end users of hydrological forecasts on national and regional level including cooperation in trans-boundary river basins and other regional initiatives (European Flood Alert System – EFAS)
- To contribute to the flood risk management in European countries mainly by developing and using best practices and standards in estimation of hydrological design data
- To contribute to the implementation of EC directives eg. the Water framework directive, the Flood risks assessment and management directive, the Groundwater protection directive, the INSPIRE directive, in both EU member countries and other countries

- To provide hydrological contribution to the WMO information system WIS and regional information system (Water Information System Europe – WISE). Take care of hydrological aspects in European environmental data policy and cooperate with the European Environment Agency in collection, exchange and use of hydrological data and information
- To evaluate current methods used for water balance and assessment of the surface and ground water in the region and cooperate in introducing of up-to-date methods into hydrological practice.
- To contribute to the proper implementation of possible impacts of climate variability and change in hydrological practices and water resources assessments in European region
- To cooperate on regional level with other WMO programs which require hydrological collaboration, eg. disaster prediction and mitigation, or which provide meteorological or climatic data and product for hydrological activities
- To share with CHy a cooperation and joint effort with the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and Centre European de Normalisation (CEN) on international standards for hydrological observation and processing.
- To share training knowledge and practices on operational hydrology and to inform hydrological community about available training programs

A membership in the group is open for representatives of hydrological services and other water related bodies from European countries, that are nominated by respective PRs. Selected active members, which everybody is responsible for a topic of the working plan, will form a core of the group. It is supposed that activities of core-members are partly supported from WMO budget.

The chairman of the group is a regional hydrological advisor of the RA VI President. The chairman or vice-chairman represents the group in the RA VI Committee on Strategic Planning.

The core member should be an expert on a particular topic for which is responsible. Other members, who are willing to cooperate voluntarily with him, can create an open panel of experts on specific topic.

This draft of ToR will be discussed and elaborated on the eleven session of the Working Group on Hydrology 25 – 27 March 2009.