



# **Regional Coordination Meeting**

**Hosted by**

The Government of Poland

**through the**

AGH University of Science and Technology; Faculty of Physics and Applied  
Computer Science

Krakow, Poland

**16 to 20 May 2022**

**Ref. No.: ME-RER7013-2200271**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the event is to review the progress of the project and to review the project workplan of the remaining activities.

### **Working Language(s)**

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

### **Deadline for Nominations**

Nominations received after **18 March 2022** will not be considered.

## **Project Background**

Although groundwater represents 98% of the world's unfrozen freshwater, there is often not enough understanding of complex aquifer systems. Due to the increase of groundwater usage over the past decades, there is an increasing global risk of over-depletion of groundwater, quality deterioration and pollution, putting at risk the resilience of communities, populations and ecosystems dependent on groundwater sources. The better understanding of complex aquifer systems and groundwater-surface-water interactions is thus indispensable for effective integrated water management. The analysis of stable isotopes and natural radioisotopes is an excellent tool for characterizing and understanding aquifer systems, especially when assessing the long-term exploitation of groundwater in important water supply points. However, the knowledge about isotope-based techniques and the capacity to apply them differs significantly among countries in the European region. Some Member States do have high to very high human and technological capacities to integrate isotopic techniques as an important tool for integrated water management, whereas in some other countries little to no knowledge exists.

In collaboration with its Member States, in 2020 the IAEA has thus launched this Technical Cooperation Regional Project RER7013 "Evaluating Groundwater Resources and Groundwater-Surface-Water Interactions in the Context of Adapting to Climate Change" aiming to bridge these gaps by transferring knowledge and capacity from advanced to less advanced Member States by (1) increasing awareness on the existence of isotope hydrology techniques in Member States where knowledge is very limited, (2) transferring knowledge and building capacity on the use of isotope hydrology techniques through training courses and fellowships, (3) answering specific regional or sub-regional and transboundary questions, such as on the impact of a changing climate and anthropogenic activities on groundwater resources, and (4) enhancing and sustaining a regional network for the monitoring and evaluation of water resource quality and quantity using isotope techniques. The ultimate aim of this project is to enhance evidence-based decision-making in integrated water management by an improved characterization and monitoring of groundwater resources.

## **Expected Outputs**

The expected outputs of the meeting are:

- (1) All counterparts have a common understanding of the existing status and the current needs for isotope hydrology in the region as well as the status of project implementation including all activities that were conducted in the context of the case studies. Particular focus will be on the summary of intermediate case study results and first scientific conclusions.
- (2) The project workplan for the second half of the project and each case study is finalized including a definition of remaining activities such as regional (or sub-regional) training courses and workshops, other capacity building activities such as fellowships or expert missions, sampling campaigns and sample analyses, etc.).
- (3) Participants of the different case study teams have defined a common strategy on how to join the isotope hydrology data and results that have been obtained so far, and that will be continued in the 2nd half of the project. Tentative definition of a joined publication and dissemination strategy.

## Scope and Nature

The workshop will consist of presentations by the IAEA and participants on their activities conducted within the case studies and the project as a whole. Presentations on recent studies and on regional and national technical capabilities in isotope hydrology will also be held and discussed. Each case study team will further conduct breakout sessions in which case study project workplans and joint application study implementation strategies will be discussed and updated. Finally, each case study team is expected to initially discuss the final product of their case study and how this is planned to be disseminated to policy makers.

## Participation

The participants should be national project counterparts of RER7013 from governmental organisations/entities/bodies authorised/appointed to perform tasks related to water management and isotope hydrology.

## Participants' Qualifications and Experience

Each country is invited to nominate one candidate, who should be a national project counterpart of the representing country to the project RER7013 and who should have a technical profile in the use of hydrological, hydrogeological or hydrochemical techniques or in water resources assessment and/or management. In exceptional cases and if well justified, more than one candidate per country may be accepted such as, for example, if more than one institution per country is expected to actively participate in the project and the attendance of more than one counterpart per country is critical for the implementation of the project on the national level. Participants should further have experience and be involved in the use of isotope hydrology techniques. Exceptions from this latter requirement can be made to participants from member states that have not yet employed isotope hydrology techniques, but who are now planning to do so.

Representatives from regional, international and technical partner organisations will also be invited to participate at this meeting.

## 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. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (**EVT2200271**) 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](mailto: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 American Express, or a travel grant, 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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