

Changing Horizons in Geography Education - Herodot/Eurogeo Conference

Toruń, Poland 2nd - 5th September 2005

STUDYING CLIMATE AND WATER RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT IN BULGARIA IN THE CONTEXT OF

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Climate and water policy in Bulgaria, compliance with EU environmental policy

Water resources management and climate change problems are a priority in the EU environmental policy. The Bulgarian position is fully in compliance with the EU position.

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Climate and water policy in Bulgaria, compliance with EU environmental policy

The key needs for the future of Bulgaria:

- Consolidation of economic, legal and institutional systems on regional, cross-border, national and local scale in compliance with the new political and economic realities;
- Recruitment and training of specialists for management of the environment;
- Securing of funds for tackling environmental problems.

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To achieve the requirements of EU environmental policy it is necessary for Bulgaria to:

- develop, apply and distribute technologies, practices and processes that control, limit and decrease the anthropogenic impact on the environment;
- elaborate and apply strategies and measures that should be complex and should cover all scope of human activity
- work for sustainable management;
- ensure the public training, preparation and awareness with regard to the environmental problems such as climate change or water deficit.

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Main legislative documents in the field of water and climate policy

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

- ensures strong legal support for integrated water resources management (IWRM)

IWRM is the process, which stimulates co-coordinated development and management of water, land and water resources for maximum increase of economic and social well being without compromise or damage to sustainable ecosystems (GWP, 2000).

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Main legislative documents in the field of water and climate policy

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- signed by Bulgaria - June 1992
- ratified - March 1995

UNFCCC put in the foreground the agreement of the nations to work together on the problem of the climate change, the consequences of which will have greater importance for the future than for the present generation (United Nations, 1992)

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Main legislative documents in the field of water and climate policy

Kyoto Protocol

- signed by Bulgaria - September 1998
- ratified in 2002

Bulgaria commits itself to work for the decrease of the anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by 8% for the period 2008-2012 compared to their level in 1988

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What does Bulgaria do?

- develops National communications
- conducts annual inventories on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and publishes National GHG Inventory Reports
- has signed the agreements for purchase emissions through the mechanism of “joint implementation”
- has developed its Second Action plan on Climate Change for the period 2005-2008

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

One of the main tasks for modern science and society is the development and implementation of measures for improving the relationship between researchers, policy and decision-makers and public participants.

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

The program is characterized by the following:

- modules that provide basic and specific knowledge on different aspects of climate and water resources management;
- a curriculum which complies with computer skills, methodical skills, presentation skills, teamwork;
- a study program that is linked to practical work by exercises and seminars and by contact with experts in environmental management;
- an interdisciplinary course.

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

The main subject:

- methods for resource assessment;
- climate and the influence of water resources on different human activities;
- principles of climate and water resources use;
- the influence of anthropogenic activity and
- legislative aspects.

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

- **three** semesters (last semester is dedicated to production of the Masters thesis)
- includes **obligatory** and **optional** courses

90 credits including 15 credits for successfully defended Masters thesis. The credits are determined according ESTC and Regulation N 21 from September, 30, 2004 for implementation of system for transfer of credits in higher education (State Gazette No 89 / 2004)

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

The curriculum is consistent with studies based on the bachelor's program in geography, geography and biology, history and geography, and ecology.

The program provides the students with an understanding of the solutions to environmental problems and conflicts, especially by taking socio-economic circumstances of the working area into consideration.

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The Masters degree program

“Climate and water resources management”

Professional experience in the following areas:

- environmental protection (and especially air and water quality control);
- water economy;
- water and climate amelioration;
- energy resources (renewable resources);
- tourism and
- agriculture.

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THANK YOU !

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