



DIKTAS is a project initiated by the aquifer-sharing states and supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve understanding of transboundary groundwater resources of the Dinaric region and to facilitate their equitable and sustainable utilization, including the protection of unique karst groundwater dependent ecosystems.

## DIKTAS advances successfully

The first half of the year 2013 saw a number of activities in the DIKTAS project including, meetings of the DIKTAS decision groups, delivery of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), initialization of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and the first announcement of the DIKTAS conference 2014.

### The DIKTAS Meetings

- The **fourth Project Team meeting** was held in Plitvice in 27-28 June 2013. The meeting discussed activities required for finalization of the TDA, preparation of the SAP and establishment of environmental status indicators, quality targets and a joint monitoring program. The meeting also agreed upon timelines for related actions and work plans.

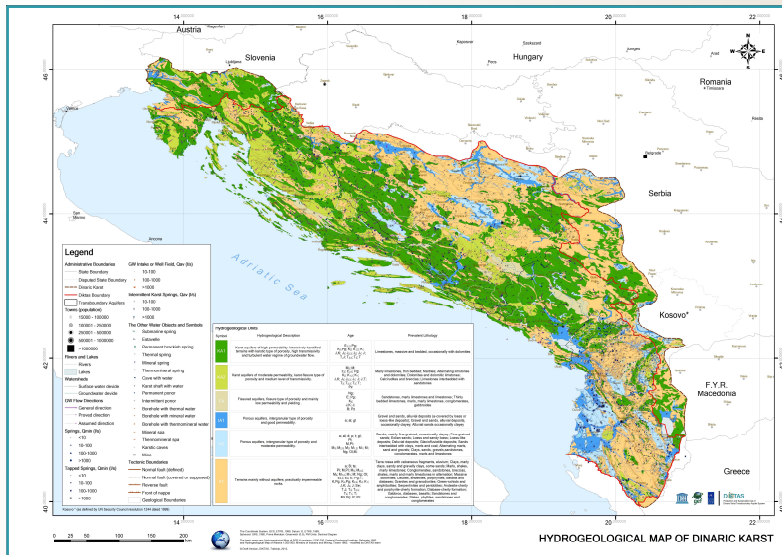


Establishment of environmental status indicators, quality targets and the joint monitoring program has started in 2012 and will be completed in 2013. It will be used to suggest a general methodology for groundwater monitoring in karst. This will be a valuable contribution to the countries assisting them to establish or improve groundwater monitoring networks in the area of transboundary concern as well as a valuable contribution to the EU WFD implementation.

- Three **National Inter-ministerial Committees (NICs)** meetings were held, in Bosnia and Herzegovina in February, Albania in April and in Croatia in May 2013.
- The **DIKTAS Steering Committee** meeting was held in Zagreb on 26 June 2013. The SC discussed and adopted the work report for the previous year and the work plan for this year.

## DIKTAS Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

The preparation of the DIKTAS TDA is a fact finding process aiming to identify and describe the karst groundwater related issues that are important at the transboundary level.



The TDA will provide the basis for the preparation of the SAP. The TDA is prepared by the DIKTAS countries specialists supported by regional experts.

The first draft report of the TDA was successfully delivered in June 2013. The final TDA is planned to be ready by mid-November after receiving comments from the National Inter-ministerial Committees and consultations with the stakeholders.

A Regional Stakeholders Workshop will be organized later this year to discuss the draft TDA. The event will be also used to receive input from the stakeholders for the preparation of the SAP.

## Initialization of the Strategic Action Plan

The DIKTAS SAP will establish clear priorities for action to address the root-causes of transboundary issues identified through the TDA. The SAP will propose policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments required in this regard. The preparation of a SAP is a cooperative process among key stakeholders in the countries of the region. This process was initiated in June 2013 and will be concluded in the end of 2014 with the adoption of the SAP by the DIKTAS countries.

The Project Team meeting in Plitvice laid the basis for the work to be done during the following distinctive steps that are part of the SAP process: establishment of the Long Term Vision for the management of the DIKTAS area; establishment of Ecosystem/Water Resources Quality Objectives and; identification of Actions to address the issues and achieve the objectives.

The preparatory work of the Project Team will enable discussions during the Regional Stakeholders Workshop; a vision statement, objectives as well as priority actions -elaborated by the experts- will be proposed to the stakeholders. The results of the consultation with the stakeholders will enable further elaboration and fine tuning of priority actions by the DIKTAS experts and the NICs.

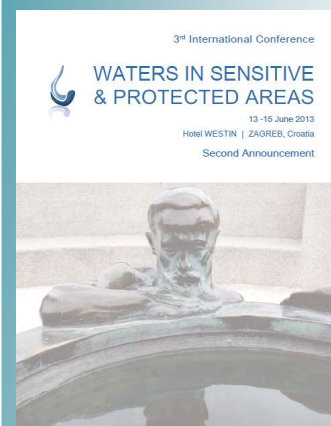
## News bits

### DIKTAS project in the 3rd International Conference on Waters in Sensitive and Protected areas

The DIKTAS project was well represented in the 3rd International Conference on Waters in Sensitive and Protected areas which was held in Zagreb, Croatia, in 13-15 June, 2013. Three articles were presented by the DIKTAS project team which covered a wide range of topics highlighting the significance and vulnerability of karst aquifers in the region.

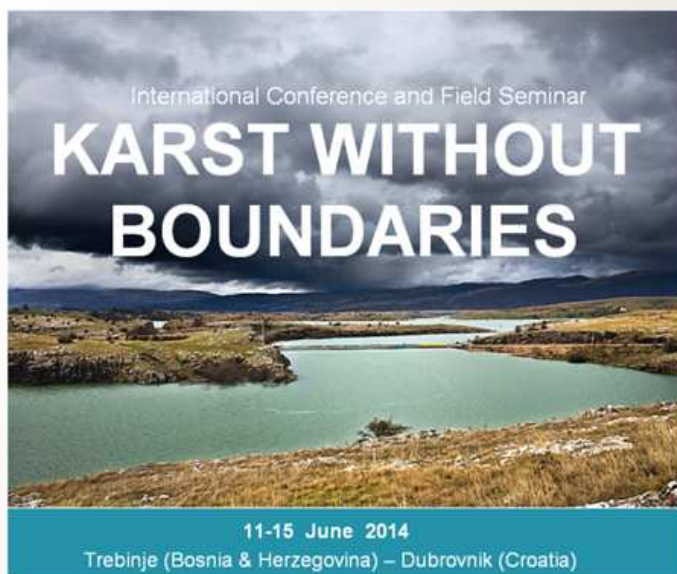
Conference site:

<http://www.wspaconference.com>



## DIKTAS Conference 2014

The International conference and field seminar Karst Without Boundaries will be held in 11-15 June 2014, in Trebinje (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Dubrovnik (Croatia).



The purpose of the conference is to enhance cooperation between international karst scientists, engineers and DIKTAS stakeholders, and to provide opportunity for exchange of experiences and ideas relevant to karst aquifers throughout the world. The conference will highlight DIKTAS achievements at national and regional level and invite representatives of national authorities, academics, engineers, consultants and others to actively engage in the project activities and contribute to achieving its goals. Additionally, the conference aims to raise awareness on the vulnerability of karst aquifers and to discuss groundwater protection and related socio-economical and environmental implications.

*Registration for the conference is NOW OPEN!*

### Important Dates

- Abstract submission until 1 November 2013
- Notification on acceptance of abstracts until 1 December 2013
- Submission of papers until 1 February 2014
- Early registration fee until 31 March 2014

International Conference and Field Seminar

**KARST WITHOUT  
BOUNDARIES**



## News bits

### Future Conferences

#### International Symposium and Training Course on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions

The International Symposium and Training Course on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 2 to 7 September 2013. The event is jointly organized by the IAH Karst Commission (KC), the Commission on Regional Groundwater Flow and the International Union of Speleology. The annual meeting of the KC will take place in Budapest while the Young Karst Researcher Prizes 2013 will also be distributed during this event. Information and registration: [www.karstflow2013.org](http://www.karstflow2013.org)

#### 7th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference

The 7th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference will take place in the Caribbean region this year, 28-31 October 2013. Special workshops for GEF IW project managers and Agencies will take place prior to the main event. General information about the conference can be found on the IWLEARN website ([http://iwlearn.net/abt\\_iwlearn/events/conferences/iwc7-2013](http://iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/conferences/iwc7-2013)) while questions regarding the meeting can be sent to [iwc2013@iwlearn.org](mailto:iwc2013@iwlearn.org)

**DIKTAS**

## DIKTAS is enhancing capacities for the management of Karst Aquifers

### *Workshop on Problems and Solutions in Numeric Modeling of Karst Aquifers*

A workshop on Problems and Solutions in Numeric Modeling of Karst Aquifers was organized in Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 5 to 7 June 2013 by the Geological Survey of the Republic of Srpska, the Faculty of Mining and Geology of Belgrade University and the DIKTAS project. The workshop was also supported by Hydro-power company "Hidroelektrane na Trebišnjici".

This three-days hands-on experience workshop covered practical aspects of developing conceptual and numeric models of groundwater flow in karst terrains. Model conceptualization and data preparation for input into numeric model was performed in a GIS environment, whereas numeric modeling was performed using computer program Groundwater Vistas, a graphic user interface, and the latest modules of Modflow specifically developed for karst groundwater problems - CFP (Conduit Flow Process) and USG (Un-Structured Grids).

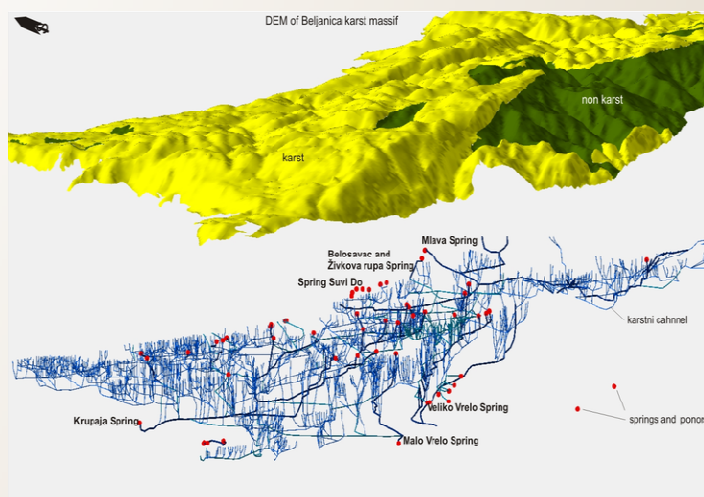


Image by Sasa Milanovic (University of Belgrade)

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