



INTERREG IVB

PROGRESS REPORT (October - short version)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. General Project Data

Project title:	A coordinated strategy for the Adaptation of the Meuse to the Impacts of Climate Evolutions on floods and low-flows with the perspective		
Acronym:	AMICE	Project number:	074C
Nationality of the Lead Partner:	FR		
Start date:	01/01/2008	End date:	06/01/2013
Priority:	2 - Managing resources and risks	Duration (in months):	65
Total eligible project budget:	8 879 589,83	Total ERDF funding:	2 809 075,74

1.2 Details on reporting period

Progress Report number:	2009-1		
Official reporting deadline:	30/Oct/ 2009	Date of submission:	
Reporting period	From	To	01/Jan/ 2009 01/Jun/ 2009

Contact details of the person responsible for the report

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1.3 Summary description of project in English

Please provide a brief summary of the project to be published on the website (This should be a fixed summary of the project as given in the Application Form. It should be updated, when necessary) - (max. 2000 characters)

Climate change impacts the Meuse territory creating more floods and droughts. The river managers and water experts from 4 countries join forces to elaborate an innovative and sustainable adaptation strategy. The project lasts from 2009 to 2012.

The AMICE application was approved on the 3rd call of the Interreg IV B Program; 2,8 M€ ERDF were granted to the project.

The total budget is nearly 8,9 M€ .

It involves 17 partners from the Meuse basin. The International Commission for the Meuse hosts the Partners' meetings and act as an observer.

*EPAMA (Lead Partner)
 *Université de Metz – CEGUM
 *CETMEF
 *Région wallonne (GTI)
 *Université de Liège – Département HACH & Aquapôle
 *Faculté Universitaire de Gembloux
 *Commune d'Hotton
 *Agence Prévention et Sécurité
 *nv De Scheepvaart
 *Waterbouwkundig Laboratorium
 *RIOU vzw
 *WasserVerband Eifel-Rur
 *RWTH Aachen University: Lehrstuhl und Institut für Wasserbau und Wasserwirtschaft / Lehr- und Forschungsgebiet Ingenieurhydrologie
 *Rijkswaterstaat
 *Waterschap Aa en Maas
 *Waterschap Brabantse Delta

The aims of AMICE are to:

- *develop a basin-wide climate adaptation strategy, coordinated transnationally, focused on water discharges and the functions they influence. The strategy development will take into account climate scenarios, on-going projects, existing measures and the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC).
- *realise a set of measures against low-flows & floods, profitable for the international basin of the Meuse and that can be used by other basins in NWE.
- *reinforce and widen the partnership between stakeholders of the Meuse basin, increase the exchange of knowledge and experience on prevention, preparedness & protection against flood & drought risks.
- *engage the local population and stakeholders by improving their understanding of climate change, sustainable development, catchment basin functioning, risk consciousness of water hazards and the sense of belonging to a common river basin, across administrative and language borders.

II. PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT - LAST 6 MONTHS

2.1 What has been achieved in the last 6 months? - (max. 8000 characters)

COORDINATION:

*negotiation period successful ! The AMICE Partners had one meeting on January 14th to agree on budget reductions without excluding any Partner or investment. The Application Form has been revised to meet PSC requirements. Project coordinator, finance manager and communication officer attended Lead Partner training at the JTS'.

*project starts ! The first Project Steering Group meeting was held on April 27th (see doc 1 to 3). The Partnership Agreement (4) is finalised and sent to Partners to be signed. Conventions are written between EPAMA and RIOU (5) : advanced payment of the Communication officer; and between EPAMA and Walloon Region (6) : payment of Common Costs. The Audit trail is organised and a list of documents (7) to be sent along with the Payment Claim table is forwarded to all Partners.

The Project Coordinator visits all Partners to pass on the information from the Lead Partner seminar (8) : eligible costs, procedures for First Level Controller recruitment, deadlines, explanation of the PC tables. A monitoring table (9) is created to get regular reports from the Partners. The Communication officer visits all Partners to detail the communication plan (10).

*first tenders! EPAMA awards a contract for all AMICE translations and interpretations. Partners start recruiting their First Level Controllers (except Wallonia).

*first communication tools! AMICE website in construction; AMICE logo proposed by P2 : a web-poll was organised to choose it; AMICE leaflet contents agreed by Partners on PSG meeting : design is being revised by Communication officer.

WP1 / Action 1 : Coordinating Partner is P2. First meeting took place in Metz on April 3rd (see 11).

P2 starts creating the TORD " transnational online references database" for all Partners to share bibliography on climate change on the Meuse basin: categories and sub-categories as a guide for thematic referencing, hosted on computer server at University of Metz, created under Wikindx application.

All WP1 Partners start filling-in the database via a user logon (<http://www.amice-biblio.univ-metz.fr/wikindx3/>) : 700 references uploaded up to now. A statistics of references has been performed to identify gaps of knowledge according to the aforementioned categories.

The Dutch book 'Van Regen tot Maas' is published (26). A contractor is recruited by P15 and the translation to French starts, publication is foreseen for the end of the year.

WP1 / action 3 : P2 elaborates a questionnaire on available data, rainfall-runoff models in each country and the elaboration of a common strategy for producing hydrological scenarios. Walloon Partners meet between themselves to agree on common approaches (see PC proves), so do the German Partners (see PC proves). P10 signed contract with Deltares (NL) to make simulations of climate change impacts in Flanders, based on existing local scenarios (see 24, EN version planned 2nd semester). Other contracts are signed to carry tasks in WP1 with KULeuven, UGent and IMDC. P15 start recruiting contractor as well.

WP1 / action 6 : The hydraulic model on the Walloon territory dedicated to the unsteady simulation between Ampsin and Maaseik is being developed by P5. P5 also starts defining how to fulfill tasks of the action.

WP2 / action 13: Site visit organised with P4, P6 and local contact BNVS on 18th June to discuss criteria for site selection for the hydrological monitoring and choose sites (25). Ecological monitoring will be carried out at the same sites. Valleys of the Emmels and Recht were visited also. Fieldwork in the Emmels started on June 21st.

WP2 / action 15: P17 starts informing people involved by several consultations. Blueprints are designed with local partners and stakeholders. Boundaries for goals, species and building blocks are set. Blueprints for two locations were delivered by Consultancy Eelerwoude on 22th April. Design was approved by Waterboard on 09th June. A third location is temporarily withdrawn and consultation proceeds with ngo Natuurmonumenten. The Municipality of Steenberghe did not approve yet and consultation with other stakeholders has to be stopped, delaying works planned in 2009.

WP2 / action 17: Limits of the floodable area have been defined. A penetrometer was used to perform a soil inventory and decide on best location for the dike (27). P8 starts negotiation to buy the land for the investment 2. The Province is to buy lands on the left bank for 50.000€. Lands on the right bank will be bought by P8 and changed into ponds, since these lands are already wet.

WP3 / action 19 : 1st semester was dedicated to the environmental impact assessment : the study was finished in February, the plans were opened to public consultation from March to April, in May the community for environmental studies judged it positive and the province of Noord Brabant finally validated it in June.

WP3 / action 21 : the pumping installation and water power plant at the lock of Ham has been designed. The results from the environmental impact assessment and the cost-benefit study were taken into account. A first concept of the tender to build the installation is worked-out.

WP3 / action 23 : P12 start collecting hydraulic data for P13 and P14 : spatial data, measured time series. Three meetings have been organised to plan the action in details and share tasks between the three German Partners involved (see 28-30). Some parts of the Rur basin are not yet covered by rainfall-runoff models, it will be set-up by P14 (P12 for the urban areas). Parts that are already covered use two different models : Provos will be converted into NASIM to facilitate the basin study. P12 and P14 launches a tender to buy the 2D-model-software NASIM (see PC proves).

WP4 / Action 25 : First meeting took place at P7' on June 18th to present all software used for flood crisis management : demonstrations of several functionalities (see 12 to 15). Partners exchange on possible software improvements. A questionnaire is elaborated to describe in details flood crisis management in each country.

WP5 (general communication plan) : communication slides from the Lead Partner seminar and communication actions from the Application Form are combined in a concept communication plan answering the W-questions (why, what, who, how, when?). The plan was discussed with Partners individually in May and June and up-dated (31).

WP5 / Action 10 : a tender for the AMICE film is being written.

WP5 / Action 11 : Kick-off meeting took place on April 28th in Hotton : 70 participants registered, 8 speakers, speeches translated from FR to DE and NL (see 16 to 19). Organisation of the kick-off by P8, P11 and P1.

WP5 / Action 12 : first Site Visit was organised in Hotton by P8 on April 28th. The investment 2 was presented in details to all AMICE Partners and regional match-funders (see 20-21).

2.2 How has it been communicated to the project's stakeholders/ target groups? - (max. 5000 characters)

* Lead Partner was interviewed about Project application during the INTERREG IV B Road Show in Brest (June 17th)

* Special AMICE news about the Kick-off meeting was forwarded to all participants.

* Newspaper article in "La Meuse" about the Kick-off meeting and Site Visit in Ny.

* Approval of the AMICE project was announced on the Meuse Commission "Head of Delegates" meeting on March 13th (22), on EPAMA's website for its match-funders, on the newsletter of the French network of water basin managers (23 - page 4)

* AMICE project presented as an example of international cooperation at the World Water Forum (Istanbul, Turkey)

* The Dutch book 'Van Regen tot Maas' was officially presented in Maastricht on 19th March by author Marcel de Wit. Other presentations followed at Rijkswaterstaat, Ministry of Public Works, Deltares and Universities.

* British observers : on 17th April and 18th April, a delegation from British Woodland Trust visited the valleys in the Ardennes (actions 13 a 14) to know more about natural water retention.

* a lecture presenting the AMICE project to second-year student (150 people) has been done by P5

* details of actions 23 and 24 have been presented by P12 to the state government in Cologne (match-funder) as well as to the Province Limburg and Waterschap Roer and Overmaas (NL) that are involved as observers, providing knowledge and data to improve the Rur reservoirs functioning. Time series for hydrologic modelling is provided by P12 but also MUNLV in North Rhine-Westphalia.

* P15 provided P10 with contacts to find adequate service provider in the NL to carry hydrological modelling on Flemish territory.

* P17 established an open-plan process to consult all stakeholders about the new design of the Steenbergse Vliet. An artist designer - Koen Dijkman - is working on the interactive description of the landscape, including the watermanagement in the past, present and future times.

2.3 What problems have been encountered? - (max. 5000 characters)

* Kick-off meeting budget was cut during negotiation period : a financial contribution was asked from the participants. Income was however less than expenses : no benefit for the AMICE project (see PC of P11).

* The PSC requirements and budget reductions were really harsh, the negotiation period was thus very uncertain for Partners and the work could not start in time : planned in January, started in March. The budget reductions imposed on the Partners complicated also the finalisation of agreements with the match-funders : most subsidy contracts only signed in June or later, which delayed the recruitment of additional staff for the AMICE project and delayed feasibility studies for the investments.

* Partners would like to know more about what is going on in the other workpackages. A system of common agendas is needed for Partners to know about all WP meetings.

* Municipality of Steenberghe, involved in Investment 1 stopped the consultation process because the proposition could not be agreed. Further consultations are delayed. Agreement should be reached in October 2009 but works will be delayed by 6 to 12 months. P17 is having extra meetings to present the plans and convince stakeholders to go on with the implementation process.

2.4 Were there any changes in the implementation plan? - (max. 5000 characters)

The project actions suffer a general delay of 2 to 3 months (see above). Partners are doing their best to catch-up but some expenses initially planned on the second semester of 2009 will only be paid in the beginning of 2010 (see Payment Claim).

Investment 1 shall start in Sept-Dec 2010 due to negotiation delays. A site visit was planned in 2009 but will be switched to 2010.

Some expenses need to be switched from one budget line to another but that remains below 1% of total of the line (see PC)

2.5 What was the added value of working transnationally? - (max. 5000 characters)

WP1 / Action 1 and 3: the main benefits rely on the exchange of:

- skills in rainfall-runoff modeling on the Meuse river basin

- expertise on climate scenarios used in different countries

- expertise on monitoring discharge stations (reliability of the rating curve for a given station) and general knowledge on the Meuse river basin functioning.

The compilation of references uploaded by the different partners in the TORD was also a great benefit to elaborate climate as well as hydrological scenarios for the entire Meuse basin.

The translator for the 'Van Regen tot Maas' book was selected with the help of P1 and P4.

WP2

WP3 / Action 23 : contacts are taken to exchange knowledge and data between Germany and the Netherlands. First step was to identify the right persons and define terms of the cooperation.

WP4 / Action 25: meeting between Partners offered a clearer view on how flood crisis is managed in each country; that explained why the software developed are different : the target users and their responsibility during a flood event is different. In France and Wallonia, the mayor is responsible for floods occurring on its territory. In the Netherlands, the Waterboards are responsible for flood management. A report is planned on second semester to detail these organisations. Comparison of software functioning gave also ideas for new developments on each software and highlighted the opportunity to develop common tools.

WP5

2.6 Comments from the Lead Partner (max. 5000 characters)

JTS has been informed of the following changes :

- FLC of P10 changed address : a new certification has been provided
- P6 changed status regarding VAT : VAT cannot be recovered
- small budget line modification for P5 : no formal approval required
- P7 changed address

Partners and Match-funders were very surprised by the 50% reduction in the ERDF applied for. Match-funders would have liked to receive a letter from the Program to explain this decision and justify the final ERDF amount granted, and not only the list of conditions to be finally accepted.

During Partners trainings about the Program (see line 37), major difficulties came from :

- confusion between the rules applied on INTERREG III, INTERREG A or C, especially for the Partners participating in those other Programs
- vocabulary of the Program, especially the term "Partner" that for some meant "match-funders", "research associates", "local stakeholders", "land-owner", ...
- Partners having investments feel it would be fair to display logos in proportion of the subsidy received for the works; they will however comply with the Program's rule of 25% area

2.7 Changes in the contact details (if any) of the Lead Partner organisation and/ or project management team - (max. 5000 characters)

Communication officer should be from P11 but recruitment was delayed because of the uncertain negotiation period. Consequently, the communication officer, Martine Lejeune, was hired as external expert by P11 from January to March and became P11's staff member since April.

III. MONITORING OF QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

Please refer to the "Qualitative Indicators" spreadsheet

IV. DATE AND SIGNATURE OF THE LEAD PARTNER

The information and documentation in this report and its attachments give a fair and correct description

Name (in capitals): FOURNIER	Date and signature:
Position in the Lead Partner organisation: Coordinator	

Date and signature of the Lead Partner:

J. JEANTEUR,
President of EPAMA