

**AGENDA FOR THE 30<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)**

4 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 hours (Session-I)

4 September 2024, 10:30-12:00 hours (Session-II)

Sydney, Australia

**Presented by the Chairman**

**Year of Establishment: 1995**

**Mandate:** The mission of ERWG is to promote awareness about critical ICID relevant water issues at all levels in Europe and to pay special attention to the environmentally sustainable water management in Europe.

**Website:** [http://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/106](http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/106)

**ERWG Agenda Item 1: Action Taken Report by Chair<sup>1</sup>**

1. The Chair will present the report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the European Regional Working Group at its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 5 November 2023.
2. Chairman in consultation with Vice-Chair, Secretary of the WG and the Central Office has updated the membership of the WG as given at **Annex 1** (*refer electronic version for latest list*). New nominations, if any, for the membership received will be dealt suitably after the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 1.1: Election of the Vice-Chairman of the ERWG**

3. The members may like to discuss and elect new Vice-Chairman for the ERWG during the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 1.2: Strengthening the membership in Europe**

4. In order to strengthen the membership in European countries, the WG discussed the challenge of strengthening the membership of ICID within Europe with the member countries/representatives in Europe and agreed to create a stronger and more compelling case to attract new members, and communicate with potential funding sources in government and industry to communicate the value of ICID to Europe based professionals and organizations; to develop an ICID-Europe communications strategy; to attract Young Professionals to the activities of ICID/ERWG; to promote bilateral connections and cooperation between NCs to explore expanding activities to cover coastal flood management which is very relevant to NCs in Europe; and to make full use of social media platform to reach target audience. Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri will appraise the WG about the visits he has been carrying out to Spain, both in October 2023 and February 2024 (Ubeda and Saragozza), in order to help the Spanish NC to develop their own bylaws and Constitution. The process is still ongoing and will be reported during the Meeting. Also, Chair Dr. Arcieri will appraise the members of the WG about the contacts he has had with Scientific and Academic professionals of Greece, in order to help them create their own NC and enter into ICID community. Again, Dr. Arcieri will inform members of the WG on the issue.

5. Reactivation of National Committees (NCs) in Europe: ICID Central Office had already contacted the 'Associate Members' i.e. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovak Republic & Switzerland and requested them to reactivate/ renew their membership by becoming member of ICID once again. In order to bring more European countries into ICID fold, ICID Central Office had approached the countries of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Denmark, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, and San Marino and requested their Ministry of Water Resources / Agriculture to join the membership of ICID.

6. The Netherlands National Committee of ICID (NETHCID) has informed that due to financial constraints, they will not continue their membership. As previously communicated on 12 June, 2020, 12 March, 2021, 10 June, 2022 and 6 March, 2023, they stated that their payment for 2021 would be their final contribution. However, the PFC recommended to extend NETHCID's membership in ICID until December 2024, in hopes that NETHCID will improve its financial situation by then. The Central Office has informed VPH Charlotte de Fraiture, via email dated 3 April, 2024, and invited NETHCID to participate in ICID's technical activities through events and working groups. This

<sup>1</sup> This will also include details of membership of ERWG as **Annex**

allows Netherlands to maintain its status within ICID and potentially resume full membership in the future once NETHCID is able to resume subscription payments. Chair Dr. Arcieri has had contacts with Ms. Meike van Ginneken, special Water Envoy of the Netherlands, by means of her assistant, in order to try to reestablish connection with the country and rejoining membership of ICID. Dr. Arcieri will brief of this issue during the WG Meeting.

7. WG members will deliberate on the present status of membership and ways and means to meet the challenge of strengthening membership of the RWG. Chair will apprise the members of the RWG about the further progress at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 –Status of Activities relevant to European Region**

8. During the last meeting, the group reviewed the Action Plan of 'Road Map to ICID Vision 2030' (refer **Annex 2**) and focused on strengthening the membership of ICID within Europe. The group members agreed that focus areas of the group remain under three goals such as: (1) **Strategy B1**: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies: Disseminate the policy paper within ICID; (2) **Strategy C3**: Prompting Regional Cooperation: Preparation of ICID Europe – brochures (*one for use towards Ministries and other institutions and another to attract Young Professionals and others to take part in ICID activities*); and (iii) **Strategy F1**: Enhancing Institutions Capacity Development in Member Countries: Sharing online NC's work programmes and activities. Chair DR. Marco Arcieri proposes to nominate one person member who shall be accounted as responsible for each of the Strategies.

9. WG members may like to review the Road Map and update it during the meeting. Chair will provide further updates, if any, at the WG meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 3: Seminar/Session related to Agricultural Water Management in Europe**

10. The French National Committee of ICID (AFEID) is planning to organize Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Wastewater Reuse (REUSE EUROMED 2024) to be held from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at Montpellier, France. The Conference will be co-organized by the REUSE Network of INRAE and the Chair Water & Agriculture and Climate Change. The aim of the Conference is to share the experiences and viewpoints of these different players on Reuse in the Mediterranean and Europe, in terms of feedback (success stories but also analysis of failures), outlook and different methodological approaches linked to the design, operationalization and evaluation of Reuse projects. The conference focuses on the multiple uses linked to the reuse of treated and "unconventional" wastewater at several scales from housing to territory such as (a) rainwater and grey water for uses at the residential and neighbourhood scale; (b) water from wastewater treatment plants for agricultural irrigation or for urban purposes to clean or green cities and combat heat islands; (c) drainage water for irrigation; and (d) water for agro-industrial and agro-food uses. ICID Central Office has circulated the call for papers of the Conference to all stakeholders of the ICID. Please access <https://reuse2024.sciencesconf.org/> for more information related to the Conference. Representative from France, will provide further updates at the meeting.

11. In order to promote the activities of RWG, the group has requested members to share relevant information about seminars, sessions, workshops etc. planned to be organized in their country for publicizing the events to countries in Europe. Accordingly, ICID Central Office requested the members of the group to share the information on seminars/sessions etc. to Chair. Chair may provide further updates at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 4: Links with regional and trans-national organizations for co-operation**

12. WG discussed the need to strengthen linkages among relevant organizations in each member country and also across the European region. In this regard, WG reviewed the list of cooperating organizations, reducing the list to organizations with a reasonable expectation of collaboration in the coming years. ERWG included 7 National Water Management Associations, 5 European professional organizations and 5 European Water Management institutes in the list (**Annex 3**). WG requested its members/NCs to strengthen linkages and cooperation with these regional and transitional organizations as well as to provide details of the contact person(s). WG will deliberate on actions taken up for interaction and cooperation with these regional and transitional organizations during the meeting.

13. During the Vizag. Meeting, President Dr. Marco Arcieri, of the group, briefed the members about the possibility to establish a cooperation with CiHEAM (Centre for High Agronomic Studies in the Mediterranean), Paris, in order to develop activities of capacity building and training for Young Professionals (YPs). In this regard, President Dr. Marco has shared the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDA (International Desalination Association, based in Rome) and ICID for finalizing and sharing the information of new technologies on sea water desalination. ICID Central Office requested Dr. Marco to share the name of the key person for signing of MoU. President Dr. Marco will provide further updates, if any, at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 5: Activities of Focus Groups of ERWG**

14. At the Vizag meeting, the RWG decided to have following five Focus groups based on their relevance to Europe such as : (a) Focus Group on History (WG-HIST) led by VPH Laszlo Hayde (Hungary); (b) Focus Group on Environment (WG-ENV) led by Mrs. Seija Virtanen (Finland); (c) Focus Group on Sustainable Drainage (WG-SDRG) led by Dr. Irene Bondarik (Russia); (d) Focus Group on Water Related Risks led by Prof. Klaus Roettcher (Germany) & Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland) and (e) Focus Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation (WG-IDSST) led by VPH Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine). These groups were set up to raise matters related to European viewpoint in the respective work bodies and revert back to RWG on the relevant issues within the scope of focus groups.

15. Focus Group lead members will apprise the members of the ERWG on the latest updates/developments in respect of their respective Focus Groups at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 6: Proposed workshop of the Working Group**

16. During the meeting, RWG decided that the proposed workshop on 'Groundwater Management and Seawater Intrusion to Aquifers' might be organized in virtual mode as a European Regional workshop event. Chair Dr. Marco has agreed to take a lead along with VPH Laszlo Hayde for organizing a workshop of the group and share the announcement with ICID CO for circulation among the members of the RWG.

17. Further, ICID Central Office has requested Chair President Dr. Marco Arcieri & VPH Laszlo Hayde to share the announcement etc. so that it can be shared to the members of the group for information. Chair President Dr. Marco Arcieri / VPH Laszlo Hayde will provide updates at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 7: Dissemination of activities of WG**

**ERWG Agenda Item 7.1: Website of the Group**

18. The ERWG website ([http://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/106](http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/106)) has been updated with the membership list, agenda, minutes, paper presentations, publications etc. Members are requested for their active participation in the activities of the WG and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge, and experience, as well as networking on the topic related to mandate of the WG. Members are also requested to provide information, papers, presentation made on topics related to scope of work of the WG to the ICID Central Office for uploading on the website of the RWG. In order to ensure regular contribution of the members, WG is encouraged to make full use of Zoom platform for virtual meetings in between face-to-face meeting during IEC.

**ERWG Agenda Item 7.2: Webinar / Web-based Seminar**

19. The potential for webinars to disseminate relevant experience and information about water management in Europe among ICID member countries was discussed at the Adelaide meeting. It was agreed that the RWG would organize 3 to 4 webinars per year based on the mandate of the group. Chair requested the members of the group to participate and contribute their activities in the upcoming webinars of the WG. In this regard, VPH Dr. Irena Bondarik (Russia) had proposed series of Webinars concerning precise land reclamation and eco-system water management.

20. In March 2024, ICID Central Office has requested the members of the group to organize the webinar in consultation with Chair President Dr. Marco based on the mandate. Chair will provide further updates at the meeting.

**ERWG Agenda Item 8: Any other business**

**8.1 ICID Members' Profile Section:** As a new initiative, ICID has launched a new website (<https://icid-ciid.org>) as part of ICID's 70th Anniversary Celebration to meet the new web technologies. One of the newly added web features provides WG members access to their profile section using their dedicated account. ICID CO vide email dated 9 July 2021 < <https://icid.bmeurl.co/C7D4D2E> > informed all members on how to access their account and change their password to maintain accuracy. Members are requested to review and update their information using their credentials and help us to maintain accurate information. For more information, please refer to inside back cover page.

**8.2 Register on World Irrigation Projects (WIP):** ICID has taken the initiative to document the development of irrigation and drainage schemes in the world by establishing an online Register on "World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)". WI&DS will fulfil the need for a much-awaited global repository of information in systematic irrigation and agricultural water management. Irrigation projects having 5000 Hectares and above of Command Area can submit their information for inclusion in the register. The irrigation projects approved by the National Committee/

ICID Central Office for inclusion are entitled to Certification. Chair will encourage members to urge all irrigation and drainage scheme owners, managers, and researchers across the world, especially in their respective countries to contribute to the register. The review process and other details are outlined on the portal <<https://wip.icidevents.org/>> in detail.



**NOTES FOR CHAIRPERSON:**

1. Draft minutes of this meeting to be submitted to ICID Secretariat at Sydney, Australia after the meeting.
2. Chair to participate and present the ERWG report to PCSPO meeting on 5 September 2024.

**MEMBERSHIP OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)**

Sl. No.	Countries (Year of joining)	Present representatives (Year of Joining)	Remarks
1.	Italy (1950)	VPH Dr. Marco Arcieri, Chairman, 2022 (2015)	Attended RWG meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
2.	Finland (2000)	Mr. Olli-Matti Verta, <b>Secretary</b> , 2011	Attended the RWG meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018 (represented), 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
3.	Estonia (2001)	Mr. Hannes Puu (2015)	Represented in the WG meeting in 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (online)
4.	France (1953)	Dr. Sami Bouarfa (2013)	Represented in the WG meeting in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
5.	Georgia (2017)	Mrs. Nata Khutsurauli	Attended the meeting in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
6.	Hungary (1955)	VPH Dr. Laszlo Hayde	Attended the meeting in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023(online)
7.	Ireland (1978)	Dr. John Martin (2003)	-
8.	Netherlands (1950)	VPH Prof. Dr. Charlotte de Fraiture (représentative)	PH Bart Schultz and VPH Prof Charlotte de Fraiture from Netherlands attended the meeting in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
9.	Portugal (1954)	Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra (1996)	-
10.	Russia (1955)	VPH Dr. Irena Bondarik	Attended the WG meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online)
		Dr. Irina G. Pankova	Young Professional (2007)
11.	Spain (1955)	Ing. Inmaculada Bravo Dominguez (2021)	Attended the online meeting of ERWG in 2020 (reactivated membership with effect from 1.1.2021), 2022 & 2023 (online)
12.	Ukraine (1996) 2014	VPH Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko, Ex-Vice Chairman, 2005 (1999)	Attended the meeting in 2016 & 2017 and 2019, 2020 & 2021
13.	United Kingdom (1951)	VPH Ian Makin, Ex-Chairman, ERWG PH Peter S. Lee	VPH Ian Makin (2014), Ex-Chairman (2015-2021)  Attended the WG meetings in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021. PH Peter S Lee attended the meeting in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023 (online) as Observers.
<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>			
1.	Russia	Mr. Peter Alexey Yurievich (2014), Chairman, erstwhile European Work Team on Drainage, EWTDR	-

**Associate Members:** Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.



**ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO EUROPEAN REGION**

Goals	Activity	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021	Milestone for Year 2022	Milestone for Year 2023	Milestone for Year 2024	Milestone for Year 2025
<b>Goal B: Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices</b>											
<b>Strategy B1: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies</b>	1.7 Review of European/NC policy documents related to water resources that impact irrigation and drainage sector	Technical Report	Compilation of various policies related to water resources by Members in their country and start review few most important policy document	Draft of policy review report with recommendation	Finalization and issue of policy review report  Continuation of review of remaining policy document		Report finalized and published on-line	Preparation and submission to Journal of Irrigation and Drainage.		??	??
<b>Goal C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge, and technology</b>											
<b>Strategy C3 : Promoting Regional Cooperation</b>	3.1 Organise workshops/ Seminar etc.	Proceedings of workshop/seminar	To decide on theme and sub-themes for the workshop/seminar to be organised as internal/international workshop in the WG meeting	Workshop/ Seminar	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Webinar (i) Role of precision agriculture and land reclamation in the green economy. Russian NC. March/April 2021	Webinar series continued	??	??
<b>Goal F: Facilitate capacity development</b>											
<b>Strategy F1: Enhancing Institutional Capacity Development in Member Countries</b>	1.5 To launch from Europe an international e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe for Young Professionals	Knowledge sharing and capacity development of YP	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'YPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'YPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'YPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'YPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'YPeF'	Development of Mediterranean regional capacity development node with CIHEAM, Bari. Support a program of webinars and e-discussions.		??	??

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)



## EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)

### 1. Profile

The European Regional Working Group (ERWG) of ICID was founded at the 46th IEC Meeting in Rome in September 1995 and is acting under the motto "Comprehensive land and water management in European river basins for the sustainable development of the rural landscape". The tasks of ERWG can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Knowledge transfer and exchange of experience in matters of border crossing water and land management in European countries
- (b) Co-operation of experts and organisations engaged in national, supranational and international objectives of water management and irrigated agriculture
- (c) Development and promotion of border crossing projects and conferences
- (d) Members are the ICID National Committees of 13 European countries, as below:

Country Representatives			
<b>Estonia</b>	Mr. Hannes Puu	<b>Russia</b>	Dr. (Mrs.) Irena G. Bondarik
<b>Finland</b>	Mr. Olli-Matti Verta	<b>Spain</b>	Representative
<b>France</b>	Dr. Sami Bouarfa	<b>Georgia</b>	Representative
<b>Hungary</b>	Dr. Laszlo Hayde	<b>The Netherlands</b>	Representative
<b>Ireland</b>	Dr. John Martin	<b>United Kingdom</b>	VPH Ian Makin
<b>Italy</b>	President Dr. Marco Arcieri	<b>Ukraine</b>	VPH Prof. Peter Kovalenko
<b>Portugal</b>	Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra		

- Chairman** : President Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy)
- Vice-Chairman** : to be filled-in
- Secretary** : Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland)
- : Dr. (Mrs.) Irena G. Bondarik (Russia) *for Russian speaking countries*
- Observer** : Mr. Mohammed Benblidia (IME)

### 2. Countries with observer status

- Bosnia & Herzegovina* : Prof. Dr. Mihovil Vlahinic
- Moldova*: Mr. Valeriu Catrinescu

### 3. Water Network

In addition to the European National Committees of ICID, the following organizations/association/institution has been incorporated in the ERWG Water Network:

#### A. Five European professional organizations

- (a) CIPR - Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin
- (b) EurAgEng - Special Interest Group on Soil and Water, European Society of Agricultural Engineers
- (c) EWA - European Water Association
- (d) EWRA - European Water Resources Association
- (e) TECHWARE - Technology for Water Resources

**B. Seven National Water Management Associations**

- (a) BSHE - Bulgarian Society of Hydraulic Engineers
- (b) DWA - German Association for Water Management, Wastewater and Waste (Chair: Prof. Klaus Roettcher)
- (c) DONBH - Society for Irrigation and Drainage of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- (d) LZHIS - Lithuanian Association of Land and Water Management Engineers
- (e) MHT - Hungarian Hydrological Society
- (f) RSRE - Russian Society of Reclamation Engineers
- (g) SITWM - Polish Association for Water Plant Construction and Land Improvement Engineers and Technicians

**C. Five European Water Management Institutes**

- (a) ACVAPROJECT - Water Management Design Institute (Moldova Republic)
- (b) DHI - Danish Hydraulic Institute
- (c) IIDS - Institute of Irrigation and Development Studies, University of Southampton (United Kingdom)
- (d) RIIDHE - Research Institute for Irrigation, Drainage and Hydraulic Engineering (Bulgaria)
- (e) IME - Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (France)

**4. Work Results**

- (a) ERWG Letter No. 1 to 20 (newsletters)
- (b) Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries (project report book/CD)
- (c) European Sector Vision on Water for Food and Rural Development (report)
- (d) ICID Guide "How to work out a drought mitigation strategy" (guideline)
- (e) Water Resources Management in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia (book)
- (f) Diffuse Entries in Rivers of the Odra Basin (research report)
- (g) Proceedings of several European conferences
- (h) First and Second CEE WFE Dialogue Reports (Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment – Dialogue on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Agriculture in the Central and East European Countries) (reports)
- (i) Danube Valley: History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (book)

**5. Projects**

- (a) Flood risk mitigation by agricultural non-structural measures
- (b) Drought mitigation strategies
- (c) Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive
- (d) Flood plain management on Odra, Nemunas and Vistula
- (e) Flood prevention strategies
- (f) Point and diffused pollutants in the Odra basin
- (g) Sustainable irrigation and drainage management under the conditions of transitional economy
- (h) Dialogue on water for food and environmental security in Central and Eastern Europe

