



BALWOIS 2008

Third International Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support
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Report on the Session 8 - Information Systems and Technologies

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Papers covering almost all the different themes that connect information technologies and water related issues were presented during the session. The main problem in the Balkan region is the lack of interest of large public for the information about water, environment and related sciences.

Twelve papers (of 19 planned in the Agenda) were presented during two conference days. Topics and subjects like: Satellite Imagery, Remote Sensing, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Decision Support, Database Management, Web Applications, Mobile Monitoring Networks, Meteo Radars, Aerospace Monitoring were some of the main focus of presented papers. All these papers actually introduced an Information Technology (IT) applied in the field of water management, water preservation and other environmental fields.

The level of presented IT systems is on a very high level, showing that the gap between Western and Eastern Europe is much smaller then before. The main problem in the East still remains in the field of project financing and in fact that many of the project are actually resulting for an enthusiastic approach of few persons. Another issue is a lack of communication between scientists and decision makers that should be seen as a main target of such kind of systems in the water management field.

Presentations were of good quality, offering some interesting ideas in the integrated environmental management but at the same time not one single presenter used an opportunity to show a "live", real-time running application.

As a conclusion it is obvious that the Balkan region needs to address few important issues:

- The level of Public Awareness about environmental and water related issues,
- The need for Capacity Building in both expert institutions and in large public, and
- To analyze gaps in existing monitoring networks and to bridge them by creating a sustainable systems for environmental monitoring, data management and reporting.

The best paper, presented during the Session 8 was the paper titled "GIS Decision Support System for Flood Control in Urban Areas" presented by its author, Ms. Maria Ilinca Alexandrescu from Romania.