

**CONFERENCE
ON WATER OBSERVATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM
FOR DECISION SUPPORT**



Presentation of BALWOIS 2006

**23 - 26 May 2006
Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia**



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Hydrometeorological Service – Republic of Macedonia

Hydrobiological Institute of Ohrid – Republic of Macedonia

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BALWOIS 2006

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23-26 May 2006
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Topics:

- . Climate & Environment
- . Hydrological regimes
- . Droughts & Floods
- . Water management
- . Ecohydrology
- . Lakes & Wetlands
- . Hydrological Modeling
- . Information Systems

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Ohrid Lake

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BALWOIS

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France
Hydrometeorological Service, Republic of Macedonia
Hydrobiological Institute - Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia



WELCOME TO BALWOIS 2006

In the Balkan Peninsula, three key issues related to the water resources management can be underlined:

- the climate changes leading to important modifications in the water cycle terms,
- the increasing discharge of pollutants worsening water resources quality and affecting the biodiversity of most of the rivers, lakes and wetlands of the area, and
- the transboundary shared waters accounting for more than 95 % of the resources of the area.

In this context and in the perspective of the enforcement of the EC Water Framework Directive, the main objectives of BALWOIS project are:

- to improve the scientific knowledge and the networking between the scientists,
- to favor a multidisciplinary approach, and
- to disseminate reliable and suitable information products to the end-users.

The achievements of BALWOIS project during the period 2003-2006 are:

- an active network of more than 500 scientists of whom 3/4 are from more than 80 Balkan research institutions, and
- an Information system permanently updated which provides more than 1500 references (proceedings, reports, maps, web sites, news, etc.) and the access to a set of hydro-meteorological data using the newest client-server technologies.

The enhancement of BALWOIS as network and the improvement of the BALWOIS Information system should be supported by significant events giving to experts the opportunity to meet each other.

BALWOIS 2004 conference (Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia – 25, 29 May 2004) mainly funded by the European Commission brought together 300 scientists coming from 35 different countries including all Balkan. The 249 papers presented for BALWOIS 2004 are published in free access on the BALWOIS web site www.balwois.net.

The international scientific conference BALWOIS 2006 is being held in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, 23, 26 May 2006.

The objectives of BALWOIS 2006 are to provide more specifically at Balkan scale:

- a meeting that will further the progress of the knowledge in the fields of Scientific research, Education, Policy and Development Activities and on all the Water related issues related to climate changes, hazards mitigation and water resources assessment, management and protection,
- an atmosphere to enhance the links between the providers and the end users of water related knowledge,
- a forum for free discussion of new ideas , research, development and applications, including techniques and methods to stimulate future works,

- an exhibition of current hardware and/or software in the field of water,
- opportunities for students and young researchers and engineers to meet their experienced peers and to stimulate them to join BALWOIS activities, and
- new knowledge through the publishing of high quality papers on BALWOIS web site and through DVD bundle, books edition, etc.

BALWOIS 2006 is organized by l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD - France), Hydrometeorological Service of Republic of Macedonia and Hydrobiological Institute of Ohrid, patronized by the Macedonian government represented by Ministry of Environment and Physical planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education and Sciences (Republic of Macedonia), supported by French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

The topics of the sessions of BALWOIS 2006 are:

- 1 - Climate and Environment
- 2 - Hydrological regimes and water balances
- 3 - Droughts and Floods
- 4 - Integrated Water Resources Management
- 5 - Water bodies protection and Ecohydrology
- 6 - Lakes and wetlands
- 7 - Hydrological modeling
- 8 - Information systems

It will be organized a scientific symposium on "Numerical Weather Prediction as Powerful Tools for Meteorological and Hydrological Disasters Prevention and Mitigation".

More than 400 abstracts have been collected from scientists from 50 different countries. 296 full papers have been accepted by the Scientific Committee. These publications are in free access on www.balwois.net.

Ohrid is one of the most welcoming towns of Republic of Macedonia with a very significant cultural heritage. The location of the conference on the shore of Ohrid Lake- 358 km², several millions years old and surmounted by splendid Macedonian and Albanian mountains - is particularly well chosen.

WELCOME TO BALWOIS 2006

WELCOME TO OHRID

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All information related to
BALWOIS Project is on www.balwois.net
BALWOIS 2006 conference is on www.balwois.org
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