



FINAL DOCUMENT

adopted by the participants to the CEI High Level Workshop on “Building on the Virtual WB Regional Centre for Hydro-meteorological Services and Climate Change”

Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, 23 September 2015

In cooperation between the Macedonian Presidency of the Central European Initiative and the CEI Secretariat, a High Level Workshop was held in Skopje on September 23. The Workshop was attended by representatives from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and by representatives of the Hydro-meteorological Services of South East Europe and members of the SEEVCCC-South East Europe Virtual Centre on Climate Change, as well as by other representatives from the said Services, academia and other stakeholders. They unanimously approved this final document.

Participants reaffirm the need for regional cooperation to prepare a new regional strategy on climate change adaptation, and to revise the existing and/or to prepare a new South East European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation.

Participants agreed about the high desirability of transforming the South East Europe Virtual Centre on Climate Change into an efficient and highly operational network able to provide appropriate support to respective Governments' decisions and policies, with the ultimate aim of making SEE a more climate-resilient region, consistently also with the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change, adopted by the European Commission in 2013.

In this respect, participants welcomed the initiative of the CEI Secretariat to promote a new capacity-building project in this direction which could ensure, inter-alia, the most appropriate access to state of the art computing resources, and cooperation with international Centres of excellence such as JRC, WMO, and the “Trieste System”, including the University, ICTP and OGS. In this framework, a MoU between CEI and WMO, as well as between CEI and JRC, would help the fulfillment of this scope, and should be negotiated as soon as possible.

Participants agreed that the new opportunities offered by EU funded programmes (Horizon2020, Interreg Adrion etc) may offer relevant sources of funding, and agreed to consider the opportunity to develop a concept in view of the forthcoming calls.

In the meantime, the participants will convey appropriately information on this matter to their respective Governments and request the CEI Secretariat to illustrate this initiative at the next Meeting of the CEI Ministers for the Environment in order to get their formal endorsement to this initiative. and agreed to consider the opportunity to develop a concept in view of the forthcoming calls.