

First work meeting on the project "Extreme droughts and their impact on agriculture in selected continental climates of Europe", Bratislava, September 2023

The meeting was held at Comenius University, Bratislava, from September 6 to 8, 2023, as part of the project „Extreme droughts and their impact on agriculture in selected continental climates of Europe“.

The scientific teams from Bulgaria (Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Faculty of Geology and Geography), Austria (the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Meteorology and Climatology (BOKU-Met)) and Slovakia (Comenius University, Bratislava) discussed on the planned activities within the project. The Slovak team presented the current knowledge about the possibilities of using the SPEI for drought assessment. The main topics of the presentation were focused on describing a tool for calculating the SPEI index that does not exhibit issues with the distribution of extreme values and serves as a consistent tool for describing meteorological drought. The possibilities were analysed, the length of the reference period the procedure for handling and eliminating no-solution cases, and the normality test.



The partners agreed that in the first stage of the project, the main activities have to be focused on:

- 1) completing the database and quality assessment of the initial data and information
- 2) the literature review and performance evaluation of drought indices and analysis of meteorological drought occurrence and severity

At the end of the meeting, the participants visited a meteorological station at Comenius University. The different types of sensors that measure the meteorological elements were presented.



Bulgarian scientific team: prof. Nina Nikolova, PhD (coordinator); ch. assist. prof. Simeon Matev, PhD, ch. assist. prof. Petko Bozhkov, PhD, and PhD student Jelena Svetozarevic.