PROJECT IDENTIFICATION		**NOT CONFIDENTIAL**
Title of the project – Concepts for integrated trans boundary water management and sustainable socio-economic development in the cross border region of Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece		
Acronym of the project – TRABOREMA		
Type of contract - RTD shared cost (4 FC, 2 AC)		**Total project cost** 1.582.846 €
Contract number INCO-CT-2004-509177	**Duration** (in months) 36 Months	**EU contribution** (in Euro) 1.000.000 €
Commencement date 1.6.2004		**Period covered by the progress report** 1 June 2004–30 May 2005
PROJECT COORDINATOR		
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Key words (5 maximum - Please include specific keywords that best describe the project). Transboundary integrated water management, water resource monitoring, Western Balkans, ecological quality ratios, eutrophication modeling		
World wide web address (the project's www address) www.traborema.net		

List of participants Provide all partners' details including their legal status in the contract i.e.,contractor, assistant contractor (to which contractor?).
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Project Progress Summary Report **NOT CONFIDENTIAL**
(4 pages maximum. Use short sentences. Be factual. Avoid technical terms as much as possible)

Main research goals for TRABOREMA

The TRABOREMA Project is sharply focused on gaining new knowledge in the field of transboundary integrated water resource management in the Western Balkans to meet the needs of society and Community policies. A consortium comprising universities from three member states (Austria, Spain and Greece) and three partners from FYROM and Albania will collaborate to analyse and assess the ecological status of a transboundary lake district as a pilot model for verifiable sustainable development in the Western Balkans. The integrated approach developed and applied within this project will focus mainly on water resources, but will also include facets of energy and waste management.

The specific research objectives for the TRABOREMA Project are:

- Perform research on upstream/downstream water users demands and transboundary water resources management including water disputes and crisis management.
- Develop methodologies for determination of key ecological indicators necessary for design of monitoring systems as a basis for implementation of integrated water management in transboundary regions.
- Design and implement an ecological indicator based monitoring system as a pilot model in a target region, being the river basin district surrounding Lake Prespa.
- Adapt and apply suitable modelling and simulation tools as a basis for better assessment of current ecological status and prediction under various scenarios.
- Establish a basis concept for a River Basin Management Plan for the target region as a contribution to the Intercalibration network for Hellenic Western Balkan Ecoregion, as defined in Directive 2000/60/EC.
- Provide coherent policy recommendations based on qualitative and quantitative findings established within the TRABOREMA Project and promote integration of water policy into socio-economic policies as a contributor to achieving sustainable development.
- Define and prioritise themes and regions for transfer and application of knowledge gained with TRABOREMA Project.

Results and Milestones: (first reporting period)

The first project year was dedicated to the establishment of the basis for the design and implementation of the envisaged water monitoring system and for data modelling of the current ecological status and prediction under various scenarios as well. This basis was laid on one side by identification and analysis of the existing legal basis on regional, national and international level concerning water resource management and environmental protection in the Prespa lake area. On the other side relevant previous and ongoing water resource management projects run by NGO's or other organizations in the area were identified and available data and information concerning the environmental and ecological status of the Prespa watershed collected in a developed database management system. The environmental baseline data were completed by a consistent geological and hydrogeological mapping of the whole area which represents a unique documentation not available until now. Based on the information and data analyzed the water monitoring system has been installed on the lake and the main tributaries with a total of 19 sampling points distributed in three parts of lake Prespa in Albania, FYROM and Greece. Samples are collected once per month and are analyzed for numerous physical, chemical and biological parameters. In order to manage the dataflow, a web-based (with user-restricted access) database management system has been developed. This is directly linked to the modelling tools for the assessment and prediction of the trophic state of the lake Prespa under varying conditions. General information on the project (in English at this stage) is available on www.traborema.net.

Benefits and Beneficiaries:

Integrated water management has been reinforced by the EU Water Framework Directive, which goes a step further to integrate waste and energy related data. The TRABOREMA Project will be adhering to WFD terminology and making full use of the Guidance Documents. Monitoring activities will be closely linked to the Intercalibration Working Group, whereby TRABOREMA will be able to actively contribute to establishing numerical Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR) values. It will be important that the three countries bordering the target region adhere to a common set of standards relating to water resource management and as a result of the project, they will all be applying standards that at least comply with those of the EU.

The TRABOREMA Project contributes to solving societal problems in the region by bringing a shared and common good to the centre of dialogue to find sustainable solutions. Through establishing various communication channels and platforms i.e. through information events, internet, regional workshops, the project will help bring diverse parties together. Even within the consortium, a positive and communicative atmosphere has been achieved in the shortest period of time. This will carry over effects into each country participating and is a first step to solving societal problems.

From a larger political point of view, the TRABOREMA Project will bring scientists, authorities and decision-makers to the table in a post-war, border region of the West Balkans, which is still faced with the challenges and tensions of re-establishing good relations. The success of this project will set the scene for further collaborations not just within the existing consortium, but also extended to the involved interest groups and stakeholders coming from a wide range of backgrounds, such as tourism, agriculture, industry and regional authorities.

Future Actions (if applicable):

The water monitoring programme already up and running will be continued for a duration of two years in total in order to collect sufficient data and time series for identifying trends and for modelling various future scenarios. The modelling tools will be further developed to achieve a dynamic simulation model capable to predict the future trophic status of the lake based on numerous bioolgocial and chemical parameters. As awareness creation is an essential factor for integrated sustainable development of a region, efforts on regional and also international level will be increased during the following project years, after first reliable results have become available and first conclusions can be drawn. Most essential will be the integration of the local and regional administrative level, but also with other NGOs and organizations involved and dedicated to sustainable development of the Prespa lake area.