

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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VITUKI was founded in 1952 on the basis of the Hydrologic Institute to perform for the Hungarian Water Management both basic and applied research, as well as studies related to the development, conservation and sound management of water resources of the country. Integrated with the Hungarian Hydrological Service established in 1886 and supported by hydraulic, hydro-machinery, hydro-chemical, hydro-biological and soil mechanical laboratories; equipment, instrumentation and computer facilities, VITUKI has emerged as one of the most complex water-oriented full-service professional organisations in Europe.

At present, there are about 80 highly qualified specialists on the staff, out of the total 230 employees, including civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical engineers, geologists, biologists, mathematicians, geophysicists and agronomists. Close contacts with several scientific institutes in Hungary enable VITUKI to organise multidisciplinary teams for particular projects.

VITUKI offers a comprehensive range of research, consulting and engineering services in the following domains through its three institutes:

DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Secretarial Services for IHP/NHP National Committee
- Education and training (publication of text books, training courses, central examination)
- IT services
- Remote sensing and aerial photography
- Co-ordination of Water Framework Directive activities

DEPARTMENT FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

- Surveys and investigations on the various types of surface and groundwater
- Observation and gauging network planning for surface, and groundwater monitoring systems, telemetry, remote sensing, computerised data processing, software development for specific data banks, geographical information systems
- Water resources studies, flood control-, hydropower- and navigation development, follow-up studies
- Short- and long-term hydrological forecasting
- Model and prototype on rivers, lakes, reservoirs and the related structures
- Surveillance of existing structures
- Design, laboratory- and field calibration of measuring weirs, flumes, devices and current meters
- Performance and acceptance tests on hydraulic machines
- Seepage studies

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURE PROTECTION

- Quality surveys and monitoring strategies elaboration
- Sampling programs on conventional and trace pollutants
- Toxicological and hydro-biological analyses
- Development of water quality objectives and criteria
- Environmental baseline surveys, impact reports, assessments
- Compilation of request for official project permits
- Comprehensive water quality management studies
- Quality assurance - quality control, inter-calibration programmes
- National Water Quality Central Laboratory for investigating physical, chemical, hydro-biological characteristics and radioactivity
- Environmental research, technological development and consultancy (drinking water, waste water, solid waste)
- Co-ordination of the National Clean-up Programme (secretariat, management, co-ordination)
- National Environmental Laboratory (traditional, and metal analysis, organic chemistry, air pollution, ecotoxicology, odour measurement, development of new methodologies and standards)

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Soil mechanical explorations and testing
- Licensing products, equipment, etc. for use in the Hungarian water industry
- Drafting standard specifications, codes and other regulatory publication for the water sector
- Library and documentation, editorial work

The services in these fields range from short-term assignments of individual experts to comprehensive project implementation.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

VITUKI is the reference centre of WHO and WMO concerning water quality and hydrology, respectively, one of the founding members of International Association of Hydraulics Research (IAHR), as well as organiser of a UNESCO-sponsored International Post-Graduate Course on Hydrology, and also contributed to the TEMPUS programme by organizing an International Post-Graduate Course on Water Quality Management. VITUKI gives frame to the National Forecasting Service which collects daily hydrological data from the whole Danube Basin and issues Forecasts under a state contract. VITUKI also performs WHO Collaborating Centre activities on water quality problems.

Several staff members hold leading posts in international scientific organisations or have worked as experts for UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WMO, WHO in Europe, Africa, Asia and South-America.

Long experiences are available for utilisation in the field of research work and project management and implementation in VITUKI. The key strengths of the Institute is the highly skilled and experienced personnel in the different fields of water problems which assures the ability of comprehensive approach and handling of research and development tasks by his own staff.