**Project description:**
Monitoring drought and its effects to support decision makers on prevention and mitigation. An integrated drought information system based also on a website has been developed after ARPA participation to Desertnet and Sedemed Interreg III projects. The website contains information to support the application of the regional plan for water protection for drought management.

The drought observatory is the core of the website; it provides tools and data to study drought and desertification within the region, gathers updated documentation and informs institutions and citizens properly.

Bulletins are produced weekly during critical seasons, monthly during the year, with measured data and forecasting. Indicators and benchmarks for meteorological, agricultural and hydrological droughts are available; in particular, two new indicators for assessing agricultural drought, which consider the transpiration deficit (Dtx) and the water available content in the soil (AD) are original.

**Results obtained**
Integrated bulletins on drought are used by administration and technical bodies. Official regional site for drought monitoring.

**Success factors**
Frequently refreshing with up-to-date contents and issues. User-friendly drought bulletins.

**Indicators used**
Increasing rate of web contacts and users numbers.

**Repeatability & Applicability**
The observatory web project is easily replicable and is an example of gathering information and data from hydrological and meteorological monitoring networks, applying both common and new indicators. Bulletins web editing is an easy way for data dissemination on drought.

**Total costs**
25000 euro/year
Further references
http://www.arpa.emr.it/siccita/

Fig. 1 Web site contents.

Web site

Meteorological drought: total precipitation

Hydrological drought: discharge

Agricultural drought: transpiration deficit (DTx) and water available content in the soil (AD)

SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) and percentiles

Drought indicators

Information about drought and its impact

Bulletins

Desertification