Editorial

This monothematic issue of Soil and Water Research on "Hydrology of headwater catchments with special regard to drainage of agricultural lands" is a collection of several papers presented at the workshop on Water balance and runoff/water quality generation in tile-drained agricultural catchments in Brno, Czech Republic, on 4–6 September 2007. The workshop was held on the occasion of annual meetings of steering committees of two important international initiatives: the Euromediterranean Network of Experimental and Representative Basins (ERB 2008) and the North European FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data) Project 5 on Catchment hydrological and biogeochemical processes in changing environment (NE FRIEND 5 2008). At the same time, the workshop was conceived as a partial outcome of the research plan for 2004–2008 of the Research Institute for Soil and Water Conservation in Prague. This research plan, referred to as MZE 0002704901 and titled Mitigation of adverse impacts of natural and anthropogenic factors acting on soil and water, has been a major research activity of the institute over the last five years. It was under one of its subtopics, titled Hydroecological functions of existing drainage systems, that several efforts were made to present the institute's results in a summary way and to contrast them with what the others (the other research and educational institutions, state and local administration, nature conservationists, agriculturists and water management practitioners) think, have done or intend to do. Two major actions of this type were a panel discussion and national workshop on Drainage of agricultural lands in the context of cultural landscape, held in the institute's headquarters in Prague-Zbraslav on 3 November 2005 (Kulhavý *et al.* 2006), and the 2007 Brno workshop mentioned above. The Brno workshop was co-organised by the Department of Applied and Landscape Ecology of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, the Czech Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the Czech National Committee for the International Hydrological Program (IHP) of UNESCO. The workshop participants (altogether 32 people from seven countries – Austria, Czechia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia) had a opportunity to listen to 10 oral presentation, to see 18 posters and to discuss about both. Few participants (some of them from Slovakia) had to apologise because of various obstacles, but their papers were included in the booklet of abstracts (Doležal 2007) and these authors, too, were invited to publish their full papers in Soil and Water Research. All papers underwent standard peer review. What you receive now are the papers than got through up to now. Some other papers from the Brno 2007 workshop may still appear in later issues of Soil and Water Research or elsewhere. It is worth mentioning that several suggestions about how to pursue the theme further were made during the Brno workshop. One of them has already materialised as the symposium HS 10.9 on Artificially drained catchments – from monitoring studies towards management approaches, held during the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna on 13–18 April 2008 (Geophysical Research Abstracts 2008). Our sincere thanks belong to all who contributed to these events and helped us organise them.

References

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