

Plans for the nexus assessment in a transboundary context under the Water Convention

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Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Background

- *In 2003 the Parties to the Water Convention decided to regularly carry out regional assessments; First Assessment in 2007, Second Assessment in 2011 — key documents to the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conferences*
- *Among the findings of the Second Assessment: Policy integration and coherence remains weak across the region; difficult to put into practice, painful trade offs -> **assess the situation, review experience, identify solutions***
- *Water, energy and food sectors strongly interlinked > impacts & trade-offs, also potential synergies — **very topical but little done at transboundary level***



What does the nexus entail in the transboundary context?

- *Finding a balance between various uses and protection of the resource: address and reduce trade offs and increase synergies*
- *Needed:*
 - *Increased understanding and dialogue*
 - *Effective institutions and legal frameworks*
 - *Decision-support tools (monitoring, impact assessment etc.)*
 - *Regulations / economic tools*
 - *Sharing / solidarity/political willingness*



Selected basins to be assessed: the call for proposals is out

- *Cases sought where a nexus approach to basin management could contribute to long-term sustainability and better management of resources*
- *A representative set of basins aimed at: all UNECE subregions to be covered, N-S, E-W*
- *With the opening of the Convention, including basins from other regions valuable for exchange of experience*
- *Basins to reflect, ideally,*
 - *different transboundary relationships and level of socio-economic development*
 - *A diversity of issues, different angles to the nexus*
 - *Climatic zones i.e. different level of water availability*
 - *Varying relative resource scarcity and productivity*
 - *A adequate level of data availability — a common minimum level to be established, but room to be left for more ambition*



Process considerations

- *Process as important as final product for capacity building & exchange of experience*
- *Broad expertise and information needed – How do we ensure the necessary intersectoral coordination?*
- *Potential synergy with other areas of the work plan, other initiatives?*
- *Strategic partners? Relevant work done by others already?*



Organization and the time line

- *The supervising group: a Nexus Task Force to cover for WGMA in 2013-2015*
- *Exchanges with potential partners & identification of methodological expertise on-going*
- *Interest among countries & commissions being explored with a call for proposals for basins to be assessed; deadline 31 January 2013*
- *Expert workshop on 8-9 April 2013 to discuss and refine the methodology*
- *A list of indicative data requirements to be defined*
- *Information collection, identify complementary information sources*
- *Approach to be tested on a pilot basin*
- *2013-2014 basin level process (inter-sectoral basin level meetings: concerned sectors and main water users to participate) & assessments*
- *2015 synthesis & publication*

