How to cooperate in transboundary basins in climate change adaptation

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Double uncertainty: Climate Change & Transboundary Cooperation

- Uncertainty regarding climate change impacts: common work on scenarios and models helps to better assess climate change impacts

- Uncertainty regarding actions of the riparian countries: cooperation and consultation helps to reduce it
Why transboundary cooperation in adaptation?

- Prevent negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures in riparian countries, thereby preventing potential conflict.
- Enable more effective and efficient adaptation through:
  - Wider knowledge base.
  - Larger planning space: take measures in the basin where they have optimum effect.
  - Possibility to share costs and benefits.

=> Cooperation reduces uncertainty and costs!
The UNECE response to it

- Guidance on Water and adaptation to climate change
- Programme of pilot projects and platform for exchanging experience on adaptation in transboundary basins
Location of the pilot projects
Welcome

The programme of pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) has started in 2010 and aims to:

- Support countries and specifically countries with economies in transition (in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as in South-Eastern Europe) in their efforts to develop adaptation strategies and measures; in transboundary basins.
- Assist UNECE countries in implementing the Water Convention and the European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive (WFD) under conditions of a changing climate, also in light of the EU White Paper on adapting to climate change1;
- Create positive examples demonstrating the benefits of and possible mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in adaptation planning and implementation, also beyond the UNECE region;
- Implement the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Provide a forum for exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learnt regarding adaptation projects in different parts of the region.
Guidance and tools

- Transboundary flood risk management
- Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather
- Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change

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