Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention
Why assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation?

- Countries' willingness to cooperate partly determined by perception of potential benefits of cooperation → Need for recognition of benefits / cost of non-action
- Cooperation often focuses on limited issues → Scope for increased cooperation by broadening benefits considered
- Need convincing arguments to sustain (financially and politically) existing transboundary cooperation processes
Objectives

Support governments and other stakeholders in realizing the potential benefits of transboundary water cooperation by:

1. Providing overview of broad set of potential benefits
2. How they can be assessed
3. How benefits assessment can be integrated into policy process

→ Development of a policy guidance note

Target audience: High level decision makers from ministries of foreign affairs, finance, environment and water
Implementing the Water Convention and cooperation benefits assessment

The Water Convention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A legal framework</th>
<th>An institutional platform</th>
<th>Project and activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obligation to cooperation:</td>
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<td>- Enter into agreements</td>
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<td>- Establish joint bodies</td>
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<td>Regular meetings to address new challenges, exchange experiences</td>
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<td>Support accession / implementation through support to national &amp; transboundary projects</td>
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<td>IWL: incentive to cooperate</td>
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<td>Joint bodies: long term structure</td>
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<td>Platform: meetings to build trust, exchange views</td>
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<td>NPD: facilitate dialogue Intersectoral coop°/ Nexus</td>
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Developing the Policy Guidance Note

- Scoping workshop (Amsterdam, June 2013)
- Discussions in several events (Stockholm WWW, GEF International Water Conference, International Water Forum in Quebec..)
- Call for case studies: January 2014
- Workshop «Counting our gains» (Geneva, May 2014)
- 7th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM (Geneva, July 2014)
- Expert workshop «Beyond water» (Tallinn, January 2015)
- ...Submission for adoption by MoP (November 2015)
Key messages from the workshop

“Counting our gains”

- Benefits assessment is useful and part of governance framework
- Benefits assessment to be tailored to maturity of cooperation
- Not all benefits can be quantified
- Little work done on geopolitical benefits assessment
- Broader agenda of globalization, regional integration