

Thematic assessment on the water–food–energy–ecosystems nexus

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1. Main achievements in this area of work

- ▶ *Methodology for assessing intersectoral links, trade-offs and benefits developed*
- ▶ *An improved knowledge base about intersectoral issues and addressing them at a transboundary level – conclusions and general recommendations*
- ▶ *Basin assessments:*
 - *Main intersectoral linkages identified jointly; prioritization and the effects discussed*
 - *a “menu” of possible synergetic, beneficial actions identified*
 - *Benefits of applying a nexus approach identified, possible solutions*
- ▶ *The interest from diverse countries and basins indicates pertinence of the challenges from intersectoral coordination*
- ▶ *Work has attracted a lot of international attention. Awareness raised about intersectoral impacts and opportunities; and has contributed to the understanding of the nexus*



2. How was it achieved? Major milestones since 2013

- ▶ *Methodology for nexus assessment piloted and refined*
- ▶ *4 basins assessed at a scoping level: the Alazani/Ganykh, Sava, Syr Darya, Isonzo/Soča*
- ▶ *A basin workshop organized in each basins, consultations at the basin level (Sava) and nationally, using the National Policy Dialogues*
- ▶ *3 nexus Task Force meetings organized*
- ▶ *Experience shared in various events*



3. Lessons learnt for future work

- *All basins unique: the generic approach adapts upon application to diverse settings. The methodology improved gradually in use.*
- *Result of the nexus assessment may controversial to a sector or a country; the design of the process is important to ensure acceptance*
- *An active participation and commitment from the countries necessary to shape the process into a valuable exercise, focusing on relevant policy issues*
- *Ensuring a sufficiently broad participation of other sectors is challenging (work through partners?)*
- *Complex issues: clear and accessible communication needed to ensure attention to the conclusions*
- *Even though already the intersectoral–transboundary dialogue has value, adequate data is necessary for a meaningful analysis*



4. Suggested future work in this area

- *Assessments replicating and adapting the methodology with or through partners: the Isonzo/Soča (possible continuation); North-Western Sahara Aquifer (GWP-Med, OSS), Niger (NBA, FAO, GIZ etc.); others subject to interest*
- *Promotion of the findings and methodology (e.g. a brochure; policy brief; regional and international events and processes, possible basin reports)*
- *Stock-taking workshop on the assessments in 2016 (with GEF IW:LEARN and others)*
- *Facilitating identification of and agreement on follow-up actions by the countries through e.g. NPDs*
- *Input to collecting experience on water allocation*

