



UNECE Task Force on Water and Climate

***Pilot Project Proposal on
WATER AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
IN THE DRINA AND VARDAR/AXIOS RIVER BASINS***



**REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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SUMMARY



Title:

” Building up capacities on low water management and adaptation to climate change in the Drina and Vardar/Axios river basins”

Name of the basin or sub-basin:

Drina & Vardar/Axios River Basins

Riparian countries to be involved in the pilot project:

BIH, MNE, SRB & MKD, GRC

Application amount:

380 000 €

Period:

36 months



TRB ON THE BALKANS



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BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL (i/ii)



- Over the past thirty years, droughts have dramatically ***increased in number and intensity*** in Western Balkan
- ***Access to good quality water*** in sufficient quantity becomes fundamental to the daily lives of every citizen and to most economic activities.
- Number of Western Balkan rivers is known to becoming ***waterless during the dry season***
- Significant ***consumers*** are at the same time considerable ***sources of pollution***



BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL (ii/ii)



- Droughts and the resulting low flows have a substantial ***effect on water quality*** in the region
- The planning for and the management of the effects of droughts appear to have ***a low priority in the region***, including the Drina and the Vardar River Basin, although all have experienced severe water shortages
- There is ***a lack of capacities*** to deal with the problem and introduce multidisciplinary approach, at national, regional or local level



MAIN OBJECTIVE



- To facilitate ***adaptation efforts*** related to the law flow water management, implementing WC provisions within the context of climate change
- To strength capacities at both, decision making and operational levels, as well as public awareness that we ***need to take measures to adapt***



BASIC AIM



- To supporting activities towards preparation of a common basin-wide ***Adaptation Strategies***
- To increase awareness of and promote research on how transboundary ***water courses are affected by climate change***, in terms of quantity and quality
- To address ***new ways of thinking*** in terms of:
 - spatial and infrastructure planning
 - regional and local economic policy (water supply, industries and logistic centres)
 - new monitoring and operational concepts and developments



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



- To assess and manage **the risks** of climate change regarding the demands for good water quality, using Drina and Vardar/ Axios river basins as a case study
- To promote **efficient water use**, particularly in agriculture
- To identify and consider the **cost/benefits** of possible remedial and mitigation measures, developing different scenarios and policy options
- To promote **exchange of experience** between the Drina and Vardar River Basins, i.e. between non-EU, accession and EU countries.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES (1 & 2 year)



- Assessment of ***current states and possible effects*** of climate changes on water resources quantity and quality
- Assessment of ***impacts and water resources vulnerability***
- ***Needs assessments and capacity building*** on management of water resources for drought conditions



MAJOR ACTIVITIES (3 year)



- Setting up a *Forum* to:
 - discuss and proposing different types of measures (prevention, resilience, response and/or mitigation)
 - make recommendations for adaptation strategy and IWRM
- *Exchange of experience* events between the Drina and Vardar River Basins

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- Public participation and dissemination activities



PARTNERS



- International Sava River Basin Commission
- National authorities competent for the water management, climate change and health issues
- National Hydrometeorological Services



TARGET GROUPS



- Officials in water sector, at national and local levels:
 - decision maker
 - water authorities working in ministries and other relevant institutions
- Public at large



SYNERGY WITH CURRENT PROJECTS



- ***International Secretariat*** of the DRC

- ***Two current projects*** in the DRB, funded by the Norway and Finnish Ministries of Foreign Affairs:
 - Enhancing cross-border cooperation in the Drina River Basin
 - Education for sustainable development in Western Balkans

- ***Two recently launched projects:***
 - MEDIATION - Methodology for effective Decision making on Impacts and Adaptation
 - WATER CoRe – Exchange platform for water scarcity and draught issues on regional and local level





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!