

Conclusions

1) Value of the nexus approach

- The results from nexus assessment of the Drina, presented at the workshop, were validated. Further details and views on implementation of the proposed actions were provided. The input will be taken into account in finalizing the report for publication and supporting follow-up.
- The nexus approach was appreciated for bringing together different sectors and interests, and as a way of communicating to decision-makers the need for intersectoral coordination in development.
- The valuable support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and the Sea was highly appreciated.
- It was recognized that the nexus assessment should be an initial step in a process that continues.

2) Institutionalizing and implementing the nexus approach



- Momentum gained in the Drina nexus project and the valuable intersectoral network should be built on, to continue the dialogue among the countries & sectors on the issues, the assessment's findings, intersectoral (nexus) solutions taking into account negative and positive cross-sectoral effects.
- It should be explored how existing structures with multisectoral character, e.g. the International Sava River Basin Commission, can be built on to promote intersectoral coordination. In the short term, project structures like the Drina Task Force (WB/GEF) can also contribute to that end.
- Integration of the nexus approach into strategic documents and local/regional development plans of the riparian countries was called for by the participants. The countries increasingly taking the lead and ownership in the process was recognized as crucial.
- Formulating some guiding principles for implementing the nexus approach was indicated as something that would be helpful.
- Coordination should be improved in contributing to regional processes of relevance to the nexus: SEE 2020 Strategy's implementation, Western Balkans priorities for development (Trieste Summit in July 2017), W. Balkans regional hydropower WBIF project etc.

3) Awareness raising and information

- The need for raising awareness about the nexus approach at different levels, including local level, among government authorities and among civil society organizations was underlined.
- Capacity building about nexus tools such as the energy model developed for the Drina was called for.
- Availability of up-to-date information across sectors needs to be improved, filling the gaps (e.g. on irrigation)
- Involving junior experts in any follow up projects was seen valuable for capacity building about the nexus

4) Deepening the nexus assessment

- Participants underlined the need to integrate nexus approach into strategic documents.
- The analytical work on selected nexus issues in the Drina should be continued. The participants requested that the ADA funded project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach” would support further analysis of the nexus issues and benefits of the related actions in the Drina Basin
- Need for upgrading existing tools like the hydrological and hydraulic models on the Sava River (which includes the Drina) to better support further analysis, coordination and decision-making was highlighted.
- Sharing experience with other basins in the region, including the Drin, was welcomed.
- Various further activities meriting follow up were identified. UNECE and partners called upon to explore how to respond.
- Regional development and cross-border funds were identified as further opportunities to seek support
- Synergy and coordination with other initiatives is to be sought in the follow up, notably with the World Bank/WBIF work and the Drina GEF project which is about to start