THE DRINA NEXUS ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND THE REPORT

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Nexus in the Drina River Basin
Belgrade, 8 November 2016
WHY A NEXUS ASSESSMENT?

The UNECE nexus assessment of the Drina has the following objectives:

• To foster transboundary cooperation by identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized, and by determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate tensions or conflict related to the multiple uses of and needs for common resources;

• To assist countries in optimizing their use of resources, to increase efficiency and to ensure greater policy coherence and co-management;

• To build capacity to assess and address intersectoral impacts.

WHY THE DRINA?

• Rich biodiversity and untouched landscapes - which make the Drina highly valuable from an environmental perspective, as well as very attractive for tourism.

• Hydro potential - with an estimated 60% yet to be explored.

• Occasion to zoom-in from the Sava, being more specific on policy actions.
NEXUS ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

**Issue:** A problematic situation that affects (directly or indirectly) more than one sector

**Solution:** An intervention that would benefit more than one sector and the environment at large
NEXUS ASSESSMENT
THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Desk study
Sava nexus assessment

In depth analysis of issues and solutions

1st workshop (Nexus)

Opinion-based questionnaire

Information request

2nd workshop (Benefits)

Policy action
THE DRINA ASSESSMENT REPORT

Objective of the report: to illustrate the assessment including all background information from the desk study.

• (Chapter 1. Introduction)

Setting the stage (background information)

• Ch 2. Physical geography of the Drina Basin
• Ch 3. Socio-economic relevance of the Drina Basin
• Ch 4: Governance in the Drina Basin
Analysing nexus issues and solutions (core chapters)

• Ch 5. (Co-)optimizing hydropower plants operation.
• Ch 6. Promoting rural development
• Ch 7. Improving water quality and management of solid waste
• Ch 8. Broadening the scope of cooperation

Realising the benefits of cooperation

• Ch 9. Benefits of cooperation
• (Ch 10. Conclusions)
TO DO LIST FOR THE WORKSHOP

✓ Review the **status of the report** in its core chapters
  
  • Ch. 5: Co-optimizing flow regulation (with modeling)
  • Ch. 6: Promoting Rural Development
  • Ch. 7: Improving Water Quality

✓ Discuss the appropriateness of the identified **solutions** - in groups
  
  • Ch. 8: Broadening and developing cooperation

✓ Discuss the identified **cooperation opportunities**

✓ Discuss **benefits** of transboundary cooperation and nexus solutions – in groups
PROPOSED SOLUTIONS CLUSTERS TO EXPLORE

- Improving water quality and management of solid waste
- Promoting rural development
- (Co-)optimizing hydro power plants operation
Ch.6 Promoting rural development

Key issues: - List to be reviewed -

1. Limited agricultural production
2. Limited industrial activity and high unemployment
3. Unexploited potential for eco-tourism
4. Unused land resources
5. Lack of long-term, broader rural development policies
6. Low competitiveness of the agricultural sector
7. Significant gaps between EU and SEE agricultural policy
8. A general lack of infrastructure
9. Land fragmentation
Suggested policy direction:

Promoting integrated rural development in the basin by exploiting the existing synergies between eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy production, at the advantage of local businesses and communities.
Ch.6 Promoting rural development

Possible actions (solutions):

1. Promoting organic production (specific focus on Montenegro)
2. Reducing the share of unused land in the basin, taking into account climate change
3. Expanding irrigation, using high-efficiency technologies
4. Promoting eco-tourism in the basin
The potential for growth of the agriculture sector in Montenegro lies on quality products rather than on large productions, and this is reflected by the number of organic food producers, increasing every year.

Montenegro has access to EU pre-accession funds for agriculture and rural development, which can be used to promote organic production.

- expansion of good farming practices
- good market for organic, local products in eco-touristic areas
Ch.6 - Reducing the share of unused land in the basin, taking into account climate change

For the SEE region, FAO suggests that where natural constraints are not too much of a limiting factor (e.g. impervious mountains) unused permanent grassland could be used for livestock rearing, fruit production and forestry.

These and other opportunities could be investigated for the basin, as long as ecological needs are appropriately addressed, also taking into account climate change mitigation (biofuels) and adaptation (new crops).

- potential to expand rainfed cultivations
- opportunity to expand valuable crops such as grapes
Crop production is highly vulnerable to weather conditions and this situation is expected to worsen with climate change. In order to keep up production, irrigation in the basin will likely increase (at least one plan for expansion is known in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Semberija).

For new and existing schemes, it is important to put efficient irrigation technologies to avoid overuse and limit cross-sectoral impact.

- improved resilience to droughts
- reduced competition with domestic use on groundwater
Because of the importance that the sector has all along the river, there are opportunities to expand the touristic offer by cooperating across the borders.

The ISRBC has recently developed specific guidelines for the promotion of eco-tourism at the level of the Sava basin. This document offers a cooperative perspective on the sector, aimed at promoting rural economy across the borders, along the natural course of the river.

- protection of wildlife and biodiversity
- promotion of local products - including agricultural products - and renewable energies
THANK YOU!

For more information on the methodology see:
