2nd Workshop on
ASSESSING THE WATER-FOOD-ENERGY-ECOSYSTEMS NEXUS AND BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION IN THE DRINA RIVER BASIN

Venue and date: Hotel 88 Rooms (Takovska 49), Belgrade, Serbia, 8-10 November 2016

Programme

This second workshop on Assessing the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation in the Drina River Basin, which will be held in Belgrade, Serbia from 8 to 10 November 2016¹. It is part of the project “Greening economic development in Western Balkans through applying a nexus approach and identification of benefits of transboundary cooperation” funded by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. The workshop is being organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC), and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Mining and Energy of the Republic of Serbia. The Drina project contributes to the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the work of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy.

The objective is, through the nexus assessment in the Drina Basin: (a) to identify intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized; and (b) to determine policy measures and actions that could reduce tensions between sectoral objectives, avoid unintended consequences of resource management and resolve trade-offs between sectors. This nexus assessment provides a basis for the identification of opportunities and concrete benefits of transboundary cooperation across sectors, but also of improved intersectoral coordination nationally.

The nexus assessment focuses on the interlinkages among four key sectors in the Drina Basin – water, energy, food and ecosystems. It builds on the assessment of the nexus in the Sava River Basin, carried out under the Water Convention from 2014 to 2015 (see the UNECE publication “Reconciling Different Resource Uses in Transboundary Basins: Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus”, November 2015). Among the many recommendations in the Sava River Basin was the improvement of the coordination with energy and agriculture sectors of activities carried out in the framework of ISRBC.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the preliminary findings from on-going analysis which details possible improvements (solutions) in the following areas, including to guide investment:
1) (Co-)optimizing flow regulation and development of renewable energy potential;
2) Promoting rural development including through modernizing agriculture;
3) Improving water quality, including management and regulation of solid waste; and
4) Broadening the scope of transboundary cooperation.

In an interactive format, the solutions and related benefits will be discussed and refined.

For the second part of the workshop, focused on applying the Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication developed under the UNECE Water Convention, participation from other countries of the Western Balkans is also invited.

The practical organization of the workshop is carried out by the World Organization for Nature in Belgrade.

¹ The kick-off workshop held from 21 to 22 April 2016 in Podgorica, Montenegro. The documentation is available at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42800#
Day 1: The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Drina Basin: the preliminary findings and refining the analysis

9:00-9:30 Registration of participants

9:30-10:00 Session 1. Workshop opening, workshop objectives and introduction to the Nexus Assessment
Welcome: Ms. Nataša Milić, Acting director, Directorate for Water Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia
Opening: Mr. Salvatore d’Angelo, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy
Introduction to the Drina Nexus Assessment: Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE

10:00-11:00 Session 2. Nexus Assessment – the Drina Context
• The Drina nexus assessment process and the report under preparation: Ms. Lucia de Strasser, UNECE consultant
• The governance context: Mr. Stephen Stec, Central European University
• Presentation of Chapters 5-7:
  - (Co-)optimizing flow regulation (including flood protection, integration of non-hydro renewables, taking into account environmental flow requirements etc.) and development of capacity for renewable energies (Chapter 5): Mr. Youssef Almulla/Ms. Eunice Ramos, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
  - Promoting rural development (modernizing agriculture by improving practices, increasing productivity, improving quality etc.) (chapter 6): Ms. Lucia de Strasser, UNECE consultant
  - Protecting water quality and improving management of solid waste (chapter 7): Mr. Stephen Stec, Central European University (CEU)

Questions

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Session 3. Nexus Assessment – Group work to review and refine the developed policy packages
• Discussion on the suggested policy packages
  - Distribution of material (policy packages from Chapters 5-7)
  - Some questions to be discussed:
    o Are the presented policy packages appropriate in the context of the basin and the countries?
    o Are the suggested policy actions applicable and what should be taken into account? Possible constraints to implementation?
  - Groups
    o Group 1: (Co-)optimizing flow regulation
    o Group 2: Promoting Rural Development
    o Group 3: Improving Water Quality

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Session 4. Nexus Assessment and Solutions – Group reporting and Plenary Discussion
• Presentation of proposed policy packages (including improvements and additions from the working group discussion)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break
Session 5. Nexus Assessment process, links and complementary work
Discussion: Impressions of stakeholders about the nexus assessment process, things to improve; possible further work to be undertaken to complete the nexus assessment.

Session 6. Emerging key messages and plans for finalising the nexus assessment chapters.
Conclusions from the nexus discussion: Mr. Dejan Komatina, ISRBC
Next steps in the process: Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE

Day 2: Benefits of transboundary cooperation

Session 7. Introduction to the Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation and to the Benefit Assessment in the Drina Basin
Presentation: Mr. Roberto Martin-Hurtado, UNECE consultant

Introduced by Mr. Roberto Martin-Hurtado and facilitated by resource persons and consultants
Questions to be discussed:
• Who have been the main beneficiaries in your country of past cooperation in the Drina?
• What have been the main benefits in your country of past cooperation in the Drina?
• What has been the importance of those benefits?
• To what extent have other Drina countries benefited from past cooperation?
  - Group A: Serbia
  - Group B: Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Group C: Montenegro

Session 8 (cont.). Group reporting and plenary discussion

Group work
Introduction by Mr. Roberto Martin-Hurtado and facilitation by resource persons and consultants
Questions to be discussed:
• Who will be the main beneficiaries of the nexus solutions?
• What will be the main benefits of the nexus solutions?
• What is the importance of those benefits?
  - Group A: Water flows
  - Group B: Rural development
  - Group C: Water quality

Session 9 (cont.). Group reporting and plenary discussion

Session 10. The benefits of broader cooperation – Plenary discussion
Facilitated by Mr. Roberto Martin-Hurtado
Presentation: Refining Chapter 8: Broadening and developing cooperation in the Drina Basin: Mr. Stephen Stec, CEU

Coffee break
16:00-17:00  
**Session 11. Communicating the benefits of past cooperation and nexus solutions in the Drina.**  
Group work.  
Facilitated by Mr. Roberto Martin-Hurtado and resource persons and/or consultants  
Some questions to be discussed:  
• Who are the target audiences? Which existing processes are important to inform and to influence?  
• What are they key messages and information to be communicated?  
• What communication tools could be used?

16:30-17:00  
**Session 11 (cont.). Group reporting and plenary discussion**

[17:30-19:00  
Closed session to discuss with national consultants on their inputs as follow up to the workshop]

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**Day 3: Exchange of experience across the sub-region: Nexus linkages and Benefits of transboundary cooperation**

9:00-10:00  
**Session 12. Nexus linkages and Benefits of transboundary cooperation – experiences and views from the sub-region (focus on the Western Balkan countries)**  
Chair: Ms. Dragana Milovanovic, Directorate for Water Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Serbia  
The Drin Basin cooperation: achievements and benefits: Ms. Ljupka Dinoska Zajkov, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Transboundary cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia - obligations, good practices and benefits  
Mr. Aleš Bizjak, Water Agency, Slovenia  
Sava Zagreb project: coordinated flow regulation to support multiple uses: Mr. Dubravko Ponoš, Director of Program Sava Ltd  
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a tool to promote addressing trade-offs: examples from Western Balkans with a focus on the energy sector: Ms. Ivana Šarić, Head of Department, Dvokut-Ecro Consulting, Croatia  
• Questions and answers

10:00-11:00  
**Session 12. Realising the benefits of transboundary cooperation – trust building and financing. Group work.**  
Facilitated by resource persons and/or consultants  
• How can the work on benefits be used to support trust building between countries?  
• How can the work on benefits be used to attract financing for cooperative projects?

11:00-11:30  
**Coffee break**

11:30-12:00  
**Session 12 (cont.) Group reporting and plenary discussion.**

12:00-12:45  
**Session 13. Realising the benefits of transboundary cooperation – opportunities offered by the regional project(s) that can build on the findings of the Drina nexus and benefits project**  
Chair: Mr. Boško Kenjić, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
• The project proposal “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach”: Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE  
• Questions and answers  
• Discussion: Should the Drina be one of the focus basins of the project?

12:45-13:00  
**Workshop conclusions and closing**  
Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE

13:00-14:00  
**Lunch**