

Assessment of the water-food- energy-ecosystems nexus

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Progress and activities in this area of work in 2017-2018

- * *Final workshop of the **Drina nexus assessment** in Sarajevo (the project funded by Italy), issuing a *policy brief* and publishing the *final report*. News coverage. Results contributed to debating trade-offs and benefits related to hydropower development in the Western Balkans*
- * **NWSAS nexus assessment** workshop in Algiers: main issues and directions for solutions identified jointly. *Analysis on-going.*
- * *Policy brochure in **cooperation with the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy** (GERE) - highlights opportunities for RE from intersectoral synergies; promoted at the Int. Forum on Energy for Sust.Dev.*
- * **Dissemination** of the findings from the Syr Darya in Central Asia, *contributing to shaping the Eur. Commission's Regional Nexus Dialogues in Central Asia and elsewhere*
- * Preparatory work for the Project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in **Southeastern Europe**, through the use of the Nexus approach”, funded by ADA and led by GWP-Med: 2 transboundary basins, the Drin confirmed & a desk study if being prepared, complements the on-going GEF project

UNECE

Deployment of Renewable Energy:

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus Approach
to Support the Sustainable Development Goals

Good practices and policies for intersectoral
synergies to deploy renewable energy



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Remaining activities to be carried out before the MOP 8

- * The **nexus synthesis document**, part 1 (the methodology and experience about its application) to be finalised and published; (Limited) gathering of feedback about solutions for part 2 to be published later
- * **National workshops** to be organised to present preliminary results on the **NWSAS**
- * Organisation of a launch workshop for the **Drina nexus follow up project** (funded by Italy) and initiation of some of the activities: 1st renewable energy investment «Hard Talks» with the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (Bosnia and Herzegovina?), options for flow regulation
- * Drafting of the **nexus thematic report** (descriptive) on the greater **Drin River Basin**; scoping of the quantitative analysis, in cooperation with GWP-Med
- * *Advice and experience sharing* related to the Eur.Comm.-GIZ Nexus Dialogue project on the **Niger River Basin**

Main achievements of the work in this area since 2016

- * **Consolidation of the nexus assessment methodology**, its technical and governance analysis tracks. Refinement by integrating better the perspective of the benefits of cooperation, application to an aquifer and extending the use of participatory methods
- * **Intersectoral transboundary dialogue** promoted in the Drina and evidence presented about the benefits of cooperation and coordination. Awareness-raising, identification of the main issues and brainstorming broadly about the solutions with stakeholder engagement in the NWSAS.
- * **Various sectoral and regional processes** have been **informed**. Advocacy has resulted in water and environment issues better taken up in international energy sector fora; through the nexus approach, recognition of the transboundary dimension amplified in the SDG debates

Lessons learned and challenges in the work since 2016

- * Challenging to engage all relevant sectors and interests
- * The **design of the process** and **communication** throughout the process are crucial.
- * **Appropriate institutional frameworks** are key not only for carrying out the assessment but also for fostering follow-up actions. Many obstacles to response actions, to implementation of solutions.
- * **Advocacy and promoting uptake** of the assessments' conclusions **requires time and effort** (not adequately resourced)
- * Needed: fit-for-purpose nexus tools, and an orientation for using and soft-linking them to form effective toolkits. Better availability of data also!
- * The **potential of the nexus perspective to add value in GEF projects/action** merits further attention.

Suggested future work 2019-2021:

PA 3.2 : Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach

3.2.1 Sharing of experience and disseminating results from nexus assessments

- * The synthesis document on the nexus: part to be published on solutions to the nexus
- * Results of the nexus assessments will be disseminated to support their use. Share experience with the application of the methodology. Advocacy in processes related to the 2030 Agenda
- * Projects funded by GEF will be supported in assessing and addressing nexus issues through the preparation of a brief as programmatic support to the IW:LEARN project on the nexus (2019).

3.2.2 Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the Nexus approach

- * Completion of the nexus assessment in the North-West Sahara Aquifer System and in two transboundary river basins in the Western Balkans, follow-up project on the Drina River basin
- * Advice will be provided to the nexus dialogue in the Niger basin.



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3.2.3 Promoting sustainability, transboundary cooperation between basin countries and early consideration of water resources and dependent ecosystems in investments

- * **A checklist or a resource document** about taking water and environment related trade-offs and synergies into account in developing renewable energy, including transboundary considerations, will be developed in cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy. Builds on the joint *Policy Document* (2017) and the renewable energy investment talks in the Drina countries (2018-2019).

Resource requirements for 3.2 (all activities): \$579,000.