Reporting under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 – Hungarian experience

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Section II, questions 1 and 2 of the reporting template

- Challenge: “II. Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer” v. “Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement”

- 7 neighboring country, 7 working transboundary commission, 1 basin agreement

- 1 basin, 4 sub basin, 24 sub-sub basin

- Bilateral agreements covers and overlaps

- Territorial and sectoral scope different
Preparation for the reporting

Hungary’s report was structured into:

- one part relating to the Danube Basin (100% coverage), based on the 1994 Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Sofia Convention)
- seven parts that covered each bilateral transboundary commission that Hungary has with its neighbors.
Coordination

National coordination:
- one day workshop with the participation of the secretaries of each transboundary water commission (joint interpretation of the questions)
- joint filling in the templates for each transboundary relations

Bilateral coordination: objective - harmonization
- personal meeting back to back to the regular meetings of the commissions
- e-mail correspondence with their partners.

ICPDR coordination
- template was sent for information – no overall coordination took place
Lessons

- Differences related to the understanding of the questions, the national responses to each question were not identical.
- Some cases, Hungary’s original response was revised as a result of the discussions with its neighbors.
- The exercise was therefore helpful in understanding where similarities and differences existed between the countries on a particular transboundary water issues
- Joint bodies can serve as a platform for exchange and cooperation on reporting
- 2nd reporting exercise planned on a similar way.
Thank you for your kind attention!