Template for reporting under the Water Convention and for global SDG indicator 6.5.2

Country name: Latvia

This template or reporting form is in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out. Questions can be either “closed”, Yes ☑/No ☐, with appropriate boxes to tick; “open”, requiring further information to be supplied, indicated by the words in square brackets [fill in]; or a combination of both. Depending on the country situation, it will not always be necessary to fill in extra information where space is provided for this.

The questions are divided into four parts: national (section I); by transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (section II); list of transboundary waters and information for calculation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2, Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (section III), and final questions (section IV). Please answer open questions very briefly, and in less than 200 words, using bullet points as appropriate. Section II will need to be completed for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers (please just copy the template for these questions and fill out again for each additional transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer).

The template encourages those reporting to refer to the reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements to which their country is a Party.

I. Transboundary water management at the national level

In this first section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on specific transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers and agreements should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact (art. 2 of the Convention)?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, list the main national legislation:

- Water Management Law

- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment
  http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/On_Environmental_Impact_Assessment.doc

- Environmental Protection Law
  http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Environmental_Protection_Law.doc

- Law on Pollution
  http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Environmental_Protection_Law.doc

(b) Do your country’s national policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, list the main national policies, action plans and strategies:


(c) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes ☑/No ☐
Polluter pays principle Yes ☑/No ☐
Sustainable development  Yes ☒/No ☐

(d) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution (art. 3, para. 1 (b)) (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, for which sectors? (Please list):

- Please see at link: http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/On_Pollution.doc

- In Latvia, licensing of wastewater discharges is not linked only to sectors. Any wastewater discharge above 5 m³ of wastewater per day is subject to licensing.

If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

If your country has a licensing system, does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(e) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled (art. 3, para. 1 (b))?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):

- Monitoring of discharges ☒
- Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water ☒
- Monitoring of ecological impacts on water ☒
- Conditions on permits ☒
- Inspectorate ☒

Other means (please list):

If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (art. 3, para. 1) (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under "others":

**Legislative measures**

- Norm for uses of fertilizers ☒
- Norms for uses of manure ☒
- Bans on or norms for use of pesticides ☒
- Others (please list): [fill in]

**Economic and financial measures**

- Monetary incentives ☐
- Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes) ☐
- Others (please list): [fill in]
Agricultural extension services

Technical measures

Source control measures
Crop rotation
Tillage control
Winter cover crops
Others (please list): [fill in]

Other measures
Buffer/filter strips
Wetland reconstruction
Sedimentation traps
Chemical measures
Others (please list): [fill in]

In Latvia, so-called protection zones are established along watercourses and lakes. They differ from the buffer strips, as tillage and cultivation are allowed therein. However, use of fertilisers and pesticides is prohibited in the 10 m wide zone (counted from the river or lake bank).

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(g) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water efficiency (art. 3)?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

- A regulatory system regarding water abstraction
- Monitoring and control of abstractions
- Water rights are clearly defined
- Water allocation priorities are listed
- Water-saving technologies
- Advanced irrigation techniques
- Demand management activities
- Other means (please list)

(h) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach (art. 3, para. 1 (i), and art. 2, para. 1 (d))?  
Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please describe how: [fill in]

(i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art. 3, para. 1 (k))?
Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please list the most important measures: [fill in]

Prohibition of discharges of pollutants into groundwater, protective zones around water abstraction sites, environmental tax on water (including groundwater) abstraction.
2. Does your country require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis (please insert the name and
   section of the relevant laws). (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention
   on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, you may refer to
   your country’s report under that Convention):
   
   • Law On Environmental Impact Assessment
   • LV national report to Espoo convention
     http://www.unece.org/?id=41378

3. Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection
   and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., surface waters or aquifers), whether
   bilateral, multilateral and/or at the basin level?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   If yes, list the bilateral, multilateral and basin agreements (listing for each of the
   countries concerned):
   
   • Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, legal act No.1).
   
   
   • Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on co-operation in the field of environmental protection (Latvia, Lithuania, legal act No.3).
   
   • Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Co-operation to Manage the International River Basin Districts (Latvia, Lithuania, legal act No.4), based on legal act No.3.

In a further survey only those legal acts (legal act No.2, legal act No.4) are referred to, which are dealing with cooperation in protection and sustainable use of transboundary watercourses.

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or for group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement and where conditions are similar. It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country’s
share is very small.* In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins, for example, where you have agreements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section I and not repeated here.

Please reproduce the whole section II with its questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country’s share of the basin:

**Gauja river basin (LV, EE)**

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?
   - One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force
   - Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force
   - Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians
   - Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [fill in]
   - Agreement or arrangement is under development
   - No agreement

   *If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]*

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins


2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?
   - Yes ☑/No ☐

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* In principle, section 2 should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.
* In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.
If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes ☐/No ☐

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Latvia, Estonia

(b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

- All water uses ☒
- A single water use or sector ☐
- Several water uses or sectors ☐

*If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*

**Water uses or sectors**

- Industry ☐
- Agriculture ☐
- Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐
- Households ☐
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐
- Tourism ☐
- Nature protection ☐
- Other (please list): [fill in] ☐

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

**Procedural and institutional issues**

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution ☐
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) ☒
- Consultation on planned measures ☒
- Mutual assistance (art. 15) ☒

**Topics of cooperation**

- Joint vision and management objectives ☒
- Joint significant water management issues ☒
- Navigation ☐
- Environmental protection (ecosystem) ☒
- Water quality ☒
- Water quantity or allocation ☒
- Cooperation in addressing floods ☐
Cooperation in addressing droughts
Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
  - Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*):

Latvia and Estonia do not have major difficulties, working with the agreement and its implementation. The main challenges are harmonization of different assessment methodologies and procedures and attraction of funding for joint activities. Please, take into account that only ~1/10 of the Gauja river basin is located in Estonia and that this Estonian part of the river basin is sparsely populated, therefore pressures on waters therein are not intense.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

The main achievements are the following: exchange of information during the development of river basin management plans; preparation of common information on joint transboundary water bodies; implementation of joint project in Gauja/Koiwa river basin. The key was interest of both sides in planning and implementing of common activities.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment.

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?
   Yes ☒/No ☐
   If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

   Where there is a joint body (or bodies)
   (a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (please tick one)?
       Plenipotentiaries ☐
       Bilateral commission ☐
       Basin or similar commission ☐
       Other (please describe):

   It is not deemed necessary to create a formal joint commission for this agreement. Meetings of experts are organized, when necessary, and all the necessary issues are dealt with during these meetings.

   (b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?
       Yes ☒/No ☐

   (c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (Please list):
       Latvia
       Estonia

   (d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?
       A secretariat ☐
       If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]
       A subsidiary body or bodies ☐
       Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]
       Other features (please list):
       Expert meetings are held between the participating countries.

   (e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?
       Identification of pollution sources ☒
       Data collection and exchange ☒
       Joint monitoring ☐
       Maintenance of joint pollution inventories ☐
       Setting emission limits ☒

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c This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
Water allocation and/or flow regulation
Policy development
Control of implementation
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
Settling of differences and conflicts
Consultations on planned measures
Exchange of information on best available technology
Participation in transboundary EIA
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Addressing hydromorphological alterations
Climate change adaptation
Joint communication strategy
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity building

Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

Governance issues

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]
(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

Experts meet at least once a year in one of the participating countries

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?

Good cooperation, exchange of information. Fast and efficient water-related issues.

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?

Latvia and Estonia themselves are coastal countries and other countries is not necessary to invite.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f))?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

The participating countries have set joint objectives.

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i))?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems ☒

Environmental flow basins ☐

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones) ☒

Other measures (please list): [fill in]

Both countries apply permitting to water abstraction and some other water uses, as well as impose environmental tax on water abstraction and discharge of pollution into waters.

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes ☒/No ☐
(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))
- Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))
- Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Discharges
- Water abstractions
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (please list): [fill in]

Note: This river basin is shared between Latvia and Estonia only.

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes ☑/No ☐

(d) Is the database publicly available?
Yes ☑/No ☐

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): [fill in]

There are no problems in cooperation with Estonian colleagues; data exchange takes place on a regular basis.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): [fill in]

Received information about the water quality assists us in the management and planning of the activities for the whole river basin.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes ☑/No ☐

Note: Currently this mainly happens within the framework of joint projects.

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

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<tr>
<th>Covered?</th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
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<td>Border surface waters</td>
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<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
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<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
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<td>Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
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<td>Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations [☐]
- Joint and agreed methodologies [☑]
- Joint sampling [☐]
- Common monitoring network [☐]
- Common agreed parameters [☑]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

The main achievement of joint monitoring is the possibility to compare the data between both countries and to harmonize water quality evaluation procedures so that the results and conclusions are comparable.

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

Joint monitoring programme is not established, as each country has different monitoring priorities and planning approaches.

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes [☑] No [☐]

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

Exchange of water quality data gathered during the previous calendar year is carried out by 31 of May (each year). Exchange of information on hydrological and meteorological data takes place continuously.

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes [☑] No [☐]

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

As both Estonia and Latvia are the EU Member States, water quality standards used in both countries are adopted by the following EU legislation (or in the basis of principles laid down therein):


10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (please list): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (please list): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

Note: severe droughts and floods are not typical in the Gauja River Basin.

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

There is a bilateral agreement with Estonia on cooperation and assistance in the event of disasters; its implementation in our country is responsibility of the State Fire and Rescue Service. Meetings of responsible authorities of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia take place annually; a cross-border training events are organised regularly.

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country’s report under that Convention.):

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body
- Availability of information to the public

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans\(^4\) ☑
Public involvement ☐
Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

\(^4\) Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
Venta and Lielupe river basins (LV, LT)

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?
   - One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force ☒
   - Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force □
   - Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians □
   - Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [fill in]
   - Agreement or arrangement is under development □
   - No agreement □

   If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Co-operation to Manage the International River Basin Districts” based on Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?
   - Yes ☒/No □

   If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?
   - Yes ☒/No □

   If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

   Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?
   - Yes ☒/No □

   Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Latvia, Lithuania

   (b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?
   - Yes ☒/No □

   (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
      - All water uses ☒
      - A single water use or sector □
Several water uses or sectors

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

**Water uses or sectors**

- Industry
- Agriculture
- Transport (e.g., navigation)
- Households
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types
- Tourism
- Nature protection
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(iii) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

**Procedural and institutional issues**

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance (art. 15)

**Topics of cooperation**

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures
Joint planning and management

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics [X]
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans [X]
- Management of shared infrastructure [X]
- Development of shared infrastructure [ ]
- Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (please describe, if applicable):

Latvia and Lithuania do not have major difficulties, working with the agreement and its implementation. The main challenges are harmonization of different assessment methodologies and procedures and attraction of funding for joint activities.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

Successful cooperation and exchange of information during the development of river basin management plans and in daily work; preparation of common information on joint transboundary water bodies. Cooperation gives us an opportunity to discuss water quality assessment and improvement possibilities, which is especially important in the Lielupe river basin, where agricultural impacts are significant both on the Latvian and Lithuanian side.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable): [fill in]

Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Co-operation to Manage the International River Basin Districts”

Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes [X]/No [ ]

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries [X]
- Bilateral commission [ ]
- Basin or similar commission [ ]
Other (please describe):

It is not deemed necessary to create a formal joint commission for this agreement. Meetings of experts are organized, when necessary, and all the necessary issues are dealt with during these meetings.

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes ☒/No ☐

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (Please list):

Latvia

Lithuania

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

☐ A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

☐ A subsidiary body or bodies

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

☐ Other features (please list): [fill in]

Expert meetings are held between the participating countries.

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?*

☒ Identification of pollution sources

☒ Data collection and exchange

☐ Joint monitoring

☐ Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

☒ Setting emission limits

☒ Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

☒ Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

☒ Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

☐ Water allocation and/or flow regulation

☐ Policy development

☐ Control of implementation

☒ Exchange of experience between riparian States

☒ Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations

☒ Settling of differences and conflicts

☒ Consultations on planned measures

---

* This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Exchange of information on best available technology ☐  
Participation in transboundary EIA ☐  
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans ☐  
Management of shared infrastructure ☐  
Addressing hydromorphological alterations ☐  
Climate change adaptation ☐  
Joint communication strategy ☒  
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans ☒  
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation ☐  
Capacity-building ☒  
Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]  
(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?  
Governance issues ☐  
Please describe, if any: [fill in]  
Unexpected planning delays ☐  
Please describe, if any: [fill in]  
Lack of resources ☐  
Please describe, if true: [fill in]  
Lack of mechanism for implementing measures ☐  
Please describe, if true: [fill in]  
Lack of effective measures ☐  
Please describe, if true: [fill in]  
Unexpected extreme events ☐  
Please describe, if any: [fill in]  
Lack of information and reliable forecasts ☐  
Please describe, if any: [fill in]  
Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]  
(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?  
No cooperation ☐  
They have observer status ☒  
Other (please describe): [fill in]  
(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?  
Yes ☒/No ☐  
If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]  
Experts meet at least once a year in one of the participating countries
(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [fill in]

**Good cooperation, exchange of information. Fast and efficient water-related issues.**

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?
Yes ☐/No ☒

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?
Yes ☐/No ☒

*If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]*

Latvia and Lithuania themselves are coastal countries and other countries is not necessary to invite.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f))?
Yes ☒/No ☐

*If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]*

The participating countries have set joint objectives.

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (j))?

Afforestation ☐

Restoration of ecosystems ☒

Environmental flow norms ☐

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones) ☒

Other measures *(please list)*: [fill in]

Both countries apply permitting to water abstraction and some other water uses, as well as impose environmental tax on water abstraction and discharge of pollution into waters.

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a)) ☒
- Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b)) ☒
- Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c)) ☐
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d)) ☒
- Point source pollution sources ☐
- Diffuse pollution sources ☐
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☐
- Discharges ☐
Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (please list): [fill in]

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes ☐/No ☑

(d) Is the database publicly available?
Yes ☐/No ☑

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): [fill in]

There are no problems in cooperation with Lithuanian colleagues; data exchange takes place on a regular basis.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): [fill in]

Information about water quality assists us in the management and planning of the activities for the whole river basin.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes ☑/No ☐

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered?</th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2017, it is planned to carry out joint monitoring in several groundwater-monitoring stations.

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☐
Joint and agreed methodologies ☑
Joint sampling ☐
Common monitoring network ☐
Common agreed parameters ☑

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

The main achievement of joint monitoring is possibility to compare and harmonise the data and water quality assessment procedures between both countries.

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]
Joint monitoring programme is not established, as each country has different monitoring priorities and planning approaches.

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?
   - Yes ☑ No ☐
   If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment. [fill in]
   Exchange of water quality data gathered during the previous calendar year is carried out by 31 of May (each year). Exchange of information on hydrological and meteorological data takes place continuously.

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
   - Yes ☑ No ☐
   If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]
   As both Latvia and Lithuania are the EU Member States, water quality standards used in both countries are adopted by the following EU legislation (or in the basis of principles laid down therein):

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?
   - Notification and communication ☑
   - Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐
   - Other (please list): [fill in]
   - No measures ☐
   If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?
   - Notification and communication ☑
Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods  □
Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts □
Joint climate change adaptation strategy □
Joint disaster risk reduction strategy □
Other (please list): [fill in] □
No measures □

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

Note: Severe droughts are not typical in the Lielupe and Venta River Basin. There are spring floods, but flood risk areas are not transboundary.

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?
Yes ☒/No □

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

There is a bilateral agreement with Lithuania on cooperation and assistance in the event of disasters; its implementation in our country is responsibility of the State Fire and Rescue Service. Meetings of responsible authorities of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia take place annually; a cross-border training events are organised regularly.

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?
Yes ☒/No □

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country’s report under that Convention.):

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body □
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in] ☒
- Availability of information to the public □
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans f □
- Public involvement □
- Other (please specify): [fill in] □

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

f Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin:

**Daugava river basin (LV, LT, BY, RU)**

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

- One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force ☒
- Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force ☐
- Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians ☐

*Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [fill in]*

- Agreement or arrangement is under development ☒
- No agreement ☐

*If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]*

Daugava river basin: district covers the territory of Latvia, Belarus and Russia; a minor part is located also in Lithuania. It was planned to conclude the trilateral agreement between the governments of Latvia, Belarus and the Russian Federation concerning cooperation in the Daugava/ Zapadnaja Dvina river basin. The draft agreement was already developed and agreed by all three parties in 2003, but the signing was postponed. After Latvia joined the European Union (on 01.05.2004), there was a need to include European Community as the fourth party, as any international agreement on water management between the EU Member States and non-Member States required the EU ("European Community") as a Contracting Party. The reason is that environment and water management are responsibilities shared between the Member States and the EU; neither the Member State nor the EU has exclusive competence. Since that, the interest to renew negotiations on the agreement was expressed by the Latvian side in various meetings and formats; however, there is no progress.
If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

“Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation to Manage the International River Basin Districts” (Latvia, Lithuania) based on Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?
Yes ☑/No ☐
If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?
Yes ☐/No ☑
If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

The concluded agreement covers just a small part of the Daugava river basin, the agreement with Belarus and Russian Federation are under development.

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?
Yes ☐/No ☑
Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): Latvia, Lithuania

(b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?
Yes ☑/No ☐

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses ☑
A single water use or sector ☐
Several water uses or sectors ☐

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry ☐
Agriculture ☐
Transport (e.g., navigation) ☐
Households ☐
Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☐
Tourism ☐
Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
Consultation on planned measures
Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives
Joint significant water management issues
Navigation
Environmental protection (ecosystem)
Water quality
Water quantity or allocation
Cooperation in addressing floods
Cooperation in addressing droughts
Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments
Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
Joint monitoring (art. 11)
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics
Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Development of shared infrastructure

Other (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (please describe, if applicable):

Latvia and Lithuania do not have major difficulties, working with the agreement and its implementation. The main challenges are...
harmonization of different assessment methodologies and procedures and attraction of funding for joint activities.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

Exchange of information during the development of river basin management plans.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable): [fill in]

Technical Protocol between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania on Co-operation to Manage the International River Basin Districts”

Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia, the government of the Republic of Estonia and the government of the Republic of Lithuania on cooperation in the field of environment

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes ☑/No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (please tick one)?

- Plenipotentiaries ☐
- Bilateral commission ☐
- Basin or similar commission ☐
- Other (please describe): [fill in]

It is not necessary to create a formal joint commission for this agreement. Meetings of experts are organized by Member States, when necessary, and all significant issues are discussed during these meetings.

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes ☐/No ☑

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (Please list):

Latvia

Lithuania

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

- A secretariat ☐

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

- A subsidiary body or bodies ☐
Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features (please list): [fill in]

Expert meetings are held between the participating countries.

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building

Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

Governance issues

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

---

6 This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]

Experts meet at least once a year in one of the participating countries

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [fill in]

Good cooperation, exchange of information. Fast and efficient water-related issues.

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes ☐/No ☒

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes ☐/No ☒

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

Latvia and Lithuania themselves are coastal countries and other countries is not necessary to invite.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f))?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

The participating countries have set joint objectives.
5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i))?

- Afforestation
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Environmental flow norms
- Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)
- Other measures (please list): [fill in]

Both countries apply permitting to water abstraction and some other water uses, as well as impose environmental tax on water abstraction and discharge of pollution into waters.

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

- Yes ☑/No ☐

(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a)) ☑
- Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b)) ☐
- Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c)) ☐
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d)) ☐
- Point source pollution sources ☐
- Diffuse pollution sources ☐
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☑
- Discharges ☐
- Water abstractions ☐
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ☑
- Other subjects (please list): [fill in]

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

- Yes ☐/No ☑

(d) Is the database publicly available?

- Yes ☐/No ☑

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): [fill in]

There are no problems in cooperation with Lithuanian colleagues; data exchange takes place on a regular basis.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): [fill in]

Exchanged information assists in the river basin management planning.
7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes [ ]/No [x]

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered?</th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
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</thead>
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<td>[ ]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations [ ]
- Joint and agreed methodologies [ ]
- Joint sampling [ ]
- Common monitoring network [ ]
- Common agreed parameters [ ]

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes [x]/No [ ]

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

Exchange of water quality data gathered during the previous calendar year is carried out by 31 of May (each year). Exchange of information on hydrological and meteorological data takes place continuously.

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes [x]/No [ ]

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

As both Latvia and Lithuania are the EU Member States, water quality standards used in both countries are adopted by the following EU legislation (or on the basis or principles laid down therein):


Belarus and Russian Federation apply their own water quality standards.

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

   Notification and communication ☒
   Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution ☐
   Other (please list): [fill in]
   No measures ☐

   If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

   Notification and communication ☒
   Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ☐
   Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ☐
   Joint climate change adaptation strategy ☐
   Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ☐
   Other (please list): [fill in]
   No measures ☐

   If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

   Yes ☒/No ☐

   If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

   There is a bilateral agreement with Lithuania on cooperation and assistance in the event of disasters; its implementation in our country is responsibility of the State Fire and Rescue Service. Meetings of responsible authorities of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia take place annually; a cross-border training events are organised regularly. Rescue services of Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania implement joint projects and have joint training exercises.

   There is the agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia and the government of Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of environmental protection, which envisages cooperation and assistance in the case of accidents or nature catastrophes.
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes ☒ No ☐

*If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country’s report under that Convention.):*

- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body ☐
- *If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]*
- Availability of information to the public ☑
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans\(^h\) ☑
- Public involvement ☐
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

*Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.*

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**III. Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2**

**Methodology**

Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basins’ area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

The Step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN Water, can be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.

The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. ‘transboundary’ basins\(^h\)) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the obtained area by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both catchments and aquifers).

Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

An “arrangement for water cooperation” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

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\(^h\) Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

For an arrangement to be considered "operational" all the following criteria needs to be fulfilled:
- There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g. a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation,
- There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level),
- There is a joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or joint objectives have been set, and
- There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information.

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:
- the country(ies) with which the basin is shared;
- the surface area of these basins (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in km²); and
- the surface area of these basins within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria (please consider the replies to the questions in section II, in particular questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).

In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

**Transboundary basin (river or lake) [please add rows as needed]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of transboundary basin / sub-basin</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin and sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin and sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daugava</td>
<td>LV, LT, BY, RU</td>
<td>27062 km²</td>
<td>27062 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venta</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>15625 km²</td>
<td>15625 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lielupe</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>8849 km²</td>
<td>8849 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauja</td>
<td>LV, EE</td>
<td>13051 km²</td>
<td>13051 km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total surface area of transboundary basins / sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) [A] (do not double count sub-basins): 64587 km²

Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) [B] (do not double count sub-basins): 64587 km²
## Transboundary aquifers [please add rows as needed]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the transboundary aquifer</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Covered by an operational arrangement (yes/no)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>EE, LV</td>
<td>4733</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>EE, LV</td>
<td>7409</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>EE, LV</td>
<td>4394</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>EE, LV, RU</td>
<td>4788</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3</td>
<td>EE, LV, RU</td>
<td>2044</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8</td>
<td>EE, LV, RU</td>
<td>7949</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>10166</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>3492</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>6905</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>2955</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9</td>
<td>BY, LV, RU</td>
<td>3454</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D10</td>
<td>BY, LV, LT</td>
<td>8607</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>EE, LV, LT</td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>BY, LV</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7</td>
<td>LV, LT</td>
<td>4459</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²) [C] 72 401

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1 For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively.
| Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²) [D] | 76 182 |

Indicator value for the country

\[ \frac{(A + C)}{(B + D)} \times 100\% = \]

\[ \frac{(46587 + 72401)}{(46587 + 76182)} \times 100\% = \frac{118988}{122769} \times 100\% = 0.97 \]

Additional information

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. "transboundary basins") is available, please attach them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in Geographical Information Systems should be sent.
IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? (Please describe):

   To agree on a common river basin management with those neighbouring countries, which are not the EU Member States and are not obliged to do so by the EU legislation.

2. What have been the main achievements in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? What were the keys to achieving that success? (Please describe concrete examples):

   Data exchange that provides information for the river basin management planning.

3. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (please insert):

   Ilona Vilne
   Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
   Environmental Protection Department
   Water Resources Division
   Senior consultant
   E-mail: ilona.vilne@varam.gov.lv
   Phone: +371 67026437

   Date: 26.10.2017. Signature:

4. Please include any additional information on the process of preparing the report (e.g., whether there was an exchange or consultation within the joint body or with riparian countries), in particular which institutions have been consulted (please describe): [fill in]

   Updated report

5. If you have any other comments please add them here (insert comments): [fill in]

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.