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MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

High-level workshop “Action across sectors and borders for sustainable future of the Drina River Basin”

Organized by UNECE with support from the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea

29 October 2019 Belgrade, Serbia (88 Rooms Hotel)

The aim of the **Drina River Basin Nexus follow-up project**¹ (2018-2019) was to foster transboundary cooperation and action across sectors, improving monitoring and knowledge about selected factors affecting negatively water quality, support flow regulation and promote investment into sustainable renewable energy, continuing the energy-water dialogue.

This final workshop aims at, firstly, presenting to the beneficiary countries of the project results and, secondly, providing an occasion for a high-level dialogue around two key questions that are decisive for the future of the water- energy-environment nexus in the basin: How to better balance development (considering energy generation, land management and water use) and sustainability (including the environment) in the basin? How investment can help to more effectively strike that balance?

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome remarks

Mr Ivan Karić, State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia

Ms. Françoise Jacob, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Serbia

Mr. Kire Ilioski, Director of the Executive Secretary’s Office, UNECE

Mr. Salvatore d’Angelo, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea

9:30 - 10:45 **Presentation of results of the project** (by component)

1. Monitoring of water resources and information exchange in transboundary cooperation – Ms. Jelena Vićanović, Head of Water Protection and Use Department, Public Institution "Vode Srpske", Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Addressing the pressures on water quality: sedimentation – Ms. Marina Babić Mladenović, Executive director, Jaroslav Černi Institute on Water Resources

Questions and answers

3. Identifying options for formalizing a more optimal flow regime (including environmental flows) – Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

4. Supporting investment into sustainable renewable energy with multi-stakeholder dialogue – Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, secretary to the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, UNECE

¹ Implemented by the UNECE Water Convention secretariat in cooperation with the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy



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Questions and answers

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 **High-Level Panel 1: Towards more “nexus investments” for the Drina River Basin**

The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the European/macro-regional integration, simultaneously in multiple sectors, are major challenges. There is therefore an economic argument behind the need to “do more with less”, which is calling investors in all sectors to cooperate more and more towards the achievement of common goals. Since all sectors depend on the same environment (and, in the case of a river like the Drina, on the same water), ensuring environmental sustainability becomes a common interest of investors and policy makers.

The panel discussion focuses on investments that provide benefits for multiple sectors and that, as such, can be considered “nexus investments”, from eco-tourism to multi-purpose infrastructure. The panel involves policy makers, regional organizations and international financing institutions.

Moderator: Mr. Damjan Rehm Bogunović, Program coordinator at Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Belgrade

In the panel:

- Mr. Mirza Hujčić, Assistant minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Boris Erg, Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Mr. Zeljko Ratkovic, Manager of Department of Investment, Elektroprivreda Republike Srpske (ERS), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Petar Pižurica, Executive Director, Public Utility Company “Waterworks and Sewerage” Subotica
- Ms. Ângela Filipas, Senior Environmental Expert, European Investment Bank
- Mr. Peter Vajda, Senior Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat

Questions: *What type of investments with benefits for multiple sectors, and/or for the environment in addition to an economic sector, should be pursued? What opportunities are there and what partnerships can be formed? How to facilitate identification of cross-sectoral “nexus investment” projects?*

12:45 – 13:15 **Presentation of the High-Level Workshop’s Recommendations**

13.15 – 14:30 Lunch and coffee

14:30 – 16:15: **High-Level Panel 2: Tackling flow-related issues in the Drina: a case for joint action in the fields of Water Management, Energy, and Environment Protection**

All economic activities depend on a timely flow of adequate quantities of water, with fit-for-purpose quality. Currently, in the Drina Basin the regulation of flow is uncoordinated and sub-optimal, and this has an impact on both water availability and quality. The different



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users would therefore benefit from a holistic approach to basin management. Such an approach would for instance coordinate erosion control measures and solid waste management in the different sectors. To capitalize on the benefits, coordinated policy and technical actions at different levels, across borders are necessary.

The panel discussion focuses on flow regulation and the reconciliation of different water needs coming from different sectors, and reflect on the role of e.g. governance and information. The panel involves water, energy, and environment policy makers from the Drina riparian countries, cooperation organizations as well as power companies.

Moderator: Mr. Djordje Stefanovic, Regional Freshwater Program Policy Officer, WWF Adria

The panel:

- Mr. Mehmed Cero, Assistant Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment and Tourism, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Milan Gavrić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Republika Srpska
- Ms. Nataša Milić, Director, Water Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbia
- Mr. Momčilo Blagojević, Director, Water Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro
- Mr. Samo Grošelj, Deputy Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission
- Mr. Nikola Vukotić, Projects Manager, Montenegrin Electric Enterprise AD Niksic, Montenegro

Questions: *What can your sector, and your organization in particular, do to address the above issues/to implement the recommendations from the project? What does your sector need in terms of cooperation with the others? (Specific examples welcome!)*

Invited interventions: Supporting intersectoral action in the Drina River Basin

- Mr. Miloš Banjać, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Serbia
- Mr. Danko Gavrilović, Western Balkans Investment Framework
- Mr. Igor Palandzic, GEF-SCCF - West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Project
- Ms. Annukka Lipponen, UNECE – Opportunities to support specific intersectoral activities or projects: “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach” and the “nexus tool” checklist for sustainable renewable energy development

16:15 – 16:30 **Wrap-up of the workshop and concluding remarks**