Albania–Montenegro dialogue and joint activities over planned construction of several small hydropower plants on the Cem (Cijevna) river

A good practice case
Cem (Cijevna) River

The Cem, also known as the Cijevna, is a river that rises in Kelmend, Albania and after nearly half of its length crosses into Montenegro.
How it all started

Submission of Montenegro to the Implementation Committee expressing concerns about the compliance of Albania with respect to the planned construction of several small hydropower plants on the Cem (Cijevna) river.
How do “small hydropower plant” relate to activities listed in:

- appendix I of the Convention,
- the annexes of the Protocol?
Main topic:

If the proposed activities were likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact.
The Joint Commission

This issue was dealt under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol but also under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

The Joint Commission established under the 2018 Framework Agreement on Mutual Relations in the Field of Management of Transboundary Waters between Montenegro and Albania also progressed with the exchange of information.
Reporting to the Implementation Committee

- On the ongoing dialogue and progress;
- the activities;
- the information exchange.
Draft findings

Parties had properly fulfilled obligations under the Convention;

Albania was not in non-compliance with article 2(2) and (6) of the Convention (provisions not applicable);

Albania was not in non-compliance with article 10 of the Protocol (in the absence of a plan or a programme by Albania, the Protocol was not applicable).
Approval of the Decision

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Ninth session

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Fifth session
Applying the recommendations

Parties to continue dialogue under article 2 (5) of the Convention, ensuring that the cumulative impact of the proposed activities is properly assessed.
Thank you for your attention!