



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



3rd Regional Nexus Roundtable in South East Europe

***16-18 October 2019,
Tirana, Albania
Hilton Garden Inn Tirana***

Final Agenda

Organized by:

**Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

In support of the implementation of the
South East Europe 2020 Strategy, Dimension Environment

Contributing to the objectives of the
UfM Water Agenda 2030 and its Financial Strategy

Supported by:

**German Federal Environment Agency
GEF IW:LEARN
Austrian Development Agency**



Introduction – Objectives of the Roundtable

The 3rd Regional Nexus Roundtable follows up on the previous ones held in Belgrade in 2017 and in Skopje in 2018. The overall aim of these Roundtables is to assist towards achieving the Nexus-related objectives of the Dimension “Environment” of the **SEE2020 Strategy**, by facilitating Dialogue processes in the SEE Region for the incorporation of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus considerations in national and transboundary water resources management planning.

The 1st Roundtable (Belgrade, 2017) mainly set the stage on the introduction of the Nexus approach at the regional, transboundary and economies’ levels, while the 2nd one (Skopje, 2018) mainly took stock of the current status of integration and relevant initiatives in the region. This 3rd Roundtable mainly focuses on enhancing related capacities, on assisting towards the identification and prioritization of Nexus-related solutions, and on discussing potential next steps at the regional level.

The sessions of this Roundtable are structured in order to:

- Enhance capacities and increase awareness of participants, including through their engagement as players/stakeholders in the “Nexus Game”, a training tool / policy exercise in the form of a “serious game”;
- Share experiences from recent and ongoing Nexus-related Assessments and Policy Dialogue Processes in the SEE area and beyond;
- Explore preferred options, approaches, activities and settings for the advancement of Nexus perspectives and related cooperation at the regional and transboundary levels;
- Discuss types and characteristics of solutions to address Nexus-related challenges appropriate for the SEE area, as well as challenges around their promotion;
- Discuss priorities and options for the financing and implementation of Nexus-related investments, from the perspective of both financing institutions and the region’s economies;
- Discuss challenges and opportunities for increased women empowerment and social cohesion under an integrated sustainable approach in the management of natural resources

Simultaneous translation between English and the languages spoken in the Region will be available.

The Roundtable is organised by the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (**GWP-Med**) and the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (**BMU**). It is funded by

- BMU’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union in the framework of the project “Water-Food-Energy-Environment Nexus Policy Dialogue Process in South East Europe”, supervised by the German Federal Environment Agency (**UBA**), and
- The Global Environment Facility (**GEF**) through its programme “International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network (**IW:LEARN**)”, Activity 2.3: Supporting Regional Cooperation on Shared Water Resources through Dialogue

Co-financing is provided from the Austrian Development Agency (**ADA**) in the framework of the project "Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach", implemented by GWP-Med and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The Roundtable also contributes to the objectives of the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Agenda** and the UfM Financial Strategy for Water, which were endorsed by the UfM Senior Officials on 17th December 2018.

Wednesday, 16 October 2019 – Day 1

The first day of the Roundtable, focuses on enhancing capacities and increasing awareness of participants. They will engage as players/stakeholders in a “serious game” simulating the interlinkages between water, energy, food, and environment in a transboundary context.

11.00 – 11.15 **Registration & Coffee**

11.15 - 11.30 **Welcoming - Outline and objectives of the Roundtable**
Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med

11.30 – 13.30	The Nexus Game – Part I
----------------------	--------------------------------

- **Introduction to the Nexus Game**, *Piotr Magnuszewski, Centre for Systems Solutions*

The Nexus Game is a laboratory for practicing strategy, collaboration and leadership in a complex environment such as a transboundary river basin. It is much more than a game; it is a social simulation that brings together stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and values. For a couple of hours, they will interact with each other in a shared, safe environment, which reflects the key aspects of the real world (Drin river basin). They will have an opportunity to face the problems related to complex interconnections between water, energy, food, and environment, to confront opposing views, and solve conflicts via negotiations and dialogue. The results of the simulation will be debriefed providing inspirations for tackling the real world challenges and ideas for new, integrated solutions.

13.30 – 14.30 **Lunch**

14.30 – 16.30	The Nexus Game – Part II
----------------------	---------------------------------

The Nexus Game to resume after the lunch break

16.15 – 16.30 **Coffee break**

16.30 – 17.30 Debriefing on the outcomes of the Nexus Game

End of Day 1

19.30 **Evening reception dinner at the Hotel**

Thursday, 17 October 2019 – Day 2

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration & Coffee**

09.00 – 10.00	OPENING SESSION
----------------------	------------------------

09.00 – 10.00 Welcoming Addresses

- Ms. Ornela Çuçi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Ms. Gerta Lubonja, General Director, Water Resources Management Agency, Albania
- Ms. Simone Ungersboeck, Head of Tirana Office, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Mr. Radovan Nikčević, Expert on Connectivity, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat
- Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Environment and Water Division, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (via video)
- Mr. Mish Hamid, Project Manager, GEF IW:LEARN & LME:LEARN
- Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

10.00 – 11.00	SESSION 1: Developments and outcomes of Nexus-related activities and initiatives in the SEE area and beyond
----------------------	--

The aim of the session is to share experiences from recent and ongoing Nexus-related Assessments and Policy Dialogue Processes in the SEE area and beyond.

10.00 – 10.30 Presentations by:

- Recent and planned Nexus Assessments in the Drin and Drina Basins, and in Albania – *Lucia De Strasser, Consultant, UNECE*
- Nexus in the Mediterranean: UfM and the UNEP/MAP GEF MedProgramme - *Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary GWP-Med*

10.30 – 11.00 Discussion

11.00 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 – 13.00	SESSION 2: After the Assessments – Identifying, sharing and promoting Nexus solutions at the national and Transboundary levels
----------------------	---

Representatives of utilities and the the private sector, and civil society organisations from the SEE area will share experiences and insights on the types and characteristics of solutions to address Nexus-related challenges appropriate for the SEE area, on how to identify them and on challenges around their promotion.

11.15 – 12.30 Panel Discussion (Facilitator: Lucia De Strasser, UNECE)

- Mr. Arben Mukaj, Irrigation and Drainage Programs and Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania
- Mr. Artur Mustafaraj, Manager, KESH sh.a, Albania
- Ms. Elisabeta Poci, Deputy Executive Director, Water Supply and Sewerage Association, Albania

- Mr. Ulrich Eichelmann, CEO, Riverwatch
- Ms. Velimirka Perišić, Elektroprivreda Crne Gore, Montenegro

12.30 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 16.00	SESSION 3: Accelerating the financing and implementation of Nexus-related investments in the SEE area
----------------------	--

This session aims to present national initiatives for the prioritization and financing of Nexus-related solutions and investments through cross-sectoral strategies (including NDCs, NAPs, Country Programmes to the GCF), regional and sectoral strategies and priorities of donors and financing institutions active in the region, as well as available and emerging financing instruments and schemes.

14.00 – 15.30 Panel Discussion (*Facilitator: Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med*)

Panel 1

- Mr. Arduen Karagjozi, Director of Strategic Management, Water Resources Management Agency, Albania
- Ms. Miroslava Nenadić, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro
- Mr. Baton Begolli, Water Policy Adviser, Inter-Ministerial Water Council, Kosovo¹
- Ms. Melita Gocevska, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia
- Mr. Igor Jevtić, Senior Expert Associate, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panel 2

- Mr. Ervis Sulejmani, Directorate of EU Funds, NIPAC Support Office, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Albania
- Ms. Simone Ungersboeck, Head of Tirana Office, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Ms. Merita Meksi, Deputy Manager, GIZ Office in Albania

15.30 – 16.00 Discussion

16.00 – 16.15 *Coffee break*

16.15 – 18.00	SESSION 4: The dimension of gender and/or marginalized communities in advancing a Nexus approach
----------------------	---

This session aims to identify and discuss the main challenges around ensuring equitable access to services in the Nexus sectors, as well as opportunities for increased women empowerment and social cohesion under an integrated sustainable approach in the management of natural resources.

16.15 – 17.30 Panel Discussion (*Facilitator: Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med*)

- Ms. Ljiljana Loncar, Adviser to the Deputy PM, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Serbia

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- Ms. Verica Trajkova, National Council for Gender Equality, North Macedonia
- Ms. Etleva Martiri, Programme Manager, Tirana Office, Austrian Development Agency
- Ms. Evis Gjebrea, Deputy Director, Tirana Water Utility
- Ms. Mirela Arqimandriti, Director, Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Albania
- Ms. Anila Aliaj, Gender and Institutional Adviser, CNVP Albania

17.30 – 18.00 Discussion

End of Day 2

19.30 ***Dinner***

Friday, 18 October 2019 – Day 3

08.30 – 09.00 ***Registration & Coffee***

09.00 – 10.45 **SESSION 5: The road ahead – options and steps on how the promotion of the Nexus approach will contribute to regional and transboundary cooperation and related solutions in the SEE area**

This session consists of an open discussion among representatives of government institutions as well as other key stakeholders from the Region aiming to identify preferred options, approaches, activities and settings for the advancement of Nexus perspectives and related cooperation at the regional and transboundary levels. (For more information please refer to the Concept Note for the Roundtable).

09.00 – 09.30 Recap of the proceedings of the Roundtable and suggested outline of a Regional Nexus Roadmap – *Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med*

09.30 – 11.00 Tour de table – Government representatives and other participants share insights in plenary

11.00 – 11.30 **CLOSING SESSION**

Concluding remarks by

- Ms. Ornela Çuçi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Mr. Mish Hamid, Project Manager, GEF IW:LEARN & LME:LEARN
- Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med

End of the open sessions of the Regional Roundtable

Closed Session for representatives of Nexus-related Ministries in the SEE area

11.30 – 13.30	Nexus Group Meeting
----------------------	----------------------------

- Discussion: A Regional Nexus Roadmap to guide the achievement of the Nexus-related objectives of the SEE2020 Strategy - Dimension Environment

13.30 – 14.30 **Lunch**