

***Regional Roundtable on “The path towards Water, Energy,
Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Southeastern Europe”***

&

Nexus Ministries Meeting

***Skopje
23-24 October 2018***

Report

Organized by:

**German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean**

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

Supported by:

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



A. Introduction

Natural resources management in SEE area and the Nexus approach

Despite efforts over the past decades, and though several advancements have been achieved, integrated natural resources management remains a substantial challenge in South East Europe (SEE). Unsustainable management of natural resources has been affecting directly and indirectly economic growth, human prosperity as well as the environment and ecosystems.

Increased cooperation for the management of shared natural resources in SEE, such as water, is an element of paramount importance for sustainable economic growth and human welfare; the reason is that 90% of the area of SEE falls within shared basins. Currently, effective cooperation for the management of shared waters is present in a number of areas of SEE but, overall, it remains limited.

The Nexus approach in the SEE2020 area

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (Nexus) approach has been introduced in the natural resources management agenda to facilitate the enhancement of water, energy and food security, while preserving ecosystems and their functions, and increasing climate resilience, by reducing trade-offs, shifting towards more sustainable consumption patterns and improving demand management, building synergies and improving governance across sectors. A Nexus approach supports the transition to a Green Economy, which aims, among others, at resource use efficiency, greater policy coherence including towards GHG emission reductions and adaptation resilience.

In the SEE2020 region, existing good practices related to Nexus include:

- The establishment of inter-ministerial coordination bodies;
- Consultative bodies e.g. for rural development;
- The integration of water and biodiversity targets in agriculture and/or rural development plans;
- Nexus conflict studies to identify synergies.

However, many policy and management areas to better address the Nexus still show significant gaps and possibilities for improvement. In general, the administrative system established foresees several authorities to share the competencies for the specific Nexus sectors, with one 'line' authority leading initiatives.

Specific coordination action has been in place in some cases for the set-up of strategies and plans, such as the drafting of the Sava River Basin Management Plan or the Rural Development Programmes. However, it remains unclear how strong the integration of the different Nexus sectors has been and how it has focused on synergies beyond negotiations and /or trade-offs. Policy development via regulation, strategies or plans is often characterized by:

- Formal cooperation, not necessarily translating into policy integration;
- Isolated efforts;
- Lack of common targets;
- Overlapping responsibilities and competing objectives among local and central governments.

The following main trade-offs are identified among Nexus sectors in SEE:

1. Water allocation between different users, in particular during drought events;
2. Increasing river flow regulation for electricity generation by hydropower;

3. Nature conservation areas being affected by hydropower developments;
4. Hydro-peaking and subsequent ecosystem deterioration by the operation of dams;
5. Downstream impacts of dam operations during floods;
6. Increasing energy needs for food production, e.g. irrigation, fertilization, transport;
7. Pollution of surface and groundwater by pesticides and nutrients, and their treatment including costs;
8. Land-use intensification and loss of certain habitats/ecosystems;
9. Water and land resources needed for biofuel production as part of renewable energy sources;
10. Deforestation and biodiversity loss due to unregulated cutting of fuelwood.

Multiple benefits have been identified from the application of the Nexus approach in SEE, including:

- Economic benefits, such as increased mid- and long-term viability of economic activities, development of the agricultural sector, sustainable tourism, etc.
- Social and environmental benefits, such as employment creation, improved water services for users, etc.
- Regional cooperation and geopolitical benefits. Such as development of regional markets for goods, services and labour, increased cross-border investments, etc.

Possible pathways and the way ahead of the Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE

Through the Regional Nexus Assessment Mapping Study, the following five pathways have been identified as possible suitable entry points for advancing the Nexus Approach in SEE:

- **Implementation of past recommendations:**
 - Implementation by concerned economies of recommendations already provided through strategic documents and reports;
 - Self-assessment of implementation and barriers;
 - Regional identification/establishment of further funding sources for implementation;
 - Regional exchange and monitoring of good practices and lessons learned during implementation;
- **Optimisation of planning for benefits and resilience:**
 - Fostering early vertical and inter-sectoral cooperation within governmental authorities;
 - Coordination/integration of the different timeframes and geographic scales for planning in different sectors;
- **Development of new pilots and learning from past/existing:**
 - Setting up pilot experiences on different actions in the economies e.g. on alternative technologies or governance set-ups;
 - Drawing lessons learned;
 - Sharing and comparing experiences at regional level;
 - Upscaling implementation after the first learning cycle;
 - Document the process and experiences at regional level;
- **Prioritizing (climate change) resilience:**
 - Develop planning based on resource availability and demand projections;
 - Promote climate-resilient and no-regret measures, including resource efficiency and nature-based solutions;
- **Underpin decision-making with improved data:**
 - Improve available monitoring, datasets, information;
 - Promote procedures and platforms for accessibility and understanding.

[More background information is available in section E. Background - The Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE]

B. The Regional Roundtable on “The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Southeastern Europe (SEE)”

The Regional Roundtable was organized by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (**BMU**) and the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (**GWP-Med**) under the auspices of the **Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning** of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It's organization is part of the Global Environment Facility (**GEF**) **IW:LEARN** program, the Project “*Water-Food-Energy-Environment Nexus Policy Dialogue Process in South East Europe*” (**SEE NPDP**) supported by the German Federal Environment Agency (**UBA**) and the Project “*Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach*” (**NEXUS Project**) supported by the Austrian Development Agency (**ADA**).

The Roundtable is a contribution to the implementation of the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy, aiming to assist towards achieving the objectives under its Dimension “Environment”, part of the “Sustainable Growth” Pillar. It builds upon the outcomes of the Regional Roundtable on “Introducing and Operationalizing Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in South East Europe (SEE)” and the First Closed Session on Nexus/ Nexus Ministries meeting, held on 20-22 June 2017 in Belgrade. It is part of a series of dialogue events aiming to catalyze action for concrete implementation of the Nexus approach in the SEE. These also include (i) the International Roundtable on “Water and Energy Nexus in Transboundary Basins” in Southeastern Europe, 6-8 November 2013 in Sarajevo, and (ii) the Regional Roundtable on “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in Southeastern Europe”, 9-10 December 2014 in Zagreb.

The overall objectives of the Roundtable were to:

- Provide a platform for economies to assess their progress regarding the implementation of past recommendations of strategic documents and projects;
- Discuss possible pathways for Advancing the Nexus Approach in SEE;
- Promote knowledge exchange and cross-fertilization among participating stakeholders.

The Roundtable gathered more than seventy (70) participants (of which 26 were women) including representatives of Ministries from the SEE2020 area responsible for Water, Agriculture/Land, Energy and Environment as well as representatives of other stakeholders in these sectors such as academia, NGOs, energy/private sector, regional and international organizations.

The Agenda of the Roundtable is given in Annex 1. *Agenda of the Nexus Regional Roundtable.*

The list of participants is given in Annex 2. *List of Participants of the Nexus Regional Roundtable.*

The recommendations of the Roundtable as discussed and agreed upon during the closing session are presented below:

Roundtable Conclusions & Recommendations:

- 1) Representatives of institutions from the SEE2020 economies participating in the event reaffirmed the beneficial role of the Nexus Policy Dialogue at the SEE2020 in promoting coordination among economies and integration among sectors. They consider that activities in this regard should continue.

- 2) Participants in the Roundtable affirmed that the value and benefits of a Nexus approach are manifold and spread beyond the relevant sectors, including:
- For the economy:
 - Reduced risks and associated costs from floods and droughts
 - Greater value added in agriculture sector as well as tourism
 - Increased efficiencies in the consumption of resources and use of infrastructure resulting to reduced overall costs
 - For the environment:
 - Improved conservation and recovery of ecosystems and habitats
 - For the Society:
 - Generation of a common vision, and a sense of perspective and direction
 - Improved public health
 - Improved water-sanitation services
 - Employment opportunities
 - For Regional cooperation and politics
 - Enhanced cooperation in the management of shared resources also through the adoption of new cross-border agreements, common regulations and protocols
 - Development of regional markets
 - Increased and optimized trade
 - Facilitation of compliance with requirements and targets relevant to EU accession
- 3) Suggested Nexus-related solutions include:
- a) Multipurpose use of the existing and planned infrastructure
 - b) Optimisation of flow regulation e.g. improved cooperation in operation of hydro plants, etc.
 - c) Promotion of efficiency in the production and use of energy and resources; increased integration of renewables sources beyond hydropower
 - d) Further integration of the energy and agriculture sectors in the River Basin Management planning and implementation process
 - e) Ensuring the sharing of and access to up-to-date data, in a user-friendly and manageable manner
 - f) Improvement of the interface between science and policy-making
 - g) Introduction of economic valuation of ecosystems and their services including in relation to erosion, floods, water quality
 - h) Exploration of further potential economic synergies e.g. ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, rural development
 - i) Capturing synergies from wastewater treatment – energy production – agriculture
 - j) Improvement of capacities, raising awareness
- 4) Management norms and schemes that are used by any of the Nexus sectors should adapt to a Nexus approach in order for benefits and synergies to be fully captured.
- 5) In the case of hydro plants operated by different entities in one river, especially in a transboundary context, official agreement on a well-regulated coordination system is needed to optimise shared benefits on energy production, flood control, minimum ecological flows. Individual operators that may face costs under an overall optimisation approach could be offered bonus and/or compensation schemes.

- 6) A successful implementation of institutional and policy integration under the Nexus could stimulate the adoption of similar integrated approaches into other sectors or challenges e.g. in climate policy, waste management, disaster risk reduction, forests etc.
- 7) Suggested way ahead to capture the benefits of an efficient Nexus approach, include:
 - a) Optimisation of planning:
 - Foster early vertical and inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation within governmental authorities; Coordinate/integrate the different timeframes and geographic scales for planning in different sectors; integrate the Nexus approach into strategic documents and local plans.
 - b) Prioritise resilience:
 - Develop planning based on projections of resource availability and demand
 - Promote climate-resilient and no-regret measures including resource efficiency and nature-based solutions
 - c) Better data and tools for better decision making:
 - Improve available monitoring, datasets, information
 - Promote procedures and platforms for accessibility and understanding of data
 - Develop fit for purpose Nexus analytical tools
 - Establish regional early warning systems
- 8) It is important to foster actions for the adoption of the Nexus Approach. Potential options can include the following:
 - a) Establish a Forum for sharing knowledge, experience & information and debate priority issues.
 - b) Establish a Nexus Research Centre in the SEE2020 Region to act as a hub for knowledge management and for providing assistance and capacity building to the Region's economies, also engaging the scientific community.
 - c) Promote the harmonization of data and indicators across sectors and economies.
 - d) Develop of pilot projects.
 - e) Identify existing financing sources and establishment of innovative ones, also engaging the private sector.
 - f) Implement Nexus Dialogues and develop Nexus assessments to cover as many basins and economies as possible.

C. The Nexus Ministries Meeting

The Nexus Ministries Meeting was held in the afternoon of 24 October 2018, in Skopje, Serbia, back-to-back with the Regional Roundtable on “The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Southeastern Europe (SEE)”. It was organised by GWP-Med and financially supported by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), the GEF IW:LEARN project and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). These closed meetings comprise of the members of the RWG Env and in addition representatives of the rest of the Nexus line ministries.

Thirteen (13) participants attended the Meeting including representatives of Ministries from four (4) of the six (6) economies of the SEE2020. All Nexus Sectors were represented in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina and two in the case of Montenegro. For Kosovo^{1*} the Secretary of the Inteministerial Committee participated.

The list of participants is given in Annex 3. List of Participants of the Nexus Ministries Meeting.

During the meeting, the overall background was presented to representatives of Ministries:

- detailed background of the Regional Nexus Dialogue, with special focus on introducing it to those that sat for the first time in a meeting that is part of the Nexus Dialogue;
- the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) being an initiative for political and economic coordination in the Western Balkans,
- the RCC SEE 2020 Strategy and its “Environment Dimension”, as well as the Nexus objective being a part of the SEE 2020 Strategy “Environment Dimension”.

Nexus Activities were also presented, including:

- the Regional Nexus Dialogue, i.e. set of three annual Regional Roundtables and Nexus Ministries meetings and their scope;
- the activities that are part of the ADA Project, i.e. two Transboundary Basins Nexus Dialogues (Nexus Assessment and Consultation Meetings) and one Economy (i.e. country) Nexus Dialogue.

The main points raised in the discussion that followed are listed below:

- Communication and coordination inside government institutions regarding the activities and decisions of the Working Groups under the RCC is often lacking.
- The Regional Dialogue is of benefit as it promotes cooperation among sectors.
- Initial insights were shared regarding the need, scope and characteristics of a proposed Strategic Document on the Nexus in the Region. It was advised that this is a Roadmap rather than a Strategy. The second has a more binding character hence its adoption would be more difficult.

Such a Roadmap should include steps and actions focusing on the following as means to advance integration among Nexus Sectors:

- Nexus assessments and dialogues to be implemented in the Economies would be beneficial as means for integration for the management of the Nexus related resources. In this regard Nexus assessments should be planned.
- Capacity building for the staff of the Ministries on Nexus related tools should be organised.

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.

- Nexus assessments in selected transboundary basins should be implemented. a potentially interesting case for future Nexus-related activities in transboundary basins is the Lepenac in southern Kosovo* and northern FYROM, a tributary to the Vardar river.

The meeting agenda is given in Annex 4. Agenda of the Nexus Ministries Meeting.

D. Background - The Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE

The Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE is a key instrument used to enable the achievement of the following main objectives:

- Support the discussion for the preparation of a regional Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems/Environment Nexus Strategy/Roadmap under the SEE2020 Strategy, describing steps and actions for the introduction of Nexus approach considerations in the basin/aquifer management frameworks at national and transboundary levels as means towards sustainable management of water, land, energy and environment.
- Facilitate of the discussions among the SEE2020 economies for the possibility of a Regional Integral Water Management Framework Agreement (RIWMFA) comprising among others of regional means and tools to assist in addressing challenges related to transboundary water resources management (TWRM).
- Foster cross-fertilisation of institutions and practitioners at regional and economies' levels.

The Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE builds upon the outcomes of the International Roundtable on Water and Energy Nexus in Transboundary Basins in Southeastern Europe, 6-8 November 2013 in Sarajevo, and the Regional Roundtable on "Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in Southeastern Europe", 9-10 December 2014 in Zagreb, which aimed to catalyze action for concrete implementation of the Nexus approach in the SEE.

Activities designed as part of the Regional Nexus Policy Dialogue in SEE

A set of activities has been developed as part of a Regional Dialogue to serve the key strategic action of the SEE2020 Strategy for Advancing the Nexus approach in SEE. Activities include:

- **Three Regional Roundtables** and three back-to-back **Nexus Groups Meetings** i.e. Meetings of Nexus Ministries representatives. The first Regional Roundtable and the first Meeting of Nexus Ministries representatives were held on 20-22 June 2017 in Belgrade.
- **Regional Nexus Assessment Mapping Study** to provide the conceptual and technical background to support and inform the Nexus Policy Dialogue process. The draft Study was prepared in July 2018 and will be finalized in October 2018 incorporating input from the representatives of the Economies and the participants of the October Roundtable.
- **Nexus Assessment in one SEE2020 economy.** The selection of the economy is ongoing.
- **Nexus Assessments in two transboundary river basins** in SEE, namely Drin River Basin (shared by Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo* and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Drina River Basin (shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia).

The Regional Dialogue is financially supported by:

1. *Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Environment Agency in cooperation with the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety through the "Water-Food-Energy-Environment Nexus Policy Dialogue Process in South East Europe" Project (SEE NPDP)*

The project aims to enhance integrated management of natural resources and transboundary cooperation towards sustainable development in the SEE2020 region, fostering the

introduction of the Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus approach and catalysing action for its adoption and implementation at the national and transboundary basin levels.

2. *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

It features a set of International Roundtables and Capacity Building activities in the South East Europe area introducing elements that came out as priorities under the IW:LEARN such as the Water -Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus. The activity envisages to result in strengthened capacities for transboundary cooperation on shared water systems in the region, as well as improved regional cooperation on key shared issues, such as sustainable hydropower.

3. *Austrian Development Agency (ADA) through the project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach” (NEXUS Project*

The Project is implemented by GWP-Med in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It aims to introduce the Nexus approach to the ministries responsible for and the stakeholders related to the nexus sectors, facilitate action for its adoption and identify those interventions that will enable water, energy and food security on the ground without jeopardising the well-being of the ecosystems, at regional, transboundary and economies levels.

The Regional Dialogue is operating in synergy with the following:

The ‘Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process’

The ‘Petersberg Process’ was initiated in 1998 and its on-going Phase II aims to provide support for translating into action the current developments and opportunities for future cooperation on transboundary river, lake and groundwater management in South East Europe. It is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the World Bank.

The ‘Athens Declaration’ Process concerning Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge was launched in 2003 at the Vouliagmeni International Conference (as part of the activities of the Greek Presidency of the European Union) with the primary aim to assist development of Integrated Water Resources Management Plans and related actions in SEE; it is jointly supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank.

Since 2005, the ‘Petersberg Phase II Process’ works in synergy with the ‘Athens Declaration Process’ under the joint Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (Process) to facilitate the enhancement of cooperation in transboundary basins in the SEE region.

The Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process for the enhancement of transboundary water resources management in SEE has been supporting since 2005 the building of capacity on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and the development of management plans for shared water bodies.

The Process is also strategically linked to the Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network (IWLEARN) on capacity building and sharing of experiences.

GWP-Med provides administrative support and is the technical facilitator of related activities under the Process.

The GEF through its IW:LEARN programme

The GEF supported IW:LEARN programme (2005 -) represents a cooperative effort of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), with the involvement of all GEF Agencies.

The IW:LEARN activities in Southeastern Europe aim to demonstrate innovative and feasible approaches to transboundary water resources management, by deepening multi-stakeholder dialogue and experience-sharing.

Since 2005 a variety of activities including regional roundtables, multi-stakeholders dialogues, targeted capacity building workshops and study visits, preparation of assessments, surveys and policy documents (on issues such as shared lakes basin management; multipurpose water management; shared groundwater management; climate change; stakeholders involvement; water-energy nexus etc.), have been implemented aiming at enhancing cooperation among SEE countries and stakeholders for the management of transboundary water resources. More than 150 stakeholder organizations, governments and other entities have been engaged in these activities.

Overall, the Process has been catalytic in facilitating coordination among key international and national players in the areas of focus and has attracted the interest of beneficiary countries and donors.

UNECE Water Convention

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was adopted in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996. Almost all countries sharing transboundary waters in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are Parties to the Convention.

The Water Convention strengthens transboundary water cooperation and measures for the ecologically-sound management and protection of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention fosters the implementation of integrated water resources management, in particular the basin approach. The Convention's implementation contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments on water, environment and sustainable development.

The Water Convention requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies. As a framework agreement, the Convention does not replace bilateral and multilateral agreements for specific basins or aquifers; instead, it fosters their establishment and implementation, as well as further development. In 2003, the Water Convention was amended to allow accession by countries outside the UNECE region. The amendment entered into force on 6 February 2013, turning the Water Convention into a global legal framework for transboundary water cooperation. As of 1st March 2016, countries outside the ECE region can accede to the Convention.

E. Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda of the Nexus Regional Roundtable.

Tuesday, 23 October 2018 – Day 1

09.00 – 09.30 *Registration and coffee*

Chair: *Mr. Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning*

Rapporteur: *Ms. Natalie Degger, Deputy Project Manager, GEF IW:LEARN*

09.30 – 10.30	OPENING SESSION
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09.30 – 10.00 Welcome Address

- *H.E. Mr. Jani Makraduli, Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning*
- *Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Head of Division "General, Fundamental, International and European Aspects of Water Management", German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)*
- *Mr. Klaus Leroch, Water and Sanitation Adviser, Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*
- *Ms. Natalie Degger, Deputy Project Manager, GEF IW:LEARN*
- *Ms. Lucia De Strasser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)*

10.00 – 10.05 Aims and objectives of the event

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med*

10.05 – 10.30 Keynote presentation:

- **The Regional Nexus Mapping Study: Background Study for the SEE2020 Region Nexus Policy Dialogue Process**
Mr. Guido Schmidt, Policy Advisor, Fresh-Thoughts Consulting

Q & A

10.30 – 13.00	SESSION 1: Nexus actions and initiatives – experiences from the SEE2020 area and beyond
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Session 1 presented current actions and initiatives towards addressing interlinkages among the water, food, energy and ecosystems/environment sectors in the SEE2020; it introduced also experiences from beyond the SEE2020 area. A discussion followed indicating lessons learned.

Moderator: GWP-Med

PART A. Economies

10.30 – 11.00 Presentations:

- **Nexus actions in Albania**
- *Ms. Gerta Lubonja, Director, Water Resources Management Agency*
Mr. Arduen Karagjozi, Director of Excellence, Water Resources Management Agency
- **Nexus actions in Ohrid basin**
Mr. Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee break

PART B. Transboundary basins

11.20 – 12.15 Presentations (continued) :

- **Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus and benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin**
Ms. Biljana Rajic, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of B&H
Nexus action in the Drin River Basin
GWP-Med
- **Nexus actions in the UNECE region**
Ms. Lucia De Strasser, UNECE

Q & A

12.15 – 13.00 Discussion in plenary

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 17.00	SESSION 2: Pathways towards Nexus sectors integration
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Session 2 discussed pathways towards addressing interlinkages among Nexus sectors and facilitating integration, focusing on the following main elements:

- Improving planning; and
- Adaptation to climate change.

PART A. Improving planning

14.30 – 15.00 Introductory presentation:

- **The Regional Nexus Mapping Study: Improving planning**
Guido Schmidt, Policy Advisor, Fresh-Thoughts Consulting

15.00 – 16.00 Experience on the ground

Representatives of ministries/institutions from different geographical and setocal domains presented the level and quality of coordination among Nexus sectors as well as how this can be improved.

- *Ms. Branka Knezevic, Head of Department for Primary Energy and Policy Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations*
- *Mr. Radisav Matic, Manager for Exploitation and PSPP Bajina Basta, JP EPS Belgrade*

- *Mr. Baton Begolli, Water Policy Advisor, Inter-Ministerial Water Council*
- *Ms. Minica Maras, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- *Ms. Holta Copani, Specialist, Project Unit, National Agency of Protected Areas*

16.00 – 17.00 Facilitated panel discussion and interaction with the participants

End of Day 1

19.30 Evening reception dinner

Wednesday, 24 October 2018 – Day 2

**09.30 – 12.45 SESSION 2: Pathways towards Nexus sectors integration
(continued)**

09.30 – 09.40 Recap from Day 1

09.40 – 11.15 Facilitated discussion in 4 Working Groups

Participants broke into 4 Working Groups: (1) water, (2) energy, (3) agriculture/ land use and (4) physical planning/ecosystems/environment. Each Working Group engaged in facilitated discussion on the needs of each sector to improve planning including:

- What are the main benefits of improved planning to each sector?
- What is needed in terms of data from other sectors and how can accessibility to data be promoted?
- How could vertical and intersectoral cooperation between/within government authorities be improved and how could coordination and integration of different timeframes and geographic scales between sectors be optimized?

- *Moderator: Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-Med*

Presentation of conclusions of the Working Groups in plenary and discussion

11.15 – 11.45 Coffee break

PART B. Adaptation to climate change

Moderator: Guido Schmidt, Policy Advisor, Fresh-Thoughts Consulting

11.45 – 12.45 Presentations of climate change adaptation measures as basis to enhance Nexus sectors integration.

Representatives of ministries/institutions spoke about the climate change adaptation plans and documents and how these contribute in the

integration of nexus sectors and assist in addressing linkages and interdependencies. Discussion in plenary followed including representatives of international organizations.

- *Ms. Miradije Gerguri, Senior officer for nature values – Department of Environment Protection*
- *Ms. Teodora Grncharovska, State Counselor on climate change*

12.45 – 13.45	SESSION 3: Roadmap towards Nexus integration
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The session discussed possibilities to meet the objective of the SEE2020 Strategy to “*identify steps and measures necessary for advancing the Water, Energy and Food nexus approach at national and trans-boundary levels and investigate opportunities of launching a political process under the RCC for the enhancement of cooperation in the SEE in the field of Transboundary Waters Management*” by discussing orientations, partners, capacities and steps for the introduction of Nexus approach considerations in the basin/aquifer management frameworks.

12.45 – 12.55 Introductory presentation

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-Med*

12.55 – 13.45 Facilitated discussion in plenary

13.45 – 14.00	CLOSING SESSION
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The Rapporteur presented the summary of discussions and the outcomes of the Roundtable.

Rapporteur: Ms. Natalie Degger, Deputy Project Manager, GEF IW:LEARN

- *Mr. Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning*
- *Ms. Lucia De Strasser, UNECE*
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med*

14.00 – 15.00 *Lunch*

End of the open sessions of the Regional Roundtable

Annex 2. List of Participants of the Nexus Regional Roundtable.

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position
1	Mr.	Guri	Ademaj	Ministry of Agriculture	Director of Agriculture
2	Mr.	Kasim	Agovic	Nature and environmental protection Agency	Independent Water Advisor
3	Ms.	Slevjanna	Andonas	Ecomosaic consultancy	Consultant
4	Mr.	Todor	Anovski	Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, University of ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje	Professor on doctoral studies
5	Mr.	Ljubomir	Arsov	Faculty of Technology and metallurgy, University St Cyril and Methodius, Skopje	Professor on Doctoral study/Professor Doctor Engineer
6	Ms.	Fjona	Bashi	Aarhus Information Centre Shkoder, Albania	Project Assistant
7	Mr.	Ferdinand	Bego	University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences	Professor
8	Mr.	Baton	Begolli	Inter-Ministerial Water Council	Water Policy Advisor
9	Mr.	Arban	Berisha	Civil Engineering and Architectural Faculty – Pristina University	Teaching Assistant- PhD Candidate
10	Mr.	Zogu	Besim	Kosovo Forest Agency	Director of the Central Directorate of Inspection, for Forestry and Hunting
11	Ms.	Maja	Bevanda	Federal Ministry of environment and tourism	Senior correspondent - database manager
12	Mr.	Dimirios	Bogiatzis	GWP-Med	
13	Ms.	Emilija	Bozhinovska	REC	Skopje Office
14	Mr.	Shpati	Braho	National Environment Agency in Albania	Specialist of Sector of Laboratory Analysis at the Department of State and Quality of Environment
15	Ms.	Holta	Copani	National Agency of Protected Areas	Specialist, Project Unit, National Agency of Protected Areas, Albania
16	Mr.	Edmond	Çuni	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Legal officer
17	Ms.	Lucia	De Strasser	UNECE	
18	Ms.	Natalie	Degger	GEF IW:LEARN	Deputy Project Manager
19	Ms.	Makfirete	Dibrani	MESP / River Basin Regional Authority	Head of the Water Resources Management Division
20	Ms.	Frances	Dixon	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean	Communication Officer
21	Ms.	Svetlana	Djuraskovic	NGO EKOVIVA	Secretary

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position
22	Mr.	Agron	Dreshaj	Regional Water Company Hidrodrini	Technical manager
23	Mr.	Pavle	Duraskovic	Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology	Head in Environment Department
24	Mr.	Dimitris	Faloutsos	Deputy Coordinator	GWP-Med
25	Ms.	Miradije	Gerguri	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING	Senior Officer for Protection Nature Value
26	Ms.	Simona	Getova	Energy Community	Intern
27	Mr.	Enver	Halipaj	State Inspectorate of Environment, Forests and Waters of Albania	ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR
28	Mr.	Dzelal	Hodza, Hodzic	NGO "Green Step"	Executive director
29	Mr.	Halil	Ibrahimi	University of Prishtina	Associate Professor
30	Mr.	Igor	Jevtic	Ministry of foreign trade and economic relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Senior specialist
31	Mr.	Arduen	Karagjozi	Water Resources Management Agency	Director
32	Ms.	Branka	Knezevic	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Head of Department for Primary Energy and Policy
33	Ms.	Iman	Krnjic	"GEJA" - Association for Ecology and Sustainable development	Law student, University of Sarajevo-Final year of Bachelor studies
34	Mr.	Tassos	Krommydas	GWP-Med	Senior Programme Officer
35	Mr.	Klaus	Leroch	Austrian Development Agency	Advisor Water and Sanitation
36	Mr.	Bali	Lestrani	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry And Rural Development	Head of Plants and irrigation Division
37	Mr.	Kiril	Lisichkov	University of ss.cyril and methodius at faculty of technology and metallurgy Skopje	Professor
38	Ms.	Gerta	Lubonja	Water Resources Management Agency	General Director
39	Mr.	Jani	Makraduli	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Deputy Minister
40	Ms.	Eneida	Mara	Albaforest	Project manager
41	Ms.	Milica	Maraš	Ministry of agriculture and rural development	Advisor I
42	Mr.	Srdovan	Marcalovic	Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia	
43	Mr.	Radisav	Matic	JP EPS Belgrade	Manager for Exploitation HP and PSPB Bajina Basta

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position
44	Mr.	Dasajen	Meçani	Albania Water Management Agency	Energy and water management analyst
45	Mr.	Nikos	Michopoulos	GWP-Med	
46	Mr.	Ylber	Mirta	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Head of Department for Waters
47	Mr.	Massimiliano	Monetti	RINA Consulting	Water Cycle Management Leader
48	Ms.	Myvedete	Muja	Ministry of Environmental and Spatial Planning	HIGH OFFICER FOR WATER RIGHT
49	Mr.	Erhan	Mustafa	Inkohem d.o.o.	PhD student faculty of technology and metallurgy UKIM Skopje
50	Mr.	Dejan	Panovski	GWP Med	Project Officer
51	Mr.	Roberto	Pedone	RINA Consulting	Expert Geologist of Project Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan
52	Ms.	Shehiada	Piraniqi	Environmental organization "Ylber"	Project Assistant
53	Mr.	Gert	Pustina	Hydrowater-Albania/& Consultant Polytechnic University	Technical Director
54	Mr.	Dragan	Radojevic	Geological survey of Montenegro	Head of department for hydrogeology and geotechnical investigation
55	Ms.	Severgjan	Radongia		
56	Ms.	Biljana	Rajic	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Senior Advisor
57	Mr.	Radosav	Rasovic	Directorate for Waters, Montenegro	Senior Advisor
58	Ms.	Vera	Raunik	Ohrid Municipality	Head of environmental department
59	Mr.	Mario	Roidt	Dorsch Gruppe	Project Engineer
60	Mr.	Guido	Schmidt	Fresh Thoughts Consulting GmbH	Senior Policy Expert
61	Mr.	Erlet	Shaqe	AEA-Albania Energy Association	Co-Founder/Chairman
62	Ms.	Enkeleda	Shkurta	National Environment Agency in Albania	Head of Sector of Pollution Release and Transfer Register, Department of Information & Statistics
63	Ms.	Anela	Stavrevska-Panajotova	Connecting Natural Values and People - CNVP	Country Director for CNVP Skopje
64	Mr.	Zoran	Stojanovic	Serbian Environmental Protection Agency	Head of National Laboratory Department

No	Title	Name	Surname	Organisation	Position
65	Mr.	Thomas	Stratenwerth	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Head of Division
66	Mr.	Arenc	Tema	Coordinator @AEA aea-al.org Development in engineering field, Department of energy, environment.	Engineer in the study-design sector of energy and environmental engineering.
67	Ms.	Nevenka	Tomić	Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology	Head of the Department for Water Quality
68	Mr.	Danco	Uzunov	PointPro Consulting	Manager
69	Ms.	Jelena	Vicanovic	Public Institution "Vode Srpske"	Head of department for water protection and water use
70	Mr.	Urim	Xharavina	Let's Do It Peja	Executive Director
71	Mr.	Elvir	Zecevic	RDA-UBA NGO (Regional Development Agency - Ulcinj Business Association)	Executive director
72	Mr.	Kasam	Zekjiri	Ministry of Environmental and Spatial Planning	Adviser

Annex 3. List of Participants of the Nexus Ministries Meeting.

	Name		Institution	Position
Mr.	Ylber	Mirta	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Head of Department for Waters
Mr.	Dragan	Radojevic	Geological survey of Montenegro	Head of Hydrogeology and Geotechnical Department
Mr.	Kasim	Agovic	Nature and Environmental Protection Agency	Water Advisor
Ms.	Milica	Maras	Ministry of agriculture and rural development	Advisor
Mr.	Baton	Begolli	Inter-Ministerial Water Council	Water Policy Advisor
Ms.	Biljana	Rajic	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Senior Advisor
Ms.	Branka	Knezevic	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Head of Department for Primary Energy and Policy
Ms.	Maja	Bevanda	Federal Ministry of environment and tourism	Senior correspondent - database manager
Mr.	Igor	Jevtic	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Senior specialist
Ms.	Lucia	De Strasser	UNECE	Consultant
Mr.	Dimitris	Faloutsos	GWP-Med	Deputy Regional Coordinator
Mr.	Tassos	Krommydas	GWP-Med	Senior Programme Officer
Ms.	Frances	Dixon	GWP-Med	Communications Officer

Annex 4. Agenda of the Nexus Ministries Meeting.

Wednesday, 24 October 2018

Closed Nexus Ministries Session for representatives of SEE2020 Ministries

15.00 – 18.00 Closed Nexus Ministries Session for representatives of SEE2020 Ministries
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Chair: *Mr. Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning*

Rapporteur - Moderator: *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med*

PART A. Roundtable conclusions

15.00 – 15.15 Presentation of the conclusions of the Regional Roundtable on “The path towards Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Southeastern Europe (SEE)”

GWP-Med

PART B. Meeting the SEE2020 objectives

15.15 – 16.00 Facilitated discussion in plenary: Priorities and possible next steps towards meeting the Nexus related SEE2020 Strategy objectives

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 – 17.00 Initiatives promoting the Nexus Approach for the sustainable management of natural resources in the SEE: Introductory presentation and facilitated discussion

- **ADA NEXUS Project;**
- **GEF/UNEP-MAP MedProgram Child 2.2**

GWP-Med