

Regional Roundtable
“Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus in Southeastern Europe”

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Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins under the UNECE Water Convention

by
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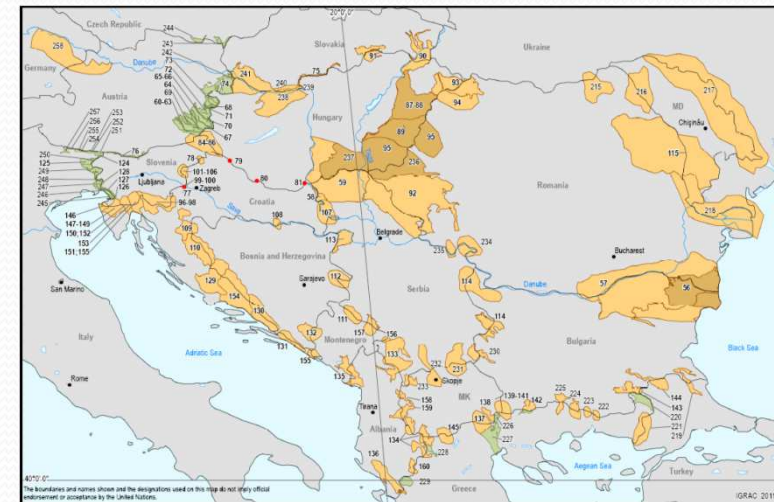
Background

- Regular assessments of transboundary waters; decisions of WC Parties in 2003 about regional assessments (2007, 2011)
- Findings from the latest pan-European assessment:
 - Frictions between sectors about water use in many basins
 - Policy integration and coherence remains weak across the region; there are painful trade offs.
- Little done about the nexus at transboundary level



Why is a nexus approach in transboundary basins of South-Eastern Europe important?

- Transboundary basins cover ~90%
- Pressures related to agriculture, water quality (wastewaters, mining)
- Economic development (hydropower and tourism) — opportunities to do it “right”, better, with less impacts
- Climate change impacts: one of the most affected regions — growing water scarcity/ increased floods calls for reconciling different uses



What does the resource nexus entail in a transboundary context?

- The trade-offs and externalities may cause friction
- Forming a holistic picture of the situation more complicated
- Finding a balance between various uses and protection of the resource: address the trade offs and increase synergies
- Necessary to coordinate plans & management measures between the riparian countries to avoid negative impacts from unilateral action
- More opportunity for benefits looking at the basin as a whole, only achievable through joint action



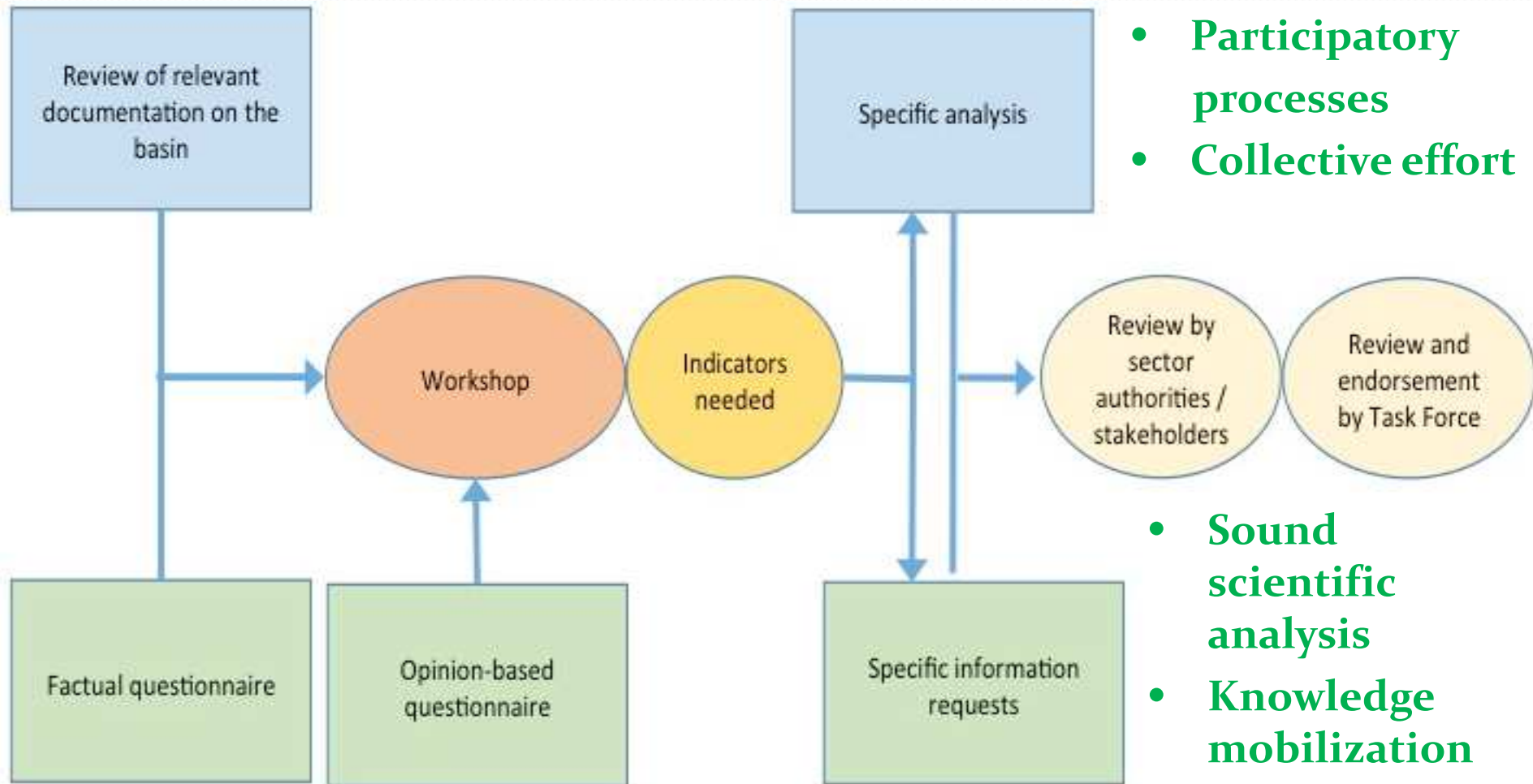
Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention in selected basins

- Work overseen and guided by the **Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus**
- Up to 6 basins to be assessed – pan-Europe, Africa, Asia; **different nexus settings**, climate, resource scarcity etc.
- **Key partners:** Finland (lead)/Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, FAO, Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm), GWP
- Generic **methodology developed** & piloted on the Alazani/Ganykh (Azerbaijan-Georgia); adapts to different basins; assessments of the Sava Basin & Syr Darya Basin on-going
- Findings to be endorsed by the TF (Geneva, 28-29 April 2015) & presented to 7th Meeting of the Parties (Budapest, 17-20 November 2015)

Aims at the basin level

- Support transboundary cooperation by
 - identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized in the different basins;
 - Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences of the nexus and help to optimize the use of available resources
- Help to move towards increased efficiency in resource use, greater policy coherence and co-management
- Build capacity in addressing intersectoral impacts

The process and some features of the methodological approach



- **Participatory processes**
- **Collective effort**

- **Sound scientific analysis**
- **Knowledge mobilization**
- **Capacity building**

Some lessons learned

- Even though already the intersectoral-transboundary dialogue has value, **adequate data is necessary** for a meaningful analysis.
- NO one-size-fits-all: **all the basins are unique** the application of the general approach and the process shapes differently.
- **Active participation needed from the countries** to shape the approach into a valuable, relevant exercise that supports policy and decisions at different levels
- Arranging, when possible, **follow-up opportunities** for getting the stakeholders to discuss the findings
- Identification of **synergies with other initiatives** important — promising partnerships have emerged (e.g. with FAO, GWP, JRC)

