
Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)

ECRAN Water Management Working Group Work Plan 2015

January 2015

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	Meaning
BAP	Best Agricultural Practice
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BEP	Best Environmental Practice
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BD	Bird Directive
BLS	Baseline Scenario
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CIS	Common Implementation Strategy
CP	Contracting Party
DPSIR	Driver, Pressure, State, Impact and Response framework for environmental analysis
Drina RB	Drina River Basin
DRB	Danube River Basin
DRBD	Danube River Basin District
DRBMP	Danube River Basin Management Plan
DRPC	Danube River Protection Convention
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
EA	Economic Analysis
EC	European Commission
ECRAN	Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network Project
EPER	European Pollutant Emission Register
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
EU	European Union
FASRB	Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
ERC	Environmental and resource costs
FB&H	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



FD	Flood Directive
GES	Good Ecological Status
HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Body
ICPBS	International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
IMPRESS	Impact pressures assessment guidance
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive
LSA	Less Sensitive Areas
MS	Member State
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NA	Normal areas
PE	Population Equivalent
PoM	Programmes of Measures
PPP	Polluter Pays Principle
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
RBM	River Basin Management
RENA	Regional Environmental Network for Accession
RS	Republic of Srpska
SA	Sensitive Areas
UWWTD	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
WAC	Water abstraction charge
WGs	Working Groups
WB	Water Body
WATECO	EU Guidance Document on Economics
WFD	Water Framework Directive



WMWG	Water Management Work Group
WSS	Water supply and sewerage sector
WW	Wastewater
W&WW	Water and Wastewater



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ECRAN – Water Management Working Group (Activity 2.3)

Background

The principal component of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) for each river basin district is the development of **river basin management plans** which will be reviewed on a six yearly basis and which set out the **program of measures and actions** required within each river basin to achieve set environmental quality objectives.

This requirement is relevant for the Drina River Basin with the special context that the three countries are members of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and of the International Sava River Basin Commission¹. When the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was adopted in October 2000 the countries cooperating under the Danube River Protection Convention decided through the Danube Declaration, to make all efforts to implement the Water Framework Directive throughout the whole basin.

The Danube River Protection Convention and the Danube Declaration represent the legal as well as political framework for cooperation and transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin. All Danube countries with territories > 2000 km² in the Danube River Basin are Contracting Parties to the DRPC.

Within the frame of ECRAN project, one of the activities implemented in collaboration with EC TAIEX Unit is organized to assist the experts involved in the WFD implementation, specifically in: (i) the elaboration of the River Basin Management Plan and related Program of Measures, (ii) performing the economic analysis in accordance with the WFD, and (iii) assessing the implications of policy synergy between the WFD and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The Water Management Working Group (WMWG) has been entrusted with the coordination of these tasks, in close cooperation with other WGs under ECRAN, and with TAIEX assistance in response to the identified countries needs.

¹ Montenegro is an Observer to the International Sava River Basin Commission. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the International Sava River Basin Commission and Montenegro has been signed in Belgrade on December 9, 2013. Montenegro is an Observer to the International Sava River Basin Commission



Beneficiaries

The ECRAN beneficiary countries include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo^{*2}, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, and the capacity building activities are directed to the experts from the competent water and environmental authorities, and other stakeholders/experts already being involved or expected to contribute to the WFD implementation.

Objectives

Overall objective

The WMWG's overall objective is **to strengthen national capacities** in the beneficiary's countries to implement the WFD, and facilitate the fulfilment of legal requirements towards EU accession process.

Specific objectives

This Working Group's objectives include:

- To ensure a more profound understanding of key topics based on countries needs and priorities related to transboundary river basin management
- To facilitate dialogue among the countries on specific concepts and actions that are needed to ensure WFD implementation
- To explore any national obstacles (involvement and commitment, data and methodologies, coordination and cooperation, capacity building needs) towards implementing the WMWG tasks and identify possible solutions.

This present Work plan of the Water Management Working Group (WMWG) covers the period January – December 2015, and also includes tentative dates which need to be agreed by EU and ECRAN project team.

The Workplan is organised around the WG tasks, including:

2.3.1 Organisation of annual Working Group meetings

2.3.2 Assistance in the development of transboundary river basin management plans (RBMPs)

2.3.3 Economic analysis in accordance with the WFD (cost recovery and cost-effectiveness considerations), including innovative systems of waste water treatment

2.3.4 WFD and Marine Strategy Framework Directive – objectives, synergies and approaches

² *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.



Task 2.3.1: Organisation of annual Working Group meeting

The scope of the task is to bring together relevant representatives of the beneficiary countries, discuss the needs and adopt agreed actions.

The 3rd Annual meeting of Water Management National Coordinators will take place on 10th of March 2015, in Montenegro, Podgorica. The tentative date for the 4th Annual meeting is proposed for 7th of March 2016.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	10 th of March 2015,	3 rd Annual Meeting of WMNCs
2	7 th of March 2016	4 th Annual Meeting of WMNCs

Task 2.3.2: Assistance in the development of transboundary river basin management plans (RBMPs)

This task is focused on provision of practical assistance to the beneficiary countries in the development of the Program of Measures in Drina River Basin, selected as a pilot basin, based on agreed set of criteria.

Further, in recognition of the potential benefits through **replicability across the whole targeted ECRAN project beneficiaries**, a number of Case Studies will be discussed, and lessons learned to date, best practices and cross - cutting recommendations will be summarised.

Subtask 2.3.2.1: Assistance for the preparation of the Program of Measures (PoM) in Drina RB

The development of RBMP specific topic will last all three years of the project 2014-2016.

A transboundary pilot river basin has been selected – Drina RB. A methodology will be prepared for developing the PoM as part of the RBM Plan in Drina RB.

Specific topics requiring assistance to facilitate the production of the PoM will be identified and presented for organising further capacity building.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	January 2015	First draft of the methodology for preparing the PoM as part of the RBM Plan in Drina RB. Methodology for identification of the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) in Drina RB



No.	Date	Key outputs
		Guidance on linking SWMIs with the PoM prepared Screening templates for SWMIs and transboundary issues prepared
2	March 11-12 2015, 3 rd Screening workshop + TAIEX assistance	Presentation, discussion, agreement on the concepts and screening templates content
3	April 2015	Comments on proposed methodology incorporated SWMIs selected
4	March – April 2015	Selection of specific RBMP development topics prepared Concept for pressures assessment in Drina RB for point and diffuse sources of pollution from agglomerations, industry and agriculture prepared and adopted Templates for collection of emission inventories for pressures assessment prepared and distributed for completion Templates for monitoring Templates for economic analysis Identification of national contributors
5	April – May 2015	Completion of all screening templates and results assessed
6	June – September 2015	Methodology related to the development of the PoM and the related Economic Analysis finalised
7	June 2015, 4 th Screening workshop + TAIEX assistance	Presentation, discussion, agreement on the methodologies and screening templates content for the PoM and Economic Analysis Case Studies and lessons learned to ensure replicability introduced
8	September – December 2015	Setting up of PoM process started Concept for Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) drafted Criteria for prioritization of investments proposed. Synergy with



No.	Date	Key outputs
		WG1 on strategic Planning and Investments
9	September 2015	Study visit to the EU MS institution(s) responsible for the WFD implementation, in cooperation with WG3 on EA (CZ?)
10	October 2015, 5 th Regional workshop + TALEX assistance	Presentation, discussion, agreement on the results of the PoM, CEA and ranking criteria. Integration issues and policy synergy consequences in Drina RB Assessing added value of Drina RBM Plan and PoM in the Danube/Sava context Lessons learned
11	December 2015	The list of specific RBMP and PoM development topics and related concepts for training updated.

Task 2.3.3: Economic analysis (EA) in accordance with the WFD (cost recovery and cost effectiveness considerations), including innovative systems of waste water treatment or water-pricing (water tariff settings)

Subtask 2.3.3.1. Approaching for selecting the most cost-effective combination of measures in Drina Joint Program of Measures

Economic considerations are key in the identification of the PoM: according to **Art 11 WFD**, the programme of measures aims primarily to achieve the environmental targets (i.e. good water status) while the measures under **Art. 9 WFD** aim at correcting incentives for water uses, achieving cost recovery and implementing the polluter-pays- principle. The approach is based on the **horizontal issues** (such as the cost recovery, cost effectiveness analysis, base line scenarios) assessed for each of the selected Drina Significant Water Management Issues (SWMIs) under the Task 2.3.2.

A **pragmatic approach to create a national data base in relation with water pricing policies** in order to identify proper solutions on Drina basin wide scale will be proposed and discussed. **Screening templates** will be prepared investigating questions such as: the main gaps identified in relation with implementing an adequate water price policy (i.e. assessment of environmental & resource cost, cross subsidies, lack of incentives instruments...), which economic sectors and water services are covered by the cost recovery calculations (full/partially), or about what kind of economic instruments (price/tariffs/contributions...) are used in relation with Polluter/ Beneficiary pays principles.



Subtask 2.3.3.1: Selection of EA theme for regional training

The scope of the training is to explore policy needs and prospective priorities in the field of water pricing, provide recommendations and suggestions on the **technical and policy lessons learned** through the review of water pricing systems in the selected countries around the following sub-theme pricing scheme models, cost recovery of water services, innovative economic instruments supporting water policy in the EU context and alternative options for water pricing schemes.

The **task will be linked and coordinated with the Strategic Planning and Investment activities** with respect to the link between the costs, the Program of Measures and its financing and prioritization.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	June 2015	Screening templates on economic analysis and water pricing policies available and distributed Approach for economic data base for Drina RB agreed Approach for performing CEA proposed Selection of indicators for prioritization of PoM investments in transboundary basins agreed
2	June 2015	EA theme for regional training selected and approved

Task 2.3.4: WFD and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) – objectives, synergies and approaches

The scope of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC (MSFD), adopted in June 2008, is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.

The MSFD mainly aims at (i) the establishment of the environmental targets and associated indicators to achieve GES by 2020, (ii) organization of the monitoring programme for the assessment and the regular update of targets, and (iii) the development of a programme of measures designed to achieve or maintain GES by 2020.

The MSFD sets out clear deadlines for each of the requirements, which can be in need for coordination with related tasks according to the WFD.

Therefore, it is relevant for the targeted ECRAN beneficiaries to benefit from the exchange of experience at the regional training, on the strong interlinkages between the WFD and MSFD, especially in relation to the development of the Program of Measures.



Further, the integration of the WFD and MSFD with the EU Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Recommendations provides the policy integration platform and opportunities for coupling coastal zone management with catchments basins and marine regions.

Within the task 2.3.4 “The WFD and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) – objectives, synergies and approaches”, a practical support on how to apply MSFD throughout initial assessment steps (data availability, selection of MSFD indicators and areas for assessment, etc.), and one country specific theme related to the key points of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, will be accomplished.

During the 1st Introductory Workshop on Marine Strategy Framework Directive, organized in Tirana (Albania) on 25th – 26th September 2014, the participants have agreed on two themes to be included as topic or subtopic into the regional training, as follows:

1) **Streamlined procedure for development of PoM:**

- Basic principles for the establishment of PoMs under the MSFD,
- Technical specification of environmental targets as a basis for measures,
- Gap analysis and identification of possible new measures,
- Implementation of planning
- Coordination with marine regions.

2) **The role and approach to implementation of MSFD for landlocked countries** included in the ECRAN project targeted beneficiaries.

In order to identify and select **country - specific topics**, relevant on the national level, which would be approached during the planned regional training, a **questionnaire** will be produced and circulate it to the whole ECRAN project beneficiaries. The list of the country specific topics will be considered in the preparation of the regional training agenda.

The regional training is scheduled for May 2015.

Subtask 2.3.4.1: Delivery of regional trainings to build the capacities of the beneficiary countries in the area of synergy and difference between WFD and MSFD

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	April 2015	Questionnaire on country - specific topics , appropriate on the national level and relevant for the synergy WFD – MSFD drafted and sent to all ECRAN project beneficiaries
2	May 2015	Compilation of responses and assessment report available for presentation at the regional training
3	May 2015	Regional training seminar on WFD and MSFD held (in cooperation with TAIX)



Subtask 2.3.4.2: Selection of the topic for up to one country specific and tailor made trainings on the key points of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation

Following the regional training and building on the results achieved, one country specific and tailor made training for selected topic agreed upon.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	December 2015	Prepare selection criteria for specific and tailored made training topic

Subtask 2.3.4.3: Development of country specific trainings to build the capacities of the beneficiary countries in the area of ICZM and MSFD implementation

No development of country specific trainings in the area of ICZM and MSFD is envisaged in 2015.

Subtask 2.3.4.4: Delivery of country specific trainings to build the capacities of the beneficiary countries in the area of ICZM and MSFD implementation

One regional training seminar is envisaged in 2015.



Summary ECRAN Water Management Working Group: Work Plan 2015

Water Management WG Activity 2.3	2013	2014	2015											
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Task 2.3.1: Annual Meeting		1 st Annual Meeting (February 2014)			2 nd Annual Meeting									
Task 2.3.2: Assistance in the development of the transboundary River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).	Preparation of draft criteria for selection of the pilot sites and approach to selection of specific RBMP topic	Selection of a pilot river basin for RBMP; Guidelines for screening (POM as a part of the RBMP, for Drina River Basin) Screening templates 1st Screening workshop on Pilot Drina River Basin, 23 June 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro More information and materials available for download at: http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/2014/2014-06-23-Drina-River-Basin-Screening-Workshop 2nd Screening workshop on Drina River Basin, 22- 23	Methodology for SWMIs Guidance on linking SWMIs with the PoM Screening templates for SWMIs Screening templates for transboundary issues	Completion templates Assessment reports	3rd Screening workshop + TAIEX assistance	Comments on methodology incorporated SWMIs selected Specific RBMP development topics prepared Concept for pressures assessment adopted Templates for emission inventories drafted Identification of national contributors Completion of all screening templates and results assessed		Case Studies and lessons learned to ensure replicability introduced 4th Screening workshop + TAIEX assistance	Methodology related to the identification of Drina vision and management objectives for each SWMIs adopted	Study visit to the EU MS institution(s) responsible for the WFD implementation, in cooperation with WG3 on EA	October 2015, 5th Regional workshop + TAIEX assistance Integration issues and policy synergy consequences identified The added value of Drina RBM Plan and PoM in the Danube/Sava context assessed Lessons	Setting up PoM process Concept and screening templates for performing Economic analysis drafted Concept for CEA drafted Criteria for prioritization of investments proposed Synergy with WG1 on strategic Planning and Investments The list of specific RBMP and PoM development topics and related concepts for training updated		



Water Management WG Activity 2.3	2013	2014	2015											
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		September 2014, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) More information and materials available for download at: http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/27										learned		
Task 2.3.3: Economic analysis (EA) in accordance with the WFD		Prepare proposal for EA themes EA theme for regional training selected and approved Questionnaire for assessment prepared and submitted to the Beneficiaries Assessment and deliver report on results (in cooperation with TAIEX) Final decision on EA theme for regional training TNA (in cooperation with TAIEX)						Screening templates on economic analysis and water pricing policies available Approach for economic data base for Drina RB agreed Approach for performing CEA proposed						



Water Management WG Activity 2.3	2013	2014	2015											
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		Regional Introductory Workshop on Economic Analysis in Accordance with WFD, Skopje, October 2014 http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/35						Indicators for prioritization of PoM investments in transboundary basins agreed EA theme for regional training selected and approved						
Task 2.3.4: WFD and Marine Strategy Directive – objectives, synergies and approaches		Proposal for topic for the regional training Selection the topic for regional training 1st Regional Introductory workshop on MSFD, 25 – 26 September 2014, Tirana, Albania More information and materials available for download at: http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/30				Questionnaire on country-specific topics, relevant on the national level, for the synergy WFD – MSFD drafted	Compilation of responses and assessment report available Regional training seminar WFD, MSFD held (with TAIEX)							Prepare selection criteria for specific and tailored made training topic



