

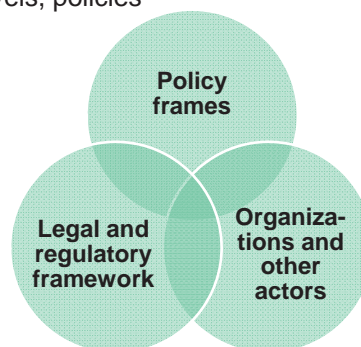
Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems Nexus in a nutshell

- **Objective:** To foster transboundary cooperation by
 - 1) Identifying intersectoral synergies;
 - 2) Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate tensions;
 - 3) Assisting countries to optimize their use of resources
- Series of assessments of intersectoral links, trade-offs and benefits in transboundary basins (incl. review resource base, resource uses, governance, ...)
- Methodology developed & successfully applied
- 4 basins assessed (Alazani/Ganykh, Sava, Syr Darya, Isonzo/Soča) and interest from diverse countries from EU and developing countries
- Participatory process: prepared in close cooperation with national Administrations (capacity building); governance assessment informs about the key actors; analysis focuses on jointly identified issues



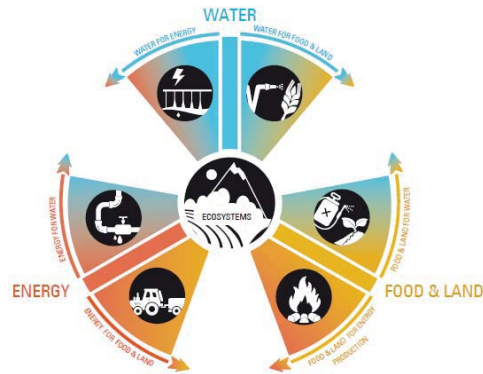
How can the Nexus assessment contribute to good water governance?

- Sectoral resource management -> friction between sectors and countries, economic losses from inefficiency, compromised sustainability
- Use of infrastructures not fully optimized (possible benefits to different sectors, lower resource use intensity possible...)
- Methodology provides for reviewing: legal and regulatory framework, institutions and actors at multiple levels, policies
- Early sharing of information and consultation on plans to consider different interests & alternatives.
- Going broader than conventional assessments: Nexus assessment to inform cooperation, policy and decisions for reconciling different resource uses!



Main categories of solutions identified

- **Institutions** (intersectoral, multiple level governance, engaging resource users, responsibilities etc.)
- **Information** (multi-sector information to support policy, assessing impacts across sectors, guidelines etc.)
- **Instruments** (economic instruments, SEA etc.)
- **Infrastructure** (built and natural – investments, operation, multiple use designs etc.)
- **International coordination and cooperation** (sharing information, plans, good practices etc.)



Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

- **Objective:** To support Governments and other actors in realizing the broad range of significant benefits generated by transboundary water cooperation.
- **Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication** developed, building on > 30 case studies worldwide, > 120 experts involved
- Step by step methodology on how to approach those tasks and how benefit assessment can be integrated into transboundary water cooperation policy processes (assessment to be tied to policy process!)

Governance benefits of transboundary water cooperation – Case of the North American Great Lakes



Cooperation generated environmental and economic benefits but also resulted in:

- Greater cross-border cooperation between government agencies and scientists
- Increased public engagement and the emergence of strong non-governmental organizations
- Increased transparency and accountability of federal activities

How can a benefits assessment contribute to good governance

- Transboundary water cooperation generates more benefits than usually perceived, some benefits are often overlooked

	Benefits for economic activities	Benefits beyond economic activities
From improved water management	Economic benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors (agriculture, energy generation, ecotourism) • Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities • Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts) ... 	Social and environmental benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health impacts from improved water quality • Employment and reduced poverty impacts • Improved access to services (electricity, water supply...) • Preservation of cultural resources or recreational opportunities. • Increased ecological integrity
From enhanced trust	Regional economic cooperation benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of regional markets (for goods, services & labour) • Increase in cross-border investments • Development transnational infrastructure networks 	Peace and security benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of international law • Increased geopolitical stability • New opportunities from increased trust • Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict • Creation of shared basin identity

- Assessing the broad range of benefits of cooperation to provide fact-based arguments for starting up or developing stronger cooperation
- Benefit assessment can help facilitate dialogue / launch cooperation process / consolidate existing cooperation through negotiations / support realization of advanced cooperation initiatives, such as joint projects

Assessment of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



Future plans:

- Application of the *Policy guidance note on benefits of cooperation* in a number of interested countries / basins (Okavango, IGAD expressed interest for comprehensive benefits assessment)
- Promote exchange of experience between benefit assessment exercises and similar activities worldwide through a workshop (2017)

OSCE could:

- Promote application of the *Policy Guidance Note on benefits* in basins, based on level of maturity of cooperation
- Level of ambition of the benefit assessment, selection of methodologies, involvement of stakeholders (policymakers, experts and beneficiaries) and strategies for communicating the results to be adapted to characteristics of transboundary cooperation process

Thank you



Upcoming major events

7th session of the Meeting of the Parties Budapest (17-19 November 2015)

Workshop on the Nexus (2016)

Workshop on assessing benefits of cooperation (2017)

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