

Memorandum of Understanding

for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin

GEF Project “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin”

***Draft Report Q1 - 2017***

The Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the Drin basin (Drin CORDA) is supported by the GEF Drin Project. Thus the latter constitutes an is institutional project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Drin Core Group (DCG), being the multilateral body responsible for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding serves as the Steering Committee of the Project. GWP-Med serves as the Secretariat of the DCG.

Disclaimer: *The document adheres to the UN rules and policies regarding the names and international status of countries and/or other geographical areas etc. The use of characterizations, names, maps or other geographical statements in this document in no way implies any political view or positions of the Parties which are executing and implementing the Project.*

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| **Activities and Results** | | | | |
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| **COMPONENT 1. CONSOLIDATING A COMMON KNOWLEDGE BASE** | | |  | |
| **OUTCOME 1: CONSENSUS AMONG COUNTRIES ON KEY TRANSBOUNDARY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY, REACHED THROUGH JOINT FACT FINDING** | | | | |
| ***Indicator: The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Extended Drin River Basin, consistent with the projects in accordance with the WFD in sub-basins, and identifying main issues of transboundary concern and drivers of change, is completed and approved by countries.*** | | | | |
| **Output 1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** | | | | |

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| *Planned* | *Overall* | 1. *Coordination and provision of technical guidance to officers and consultants, preparation and editing of technical reports, assurance of quality of outputs, coordination with institutions in beneficiary countries and territories* 2. *Coordination of and provision of technical support for the stakeholders’ consultation process* | ***1-12*** |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  Actrivities were performed as planned. The Project Manager and the Project Coordinator have been providing the necessary guidance to the project team and consultants, prepared and edited technical reports, assured quality of outputs, coordinated with institutions in beneficiary countries and territories. | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | | |
| *Planned* | *Development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report* | 1. *Information and Data collection/generation*     1. *Collection of data from institutions that generate or manage these and feed in Database and GIS*    2. *Sampling (chemical and biological) and analysis of samples*        1. *Interpretation of samples’ analysis data and preparation of related report*    3. *Working with a hydrological model for development of the water budget in the basin.*        1. *Development of groundwater module for the hydrological model that has been prepared through a GIZ project*       2. *Runs of the hydrological model and preparation of a model outputs technical report* 2. *Preparation of Thematic reports on:*    1. *Pollution*    2. *Institutional and Legal Setting*    3. *Biodiversity and Ecosystems*    4. *Socioeconomics*    5. *Hydrology/Hydrogeology*    6. *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus* 3. *Preparation of TDA Synthesis Report* | ***1-12***  *1-5*  *6-7*  *1-6*  ***1-9***  *7-9*  *7-9*  *1-7*  *1-7*  *1-9*  *7-9*  ***10-11*** |

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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  *1. Information and Data collection/generation*  *1.1 Collection of data from institutions that generate or manage these and feed in Database and GIS*   * + - * Letters were sent to all data-owning institutions (Responsible line ministries; Cadastre Offices; Hydrological/Meteorological Institutes; Hydrogeological/hydrogeological Institutes; Water and/or Environment Protection Agencies; Other relevant national and regional agencies) in the beneficiary countries with requesting to provide GIS and other data necessary for the preparation of the TDA. Project team members have been having meetings with the institutions to enable the collection of data. * Cooperation and coordination with other project and ongoing initiatives.   Related discussions have been made and agreement to cooperate has been reached with the following projects and initiatives working in the Drin sub-basins:   * + - GIZ supported projects: Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar (CSBL), that have been generating the past 4 years, information and data related to Hydrology, Pollution and Biodiversity.     - WB/SIDA supported project for the Development of the Management Plan for Drini River basin in Albania.     - SIDA supported project for the Development of the White Drin Management Plan for Kosovo;     - Number of other ongoing projects and initiatives in the Drin River Basin and Riparians.   *1.2 Sampling (chemical and biological) and analysis of samples.*  1.2.1 Interpretation of samples’ analysis data and preparation of related report.   * Following the **first ever sampling expedition and analysis of surface and underground water samples across the Drin Basin** in December 2016, a datasheet has been prepared to enable the structured and organized storage of the analysis results. The same datasheet will be used to store historical water pollution related data as well as data generated in the future. It will be a part of the database for the preparation of the TDA and will to feed in the Information Management System (IMS). * The interpretation of the results from the analysis of samples is planned for Q2, using the support of an International pollution expert. * ToR for the Summer 2017 Monitoring Campaign was prepared. The campaign will entail collection and analysis of samples from a number of monitoring stations as follows:  1. 4 countries, 50 monitoring stations; water samples will be analysed for Physico-Chemical, Heavy Metals and Priority Substances; 2. 4 countries, 25 monitoring stations; biological samples will be taken and analysed Monitoring (diatoms, macrophytes, macro-invertebrates).    1. *Working with a hydrological model for the development of water budget in the basin*       * + Discussion with GIZ ACC Project is ongoing regarding the use of the existing Hydrological Model for the development of the Hydrological/Hydrogeological Thematic Report. In meetings held in Tirana within Q1 it was explained that preparing a groundwater module for the model is technically complicated and difficult; the invested time and resources will result in a tool that will not be read in time and providing the necessary results for improving the analysis under the TDA. In this regard, it was decided to abandon the idea of preparing a groundwater module.         + Currently the model is being improved by GIZ and their consultant to make it more user-friendly.   *2. Preparation of Thematic Reports*  Six Thematic Reports will be prepared and comprise the analytical background of the TDA: (i) Pollution; (ii) Institutional and Legal Setting; (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems; (iv) Socioeconomics; (v) Hydrology/Hydrogeology; (vi) Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems.  For each Thematic Report:   * A Table of Contents (ToC) was prepared/updated and harmonized with the TDA ToC. * Datasheets that will be used by the national experts to collect and store the information were prepared. These will later be used to feed in the IMS that is being prepared (see below Output 3).   The companies/group of experts and individual consultants that will prepare thematic reports or will support the Secretariat/PCU in the development of thematic reports have been selected and contracted. The selection process included the following steps: preparation of ToR; Call for Offers announced at GWP-Med web page; Company/consultant selected following GWP-Med rules and procedures. The number and type of consultants hired for the preparation of each report are presented below; additional information is given regarding the progress of work.   * 1. *Pollution Thematic Report.*   It will be prepared by a Project Officer with the assistance of three (3) National Experts and one (1) International Expert. The National Experts have been contracted; a Project Officer will assemble information and provide expertise regarding Montenegro. The call for the International expert was launched.   * 1. *Institutional and Legal Setting Thematic Report.*   It will be prepared by a Project Officer in cooperation with UNECE with the assistance of four (4) National Experts, one for each country. The National Experts have been contracted.   * 1. *Biodiversity and Ecosystems Thematic Report.*   The report will be prepared by a consultancy company. The Call for Offers was announced in Q4 2016, and the contract signed in January 2017. The Inception Report was received in February 2017. The Thematic Report is expected to be completed in July 2017.   * 1. *Socioeconomics Thematic Report.*   The report will be prepared by a consultancy company. The Call for Offers was re-announced in Q1 2017, due to unsatisfactory/incomplete offers received after the first announcement in 2016. The company was contracted and the report is expected to be completed in October 2017.   * 1. *Hydrology/Hydrogeology Thematic Report.*   It will be prepared by a Project Officer with the assistance of the Seismological and Hydrological Institute of Montenegro and three (3) National Experts, one for each of the remaining beneficiary countries. The Institute and experts have been contracted.   * 1. *Water-Food-Energy Nexus Thematic Report.*   It will be prepared by a Project Officer in cooperation with UNECE with the assistance of four (4) National Experts, one for each country. The National Experts have been contracted.  Two meetings with the national experts and the companies have been organized in Tirana with the aim to coordinate the preparation of the Thematic Reports:   * + 9-10 March with national experts and ZaVita Company (Biodiversity and Ecosystems). The meeting clarified:     - the methodologies for data collection, data and info to be collected by experts and support to be provided from the Project in this regard, the content and structure of the expert’s reports vis-à-vis the TDA;     - The timeline of activities and deadlines for deliverables.   + 24 March – additional meeting with experts on Institutional and Legal Setting. | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  The development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Extended Drin River Basin has been initiated taking into consideration related on-going projects in Drin sub-basins:   * Fourteen (14) national experts and three (3) companies were contracted for data collection and preparation of Thematic Reports. * Preparation of 6 Thematic Reports commenced, with completion of the ToR, ToC for the Reports and respective Data-Sheets. * Contacts and cooperation established with national data-owning institutions. | | | |
| **Output 2.** *Driver or Change* | | | |
|  | *No action in 2017* | |  |
| **Output 3.** *Monitoring and Information Management System (IMS)* | | | |
| ***Indicator: Information management system containing data gathered through the TDA is established.*** | | | |
| *Planned* | *Overall* | *Coordination and provision of technical guidance to company, assurance of quality of outputs, coordination with institutions in beneficiary countries and territories* | |
| *Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter* | | | |
| *Planned* | *Development of the IMS* | 1. *Procurement and contracting – follow up* 2. *Work for creating the IMS, initiates and develops* | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  *1. Procurement and contracting – follow up & 2. Work for creating the IMS, initiates and develops*  Following a call of interest, a Consultancy company has been selected to implement the first phase of the Information Management System – IMS-1. The contract was concluded in Q4 2016. The work was slightly delayed in the beginning of 2017, due to health issues of the lead consultant. However, the work resumed in February 2017; the following were performed:   1. A Draft Inception Report was submitted in March 2017, containing:    * Detailed schedule of activities and deliverables with deadlines;    * Methodological Approach and next steps for implementation of IMS -1 2. Data/info collection on data management in the water/environment sectors:    * An inventory/questionnaire was prepared by the Consultant and distributed to key stakeholders/data owning & management institutions in all 4 Riparians; more than 30 Inventory Questionnaires were filled in by the national institutions in beneficiary countries and analysed by the Consultant;    * Project Officers enabled contacts between the Consultant and national institutions, and facilitated meetings for coordination and data collection; more than 25 meetings were organized between institutions’ representatives and Consultant team;    * A Draft Analysis Report is scheduled to be submitted in April 2017. | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  Actions for the development of the information management system have been initiated. The consultant that will analyse the monitoring and data collection systems and prepare the ToR for the development of the IMS have commenced work. More than 30 key stakeholders/institutions were met and/or filled-in the extensive, in-depth Inventory Questionnaire on current data management practices.  The interaction with the stakeholders is one of the means used for the project, hence the Drin CORDA, reaching out to national institutions and staff of all levels raising awareness and practically engaging them in the cooperation process (contributing to the achieving of Output 12 and 13 hence Outcome 6 and 7 respectively). | | | |
| **COMPONENT 2. BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MUTLI-COUNTRY COOPERATION** | | | |
| **OUTCOME 2: VISIONING PROCESS OPENS THE WAY FOR SYSTEMATIC COOPERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY DRIN RIVER BASIN** | | | |
| ***Indicator: The Shared Vision contained in the Drin MoU - updated in consistency with the findings of the TDA, and containing indication of environmental quality objectives (horizon 20 years), relevant indicators, and strategic development lines and priorities - is agreed upon by the countries.*** | | | |
| **Output 4.** *Shared Vision* | | | |
|  | *No action in 2017* | |  |
| ***Indicator: A Strategic Action Program (SAP with horizon 5 years) consistent with the updated Shared Vision and the Drin MoU, addressing main issues of transboundary concern and containing concrete actions at the national and regional levels, is formulated.*** | | | |
| **Output 5.** *Strategic Action Program (SAP) with a 5 years’ time horizon and consistent with the Shared Vision formulated* | | | |

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| *Planned* | *Development of an agreed process for the development and adoption of the SAP* | 1. *Preparation of a draft Strategy for the development of the SAP and a Concept Paper outlining the framework of action, the steps to be followed and the process for official discussions and negotiations for its adoption (Q2)* 2. *The draft Strategy/Concept Paper is presented to the EWGs and the DCG (Q2)* 3. *Incorporation of comments (Q3)* 4. *Discussion in the DCG and adoption of the document (Q4)* |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:*** | | |

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| **OUTCOME 3: COUNTRIES AND DONORS COMMIT TO SUSTAIN JOINT COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND TO UNDERTAKE PRIORITY REFORMS AND INVESTMENTS** | | |
| ***Indicator: Partnership Conference, aimed at raising awareness and interest of the international community and ODA providers on sustaining countries commitment to SAP implementation.*** | | |
| **Output 6.** *Partnership Conference* | | |
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| **COMPONENT 3. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT (IRBM)** | | |
| **OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN** | | |
| ***Indicator: The three Drin Core Group (DCG) Expert Working Groups (EWG) become fully operational making it possible for the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU and act as a Joint Commission.*** | | |
| **Output 7.** *High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established* | | |

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| *Planned* | *Support of the work of the DCG and its EWGs* | 1. *Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation including (list is not exhaustive):*    1. *Implementation of the decisions of the DCG and EWGs including identifying and mobilising the human and financial resources in this respect*    2. *Provision of technical support including but not restricted to preparation of background documents, concept notes, strategic papers, ToRs etc.*    3. *Communication with and among members of the DCG as well as the members of the EWGs to enable their operation (of DCG and EWG) fulfilling their role as coordinating bodies, and responding to ad-hoc requests in this regard*    4. *Identification of opportunities for deepening and enhancing cooperation and bring these opportunities to the attention of the DCG and Riparians for guidance*    5. *Liaising with the international development community for the identification of opportunities to attract additional support for the implementation of provisions of the Drin MoU that currently not being addressed*    6. *Information provision, awareness raising and strategic communication related to Drin CORDA*    7. *Promoting the Drin CORDA and the project in regional and international fora*    8. *See also under “overall” in the “Actions” column of the 2017 work plan*    9. *Etc.* | ***1-12*** |
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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  1st Quarter:  *1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation*  The operation of the overall institutional structure for the implementation of the Drin MoU was supported as planned:   * 1. Actions were undertaken for the implementation of the decisions of the DCG and EWGs; these actions are briefly described in the current progress report[[1]](#footnote-2).   2. Technical support including but not restricted to the preparation of background documents, concept notes, strategic papers, ToRs was provided etc1.   3. Communication with and among members of the DCG/SC as well as the members of the EWGs to enable their operation(of DCG and EWG) fulfilling their role as coordinating bodies, and responding to ad-hoc requests in this regard was facilitated1.   The Secretariat/PCU continued working with the DCG/SC members with the aim to facilitate the formulation/revision of the representation of the Riparians to the DCGs and EWGs so as this (representation) responds to the criteria decided in the 11th DCG/2nd SC Meeting. Both Ministries of Montenegro have officially appointed alternate members in the DCG/SC. An official letter of appointment of Albanian Members of the DCG and its EWGs from the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Water Administration, is still pending.   * 1. Identification of opportunities for deepening and enhancing cooperation and bring these opportunities to the attention of the DCG and Riparians for guidance.   The Drin River is important in terms of energy production. The latter has resulted in the Deputy Prime Minister’s (DPM) office of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in showing interested in the Drin CORDA and the GEF Drin Project and the DPM’s advisors to participate in the DCG meetings. The same is true for ELEM (the Electricity Company of the country). The operation of the cascade of dams in the Drin and the potential new hydropower generation investments is directly linked with the management of the Drin Basin as well as with flood man agent.  The PCU invested on this interest and investigated the opportunity for the involvement of the Energy Sector in the transboundary management of the Drin Basin. The establishment of such a co-operation under the auspices of the Drin Core Group would bring the energy sector at the forefront of an enhanced management of the Drin Basin at transboundary level.  A meeting between KESH (the Albanian Electricity Company), ELEM, UNDP and the Secretariat/PCU to discuss the possibility to establish cooperation in the fields of energy and water was organized in KESH Headquarters in Tirana on 29 March 2017; the representation of both companies was of high level[[2]](#footnote-3). The meeting discussed and reached conclusions on the: Basis of, scope and content of cooperation; Modalities of cooperation and level of participation; Assistance and support that could be provided by the Drin CORDA through the Drin Core Group (DCG) and the GEF Drin Project for the advancement of cooperation; Participation of KESH and ELEM in the deliberations for the management of the Drin Basin at the transboundary level under the Drin CORDA.  The report of the meeting is available upon request.   * 1. Liaising with the international development community for the identification of opportunities to attract additional support for the implementation of provisions of the Drin MoU.   Cooperation with the GIZ CSBL and ACC projects continued; this intends to capitalize the effort in the field of floods management as well as the effort of stakeholders of the three transboundary lakes with regard to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.   * Discussions with GIZ CSBL focused on: the identification of synergies and cooperation among the Technical Expert Groups of the CSBL and the Expert Working Groups of DCG; data exchange from monitoring of natural lakes; * Discussions with GIZ ACC focused on: achieving synergies and cooperation among the Technical Expert Groups of the ACC and the Expert Working Groups of DCG; data exchange, including GIS data and data used for Hydrological / Flood Prediction model development; flood management; support in further development of the hydrological model prepared through the previous phase of the GIZ ACC project.   ;   * 1. Information provision, awareness raising and strategic communication related to Drin CORDA.   Related activities were performed as part of all activities under the Project. The Project and Drin CORDA brochure and information notes (electronic versions or printed) are provided to the representatives of stakehodlers the PCU communicates with. Brief but substantial information is included in all documents prepared by the Project including ToR etc.   * 1. Promoting the Drin CORDA and the project in regional and international fora.   No activity was undertaken under this point of action. | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  The operation of the overall institutional structure for the implementation of the Drin MoU was supported, facilitation of exchanges amongst the MoU bodies and international partners, and reporting.  The Drin Core Group (DCG) and the Expert Working Groups (EWG) are *almost* fully operational making it possible for the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU and act as a (*de facto*) Joint Commission; the official appointment of the Albanian members to the DCG is pending.  The Drin Core Group (DCG) operated in line with its mandate (see Annex 1 of the Drin MoU) and functions overtaken the past year to:   * 1. Act as main beneficiary of and guide the GEF project acting as its Steering Committee (in accordance to the related decision of the 1st Meeting of the Parties, at Ministerial level, (Tirana, 28 May 2013)).   2. Coordinate actions among Riparians for the implementation of the MoU.   3. Facilitate and enable cooperation among the Riparians, the international institutions, initiatives and donors active in the area and beyond. The DCG is becoming the reference point for a range of management actions supported by various donors and initiatives including UNESCO supported activities in the Drin Basin, the GIZ and its two supported projects etc.   Practical/enhanced transboundary cooperation was promoted making use the institutional structure that is currently in place: The first step for the establishment of transboundary cooperation in the fields of energy and water, including flood protection was made. The establishment of such a co-operation under the auspices of the Drin Core Group would bring the energy sector at the forefront of an enhanced management of the Drin Basin at transboundary level and would raise the political profile of the Drin CORDA among other sectors increasing the possibility to achieve integrated management and cooperation at transboundary level. | | | |
| *Planned* | *Ministerial Meeting* | 1. *Organization of one meeting*    1. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*    2. *Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc.* |  |
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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  The political crisis in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the forthcoming elections in Albania did not provide a favourable framework for the organization of a Ministerial meeting. | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | | |
| *Planned* | *Drin Core Group Meetings* | 1. *Organization of two meetings (Q2 and Q4)*    1. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*    2. *Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc.* | ***5-6 and 11-12*** |
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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  **-** | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | | |
| *Planned* | *Expert Working Group Meetings (i) Water Framework Directive, (ii) Expert Working Group Biodiversity, and Ecosystems (iii) Monitoring and Information Exchange* | 1. *Organization of two meetings for each EWG (Q2 and Q4)*    1. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*    2. *Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc.* | ***5-6 and 11-12*** |
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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  - | | | |

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| ***Indicator: Inter-ministerial Committees (or equivalent bodies) are established in each project country tasked with the coordination of country response to guidance of the DCG.*** |
| **Output 8.***Inter-ministerial Committees established and functioning* |
| **1. Establishment of Inter-Ministerial Committees** |

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| *Planned* | *Establishment and operation of Inter-ministerial Committees* | 1. Preparation of ToR for Interministerial committees 2. Establishment of Inter-ministerial Committees or usage of existing bodies at the national level as Inter-ministerial Committees for the needs of the Project and the Drin MoU process    1. Coordination with DCG members in this regard    2. Liaising with ministries and institutions in each Drin Riparian 3. Provision technical support to and organization of meetings or participation in meetings (in case of existing bodies)    1. Missions at the Riparians    2. Preparation of background information material    3. Facilitation of the meetings    4. Preparation of reports | **1-2**  **1-6**        **2-12** |
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| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   * IMC in Albania   An official letter requesting the establishment of an IMC for Albania was sent to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MARDWA), and to the Secretary of National Water Council. As unofficially agreed with the Albanian authorities, the letter proposed the Commission for the Administration of Transboundary Waters (CATW) to undertake the role of the IMC in the country. As a response, the Deputy Minister -that heads the Commission- will bring the proposal as item for discussion in the next meeting of the CATW.   * IMC in Montenegro   An official letter was sent to the Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (hosted within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism), requesting information on next steps and advice for the National Council to assume the role of the IMC for Montenegro as per related decision taken in its last session in July 2016. A letter received on March 29, 2017, advised that the Secretariat/PCU will be requested to participate in the 2017 session of the National Council and its technical bodies to present the activities and receive guidance as appropriate.   * IMC in Kosovo   The IMC in Kosovo is established as subsidiary body of the Inter-ministerial Water Council. The latter convenes at the Ministers’ level. The same Ministries as in the Inter-ministerial Water Council will be represented in the IMC; the latter convenes at the level of Directors of Ministries. The First IMC meeting organized on 28 March 2017, in Pristina, by the Secretariat of the Kosovar Inter-Ministerial Water Council in cooperation with the Project. It was the Kosovo IMC inaugural meeting; it provided information about the role of the IMC for the deliberation of the Project and the implementation of the SAP as part of the Drin CORDA. The IMC members (from the Ministries responsible for water, environment, energy, agriculture, spatial planning, finances, forestry, health, infrastructure) explained the expectations regarding the work and function of the IMC. The Rules of Procedure of the IMC were proposed by the Secretariat/PCU and adopted as proposed. It was agreed that the IMC will meet upon request of the IMC Secretary after proposal of the Secretariat/PCU, at least once per year and on Project Milestones*.*   * IMC in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia   The political situation in the country didn’t allow developments in this regard. There was no response to the letter sent to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the establishment of the IMC (Q4 2016). The Deputy Minister of Environment advised that an IMC at the level of Directors of Ministries to follow and advise the project implementation in the country should be established. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  An IMC was established and convened in Kosovo. The IMC is a subsidiary body of an existing high level institution: the Inter-ministerial Water Council.  In Montenegro advise was provided regarding the next steps and the organization of a meeting of the IMC.  In Albania, a response to the request made is still pending; an IMC is still not established.  In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there’s no progress due to the political crisis following the Dec 2016 elections. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Indicator: A Strategic Action Program (SAP with horizon 5 years) is adopted by the countries.*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Output 9.***SAP adopted at the Ministerial level by the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ***Indicator: DCG members, DCG working group members, water and land managers, policy makers and other practitioners are trained in surface/groundwater management, IWRM, implementation of international policy instruments (WFD, UNECE Water Convention), and other relevant disciplines and technologies.*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Output 10.** *Training program* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **1. Capacity Building activities** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planned | | | | **Capacity Building Activities** | | | | 1. *Organization of two (2) Capacity Building Workshops (Q3 -Q4)*    1. *Preparation of curricula and background documents*    2. *Selection or trainers and participants*    3. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*    4. *Preparation of reports* 2. *Study visit OR Training of research staff in the analysis of samples for the assessment of pollutants. (Q2-Q4)*    1. *Preparation of curricula and background documents*    2. *Selection of trainers and participants*    3. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*    4. *Preparation of reports* 3. *Participation of representatives of the Drin Riparians in regional and international workshops and conferences* | | | | | ***6-12***  *2 months prior to the event*  *1 months after the event*  ***5-7***  *2 months prior to the event*  *1 months after the event*  ***1-12*** |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  1st Quarter  *1. Organization of two (2) Capacity Building Workshops & 2. Study visit OR Training of research staff in the analysis of samples for the assessment of pollutants*  Activities for the organization of the CB activities were implemented during Q1. Draft ideas were prepared; the ideas are to be further formulated, background documents to be prepared and communicated with the DCG members for feedback: Activity 1. Training on priority substances sampling and analysisObjective: The objective is to increase the capacity of national authorities responsible for monitoring, in the field of collection and analysis of samples for priority substances in accordance to the EU Water Framework Directive.Targeted stakeholders: Experts working on monitoring and data collection within national authorities of the Project beneficiaries.Place and Content: The training will take place in one of the Drin Riparians, at a selected site. The trainer/s will explain the methodology and protocol(s) for sampling and demonstrate how samples are collected, stored and transferred. The analysis of samples will follow, in a selected laboratory with appropriate facilities and equipment.Duration and period: The training is planned to take place in July and last from two to five days.Activity 2. Training on biological monitoring, including sampling, species identification, indices’ calculation and interpretationObjective/s: The objective is to increase the capacity of national authorities responsible for monitoring, in the field of collection and analysis of biological samples for the work for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.Targeted stakeholders: Experts working within national authorities responsible for monitoring.Place and Content: The training will take place in one of the Drin Riparians, at a selected site appropriate for priority substances’ sampling. The training will introduce the participants to the monitoring of bio – indicators and explain how these are used for the classification of the water bodies in accordance to the European Union Water Framework Directive. The training will address the following (i) sampling and storing the samples of benthic invertebrates; (ii) identification of species within the samples; (iii) calculation of indices; calculations from recent monitoring missions will be shared with the participants; (iii) interpretation of calculations -linked with results of chemical analysis- for the classification of water bodies in accordance to the EU WFD. Participants will have hands-on experience on sampling and samples analysis, calculation of indices. Duration and period: The duration of the training is planned to be four days: two days for sampling, that will take place during the monitoring campaign within July 2017, and two days for species identification and data interpretation. Activity 3. Study visit to a transboundary basin with a functioning CommissionObjective: The aim of the study visit will be to assist the work of the DCG and its EWGs towards the sustainable management of the Drin Basin by enhancing the capacities of the bodies’ members, through the transfer of experiences from a transboundary water body with a functioning Commission.Targeted stakeholders: The study visit will target members of the DCG and its EWGs.Proposed duration: The study visit will last one week to ten days. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  Steps were made for the training of stakeholders in areas of importance for the management of the Drin basin at the transboundary and national levels to continue within 2017. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **COMPONENT 4. DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES FOR IWRM AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **OUTCOME 5: BENEFITS DEMONSTRATED ON THE GROUND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND APPROACHES AND TECHNOLOGIES NEW TO THE REGION** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Indicator: Program of Pilot Demonstrations, responding to the Drin MoU approved by countries during inception period is implemented.*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Output 11. A program of on the ground pilot demonstrations will deliver tangible results using quantifiable indicators** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Overall* | | | | *Coordination and provision of technical guidance to companies, groups of experts and individual consultants, assurance of quality of outputs, coordination with institutions in beneficiary countries and territories* | | | | ***1-12*** | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Integrated River Basin Management Planning in Lake Ohrid* | | | | 1. *Preparation of final ToR*     1. *Incorporation of comments by EWG, preparation of a new version of draft ToR*    2. *Presentation of draft ToR to the institutions the two Ohrid Riparian countries and possibly to the Lake Ohrid Management Committee*    3. *Incorporation of comments and preparation of final ToR* 2. *Procurement and contracting*     1. *Preparation of call of Interest*    2. *Evaluation of offers selection and contracting of consultant(s)* 3. *Establishment of a Steering Committee or use the Lake Ohrid Management Committee in this regard* 4. *Development of the Plan*    1. *Preparation of a work plan by the consultants agreed with Secretariat/PCU and approved by the Steering Committee or the Lake Ohrid Management Committee*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | ***1-2***  *1*  *2*  *2*  ***3-4***  ***1-4***  ***4-12***  *4*  *4-12* | | |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   1. Preparation of final ToR   The final draft ToR was prepared incorporating comments made during the Expert Working Groups meeting (Pristina, December 2016). The latest version of the ToR was officially submitted for comments to the institutions the two Ohrid Riparian countries (MARDWA and the Technical Secretariat of the Water Council in Albania; Ministry of Environment in FYR Macedonia). Input will be incorporated and possible changes will be made following the comments from the institutions, for the preparation of the final ToR*.*   1. *Procurement and contracting*   There has been a delay in the preparation of the procurement documents of the Pilot as a result of a delay in receiving comments by the institutions of the countries that would allow the finalization of the ToR. This is not expected to have an impact in the overall timeframe for the implementation of the activity. The procurement documents are planned to be ready and the Call of Interest to be launched in mid-Q2.   1. *Establishment of a Steering Committee or use the Lake Ohrid Management Committee in this regard*   Actions for the revitalization of the Lake Ohrid Management Committee that has become inactive will be taken (the small delay explained above resulted in delays in this regard); the Deputy Minister of Environment of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Albanian Water Director have already agreed on this. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned*  *for 2017* | | | *Wastewater treatment in Shkodra city area* | | | | 1. *Preparation of ToR*     1. *Preparation of draft ToR*    2. *Presentation of ToR to the Albanian institutions*    3. *Incorporation of comments and preparation of final ToR* 2. *Procurement and contracting*     1. *Preparation of call of Interest*    2. *Evaluation of offers, selection and contracting of consultant(s)* 3. *Development of the study*    1. *Preparation of a work plan by the consultants agreed with the Secretariat/PCU*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | ***1-3***  ***3-4***  ***4-12***  *4*  *4-12* | | |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   1. *Preparation of ToR.*   The final draft ToR was prepared incorporating comments made during the Expert Working Groups meeting (Pristina, December 2016). The latest version of the ToR was officially submitted for comments to the MARDWA and the Technical Secretariat of the Water Council. Input will be incorpored and possible changes will be made following the comments from the institutions, for the preparation of the final ToR*.*   1. *Procurement and contracting*   There has been a delay in the preparation of the procurement documents of the Pilot as a result of a delay in the finalization of the ToR. This is not expected to have an impact in the overall timeframe for the implementation of the activity. The procurement documents are planned to be ready and the Call of Interest to be launched in mid-Q2. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Wastewater management in Kosovo* | | | | 1. *Preparation of ToR*     1. *Preparation of draft ToR*    2. *Presentation of ToR to the Kosovar institutions*    3. *Incorporation of comments and preparation of final ToR* 2. *Procurement and contracting*     1. *Preparation of call of Interest*    2. *Evaluation of offers, selection and contracting of consultant(s)* 3. *Development of the study*    1. *Preparation of a work plan by the consultants agreed with the Secretariat/PCU*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | ***1-3***  ***3-4***  ***4-12***  *4*  *4-12* | | |
| *Activity to be implemented directly by UNDP Kosovo*  *Support of the PMU and the National Coordinator for Kosovo has been offered to UNDP in all phases of Pilot Project development and implementation.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Reduction of nutrient load and forest preservation through biomass collection and production of fuel briquettes in Montenegrin part of Skadar Lake* | | | 1. *Preparation of feasibility study for use of biomass for development of briquettes scheme*    1. *Presentation of the outcomes from the FS to the EWG and National institutions* 2. *Preparation of draft ToR and specifications for the development of the biomass collection and production of fuel briquettes scheme*    1. *Preparation of draft ToR and specifications by the contracted company*    2. *Opinion by the EWGs and approval by National Institutions*       1. *Presentation of the draft ToR and specifications to EWGs*       2. *Presentation of the draft ToR National Institutions*       3. *Incorporation of comments*    3. *Preparation of final ToR and Specifications* 3. *Procurement and contracting*     1. *Preparation of call of Interest*    2. *Evaluation of offers, selection and contracting of consultant(s)* 4. *Development of the scheme*    1. *Preparation of a work plan agreed with the Secretariat/PCU*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | | | | ***1-7***  *1-6*  *7*  *7*  ***8-9***  ***10-12*** |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  The contracted Consultant (Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar, Zagreb, Croatia) is working for the implementation of activity. The work progresses according to the planned schedule.   * In 25-27 January a site visit to the area of focus in the Lake Skadar has been carried out, with the support of the Project Officer based in Podgorica, to perform consultations with relevant authorities in Montenegro and collect available data. * The Inception Report was submitted 15 February 2017 and approved by the PCU. * A report entitled “Assessment of Biomass Source to Be Used” was submitted on 31 March 2017; it is being reviewed by the PCU. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Transboundary Monitoring in Skadar/Shkoder and Buna/Bojana* | | | 1. *Preparation of Concept Note/ToR*    1. *Albania and Montenegro provide comments on the Concept Note/ToR developed by UNESCO*    2. *Incorporation of comments and preparation of final Concept Note/ToR* 2. *UNDP Albania and UNESCO establish and Interagency Agreement having the Concept Note/ToR as an Annex* 3. *Development of the Transboundary Monitoring system in the Skadar/Shkoder and Buna/Bojana areas*    1. *Preparation of a work plan by UNESCO agreed with Albania and Montenegro as well as the Secretariat/PCU*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | | | | ***1-3***  *1*  *1-2*  ***3***  ***4-12***  *4*  *4-12* |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   1. Preparation of Concept Note/ToR   Comments made and input provided by the Albanian MARDWA and Montenegrin Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro have been incorporated in the Concept Note for the Pilot Project. A Draft ToR has been prepared by the PCU, based on the concept note, and sent to UNESCO for comments. The Final Draft Tor, expected latest in April, will be sent to both countries for a second round of review and comments.  Discussions with UNDP and UNESCO on the contractual, financial and organizational aspects are ongoing. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | | *Cooperation on Flood Risk Management in the Drin Basin* | | | 1. *Establishment of EWG on Floods*    1. *Preparation of ToR*    2. *Identification of stakeholders to participate in addition to the Ministries participating in the DCG*    3. *Organization of two meetings*        1. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*       2. *Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc.* 2. *Preparation of Concept Note/ToR for the pilot activity*    1. *Preparation of draft Concept Note/ToR*    2. *Presentation of the Concept Note/ToR to the EWG*    3. *Incorporation of comments and preparation of final Concept Note/ToR* 3. *Procurement of the study*     1. *Preparation of call of Interest*    2. *Evaluation of offers and preparation of contract* 4. *Initiation of development of the study*    1. *Preparation of a work plan by the consultants agreed with Secretariat/PCU*    2. *Work initiates and advances* | | | | | | | ***1-2***  *1-2*  *1-2*  *5-6 and 11-12*  ***3-7***  *3*  *6*  *7*  ***7-8***  ***8-12***  *8*  *8-12* |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   1. *Establishment of EWG on Floods*   The Establishment of EWG on Floods including the preparation of the ToR and the identification of stakeholders to participate was put to a hold expecting the results of the initiative taken by the PCU for the engagement of the Energy Sector in the management of the Drin Basin. The establishment of cooperation between the two energy producing companies, in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (ELEM) and Albania (KESH) and their engagement in the work under the Drin CORDA has been sought (see Output 7.*High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established; Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter; point 1.4)*.  Having the agreement of the two companies in establishing cooperation and their positive reaction in participating in the in the work under the Drin CORDA, the EWG on floods will be established within Q2/Q3.   1. *Preparation of Concept Note/ToR for the pilot activity*   The Concept Note/ToR will be reworked and tailored to the outcomes of the cooperation process involving the Energy Companies. ELEM and KESH expressed interest for the development and use of a hydrologic/predictive model for the optimization of water management e.g. dams’ operation rules, planning etc. (see under Output 7.*High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established; Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter; point 1.4.).* In this regard, there is an in-principle interest to use an improved version of the model prepared through the GIZ AAC project, while both companies may participate in this investment.  Provided that the EWGs and the DCG approves, the development of the hydrological model that will be used by ELEM and KESH will be the focus of the Pilot Activity. The technical specifications along with a budget and a workplan will be prepared and discussed with the GIZ and the companies. The Activity will further focus for the use of the model for floods forecasting and mitigation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  The work for the implementation of the Program of Pilot Demonstrations has progressed. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **COMPONENT 5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND COMMUNICATION** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **OUTCOME 6: PUBLIC SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION TO IWRM AND JOINT MULTI-COUNTRY MANAGEMENT ENHANCED THROUGH STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Indicator: Stakeholder Involvement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is defined and adopted by Drin Core Group.*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Output 12.** *A Stakeholder Involvement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy defined and implemented* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **1. Public Participation and Stakeholders Involvement** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | *Public Participation and Stakeholders Involvement* | | | | 1. *Implementation of the Participation and Stakeholders Involvement Strategy*    1. *Stakeholders consultations (including web-based) on issues related to the management of the basin*    2. *Organization of a Stakeholders Conference for the management of the Drin Basin*       1. *Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.*       2. *Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc.* | | | | | | | | ***1-12***  *1-12*  *10-12* |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   * Gender Mainstreaming   The Draft Strategy has been communicated to the DCG and EWG members and other major stakeholders and partners. The comments and inputs were incorporated in the Final Strategy document.  The Project is currently implementing the Strategy. Gender related considerations are taken into account in all activities. The GWP-Med’s Gender Focal Point and the Project Manager are appointed as responsible officers for implementation of the Strategy. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is in place and implemented. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **OUTCOME 7: POLITICAL AWARENESS AT ALL LEVELS AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION STRENGTHENED THROUGH HIGHER VISIBILITY OF THE PROJECT’S DEVELOPMENTS AND TARGETED OUTREACH INITIATIVES.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Indicator: Information, Communication and Outreach Strategy is prepared and implemented.*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Output 13.** *Information, Communication and Outreach Strategy prepared and implemented* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Planned* | | *Implementation of Communication and Outreach activities* | | | | | | | 1. *Communication activities including the following:*    1. *Targeted emails to stakeholders*    2. *Press releases, articles etc.,*    3. *Publicly available summaries of reports, fact sheets*    4. *Organization of awareness raising events* 2. *Celebration of the Drin Day*    1. *Prepare ToR for the celebration of the Drin Day*    2. *Call of interest for NGOs, selection and contracting of NGOs*    3. *Implementation of the Drin Day Celebration Activities*    4. *Strategic communication of the events* 3. *Production and/or reproduction of information and communication material e.g. publications including Leaflets, Brochures, Books, video spots etc.* | | | ***1-12***  ***3-6***  *3*  *3-4*  *5*  *4-6*  ***1-12*** | |
| ***Activities performed during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***   1. *Communication activities*   The Communication Activities implemented by the Project were poorer than originally planned as the Communication Officer is no longer part of the GWP-Med team. A call of interest for hiring a Communication Officer was launched; the selection will take place within Q2.  The rest of the PCU members use all possible opportunities to raise awareness about and communicate the Drin CORDA and the Project. The bilateral meetings with national and international institutions and stakeholders are used in this regard. The Project brochure and Information Note (electronic form and hard copies) are the main material used.   1. Celebration of the Drin Day, Production and reproduction of Material      * Preparatory activities for the celebration of the Drin Day 2017 were undertaken including the following:   + Development of a Concept Note for the Drin Day celebration;   + Preparation of ToR for NGOs and CSOs to implement Drin Day celebration activities. * Following a public call of interest, six NGOs were selected to implement activities:   + Grasnica - the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia   + ERA Group -Kosovo   + EDEN - Albania   + PPNEA - Albania   + Green Home - Montenegro   + INTBAU - Albania * Activities will be implemented in Kukes and Prespa Lake in Albania, Ohrid in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, several locations in Kosovo and in Skadar/Shkoder lake and Buna/Bojana river in Montenegro and Albania. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Results achieved during 2017 per Quarter***  ***1st Quarter:***  Information, Communication and Outreach activities are implemented as per draft Strategy. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

1. The project provides the means for the implementation of the Drin MoU hence the activities under the Project are activities for the implementation of the Drin MoU, that is governed by the DCG and its EWGs. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. (i) KESH: Mr. Taulant Hoxha, Primary Staff Officer, Mrs. Erideta Bashi , Head of Strategic Planning and Management Division, Mr. Arjan Jovani, Director of Dam Safety Department, Mr. Artur Mustafaraj, Director of Utilization Department; (ii) ELEM: Mr. Aleksandar Paunoski, Director for investments and development, Mr. Ivan Kukovski, Director for production, Mr. Antonio Ivanovski, Deputy Director for hydropower production, Mr. Toni Markoski, Director HPP Black Drim. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)