

Drin Basin Stakeholders Conference
Tirana, 10-11 December 2013



***The Drin MoU - Coordinated action for the
sustainable management of the Drin
Basin***

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International Roundtable on “Integrated Management of Shared Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe” (Ohrid 12-14 October 2006)

Meeting to coordinate joint action for the initiation of a structured Drin Dialogue (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 18/5/2009)

Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin (Tirana, Albania, 24/11/2008)

Initiation of the Drin Dialogue

Ohrid - National Consultation Meeting (Ohrid, 2/11/10)

Tirana - National Consultation Meeting (Tirana, 11/11)

Podgorica - National Consultation Meeting (Podgorica, 11/11)

Drin MoU (Tirana, 25/11/11)

Drin Ministerial Declaration (Ohrid, 18/4/11)



**Memorandum of Understanding for the
Management of the Extended Drin Basin
Tirana 25.11.11**

Support of International community , UNECE leading role

Objective / Shared Vision:

“The Parties commit to promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore to the extent possible the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”

Acknowledges Common Concerns for sustainable development of the Drin Basin

- Improving access to comprehensive data and adequate information to fully understand the current state of the environment ;
- Establish conditions for a sustainable use of water and other natural resources;
- Develop cooperation and measures to minimize flooding;
- Improve management and appropriate disposal of solid wastes;
- Decrease nutrient pollution deriving from untreated or poorly treated wastewater discharges and unsustainable agricultural practices;
- Decrease pollution from hazardous substances;
- Minimize effects of hydro-morphologic interventions that alter the nature of the hydrologic system and the supported ecosystems, resulting in their deterioration.

Developed JOINT Action Plan

Short term measures:

- **Elaboration of coordination enhancement mechanisms.**
- **Enhancement of the knowledge basis about the Drin Basin - implementation of the EU WFD**
- **Improvement of information exchange through the establishment of a system for regular exchange of relevant information**
- **Enhancement of cooperation in the field of flood risk preparedness, management and mutual support.**
- **Institutional strengthening in the field of integrated water resources management**
- **Promotion of public participation and stakeholders engagement.**

Medium Term:

- Achievement of a science based consensus, among the Drin Riparians, on key (Drin Basin) transboundary priorities including climate change scenarios,
- *Preparation of an elaborated water balance for the Drin Basin as a useful decision support tool at national and transboundary levels.*
- Establishment of a harmonized Drin Basin Water Monitoring Program.
- *Establishment of an Information Management System (IMS) that will enable authorities to collect, store and share data and information produced*
- Establishment of **basin-wide cooperative management** on the basis of an and the **establishment of a Basin Commission.**

Long Term

The instruments that will allow the Parties to work towards sustainable management of the water resources in the Drin Basin are expected to be in place, including:

- *Development of a **Drin Basin Management Plan** in accordance with the **EU WFD** and the **UNECE Water Convention**, that will serve as the guidance document for the development and implementation of river/lake basin management plans for each of the Sub-Basins at national and transboundary level in accordance with the bilateral and multilateral agreements among the Drin Riparians.*

Drin Core Group

Set-up, Functions and Responsibilities

-The DCG is comprised of the nominated representatives of the: (a) Parties ; (b) Prespa Park Management Committee; (c) Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee; (d) Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission; (e) UNECE; (f) GWP-Med; (g) MIO-ECSDE.

-GWP-Med will serve as the Secretariat of the DCG providing technical and administrative support.

-The institutions and bodies participating in the DCG may alter their representatives in the DCG through a formal letter to the DCG Secretariat.

-The decisions of the DCG will be taken by the representatives of the Parties on the basis of consensus.