

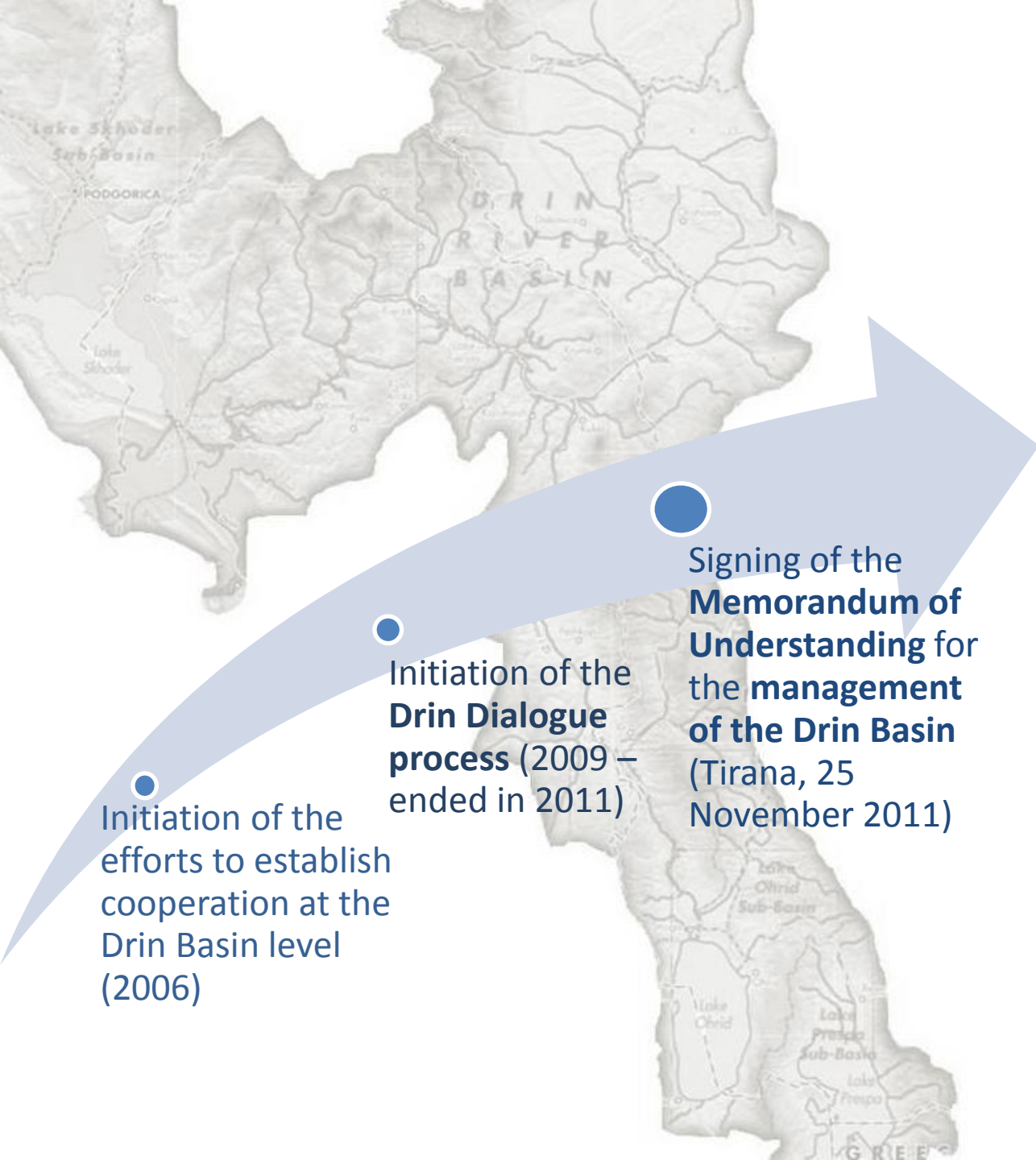
A topographic map of the Drin Basin in Albania, showing the Drin River and its tributaries. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent white background. Labels on the map include 'Lake Shkoder Sub-Basin', 'FODGORICA', 'DRIN RIVER BASIN', 'Otrid Sub-Basin', 'Lake Ohrid', 'Lake Prespa Sub-Basin', and 'Lake Prespa'. The word 'GREE' is partially visible at the bottom right.

Drin Basin Multi-stakeholders Conference

10 December 2013

Tirana, Albania

***Actions for the Implementation of the
Shared Vision for the Management of the Drin Basin
and the Drin MoU***

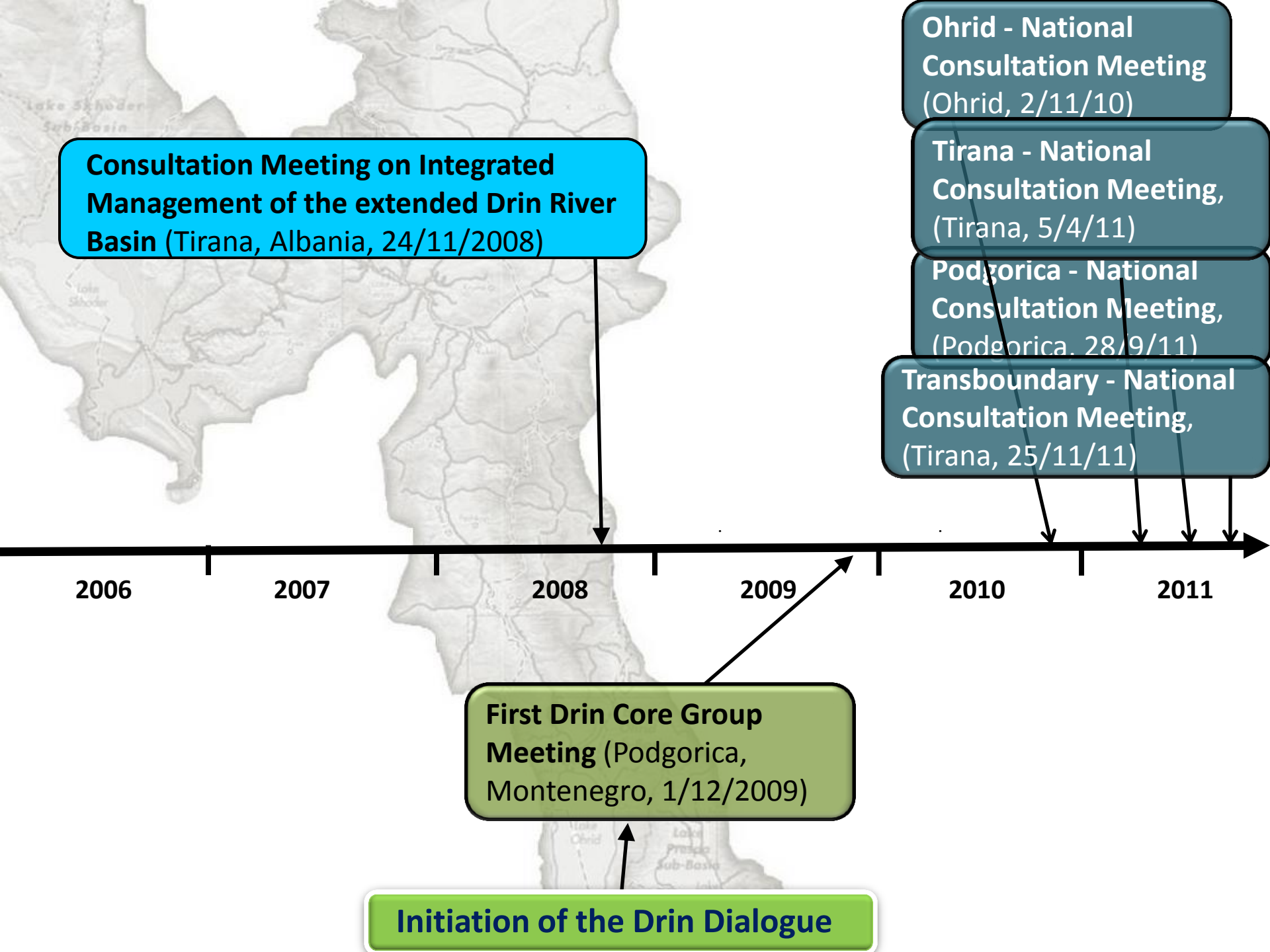


Initiation of the efforts to establish cooperation at the Drin Basin level (2006)

Initiation of the **Drin Dialogue process** (2009 – ended in 2011)

Signing of the **Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the Drin Basin** (Tirana, 25 November 2011)

Towards the enhancement of transboundary cooperation among the Drin Riparians for the sustainable management of the extended Drin River Basin



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

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

Tirana - National Consultation Meeting, (Tirana, 5/4/11)

Podgorica - National Consultation Meeting, (Podgorica, 28/9/11)

Transboundary - National Consultation Meeting, (Tirana, 25/11/11)

2006

2007

2008

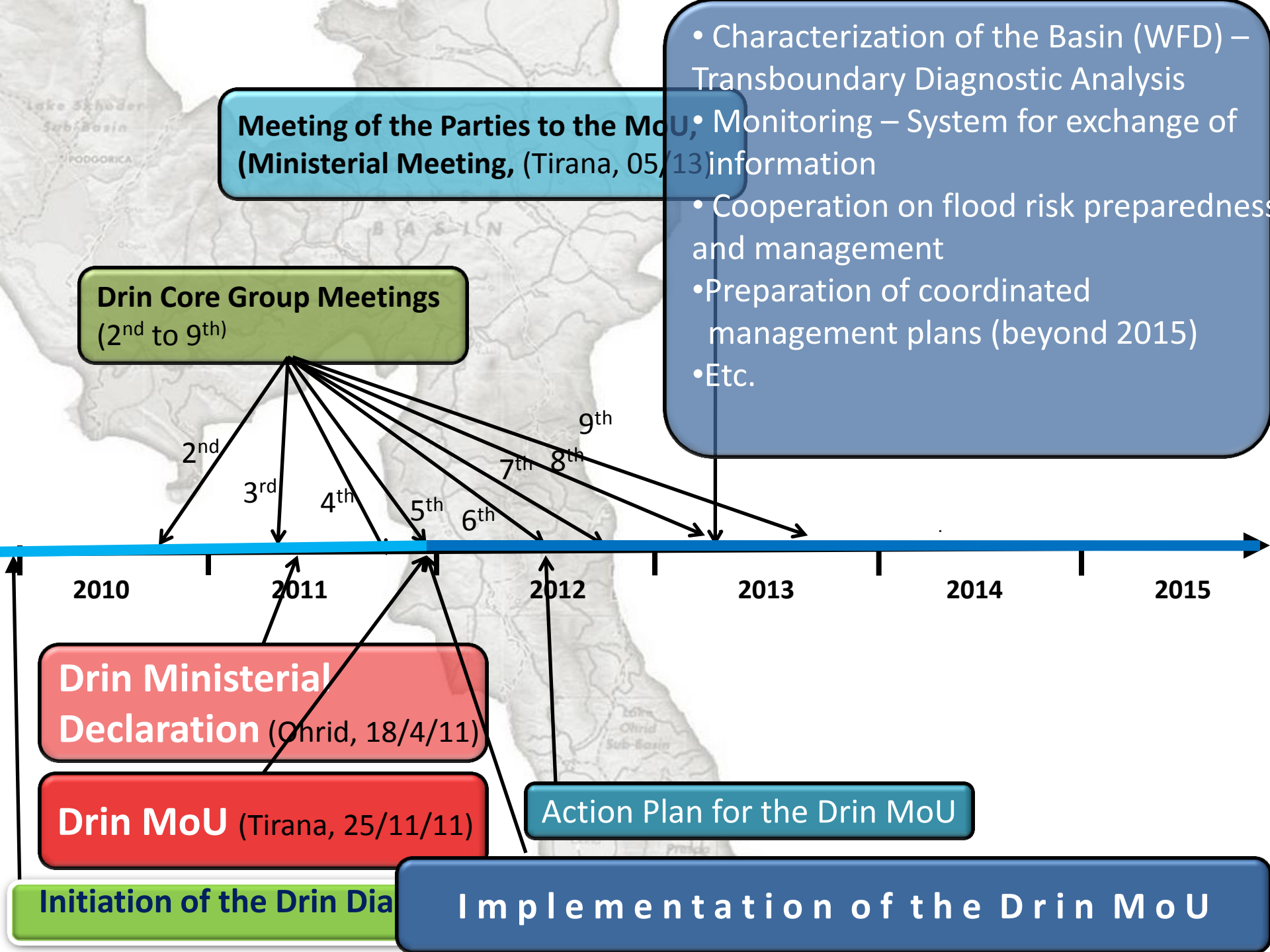
2009

2010

2011

First Drin Core Group Meeting (Podgorica, Montenegro, 1/12/2009)

Initiation of the Drin Dialogue





1. Establishing and sustaining an Institutional Structure at the Drin Basin level

1.1 Meeting of Parties

1.2 Drin Core Group

1.2.1 Secretariat of the Drin Core Group

1.3 Expert Working groups

2. Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU

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

4. Cooperation with national and regional projects related to the management of the Drin Basin

5. Cooperation with the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

6. Enhancing Capacity of Institutional Structures

7. Empowering the NGOs in the Drin Basin



1. Establishing and sustaining an Institutional Structure at the Drin Basin level

1.1 Meeting of Parties

MoU
Governing Body

Meeting of Parties
Ministers responsible for water and environmental management

Objectives:

- Review progress regarding the implementation of the MoU
- Provide guidance related to steps ahead

Article 6 of the MoU “Meetings of the Parties”: *“the Ministers responsible for the management of water resources and/or environment of the five Parties shall meet annually to review progress in the implementation of the present MoU and its provisions”.*

Expert Working Group on WFDI

Expert Working Group on MIE

Expert Working Group on BE

DCG with assistance from its Expert Working Groups :

- (a) Coordinate communication among Riparians and actions for the implementation of the MoU - function as a *joint body* for coordination for the management of the Drin Basin.
- (b) Act as the **steering committee / coordination body** of on-going and future projects in the area e.g. be the governing body of the planned GEF funded project

Drin Core Group

- Ministries from Riparians responsible for water and environmental management
- Prespa Park Management Committee
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission
- UNECE
- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
- Mediterranean Information Center for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

Drin Core Group
Secretariat

Expert
Working
Group on
WFDI

Expert
Working
Group on
MIE

Expert
Working
Group on
BE

Coordinating Bodies

1. Establishing and sustaining an Institutional Structure at the Drin Basin level

1.2 Drin Core Group

Mandate of DCG: to facilitate communication and cooperation among the Parties for the implementation of the provisions of the MoU.

Drin Core Group

The DCG guided the implementation of activities under the MoU.

Among others the DCG:

- Decided to have **two ordinary meetings per year** (May and November);
- Reviewed and facilitated the adoption by the Parties of the **ToR of the three EWG**;
- Reviewed and endorsed the **Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU**;
- Contributed in the preparation of a **GEF Project Proposal**;
- Revised its **rules of operation**.

1. Establishing and sustaining an Institutional Structure at the Drin Basin level

1.2.1 Secretariat of the Drin Core Group

The **Secretariat** provides technical and administrative support to the DCG assisting its day-to-day operation:

- Organization of the meetings of the DCG and its Expert Working Groups (i.e. preparation of background documentation and reports; logistical arrangements etc).
- Day to day coordination of activities implemented under the DCG;
- Preparation of technical reports;
- Communication with third parties for the realization of the objectives of the DCG.

Drin Core Group Secretariat

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graph TD; Secretariat[Drin Core Group Secretariat] --> Meeting[Meeting of Parties]; Secretariat --> WGroup[Expert Working Group on BE];
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1. Establishing and sustaining an Institutional Structure at the Drin Basin level

1.3 Expert Working groups

Key task: (a) Providing expert advice;
(b) Directly coordinating actions of technical nature, under the guidance of the DCG. Each EWG will advise on issues of its expertise and competence.

Deliverables: Meetings; Advice on issues; Technical reviews, assessments, reports, etc.

Three meetings for the establishment of the EWGs took place in Tirana on 30 October, 31 October and 1 November 2012.



2. Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU

Prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request of the Ministers (Tirana, 25 November 2011).

The plan elaborates on the following main actions:

- (i) Enhancement of coordination mechanisms among the Parties.
- (ii) Enhancement of the knowledge basis about the Drin Basin.
- (iii) Improvement of information exchange through the establishment of a system for regular exchange of relevant information among the competent authorities of each Party.
- (iv) Enhancement of cooperation in the field of flood risk preparedness, management and mutual support.
- (v) Institutional strengthening in the field of integrated water resources management.
- (vi) Promotion of public participation and stakeholders engagement.

The timeframe with regard to the implementation of the activities will depend on the availability and level of financing.

Financing could be provided from the following sources:

- GEF project.
- The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).
- Donors active in the area.

2. Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU

Adopted by the MoP (Tirana, 28 May 2013).

The Drin Core Group has initiated implementation of some of the activities.

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

- Project proposal prepared by UNDP/GEF, UNECE and GWP-Med, in cooperation with the DCG
- Approved by the GEF Council that took place in Washington, 13-15 November 2012.

UNDP is the implementing agency and UNOPS, UNECE and GWP-Med the executing partners.

GEF project:

- will serve the implementation of the MoU
- is tightly linked to the existing institutional setting
- activities in the PIF are directly linked with the activities in the Action Plan.

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

Full project document will be prepared 1st quarter of 2014.

Preparation of the Project Document

- Inception workshop organized in May 2013 to:
 - present to the beneficiary countries the project document preparation process and
 - receive guidance by beneficiary countries.

Team to prepare the Project Document under the coordination of the Drin Core Group:

- Nine experts from the beneficiary countries
- UNDP international expert
- GWP-Med

4. Cooperation with national and regional projects related to the management of the Drin Basin

GIZ supports and coordinates in cooperation with the competent ministries in the beneficiary Drin Riparians:

(a) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar Project.

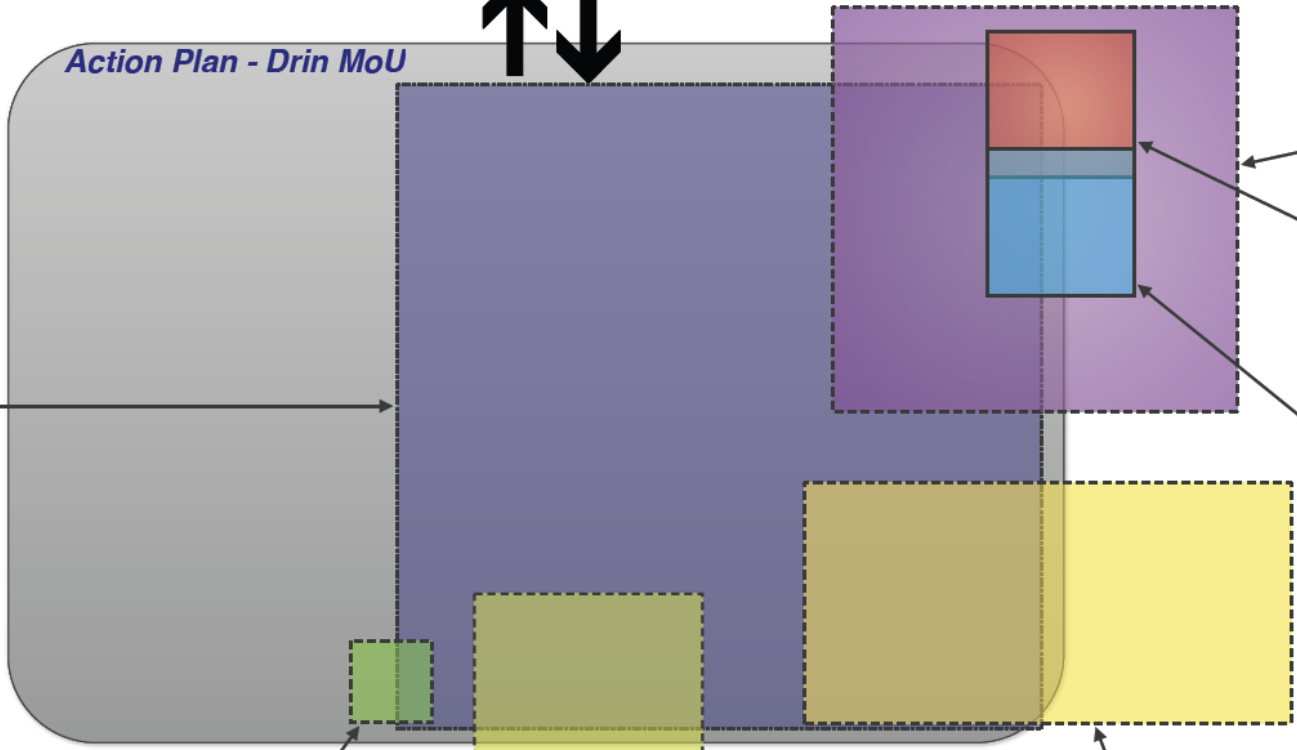
(b) Climate change adaptation in the Drin River Basin; the project is initiated in 2012 and may last until 2017.

GIZ was given an observer status to the DCG by (decision of the 6th DCG Meeting)

SIDA in cooperation with the World Bank, provides financing and technical assistance to the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration for the (1) preparation of an IWRM plan in the Drin Basin and (2) the implementation of the EU WFD in the country.

Creation of synergies explored with SIDA (on-going discussions between SIDA, the World Bank, UNECE and the Secretariat of the DCG).

- Shared Vision / Overall objective
- Priority Actions
Drin MoU



River Management Plans
Drin Sub-Basins
Drin Riparians ???

Drin River
Management Plan
Albania
(World Bank, SIDA)

Buna / Bojana
Management Plan
Pilot under
GEF MedPartnership
Project

GEF Drin
Project

IUCN
Capacity Building
Project

GIZ Lakes
Program

GIZ Climate Change
Adaptation Program



5. Cooperation with the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

The Process has been instrumental in the establishment of cooperation for the management of Drin Basin in its current form.

Process made a commitment to continue providing support to the Drin Riparians for the implementation of the MoU with the aim to (i) establish self-sustained institutions at transboundary level and (ii) improving basin and water resources management.

6. Enhancing Capacity of Institutional Structures

Capacity building workshop was organized in Tirana, 20-21 November 2012.

Objective: build trainees' capacity regarding the preparation and implementation of RBM Plan in accordance to the WFD.

Aim:

- Enhance the capacity of the institutional framework of the Parties to the MoU to implement the MoU.
- Contribute in the overall effort for the application of the water related legislation in the Drin Riparians.

Twenty-six representatives of Ministries and institutions responsible for water resources management as well as NGOs from the Drin Riparians participated in the training course.

7. Empowering the NGOs in the Drin Basin

MIO-ECSDE has taken action to assist empowerment and building capacities of Drin Basin NGOs

Aim: to effectively contribute to the management of the Drin Basin.

Action: series of events e.g. workshops, networking meetings, etc., as well as by using awareness raising tools (e.g. circulars, newsletters, etc).

Coordination: DCG Secretariat (GWP-Med), UNECE

Responsible / services provided by: DCG Secretariat (GWP-Med)

Financially supported by: Swedish EPA, Austria and Finland through the ENVSEC initiative, UNECE GWP-Med

Contributions by: UNDP, GEF, MED EUWI