

12th International Conference "EUROPE-INBO 2014"
12-15 November 2014, Bucharest, Romania.

Transboundary Water Management in Republic of Macedonia

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WFD & LW – regarding TWM

| EU - WFD | MK - Law on Waters (2008) |
|--|--|
| <p><i>In Article 3 of the Directive ...Member States shall identify the individual river basins lying within their national territory and, for the purposes of this Directive, shall assign them to individual river basin districts. Member States shall ensure that a river basin covering the territory of more than one Member State is assigned to an international river basin district.</i></p> | <p><i>LW (Article 7) The territory of the Republic of Macedonia consists of four river basins districts and these are the river basins districts of the rivers Vardar, Crn Drim, Strumica and Juzna Morava. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, on a proposal made by the MoEPP shall define the boundaries of the river basin districts</i></p> |
| <p><i>The Article 5 of the Directive involves the economic analysis of characteristics of river basin, environmental impact of human activity, and water use. And the article involves not only the basin of member State, but also the international river basins.</i></p> | <p><i>Full transposition in LW (Article 252)- River Basin Management Plan, also in Article 66(9) – Subsidiary law for detailed content and the method of development of the river basin management plans Official Gazette No. 148/09)</i></p> |
| <p><i>The Article 11 also includes international basins in creating programmes of joint measures.</i></p> | <p><i>Full transposition in WL Art. 10 paragraph (2), where MoEPP shall undertake activities to coordinate the RBMPs and the programmes of measures, with the competent authorities of neighbouring states</i></p> |
| <p><i>The Article 13 of the Directive suggests that the transboundary basin plans shall be produced by the riparian countries in coordination. Where such a river basin management plan is not produced, Member States shall produce RBMPs covering at least those parts of the international river basin district falling within their territory.</i></p> | <p><i>Article 70, In case of an area of transboundary river basin situated partly on the territory of the RM and partly on the territories of other country or countries, the MoEPP shall cooperate with the competent authorities of the relevant countries for the purpose of developing common transboundary RBMPs and in case when transboundary RBMP has not been developed, the RBMPs shall be developed with regard to the part of the transboundary river basin which is on the territory of the RM, in accordance with Water Law.</i></p> |

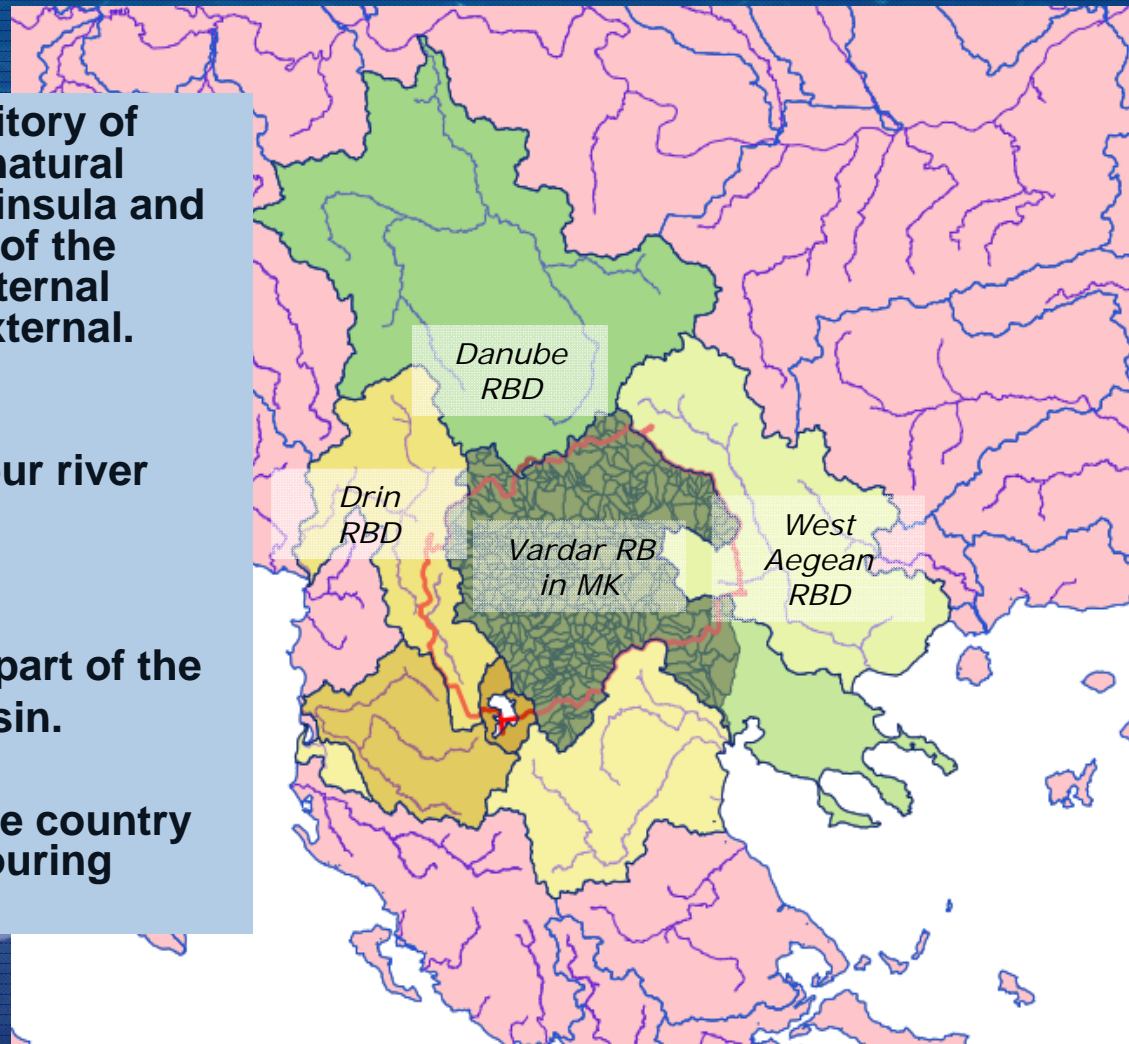
Main River Basins

The hydrographical territory of Macedonia is a unique natural basin in the Balkan Peninsula and wider area, due to 84 % of the available water being internal waters and only 16 % external.

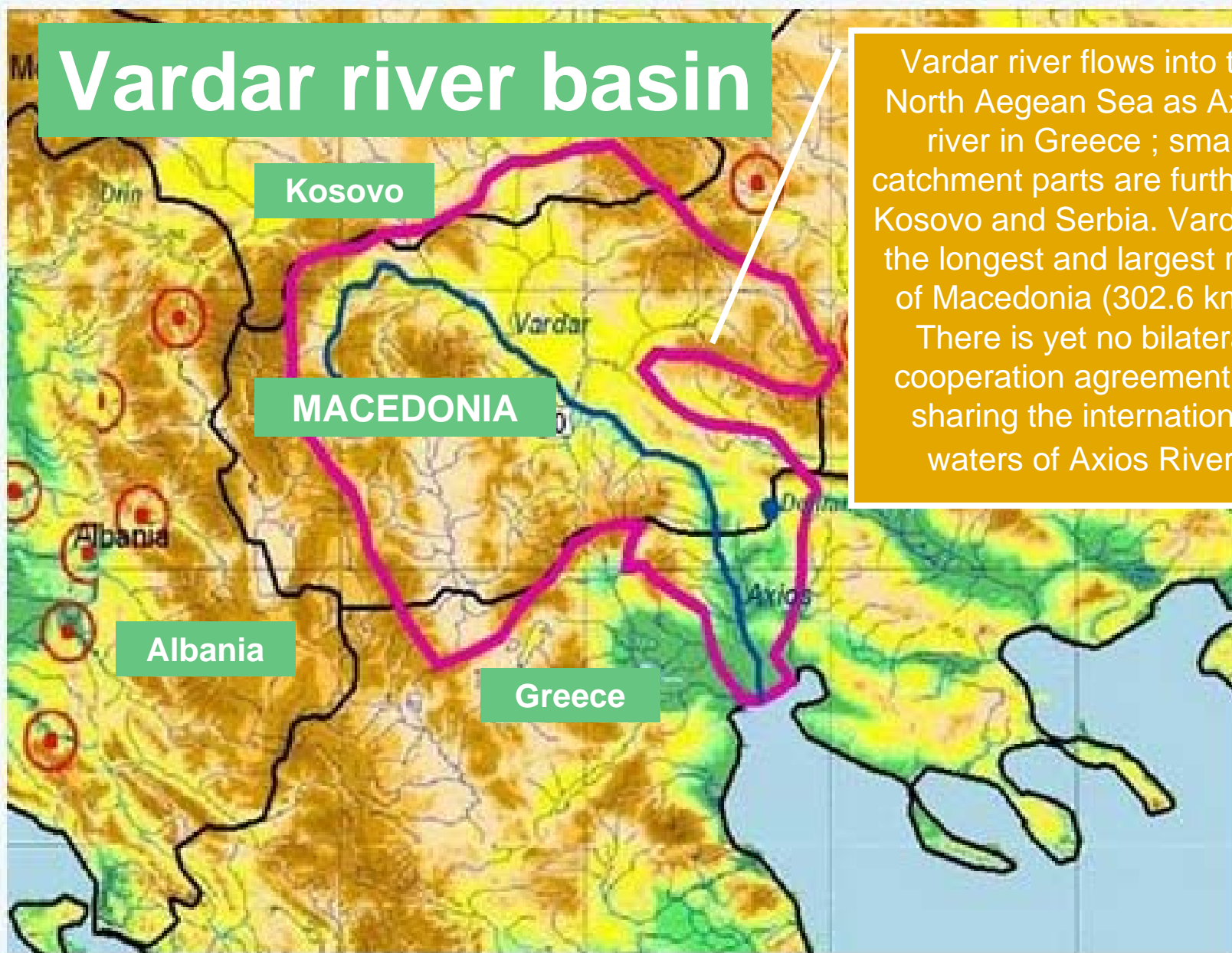
The country is divided hydrographically into four river basins:

- Vardar
- Strumica
- Crni Drim and a small part of the
- South Morava river basin.

All the river basins in the country are shared with neighbouring countries

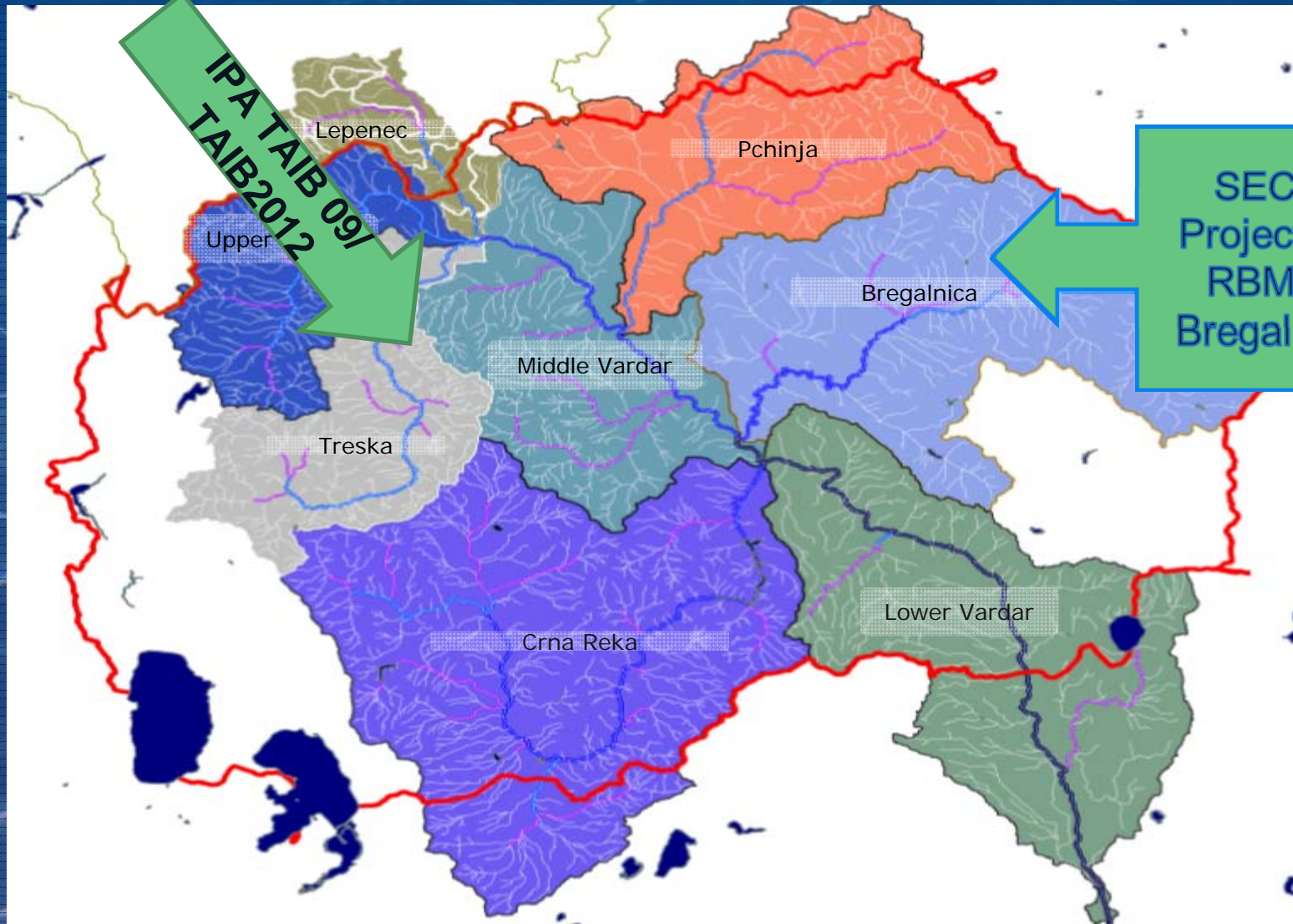


Vardar river basin



Vardar river flows into the North Aegean Sea as Axios river in Greece ; small catchment parts are further in Kosovo and Serbia. Vardar is the longest and largest river of Macedonia (302.6 km),. There is yet no bilateral cooperation agreement for sharing the international waters of Axios River.

Vardar River sub-basins



Vardar river basin / on-going projects

1. IPA project TAIB 2009

The overall objective of the project is to strengthening the administrative capacities in the field of water management.

Activities:

1: Development of priority implementing legislation in water management area

2: Strengthening the administrative capacity on central level for implementation of water legislation with focus on WFD

3: Development of the initial elements of the River Basin Management Plan of Vardar River:

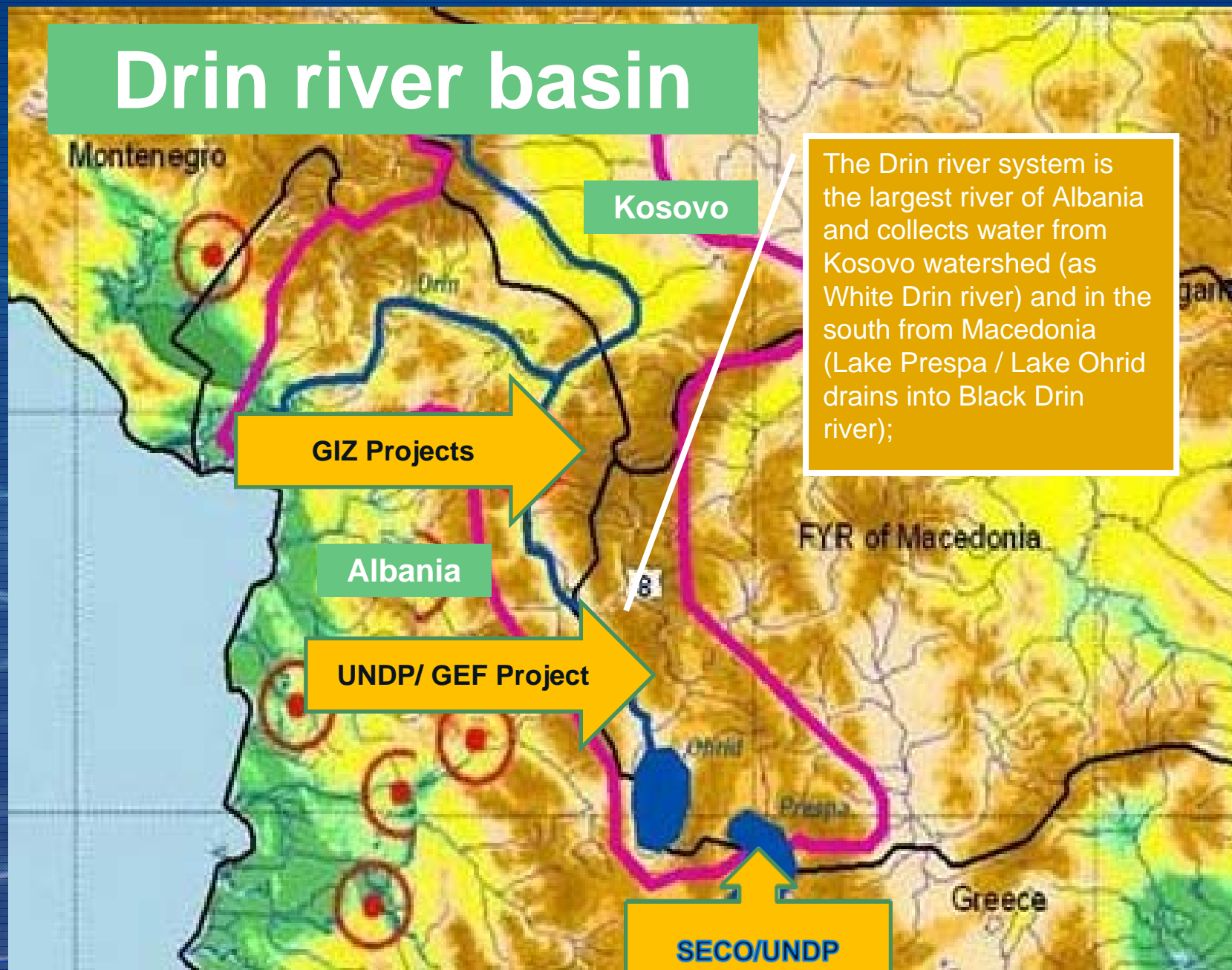
- Characterization of the Vardar river basin;
- Identification of significant pressures and impact of human activity
- Identification and mapping of protected areas
- Development of monitoring programme.

2. Bregalnica River Basin Project

The Bregalnica River Basin Management Project is a joint initiative by the Macedonian government, the Bregalnica municipalities, and SECO (Swiss Government). This is a four-year project with two main components:

- establishment and successful operations of the body for management of Bregalnica river basin and
- implementation of small infrastructure water projects.

Drin river basin



The Drin river system is the largest river of Albania and collects water from Kosovo watersheds (as White Drin river) and in the south from Macedonia (Lake Prespa / Lake Ohrid drains into Black Drin river);

GIZ Projects

Albania

UNDP/ GEF Project

SECO/UNDP

Drin river basin - projects

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

The project is expected to promote joint management of the extended transboundary Drin River Basin on the basis of the Drin MoU; (signed in Tirana on 25 November 2011)

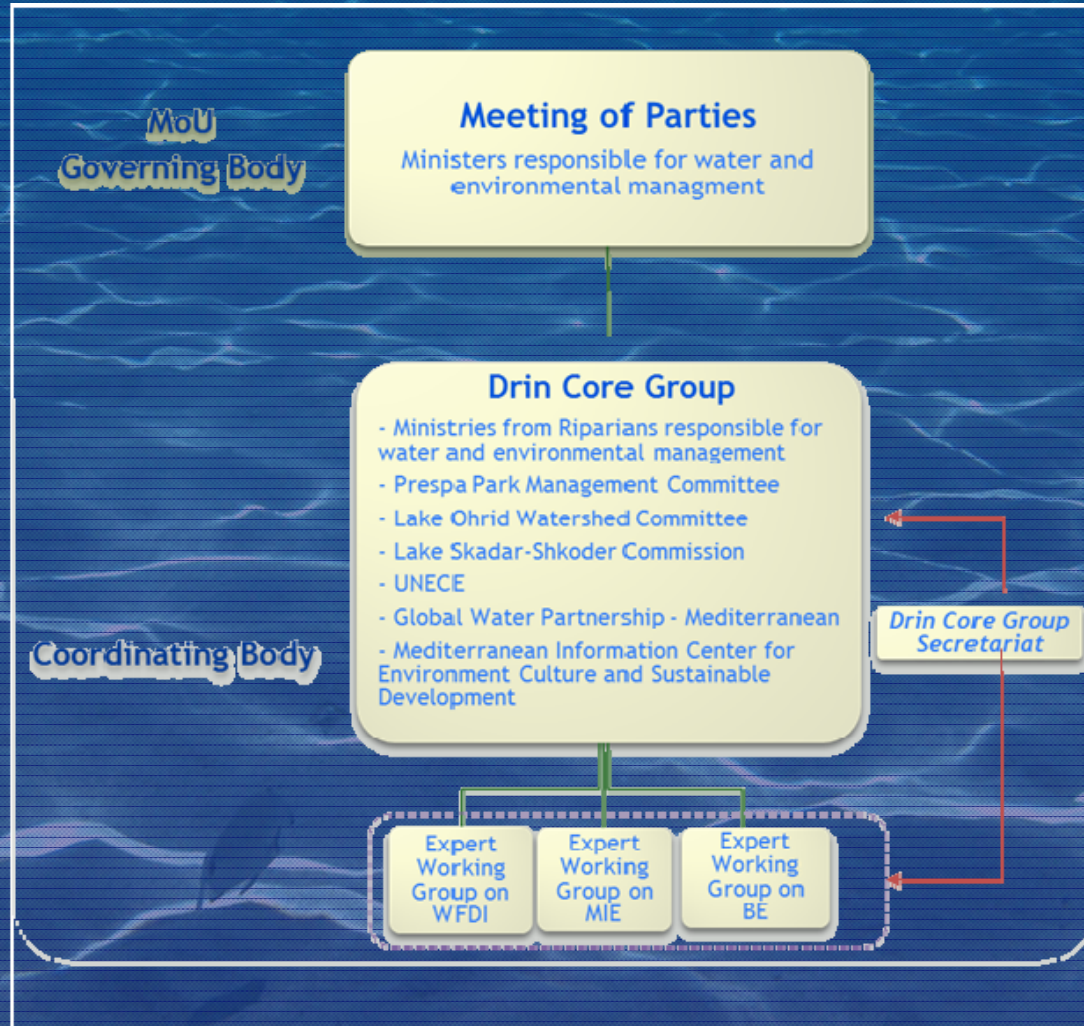
This Project prepared by UNDP/GEF, UNECE and GWP-Med in cooperation with the Drin Core Group and endorsed by the GEF operational focal points of Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro, was approved by the GEF Council, 13-15 November 2012.

This project was endorsed by the GEF CEO on 17 October 2014!

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

- The project is expected to start in 2015.

Institutional structure for the implementation of the MoU



Projects in the Drin Basin supported by GIZ

Two regional projects in the Drin River Basin are supported and coordinated by the GIZ and implemented in cooperation with the competent ministries in the beneficiary Drin Riparians:

1. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar Project;

The project aims to improve the implementation of legislation, regulations and management plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar/Shkoder.

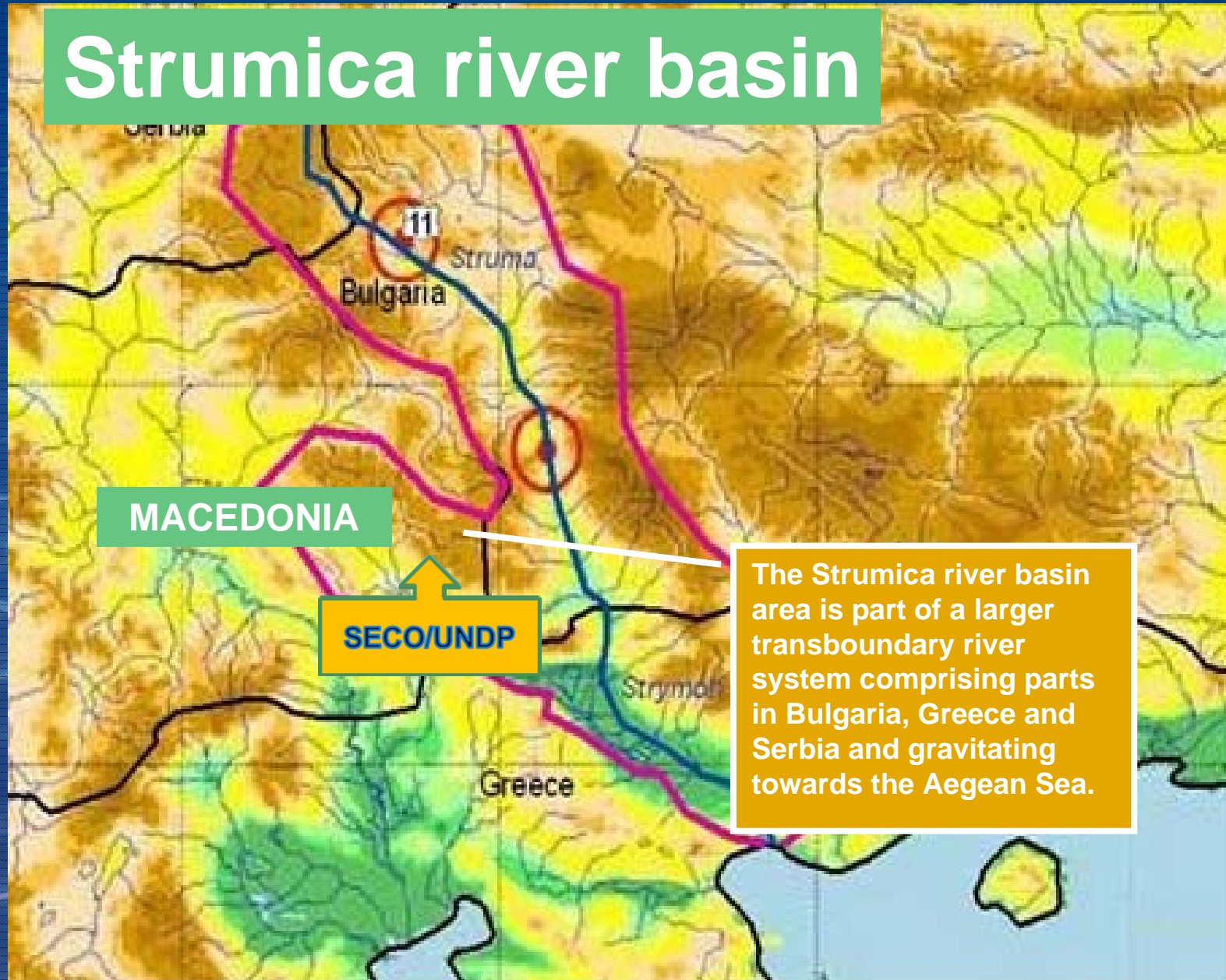
2. The Climate Change Adaptation Programme in Western Balkans.

The project aims to improve adaptation to climate change and it includes among others a range of activities in the fields of flood and drought risk management. Main components of the program include the Drin-Buna Flood Early warning system, climate change adaptation strategies, local flood and drought management plans and implementation of defined measures, regional water resources management and climate change adaptation in urban areas.

Restoration of Lake Prespa Ecosystem (Implementation of the Watershed Management Plan)

- The new project—‘Restoration of the Prespa Lake’ (financed by Swiss government and implemented by UNDP) —is helping hundreds of farmers to learn and apply more environmentally sustainable practices, how to reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides...
- The project will further apply the recommendations of the Prespa Watershed Management Plan developed with UNDP support in 2012.
- These include large-scale reforestation to combat the effects of erosion, the introduction of wetland restoration techniques for controlling floods and filtering the water of the Golema Reka river, and nature-based upgrades of wastewater management.
- These improvements in agricultural practices and watershed management will significantly reduce the pressures on the lake, finally bringing the process of eutrophication under control.

Strumica river basin



MACEDONIA

SECO/UNDP

The Strumica river basin area is part of a larger transboundary river system comprising parts in Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia and gravitating towards the Aegean Sea.

Restoration of the Strumica River Basin

The Strumica River Basin is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Water levels and water quality are already under pressure from agriculture, which is the main source of income for most of the local population.

- First component of the project, RBMP which will be elaborated in accordance with the WFD and LW.
- Second component of the project, the Preparatory Study on the National Register of Groundwater will be conducted under the full responsibility of the MoEPP

This project which is expected to start in 2015, will be financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by UNDP.

Bilateral and trilateral cooperation

Republic of Macedonia is participating in bilateral cooperation in environmental protection with a number of countries, with an emphasis on cooperation with neighboring countries and receiving technical and other assistance from donor countries.

The country places importance on signing agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs), although the effectiveness of cooperation often depend more on funds for joint programmes and projects than on the existence of a formal agreement.

Bilateral and trilateral cooperation is primarily focused on the integrated management and conservation of transboundary natural resources and ecosystems such as transboundary lakes shared with neighbouring countries, i.e. Lake Ohrid (Albania), Lake Prespa (Albania and Greece), and Lake Dojran (Greece).

Cross-border cooperation also takes place under programme component II of IPA and covers cooperation with Albania, Bulgaria and Greece which includes environmental aspects as well.

Challenges

Key challenges in Transboundary water cooperation still exist, including the management of the main river basins (with Albania, Greece, and Bulgaria). Over the last decade, numerous projects have been carried out in this region, some of high importance and some being small with local benefits.

In this regard, initial meeting for transboundary water cooperations have been organized with:

- Greece, regarding Vardar/Axios river;
- Bulgaria, regarding Strumica river and
- Kosovo, regarding Lepenec river (tributary of Vardar river)

Driving force relevant for bilateral cooperation regarding transboundary waters is the EU WFD, as well as the UNECE Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)

On request of Macedonia and Georgia the Secretariat of the Convention prepared Guidelines for the Convention's implementation.

In september 2015, we started the procedure for ratification and implementation of the Helsinki Water Convention



**Thank you
for your attention!**