



## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: dialogue in the Sava Basin, Western Balkans

Updated: January 2017



Hydropower dam “Moste” in the  
Sava River Basin

Source: J. Mihajlovska

## Background

Economic development such as hydropower and tourism exerts pressure on shared water resources and the environment in South-Eastern Europe. The predicted impacts of climate change and water scarcity also call for improving water use efficiency and reconciling water uses. The challenge: how to improve the intersectoral coordination and address trade-offs? The Framework Agreement on the Sava provides a basis for transboundary water cooperation and its implementation strategy envisages further integration of water policies with sector policies. Responding to country interest, the International Sava River Basin Commission requested an assessment on the nexus.

## Project details

The objective of the project was an enhanced preparedness and capacity of authorities and organisations to assess intersectoral links and to address frictions between sectors and water usage. Activities took place at two levels:

1. Sava Basin: Support of the International Sava River Basin Commission through stakeholder workshops informed by a draft nexus assessment; development of a policy-makers' summary and a publication.
2. Eastern pan-Europe: Sharing nexus assessment experience between countries and basins in a stocktaking workshop; dissemination of two policy briefs addressing intersectoral frictions and integrating environment into sectoral policies.

A dialogue was facilitated in the Sava Basin between economic sectors on the inter-linking issues, policy incoherencies, trade-offs and benefits of cooperation. With stakeholder input, a technical report on the nexus in the Sava Basin was published and disseminated.

**Target country/region:** Western Balkans, Sava River Basin

**Duration:** 05/2015 – 01/2017

**Beneficiary:** National water-, environment- and natural resource administrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia

**Implementing organisations:** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Environment Division, secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention

**Project number:** 55965

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#### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

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