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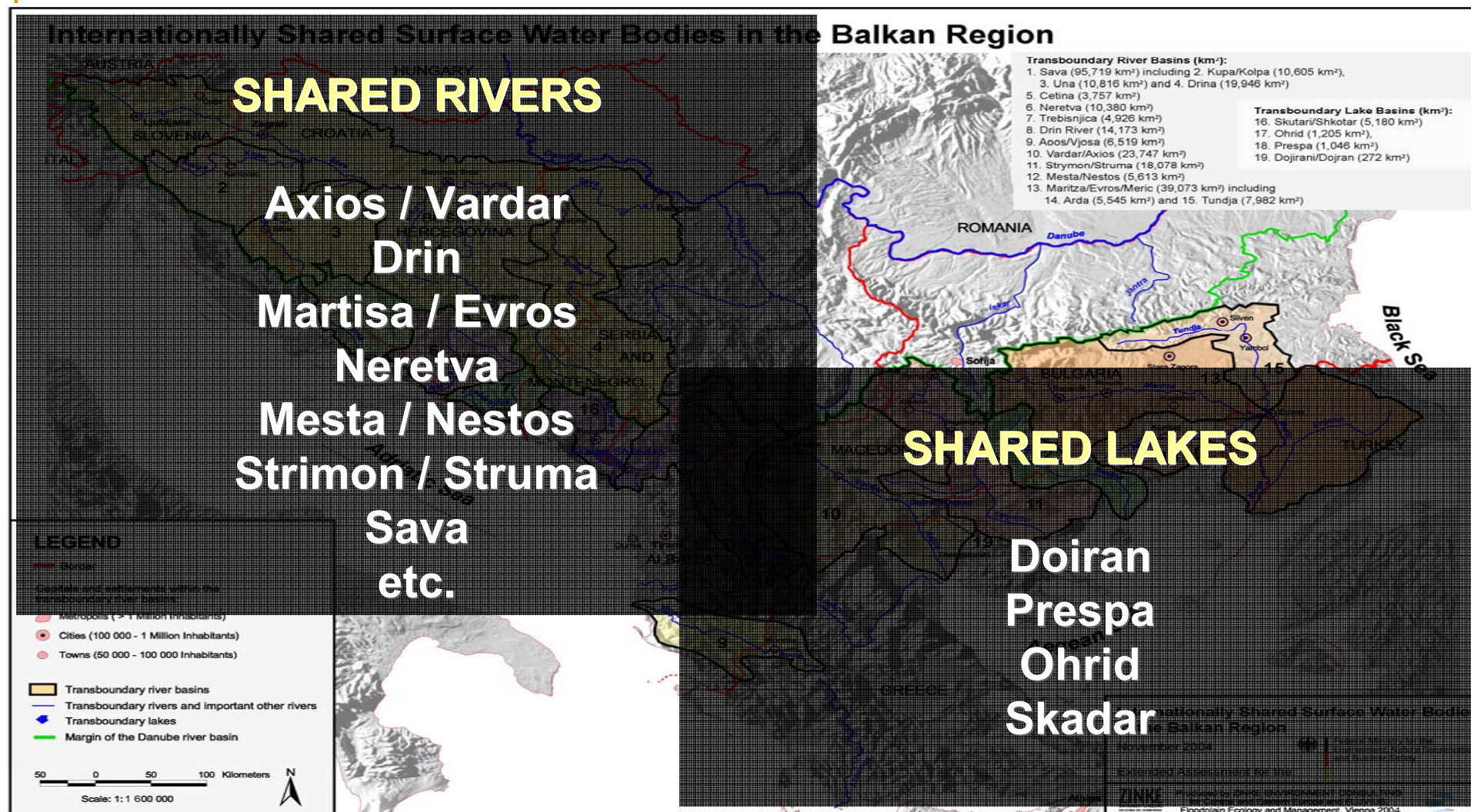
# Capacity Building for Transboundary Water Resources Management in the South Eastern Europe Region

## An IW:LEARN project

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# Capacity Building for Transboundary Water Resources Management, in the South Eastern Europe Region – an IW:LEARN project





## **WHY TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS ARE IMPORTANT IN SEE ?**

- Most river basins, lake basins and major aquifers in South Eastern Europe are shared between two or more countries
- About 90 % of the area of South Eastern Europe is within international basins
- Countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro depend mainly on external resources
- The average regional dependency ratio on external resources in SEE is 66 percent
- High competition for water !

## ***Problems and Challenges for transboundary water resources in SEE - Examples***

### **Water quantity management**

- water sharing Bulgaria and Greece on Mesta/Nestos River,
- balancing needs of FYR Macedonia in maintaining Lake Prespa's water quality and quantity and Greece's irrigation requirements

### **Water quality management**

- Lake Ohrid or Vardar/Axios River

### **Transboundary aquifers management (quantity, quality)**

### **Navigation**

- Danube and Sava Rivers

***Problems and Challenges  
for transboundary water resources in SEE - Examples***

Balancing conflicting interests to ensure ecosystem and biodiversity conservation

- Neretva or Drin Basins
- Deltas and wetlands, in general

Management of emergencies

- Floods forecasting and mitigation Requiring information networking and sharing (Sava or Maritza/Evros Rivers)

***Issues even more complex for shared waters  
because of different socio-economic conditions, geography,  
managing institutions laws, etc***



## **Petersberg Process**

- Jointly supported by the **Government of Germany** and the **World Bank**
- Series of capacity building workshops organised **since 1998**
- Cooperation on the management of transboundary waters in SEE

## **Athens Declaration Process**

- Jointly supported by the **Government of Greece** and the **World Bank**
- International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, organized in **May 2003**, at Vouliagmeni / Athens, Greece
- “**Athens Declaration**” concerning Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge: a long-term process to support cooperative activities for IWRM of shared water resources in the SEE and Mediterranean regions

**Petersberg and Athens Processes are working in synergy**

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## ***IW:LEARN ACTIVITY D2:***

***“Face-to-face and virtual training, knowledge sharing and capacity building cooperation between stakeholders in Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean sub-region”***

- *Petersberg Phase II and the Athens Declaration Processes provide the framework for activities in SEE to be supported through this IW:LEARN Project*
- *The Project contributes directly to the scope and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative*

## ***General Objective of Activity D2 of IW:LEARN (WHAT)***

Test, evaluate and replicate novel approaches and ICT tools to meet **International Waters (IW)** stakeholder needs, with a particular emphasis in **Southeastern Europe (SEE)** and the **Mediterranean sub-regions**.

## ***Goals (WHAT)***

- to **contribute to the cross-fertilization** between competent **organizations and persons with roles** within the river commissions and other joint bodies in SEE
- to allow for the introduction of **new elements** and **experiences from outside the region**.



### *Pursue the goals through (HOW)*

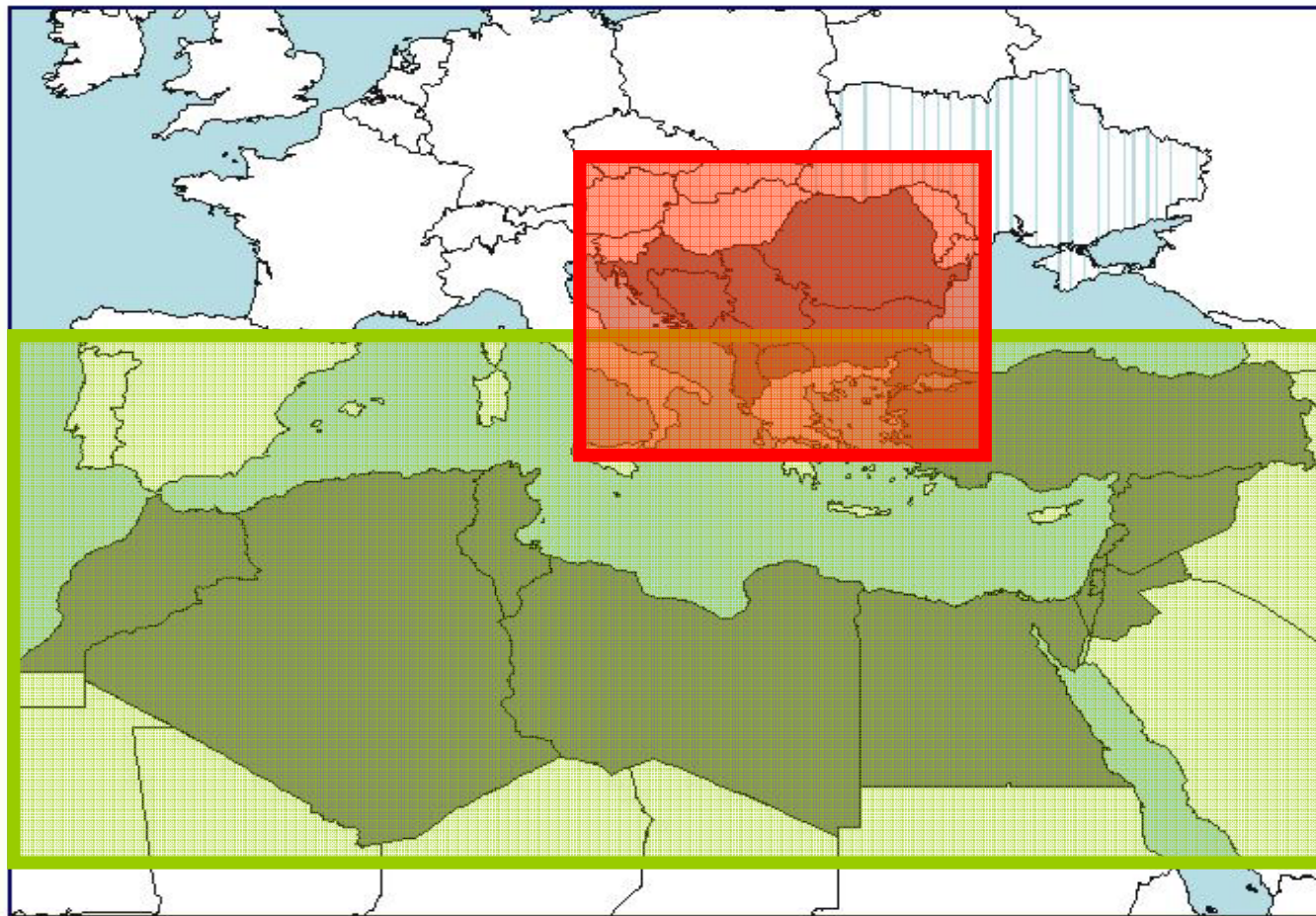
- Organization of a series of **capacity building workshops** for senior officials, decision makers and experts, providing appropriate material
- Facilitation of an **internet-based information network**, establishing a **community of practice** on **transboundary water resources** management with a particular focus in **SEE**.

### *Implementation Period (WHEN)*

- Overall IW:LEARN Programme : 2004 - 2008
- **Activity D2: May 2005 to October 2006 (18 months)**

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**Countries of focus  
(WHERE – FOR WHO)**



- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- FYR Macedonia
- Romania
- Serbia & Montenegro

**May be included  
where relevant**

- Greece
- Hungary
- Moldova
- Slovenia
- Turkey

### **Core Partners (Supporters)**

- GEF IW:LEARN
- German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety
- Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
- World Bank Environment Department
- UNESCO-International Hydrologic Programme (IHP), International Shared Aquifers Resources Management Programme (ISARM) and International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB)
- UNDP CEE
- UNECE

**SYNERGIES** with active institutions, processes and initiatives in the field of transboundary water management at the international, regional and national level **are highly important !**

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***Background material currently prepared***

- General capacity building paper on **Transboundary Waters in SEE**
- Thematic capacity building paper on **Financial aspects of water supply & sanitation in transboundary waters of SEE**

***Events within the project, by the end of 2005***

- **1<sup>st</sup> Technical / Coordination Meeting**  
15 and 16 September 2005, Athens

**Web Site**  
**[www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Capacity Building Workshop**  
“Sustainable Water and Wastewater Utilities – A Key Element for Successful Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean Sub-Region”, 5 to 7 December 2005, Berlin

***Thank you !!!***