

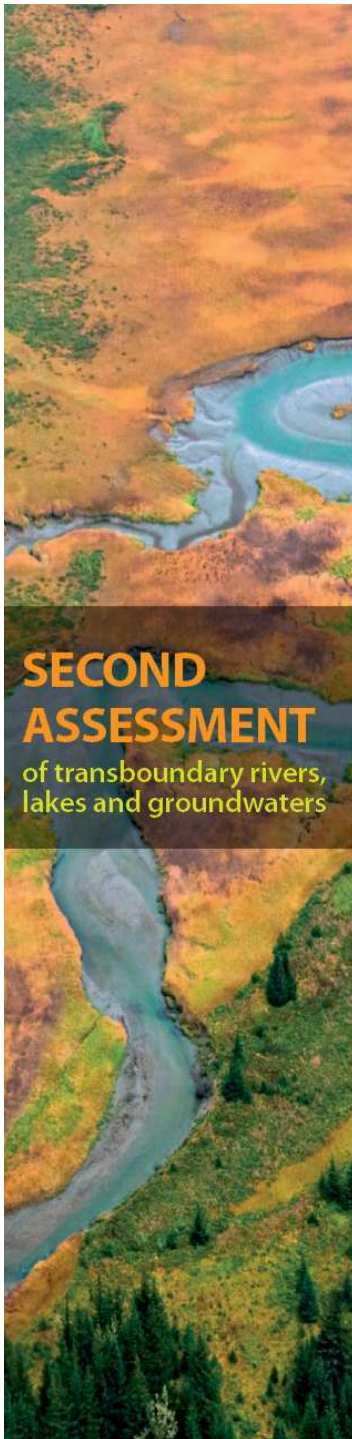
# **Findings of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters**

## **Status of cooperation in the UNECE region**

**Chantal Demilecamps**  
Environmental Affairs Officer  
**United Nations Economic Commission for  
Europe - UNECE**

# Outline

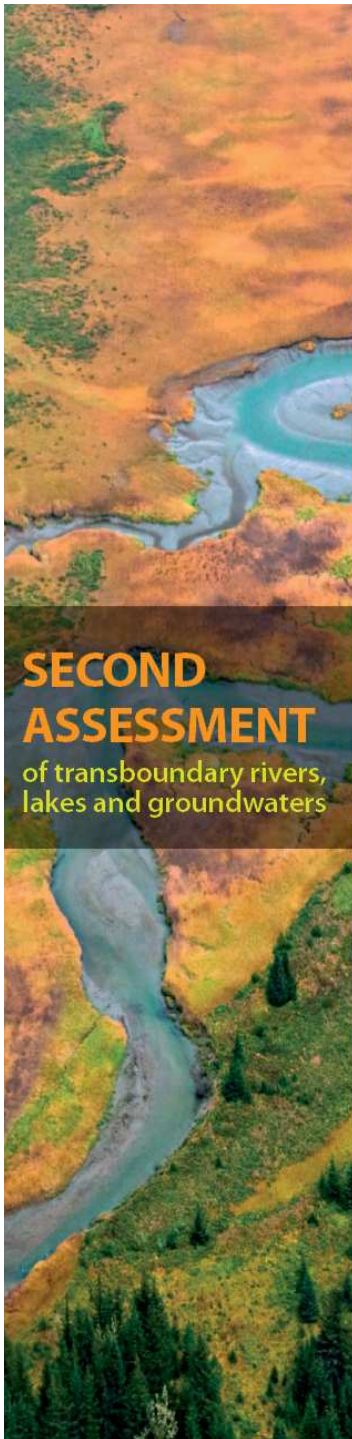
- Scope of the Assessment
- Main conclusions: sub regional focus
  - Western and Central Europe
  - Eastern and Northern Europe
  - Central Asia
  - South-Eastern Europe
  - The Caucasus



# Scope and Approach of the Second Assessment

- More than 140 rivers, 25 lakes, about 200 groundwaters covered in 50 countries
- Assessment of pressure factors, status of water resources, transboundary impacts, responses and future trends

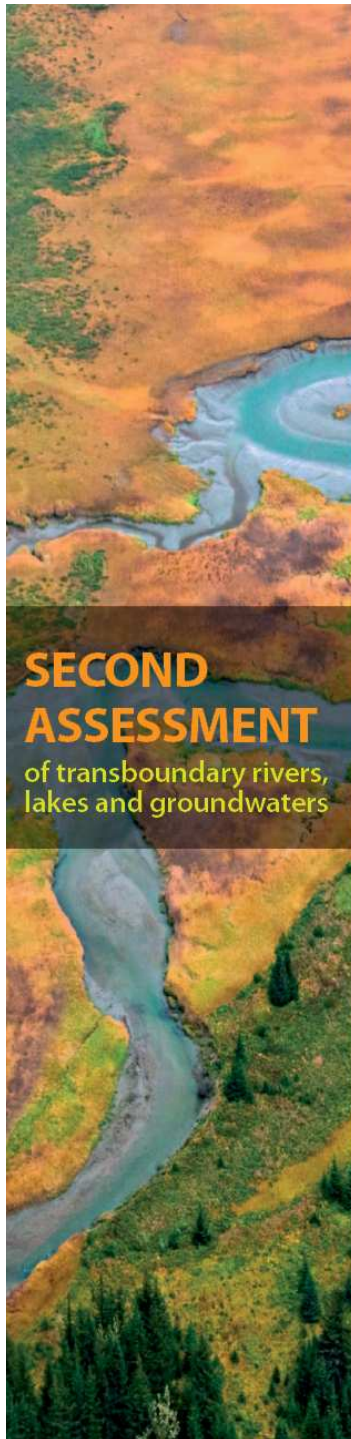
- ➔ A comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the state of transboundary waters
- ➔ A tool to inform, guide & stimulate action



**SECOND  
ASSESSMENT**  
of transboundary rivers,  
lakes and groundwaters

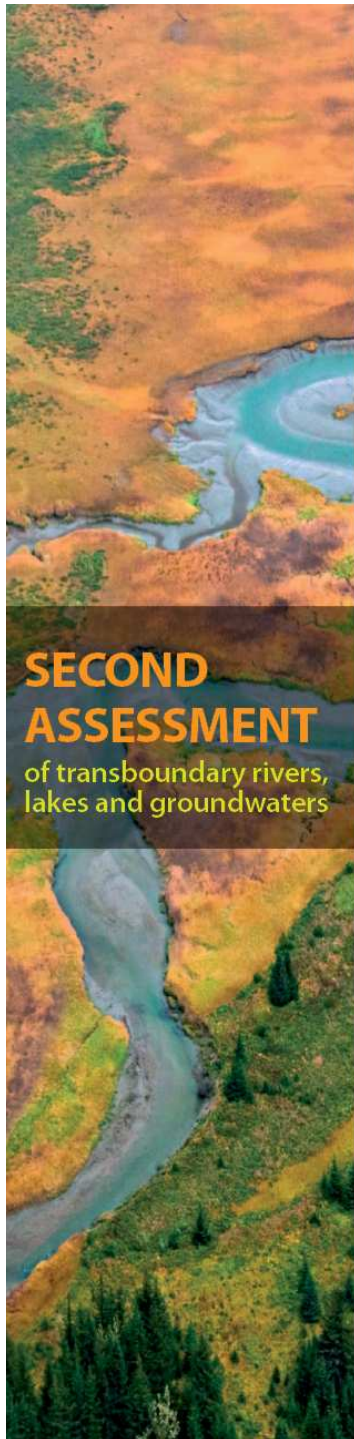


# Transboundary waters in Western & Central Europe



# Western and Central Europe

## An advanced cooperation



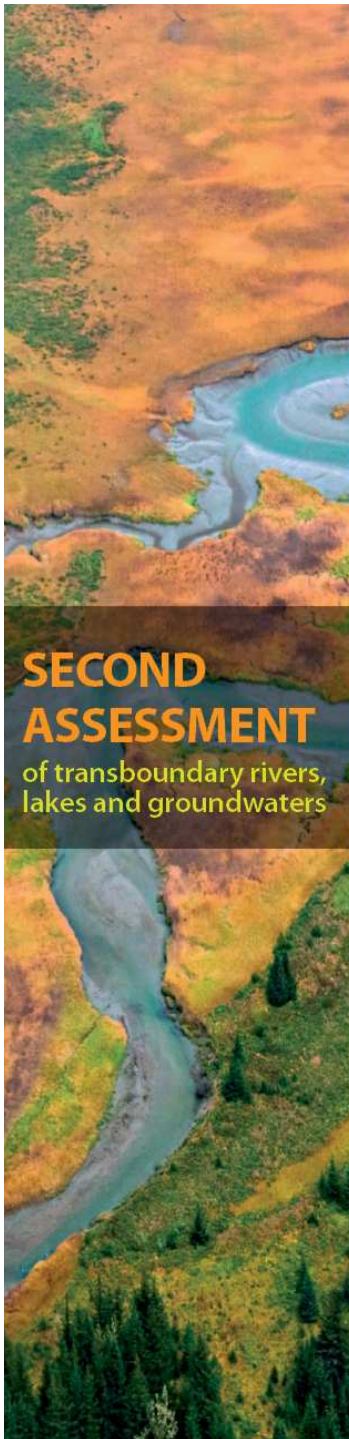
- Strong legal framework for water management & pollution control: EU WFD, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- IWRM well established
- Effective cooperation at multilateral and bilateral levels

- Slow identification of transboundary groundwater bodies
- Dominant pressure from agriculture
- Heavy hydro morphological changes
- Ecological impacts: loss of biodiversity
- Problem of integration of policies



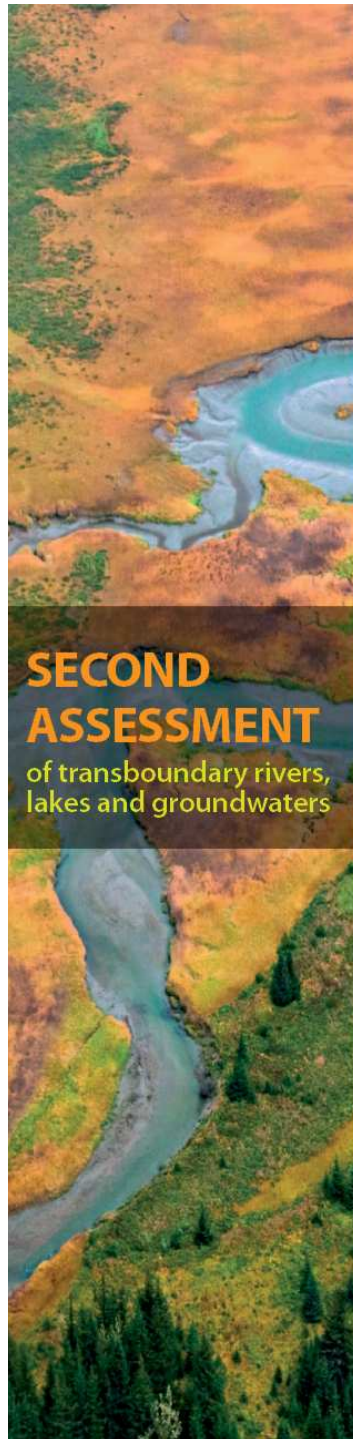


# Transboundary waters in Eastern & Northern Europe





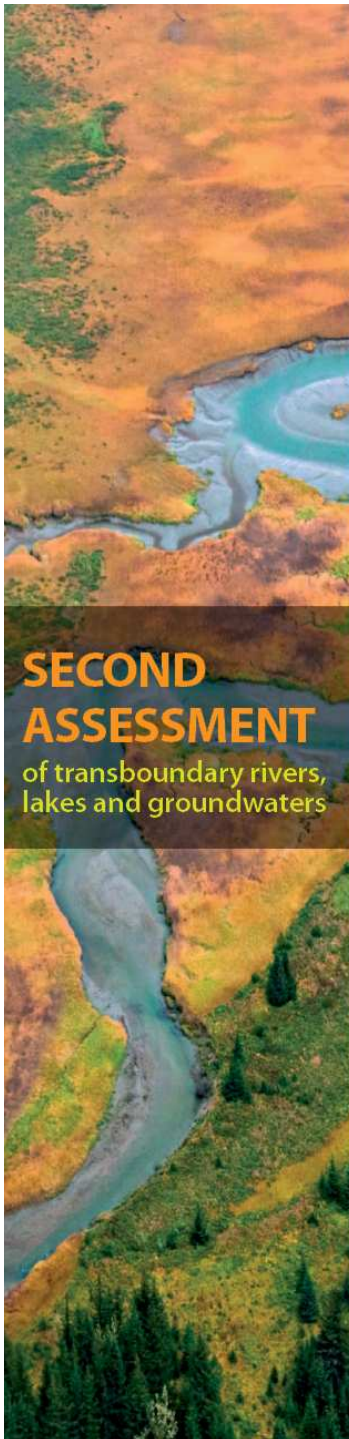
# Eastern & Northern Europe Difference EU countries / Eastern neighbors



- Progress in water protection and IWRM
  - Influence of EU legislation across EU border (alignment)
  - Transboundary cooperation agreements on the basis of the Water Convention
- Less effective transboundary institutions and lower level of cooperation in the Eastern part
  - Little coordination at national level
  - Shortage of fundings for the water sector
  - Discharge of insufficiently treated wastewater
  - Reduction of wetland areas



# Transboundary waters in Central Asia

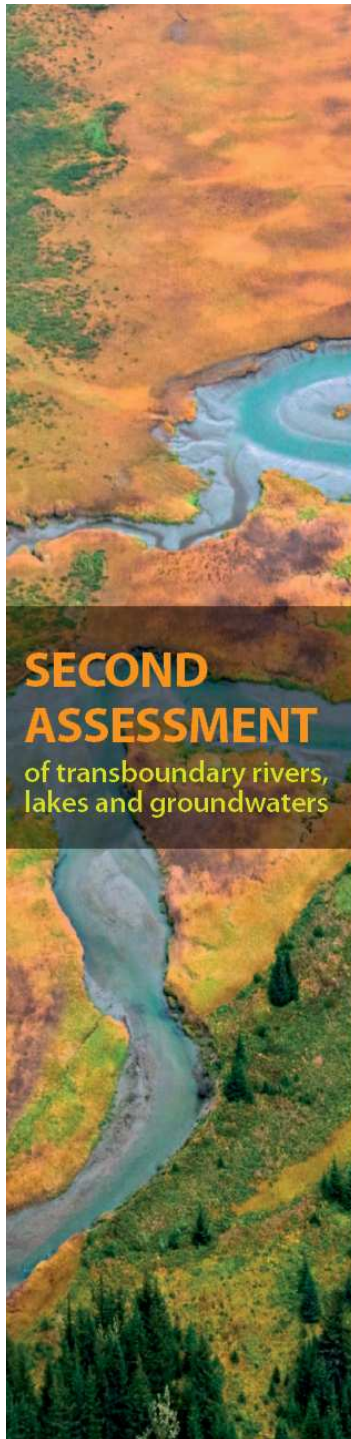


# Central Asia

## Conflicting water uses in an arid region

- Some outdated legal framework: Amur Darya and Syr daria (1990's)
- Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers
- Bilateral agreements: CHN/RUS, CHN/KAZ

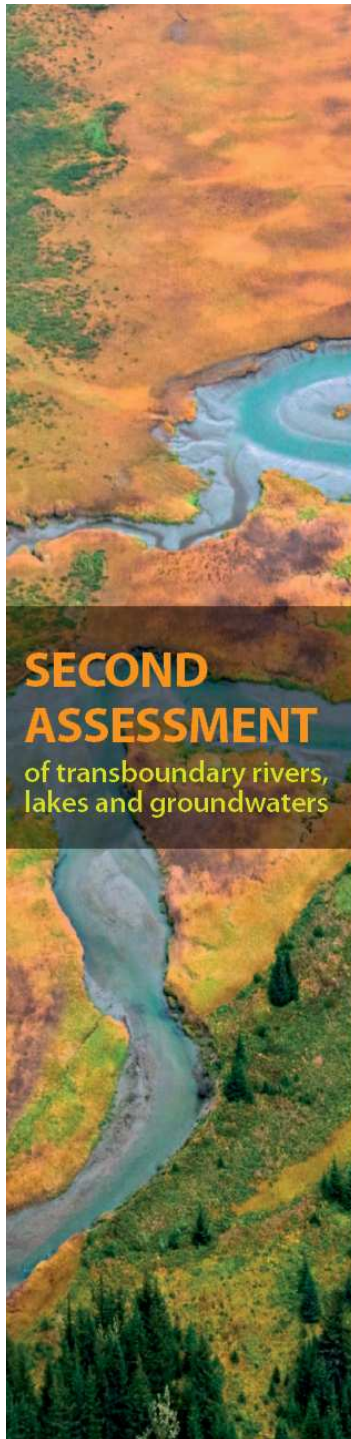
- Differences in socio-economic development and availability of resources
- High dependence on transboundary waters but no effective regional framework for cooperation. Cooperation linked to political relationship between countries
- Economic interests dominate > environmental concerns







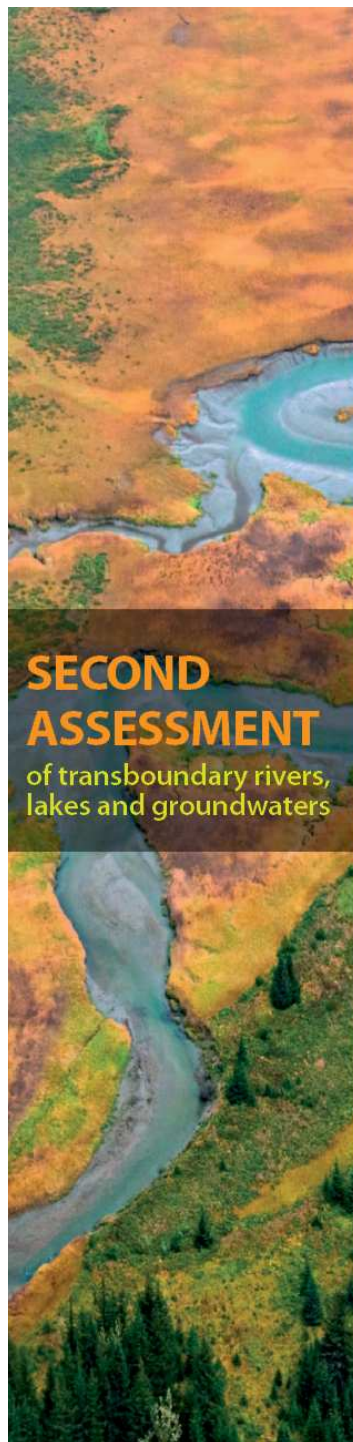
# Main messages



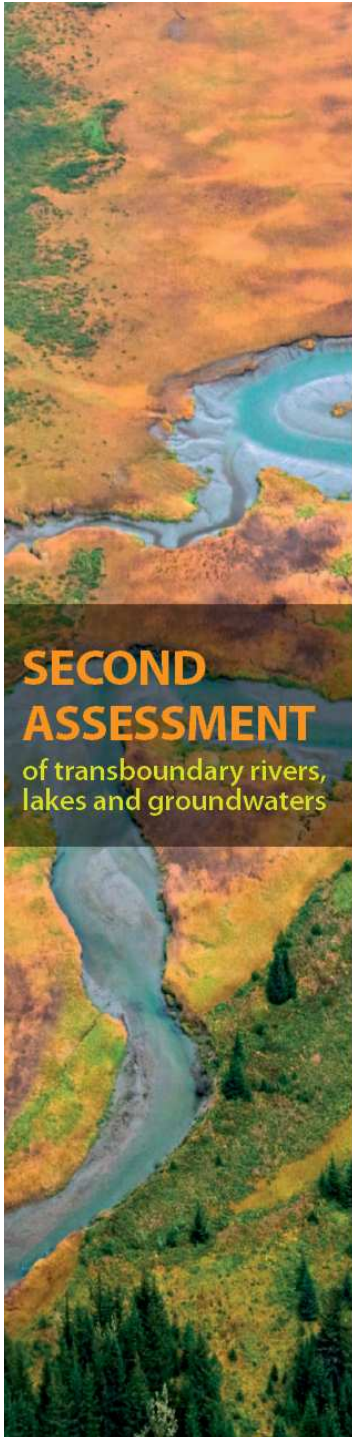
- **Progress in transboundary cooperation** in the region (cf. Water Convention) but many gaps & ineffective arrangements (e.g Bug, Daugava, Neman, Dnieper, South-Eastern Europe, Kura, and Central Asia)
- **Uneven application of IWRM.** Sectoral policies not integrated and sometimes conflicting
- Focus on economic development >> environmental protection concerns => high **risks for long term sustainability** in countries with economies in transition
- Information on **climate change impacts** rarely available at the basin level; seldom **transboundary** cooperation in CC adapt<sup>o</sup>



# Future of assessing transboundary waters under the UNECE Water Convention



- Next extensive assessment in 8-10 years
- A special edition in 4 years with a different scope and approach:
  1. Focus on a specific theme
    - A pressure (e.g. agriculture, hydropower)
    - A cross cutting theme (e.g. climate change and extreme events)
    - A response measure (e.g. monitoring and assessment system)
  2. Assessment limited to a representative number of basins



**SECOND  
ASSESSMENT**  
of transboundary rivers,  
lakes and groundwaters

# Thank you for your attention

**Document available at:**

<http://live.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>

“Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters” (August 2011)

**For more information, :**

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