

Achieving integrated management of selected international rivers in SEE countries

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This SEE RIVER project aims **at initiating river frameworks for 5 SEE international river corridors**: Bodrog, Prut, Soca, Neretva and Vjosa. The main objective of this activity is to agree with **all cross-sectoral stakeholders** from the designated river (thus providing basis for real integrated management) on a shared Vision of what should be the sustainable development vision for that river for the next period, and to prepare:

- **Document on common vision**
- **Action plan for its implementation**

Working groups for each river have been established to coordinate activities on each RIVER corridor. Expected outputs and results include:

- **Improved capacities and cooperation of existing bodies responsible for transboundary management**
- **Multi-sectoral stakeholder networks established on 5 river corridors in 12 countries**
- **5 international Multi-sectoral stakeholder workshops**
- **5 Draft International River Frameworks (based on the example of Drava River Vision Declaration)**

Drava River Vision Declaration was used as starting point for getting riparian population closer and work together for integrated river management, project aims to repeat that success with 5 more SEE rivers and respected Declarations – working hand in hand for rivers!

BODROG RIVER

Length: 67 km / total catchment area: 13,579 km² / Riparian countries: Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary

- The main challenge is to achieve cooperation between water managers, nature protection guards and farmers to manage land use and water in an integrated way and to change agriculture practices to achieve resilience to flood disasters.

NERETVA RIVER

Length: 240 km / total catchment area: 8,100 km² / Riparian countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia

- Challenges include sectoral manner of solutions without appropriate integration with others, high hydropower utilisation, high gravel and sand extraction, inappropriate management of fisheries and others.
- Project aims harmonization of approaches of riparian countries to assure nature conservation in line with sustainable development and with participation of different sectors.

PRUT RIVER

Length: 967 km / total catchment area: 27,820 km² / Riparian countries: Ukraine, Romania, Moldova

- Challenges are presented with non-treated or insufficiently treated municipal, industrial and animal wastewater, uncontrolled landfills, illegal dumping of household waste, changes in land-use and river engineering.
- One of the most important aims is to develop integrated river corridor management with adequate attention, in terms of an integrated approach and sufficient coordination among stakeholders.

SOČA RIVER

Length: 137 km / total catchment area: 3,400 km² / riparian countries: Slovenia, Italy

- The river and its corridor are affected by gravel extraction, sport tourism, fishery tourism, nature protection issues and spatial planning.
- The main challenge is to bring the Soča river corridor management to a higher level, involving stakeholders to determine the most sustainable use of the river corridor, and to prepare a basis for promoting the integrative management in the cross-border area.

VJOSA RIVER

Length: 260 km / total catchment area: 6,519 km² / riparian countries: Greece, Albania

- Challenges include discharge of untreated wastewaters, the exceeding outtake of sediments, degradation of the drainage systems, soil erosion and landslides, overexploitation of riverbeds for gravel, flooding and unsustainable tourism.
- The main objective for the Vjosa river corridor is water quality protection from urban pollution as well as from uncontrolled utilization of fertilizers, from deforestation and its negative impacts on flora and fauna and on the rate of erosion, implementation of common decisions and reaching a consensus from all actors.



SEE RIVER PROJECT

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