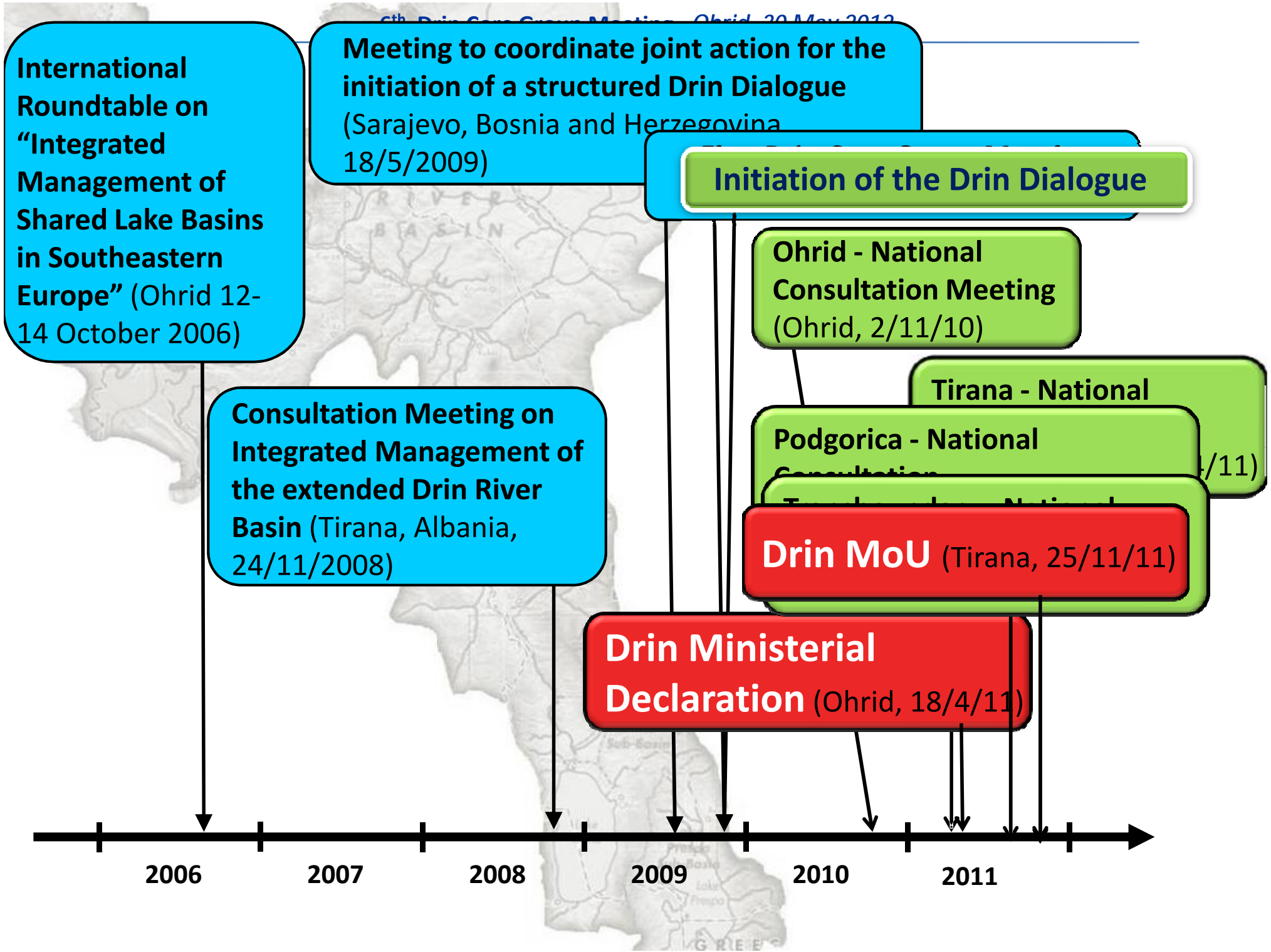


A topographic map of the Drin River Basin in the Balkans. The map shows the river network, major sub-basins like Lake Shkoder and Lake Prespa, and the city of Ohrid. The text 'DRIN RIVER BASIN' is printed across the center of the map. The title '6th Drin Core Group Meeting' is overlaid in large blue font.

6th Drin Core Group Meeting

***Memorandum of Understanding
for the management of the
Drin Basin***

**Ohrid
30 May 2012**



International Roundtable on "Integrated Management of Shared Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe" (Ohrid 12-14 October 2006)

Meeting to coordinate joint action for the initiation of a structured Drin Dialogue (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 18/5/2009)

Initiation of the Drin Dialogue

Ohrid - National Consultation Meeting (Ohrid, 2/11/10)

Tirana - National

Podgorica - National Consultation Meeting (Podgorica, 11/11/10)

Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin (Tirana, Albania, 24/11/2008)

Drin MoU (Tirana, 25/11/11)

Drin Ministerial Declaration (Ohrid, 18/4/11)

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)



Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)

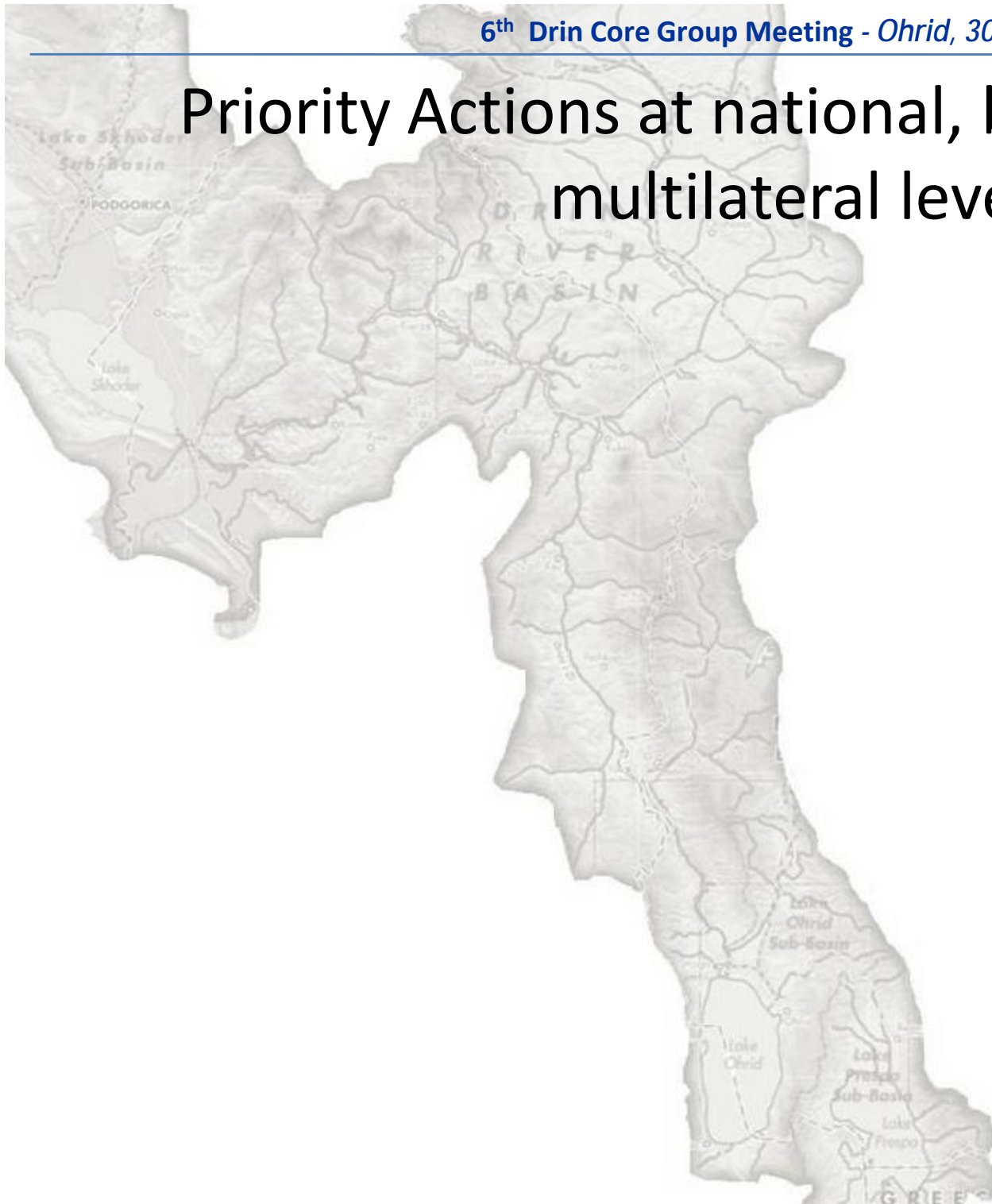
- **Objective / Shared Vision:** *“The Parties commit to promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore to the extent possible the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”*

Acknowledges Common Concerns for sustainable development of the Drin Basin

The Parties hereby should undertake concrete actions to address problems identified as affecting sustainable development in the entire Drin Basin or in one or more of the Sub-Basins:

- *Improving access to comprehensive data and adequate information to fully understand the current state of the environment and the water resources and the hydrologic system (including surface, underground and coastal waters) as well as ecosystems of the Drin Basin;*
- *Establish conditions for a sustainable use of water and other natural resources;*
- *Develop cooperation and measures to minimise flooding especially in the lower parts of the Drin Basin;*
- *Improve management and appropriate disposal of solid wastes;*
- *Decrease nutrient pollution deriving from untreated or poorly treated wastewater discharges and unsustainable agricultural practices;*
- *Decrease pollution from hazardous substances such as heavy metals and pesticides;*
- *Minimise effects of hydro-morphologic interventions that alter the nature of the hydrologic system and the supported ecosystems, resulting in their deterioration.*

Priority Actions at national, bilateral and/or multilateral levels



Short term: a set of **minimum measures** should be initiated and carried out to **promote IWRM**, also at national level, and **facilitate enhancement of cooperation**, including:

- **Elaboration of coordination enhancement mechanisms among the Parties.** The Drin Core Group will be used for this purpose.
- **Enhancement of the knowledge basis about the Drin Basin** that will allow planning of management and implementation of the EU WFD at national, Sub-Basin and Drin Basin level as well as enhanced cooperation among the Parties in the future.
- **Improvement of information exchange** through the establishment of a **system for regular exchange of relevant information** among the competent authorities of each Party.
- **Enhancement of cooperation in the field of flood risk preparedness, management and mutual support.**
- **Institutional strengthening in the field of integrated water resources management** targeting managers, practitioners, relevant officers of national, regional and local authorities, other stakeholders etc.
- **Promotion of public participation and stakeholders engagement.** This may be achieved through the preparation and implementation of a **Stakeholders Involvement Plan.**

Medium Term: establishment of **instruments** to be used for the **sustainable management of water resources** in the Drin Basin, including:

- Achievement of a science based consensus, among the Drin Riparians, on key (Drin Basin) transboundary priorities including climate change scenarios, and also main drivers of change and indicators of sustainable development for the basin.
- Preparation of an elaborated water balance for the Drin Basin as a useful decision support tool at national and transboundary levels.
- Establishment of a harmonized Drin Basin Water Monitoring Program.
- Establishment of an Information Management System (IMS) that will enable authorities to collect, store and share data and information produced
- Establishment of basin-wide cooperative management on the basis of an agreement among the Parties and the establishment of a Basin Commission.

Long Term (after 2016) the instruments that will allow the Parties to work towards sustainable management of the water resources in the Drin Basin are expected to be in place, including:

- *Development of a Drin Basin Management Plan in accordance with the EU WFD and the UNECE Water Convention, that will serve as the guidance document for the development and implementation of river/lake basin management plans for each of the Sub-Basins at national and transboundary level in accordance with the bilateral and multilateral agreements among the Drin Riparians.*

Drin Core Group

Article 5. Implementation and Monitoring

- 1. Pursuant to point 4.1.a, the mandate of the DCG is prolonged and expanded to facilitate communication and cooperation among the Parties for the implementation of the provisions of the present MoU. The functions and responsibilities of the DCG are defined in the Annex to this MoU*

Drin Core Group (1)

Annex. Set-up, Functions and Responsibilities of the Drin Core Group

The set-up, functions and responsibility of the DCG is the following:

- i. The DCG will be comprised of the nominated representatives of the:
(a) Parties (hereinafter referred to as the “representatives of the Parties”); (b) Prespa Park Management Committee; (c) Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee; (d) Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission; (e) UNECE; (f) GWP-Med; (g) MIO-ECSDE.*
- ii. GWP-Med will serve as the Secretariat of the DCG providing technical and administrative support.*
- iii. The institutions and bodies participating in the DCG may alter their representatives in the DCG through a formal letter to the DCG Secretariat.*
- iv. The decisions of the DCG will be taken by the representatives of the Parties on the basis of consensus.*

Drin Core Group (2)

Annex. Set-up, Functions and Responsibilities of the Drin Core Group

- v. *The DCG shall meet on a regular basis and not less than once per year. (..). The dates and the frequency of the meetings to follow will be decided by the DCG.*
- vi. *A non-scheduled meeting of the DCG may be called at the request of any of the representatives of the Parties upon submission to the Secretariat of a written request including explanation of the reasons for such meeting, which shall be promptly distributed to all DCG members.*

Drin Core Group (3)

Annex. Set-up, Functions and Responsibilities of the Drin Core Group

- vii. The venue of the meetings will be decided by the DCG. The meetings shall be chaired by the representative of the Party in which they are held.*
- viii. The DCG shall amend as necessary in conformity to the aforementioned in this article and in accordance to the requirements stemming from the MoU its internal rules of organization and Terms of Reference (ToR) decided at Podgorica on 1 December 2009.*
- ix. Possible changes in the set-up, functions and responsibility of DCG is decided of by the meeting of the Parties.*

Scope/Specific Objectives

- In addition to coordinating the Drin Dialogue, the Drin Core Group will:
- *Facilitate the exchange of information related to the management of the Drin Basin and its sub-basins i.e. Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar/Shkoder Lakes and Drim/Drin (including its tributaries Black Drin and White Drin and Buna/Bojana Rivers Basins;*
- *Assist in raising awareness among the stakeholders in the Drin Basin;*
- *Provide assistance for the organization of the Consultation Meetings at National and Transboundary levels described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities.*
- *Discuss the development and provide input for the preparation of the “Situation Analysis” described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities;*
- *Discuss and formulate the draft "Strategic Shared Vision" document (decided in the Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin, (Tirana, Albania, 24 November 2008) and the Meeting to coordinate joint action for the initiation of a structured Dialogue process (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 May 2009) - described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities), with the assistance of UNECE and GWP-Med, to be discussed and finalized through the Drin Dialogue;*
- *Provide input for the preparation of the GEF Drin Project Identification Form (PIF) and the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) work-plan for a project proposal to be submitted to GEF for eventual financing, if such a process is initiated;*

Means to deliver results

- Expert work, including preparation of background documents.
- Meetings.
- Electronic communication media (Emails, Web-based working space (explore related opportunities with GEF IW:LEARN)).

