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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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Report: SEPA support to transboundary cooperation in the Drin basin in 2012

Dear Mr. Westman,

In this letter we would like to report on the use of funds supplied by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for work in the Drin process during 2012. The substantive elements are found in the attached report from the Secretariat of the Drin Process, the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean. Please note that the financial component of this report is not official. An official "Utilization of funds" report will be issued and sent before 31 March 2013.

The 50,000 USD provided by the Swedish EPA have been used as follows:

Expert group meetings	18,209 ¹ USD (budget 20,000 USD)
Co-funding of Water Framework Directive	
Training	2,591 ² (not budgeted)
UNECE staff costs	21,400 USD (budget 19,000 USD)
UNECE staff travel	no expenses (budget 5,000 USD)
Travel of participants ³	1,800 USD (not budgeted)
UN 13% overhead	6,000 USD

Mr. Ulrik Westman
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¹ Grant ECE/GC/2012/020 to Global Water Partnership Mediterranean. See item 1.3 in the Attachment.

² Grant ECE/GC/2012/020 to Global Water Partnership Mediterranean. See item 8 in the Attachment.

³ A representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ylber Mirta, participating in the Meeting of the Parties in Rome 28-30 November 2012 (TR 261108).

The background to the differences between the estimated budget and the final use of funds is that the activities in the Drin process in 2012 were funded from different sources that needed to be matched as efficiently as possible. Funds from the non-budgeted items "training" and "travel of participants" contributed to a training on the Water Framework Directive for experts in Drin Riparians, and to facilitate the reporting on the Drin process to the Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention in Rome, November 2013.

The support from Swedish EPA has been very important as it has given us the opportunity to continue the support to the Drin process, "bridging" the first very successful phase and the GEF funding approved. Other sources of funding have provided a total of 100,000 USD for the work in the Drin process in 2012.

The objective of the work in 2012 as proposed in the application to Swedish EPA was to establish an operational institutional structure for the implementation of the MoU / Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin and, more specifically, to provide for its functioning during 2012. This objective has been achieved with two Drin Core Group meetings, the establishment of three expert working groups, the drafting of their TORs and organization of the first expert group meetings. However, the Meeting of the Parties of the Drin MoU needs to make a formal decision on the establishment of the expert groups. This decision is expected to be made in March-April 2013.

A project document for the 4.5 million USD GEF project will be prepared in 2013, and the project implemented in 2014-2018. One important issue here is that UNECE and its partner need to count on various sources of co-funding from sources. The funds already provided by the Swedish EPA will be counted as co-funding but we also hope that the planned funding from SIDA for the development of water management in Albania can be included as co-funding. Preliminary contacts have been taken with SIDA on this issue.

Mr Bo Libert (bo.libert@unece.org) will remain the contact person for this project and can provide further information on the project and use of funds.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Keiner
Director
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