



*Highlighting Estonia's lead activities under the Programme of Work  
2022-24 (including IWRM and Benefits Assessment and upcoming events including  
Source to Sea Workshop)*

Harry Liiv

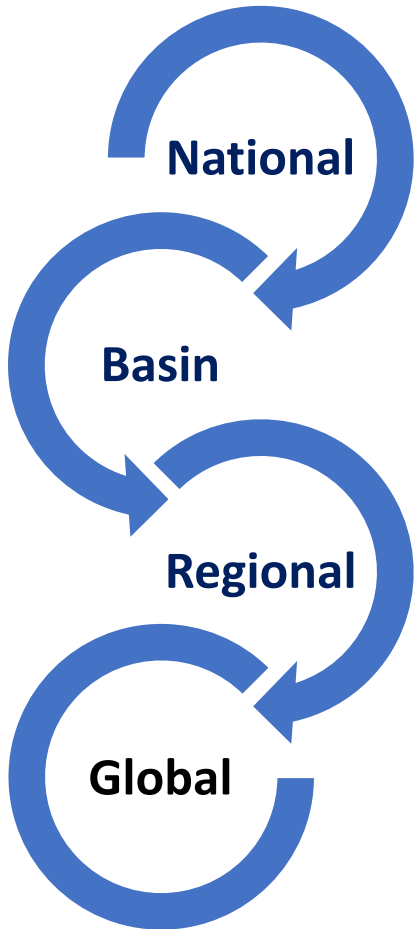
Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention

# Estonian activity directions under convention

- How to transfer International knowlege into local water management(guidances)
- How to work together with different countries( EU non- EU, big and small states)
- How to find joint areas of work, how to find common framework
- How to find balance between economic, environmental and social benefits
- How to find interaction between different sectors and areas
- How to use your geographical situation for better water management

# Water Convention Programme of Work 2022-2024

Delivering at different levels:



Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation



Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins



Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels



Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins



Programme area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation



Programme area 6: Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

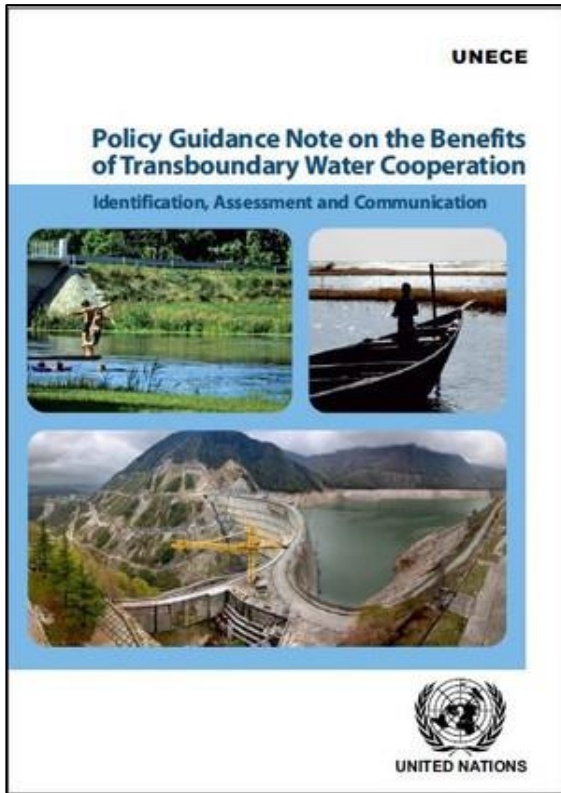


Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

## Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of Cooperation

- Rationale: Accession of new countries needs to be scaled up together with the implementation of the Convention's principles
- Objectives: Foster the application of the principles of the Convention and the improvement of cooperation on the management of transboundary waters
- Area 1.1: Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession, Lead Party: : Finland, France, Germany, Ghana and Hungary
- **Area 1.2: Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation with Lead Party: Estonia.**
- Area 1.3: Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies with Lead Parties: Germany and Hungary
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# Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation



	Benefits for economic activities	Benefits beyond economic activities
<b>From improved water management</b>	<b>Economic benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded activity and productivity in economic sectors (agriculture, energy generation, nature-based tourism)</li> <li>Reduced cost of carrying out productive activities</li> <li>Reduced economic impacts of water-related hazards (floods, droughts) ...</li> </ul>	<b>Social and environmental benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health impacts from improved water quality</li> <li>Employment and reduced poverty impacts</li> <li>Improved access to services (electricity, water supply..)</li> <li>Preservation of cultural resources or recreational opportunities.</li> <li>Increased ecological integrity</li> </ul>
<b>From enhanced trust</b>	<b>Regional economic cooperation benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of regional markets (for goods, services &amp; labour)</li> <li>Increase in cross-border investments</li> <li>Development transnational infrastructure networks</li> </ul>	<b>Peace and security benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening of international law</li> <li>Increased geopolitical stability</li> <li>New opportunities from increased trust</li> <li>Reduced risk and avoided cost of conflict</li> <li>Creation of shared basin identity</li> </ul>

Benefit assessment can help facilitate dialogue / launch cooperation process / consolidate existing cooperation through negotiations / support realization of advanced cooperation initiatives, such as joint projects

# How the Water Convention can help to take advantage of the transboundary water cooperation benefits?

The **Water Convention** provides **policy guidance to governments** on how to **improve cooperation** by **highlighting the potential to generate significant benefits** between countries.

**3 benefits assessments** have been carried out so far in shared basins under the Convention framework, enabling to engage policy process to improve cooperation:

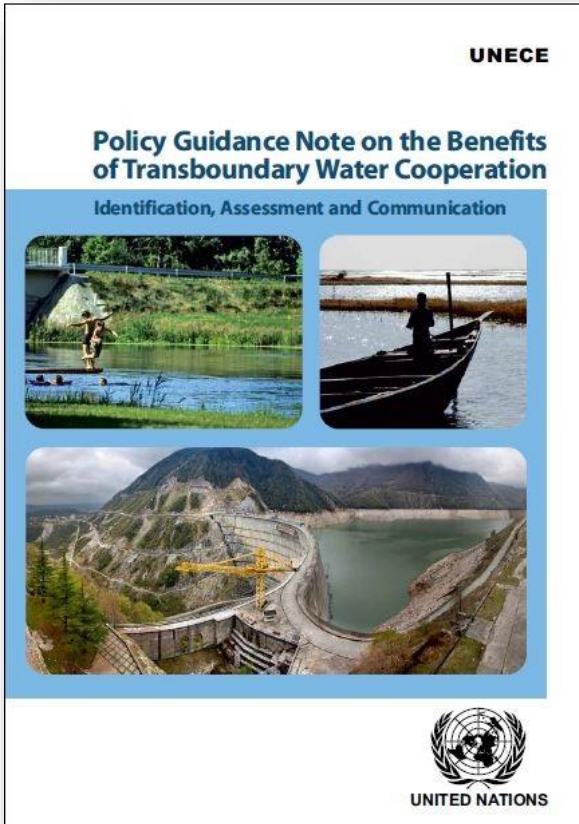
<b>Drina River Basin</b> <i>(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ The assessment provided a basis for the <b>identification of opportunities and concrete benefits of transboundary cooperation across sectors</b> (Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus)</li><li>→ It improved <b>intersectoral coordination</b> at the state level and informed cross-sectoral discussion between the water and energy sectors in the basin</li></ul>
<b>Cubango Okavango River Basin</b> <i>(Angola, Botswana, Namibia)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ The assessment <b>built on national assessments</b> of the benefits</li><li>→ <b>Common basin vision of the benefits of cooperation</b> developed (Focus on communication)</li><li>→ Helped in <b>complementing a Multi Sectoral Investment Opportunities Assessment</b> carried out by the World Bank in the basin</li></ul>
<b>Sio Malaba Malakisi Basin</b> <i>(Kenya/Uganda)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ <b>Participative benefit opportunities assessment</b> dialogue with stakeholders from the basin</li><li>→ Support to the <b>prioritization of development projects</b> in the basin through joint project</li></ul>

# Assessing the benefits of transboundary water cooperation to guide investment in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi (SMM) basin

**Process:** Multi-stakeholder process to strengthen cooperation, focusing on benefits, using the *Policy Guidance Note on identifying, assessing and communicating the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation* developed under the Water Convention

**Outcomes** of this participative benefit assessment exercise:

- **SMM Basin Investment Framework** to promote and guide investment of transboundary significance in the SMM Basin endorsed in Dec. 2018
- 4 **prioritized** clusters of **investment projects**
- Roadmap for the development of a fully-fledged SMM Basin Investment Strategy (including projects portfolio)
- **Draft revised MoU** for joint management of SMM transboundary basin under development
- **Joint Working Group** officially nominated, entrusted to support further development of SMM revised MoU for endorsement
- Possible **future institutional framework** proposed and under discussion
- Planned consultations with donors to facilitate the **mobilization of funding** to implement projects in the basin



Programme area 3. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels

- Rationale: Integrated water resources management is a universally recognized best practice, which involves coordination among different uses and users of water from different sectors to maximize economic and social benefits without damaging the sustainability of ecosystems.
- Objectives: • Support the development of transboundary basin management strategies, joint objectives or plans (or elements for such plans), in line with the Convention and the principles of integrated water resources management.
- **3.1. Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins Lead Parties: Estonia and Slovenia.**





# Global Workshop on Source-to-Sea Management – 14-16 December 2022, Geneva and online



The source-to-sea approach aims at bridging existing gaps by connecting the ecosystem's management and tackling marine pollution at the source, upstream.

## Workshop objective:

- To gather experts and policymakers from the freshwater and ocean communities, as well as from transboundary basin organizations and marine organizations, with the aim to strengthen cooperation and share good practices in policy-making and implementation of effective source-to-sea management
- Workshop led by Estonia and Slovenia

[Link to the webpage](#)



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