

# Draft Policy Guidance Note: Identifying, Assessing and Communicating the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation



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# 1. Progress and achievements in this area of work in the triennium, esp. since 2014

- \* **2<sup>nd</sup> draft** of the Policy Guidance Note developed in Dec. 2014, reflecting outcomes of workshop «Counting our Gains» (May 2014) & comments WG-IWRM 2014 and including some case studies
- \* **Workshop «Beyond Water»** (Tallinn, 01/2015) → focus on geopolitical & regional integration benefits & communication
- \* Presentation of work on benefits at **7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**



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## Expert Workshop: "Beyond water: Regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation" (Tallinn, 28-29 January 2015)

- \* Representatives from regional economic integration and foreign policy communities
- \* Water diplomacy & consideration geopolitical and regional integration benefits of TWC higher on the diplomatic agenda
- \* Outcomes: recommendations on how to identify, assess and communicate the regional integration & geopolitical benefits of TWC → input to Guidance



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## Development of the **3rd draft of Policy Guidance Note**:

- \* Identification: updated typology
- \* Assessment: options and methodological approaches developed
- \* Communication: focus on target groups, not on benefits types
- \* 23 boxes presenting case studies included (geographical balance)
- \* “How to use” section added, Executive summary developed



## 2. Draft Policy Guidance Note on benefits of cooperation: structure

Executive Summary

How to use this Policy Guidance Note

1. Introduction: Aim, scope & target; Why? How? Basics of transboundary water cooperation
2. Launching a benefit assessment exercise
3. Identifying the benefits of TWC
4. Assessing the benefits of TWC
5. Communicating the benefits of TWC



## 2. Draft Policy Guidance Note on benefits of cooperation: main messages

- \* Benefit assessment exercises can help countries realize the potential value of cooperation
- \* Benefit assessment exercise to be closely tied to a transboundary water cooperation policy process, and designed to match its needs (cf. level of maturity)
- \* Broad range of benefits of TWC, varying according to basins context

<i>Origin of benefits</i>	<i>On economic activities</i>	<i>Beyond economic activities</i>
<i>From improved water management</i>	Economic benefits	Social & environmental benefits
<i>From enhanced trust</i>	Regional economic cooperation benefits	Peace and security benefits



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- \* Nature & level of detail of “assessment phase” to vary according to issues, cooperation stage & political will

Stage dev. TWC policy process	Needs of TWC policy process	Focus of the benefit assessment exercise	Main focus of the assessment phase
Pre-initial stage	Establish conditions for launching cooperation process	Identify mutually beneficial opportunities from shared water resources	Rapid qualitative assessment of key benefits
Initial stage	Launch of cooperation process	Identification of full range of benefits	Rapid qualitative assessment of all identified benefits
Medium stage	Consolidation of cooperation process through negotiations	Broad assessment of range of benefits of cooperation, incl. cost of non action	In-depth qualitative assesst of all identified benefits & some quant. & monetary estimates
Advanced stage	Realization of potential benefits of cooperation, implementation of cooperation initiatives	Assessment of benefits of independent national / joint projects or a basin programme of measures	Quantitative and monetary valuation, when justified given available resources

## 2. Draft Policy Guidance Note on benefits of cooperation: main messages

- \* Communication efforts key to integrating the assessment results in the TWC policy process
- \* Communication to be tailored to different audiences, purposes and the stage of TWC policy process

<i>Target audience</i>	<i>Awareness-raising</i>	<i>Policy development</i>	<i>Negotiation and deal making</i>
National decision makers	Policy briefs	Trusted persons and think tanks Analytical reports	Joint analytical reports Independent panel of experts
National water community	Policy briefs Joint website Platforms joint bodies Study tours	Platforms joint bodies Process of preparation of basin plans Study tours/workshops	Joint analytical reports Independent panel of experts
Local stakeholders and general public	Articles in mass media Training of journalists Joint websites Basin day events	Trusted grass-roots organizations	Public consultation mechanisms



# 3. Finalization of the Policy Guidance Note

- \* Questions to the Working Group:
  - Specific comments on the revised document?
  - Selection and reformulation of case studies?
  - Suggestions:
    - Additional box under «governance benefits» on benefits of multilateral cooperation on accession to EU in 90's?
    - Reformulation of box 6
    - Add example from Central Asia and on cooperation in Sava River Basin
    - Add additional graphs and visuals
  
- \* Comments by 15 July



# 4. Plans in this area in the draft programme of work for 2016-2018

- \* *Policy Guidance Note* to be promoted in pilot basins and countries interested in applying it, in cooperation with/led by partners
- \* Experience between pilot exercises and other similar activities worldwide to be shared during one workshop in 2017 or 2018

