Symposium on Water Equity in South-East Europe and the Mediterranean

29 March 2019   Palazzo Zorzi, Venice (Italy)
Draft Concept note and Agenda

Improved water resources management and access to safe, clean water for all is an essential step towards eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable human development under fair and equitable conditions in South-East Europe and the Mediterranean. Millions in the region still lack access to safe water and sanitation, and these are the most excluded segments of the region's populations. In addition, climate change and other global changes are increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters and extreme events, which affect disproportionally the most vulnerable parts of the region's population, and exacerbate inequalities.

UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to science, education and capacity building on water. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, based in Venice, is responsible to implement IHP's programme in the region, with the support of the UNESCO Water Family which includes 11 National Committees, 3 water-related category II centres and 5 UNESCO water related Chairs. UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) coordinates the work of 31 UN-Water members (UN agencies) and 39 partners (international organisations, NGOs etc.) in producing annually the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR), that is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water.

In this context, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with WWAP and other partners is organizing a high-level regional symposium on water equity in South east Europe and the Mediterranean following the launch of the 2019 World Water Development Report (WWDR) 'Leaving No One Behind'. The symposium will examine how UNESCO and its partners in the region can promote integrated water resources management that ensures access to safe water and sanitation for all and increases the resiliency of the most vulnerable segments of the region's populations to climate change and disasters.

Participating organizations

Over 40 experts and representatives from 10 countries in the region, including IHP National Committees, UNESCO Water Chairs, Water-related UNESCO Category II Centres, universities and research centres, UN agencies, national and local authorities, as well as other water organizations and stakeholders from South-East Europe and the Mediterranean.

Key Expected Results

- Identifying approaches and tools to promote sustainable and equitable integrated water management at the country, basin and regional levels in South East Europe and the Mediterranean
- Enhancing the understanding among participants of the region of WWDR 2019's main messages
- Increasing synergies and strengthening UNESCO's regional network of water stakeholders

Agenda

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00	Opening session:
	Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice
	Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator, WWAP
	Enrico Padula, Embassy Counsellor, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
	Massimiliano de Martin, Councillor for Urban Planning and the Environment for the City of Venice
9:30-10:00	**Stefan Uhlenbrook**, WWAP Coordinator: *Key lessons from the WWDR for the region*

10:00-10:30	**Keynote address: András Szöllösi-Nagy,** former Secretary UNESCO IHP, former rector UNESCO-IHE, Governor of the World Water Council
	"Is the water crises inevitable or is it a matter of governance and equity? Expected changes of global and regional water resources"

10:30-10:45	**Q&A session**

10:45-11:00	**Coffee break**

11:00-12:15	**Roundtable 1: Equitable integrated water management, including access to safe and clean water in SEE and the Mediterranean**
	Moderator: **Jacques Ganoulis,** UNESCO Chairholder, International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans on 'Sustainable Management on Water and Conflict Resolution', Greece

Opening presentation: Carlo Giupponi, Full professor of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and Dean of Venice International University, Italy

"Going beyond averages: water management, social inequalities, and the fight against poverty"

Participants:	**Biljana Rajić**, Senior Adviser on Water Resources, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Marko Ivetić, UNESCO Chairholder, Chair in Water for Ecologically Sustainable Development, Serbia
	Murat Ali Hatipoğlu, General Directorate of the State Hydraulic works (DSI), IHP National Committee, Turkey
	Konstantinos Voudouris, Vice President, UNESCO Category II Centre on Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management, Thessaloniki, Greece
	Dragana Milovanović, Deputy Secretary for integrated river basin management and water planning, International Sava River Basin Commission

12:15-13:30	**Roundtable 2: Improving resiliency of the most vulnerable to climate change and water-related disasters in SEE and the Mediterranean**
	Moderator: **Brankica Majkić-Dursun**, Director, UNESCO category II Center for Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change, Serbia

Opening presentation: Erika Coppola, Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics, Italy:

"Regional climate projection in the Mediterranean basin"

Participants:	**Elena Bojilova,** Secretary, IHP National Committee, Bulgaria
	Bojana Horvat, Researcher, Water management Institute, IHP National Committee, Croatia
	Jovan Despotović, President, IHP National Committee, Serbia
	Mitja Brilly, IHP National Committee, Slovenia
	Miroslava Nenadić, Directorate for Water Management, Montenegro

13:30	**Concluding remarks: Jonathan Baker,** Head of Science unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

13:35-15:00	Reception and lunch

Contact information

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