

Water governance in the OSCE region – increasing security and stability through co-operation



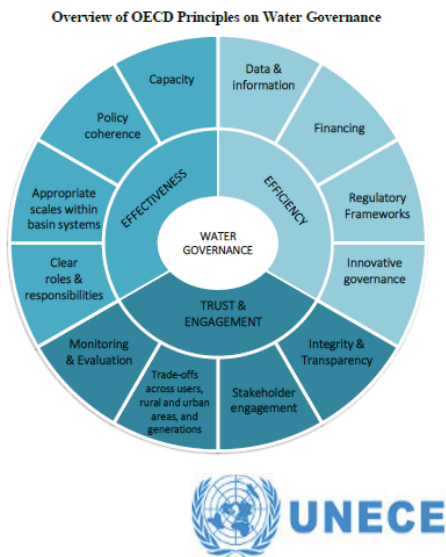
Background- why do we need good water governance?

- World Economic Forum: Water crises are considered to be one of the highest risks by business leaders. Many water crises are actually considered governance crises (OECD).
- Today, about 700 million people live in countries experiencing water stress or scarcity. By 2035, it is projected that 3 billion people will be living in conditions of severe water stress.
- Water withdrawals are predicted to increase by 50 percent by 2025 in developing countries, and 18 per cent in developed countries. This will further increase competition between sectors.
- Over 1.7 billion people currently live in river basins where the use of water exceeds minimum recharge levels, leading to the desiccation of rivers and depletion of groundwater.
- 80% of wastewater worldwide is not treated.
- Half of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900.
- More than 150 rivers and lakes are shared by two or more of the 57 OSCE participating States (out of 276 transboundary river basins worldwide)

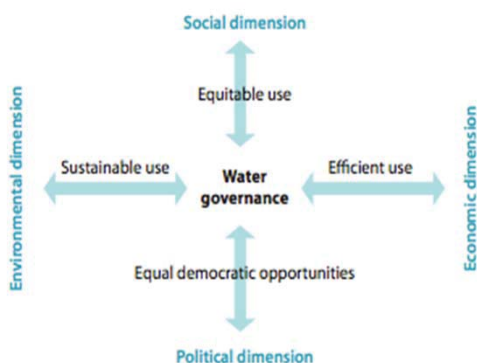


Definitions for water governance

- OECD: Water governance is the set of administrative systems, with a core focus on formal institutions (laws, official policies) and informal institutions (power relations and practices) as well as organisational structures and their efficiency.
- GWP: Water governance is the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources, and the delivery of water services, at different levels of society.



Water governance dimensions



Lock: elements of water governance:

- *legitimacy* of the organisation's authority to govern;
- *transparency* in the decision-making process;
- *accountability* of actors and their responsibilities, including integrity concerns;
- *inclusiveness* of the different stakeholders;
- *fairness* in the service delivery or allocation of uses;
- *integration* of water policy making at horizontal and vertical levels;
- *capacity* of organisations and individuals managing water;
- *adaptability* to a changing environment.



SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- **6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate**
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



Other international frameworks and processes also supporting water governance

- Agenda 21, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, MDGs, Rio + 20
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Different water-related Conventions such as Ramsar Convention, UN Watercourses Convention
- Regional Conventions such as Aarhus Convention, Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol, Industrial Accidents Convention, Protocol on Water and Health
- European Union: Water Framework Directive, Flood Directive, some other water-related EU directives
- EU Water Initiative, e.g. NPDs in EECCA countries
- OECD Water governance initiative
- Many other initiatives and programmes

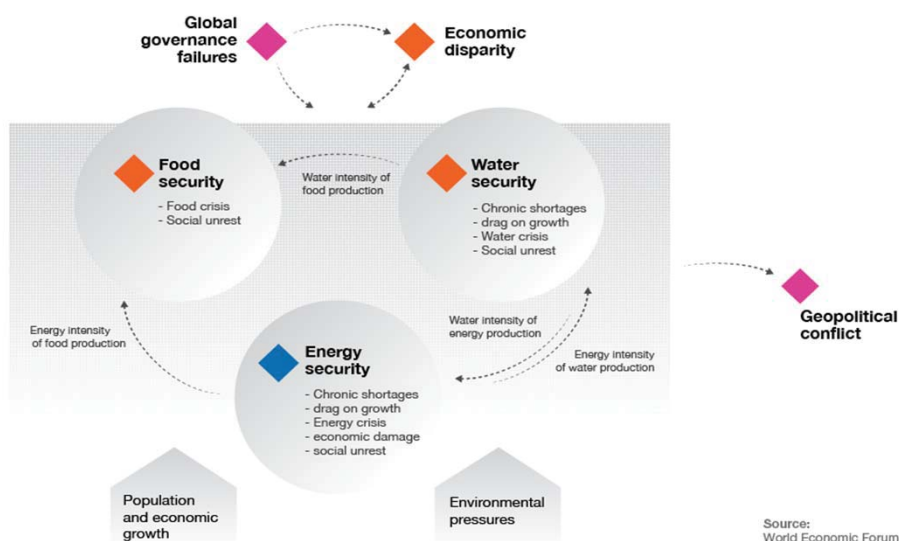


Water governance at national level- necessary elements

- Participatory decision- making, public participation and stakeholder involvement - Aarhus Convention and Aarhus centres can help
- Decentralization, subsidiarity, e.g. through water user associations, basin management organizations
- Delivering water supply and sanitation services in an affordable, accountable and sustainable manner
- Financial stability of water management and use of economic instruments:
- Creating regulatory frameworks: permitting, regulation and enforcement of agreed standards
- Promoting knowledge transfer and skills development
- Intersectoral coordination is key, but challenging. NPDs address this issue.



The water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus concept

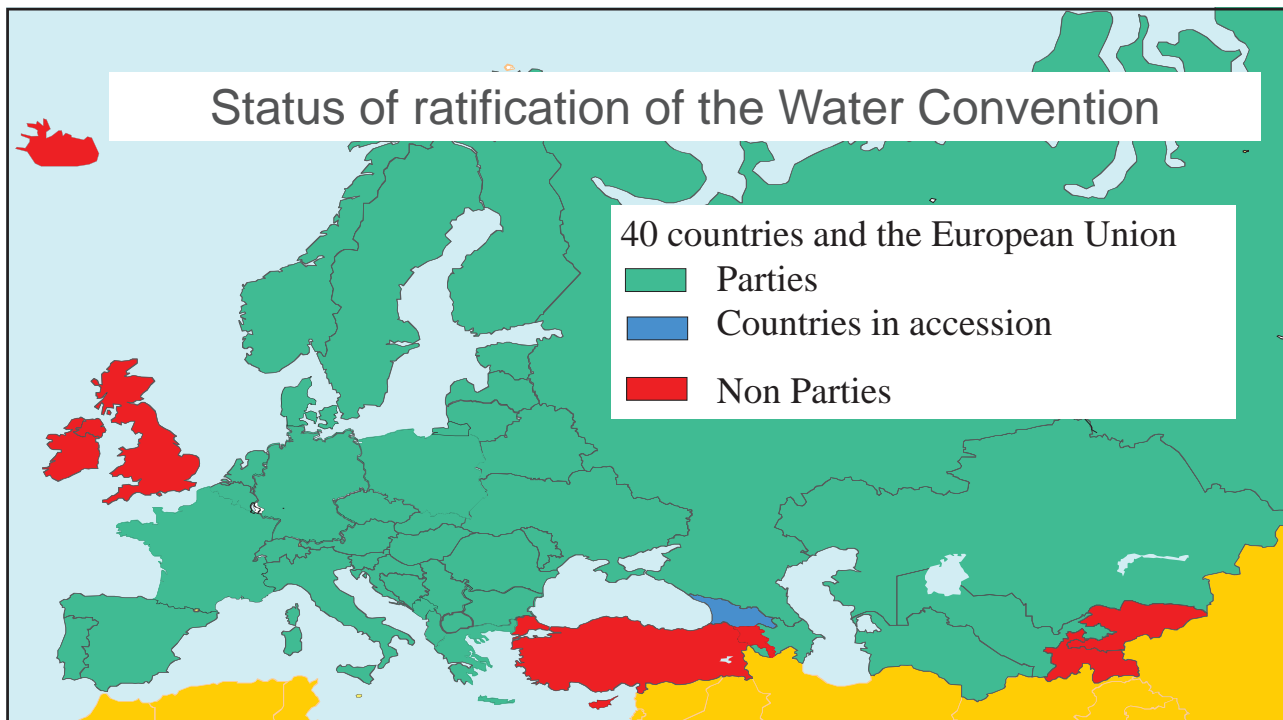
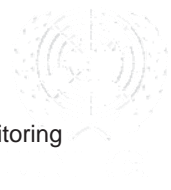


1992 UNECE Water Convention

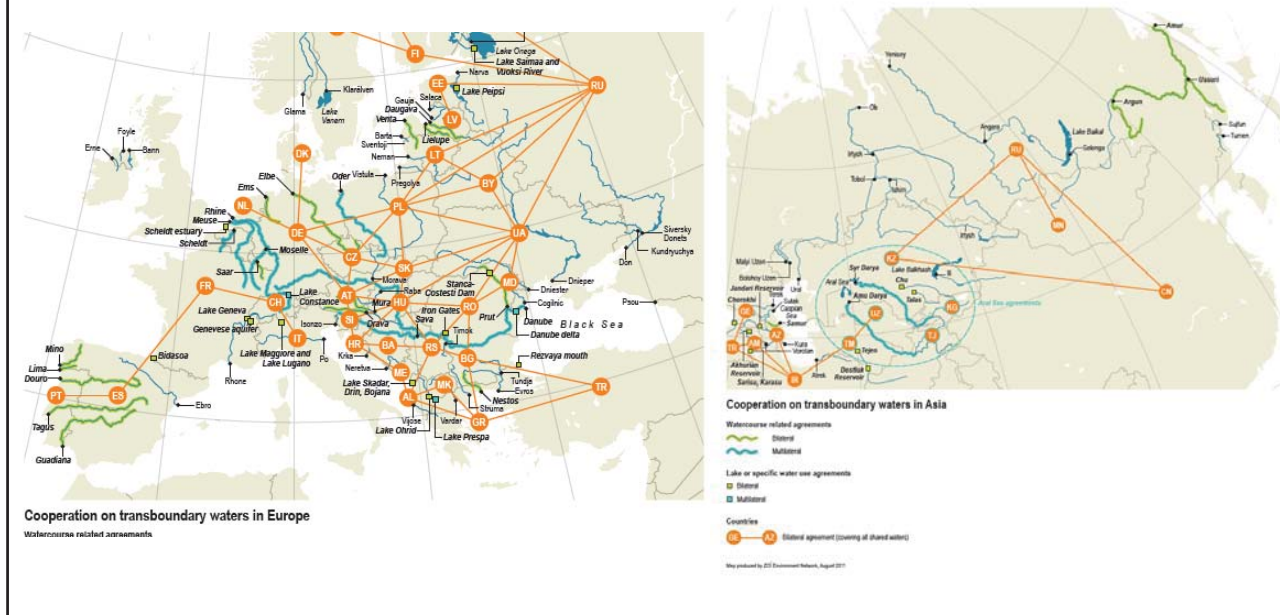
- Negotiated in 1990-1992 following the initiative from an OSCE meeting in 1989
- Adopted on 17 March 1992, in force since 6 October 1996
- Protocol on Water and Health entered into force in 2005, Protocol on Civil Liability 2003 (not in force)
- Opened up to all UN Member States through an amendment which entered into force in 2013
- Goals:
 - Protection of transboundary waters by preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impacts
 - Reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters
 - Obligation to cooperate through agreements and joint institutions

⇒ Overall objective of sustainability

- Two sets of obligations
 - For all Parties
 - For Riparian Parties, e.g. Conclude agreements, establish joint bodies, Joint activities, like monitoring



Advancement of transboundary cooperation in the OSCE region



OSCE commitments with regards to water governance

- 1975 Helsinki Final Act: Prevention and control of water pollution, in particular of transboundary rivers and international lakes
- 1989 Sofia CSCE Meeting on the Protection of the Environment decided to develop Water Convention
- 2002 Tenth Economic Forum: Cooperation for the sustainable use and the protection of water quality
- 2003 Maastricht Strategy for the Economic and Environmental Dimension
- 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security and subsequent Ministerial Decision on Water Management: renewed emphasis on cooperation with other organizations such as UNECE and ENVSEC for strengthening water management and call upon states to ratify relevant MEAs.
- 2008 Economic and Environmental Forum: maritime and inland waterways co-operation
- 2014 Ministerial Decision on disaster risk reduction: sustainable use and management of water is essential for the prevention of disasters. Further expansion of OSCE's good practices in the field of water management and flood risk management recommended.

