



Challenges for transboundary water cooperation

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Future perspectives

A changing world with multiple drivers/stressors:

- Climate change
- Food and food prices
- Energy and renewables
- Demography, urbanization and migration
- **International politics**
- Interrelations of all the above
- => Security implications?

1. From law to implementation

UNECE Water Convention, EU WFD, multilateral and bilateral agreements, transboundary initiatives

- ⇒ More focus on transboundary aspects in the WFD implementation
- ⇒ Strengthen implementation of the Water Convention and basin agreements



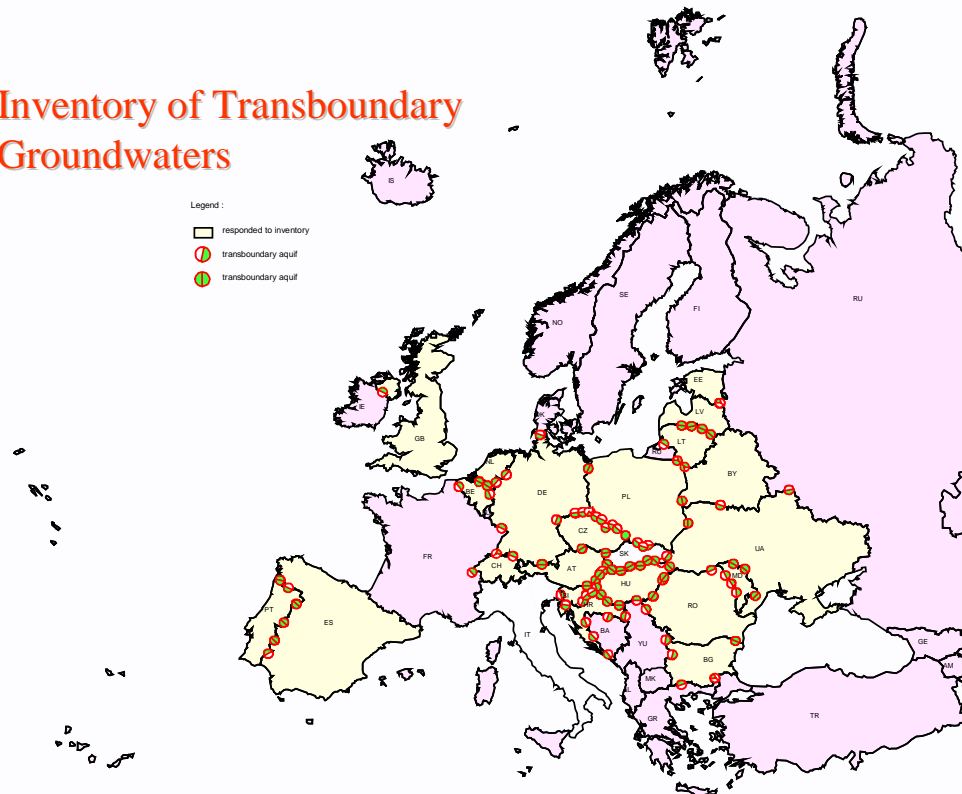
2. Close the groundwater gap

Cooperation on groundwater is far less advanced, starting from identification of transboundary GW bodies

⇒ Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks

⇒ Joint monitoring and joint management

Inventory of Transboundary Groundwaters



3. Expand transboundary cooperation beyond water

Agriculture, hydropower, navigation can potentially cause conflicts between riparians but cooperation tends to be limited to purely “water” issues

=> Innovative experience involving other sectors (navigation, hydropower) carried out in the Danube, Rhine, Sava should be supported and replicated

4. Cooperate in adapting to climate change

In the transboundary context double uncertainty:
on climate change impacts and on actions taken
by riparian countries to adapt

- ⇒ Cooperate to share information and reduce uncertainty on future impacts
- ⇒ Cooperate to reduce negative impacts of unilateral decisions, broaden the planning space and share costs and benefits

5. Establish a mechanism to prevent conflicts

Despite progress in cooperation, conflicts related to water allocation, infrastructure development, and accidental water pollution remain and traditional means of dispute settlement prove not useful

=> Support the work under the UNECE Water Convention to establish a mechanism supporting implementation, preventing conflicts and solving differences

6. Use politics to support cooperation

Europe has a special role and responsibility to support cooperation between EU countries, with bordering non-EU countries and worldwide

- ⇒ Use your political weight to move cooperation forward
- ⇒ Ratify the amendments to the UNECE Water Convention opening it to countries outside the UNECE region



Thank you!

More information

including guidelines, publications and information on activities under the Water Convention can be found on

<http://unece.org/env/water>
water.convention@unece.org