

# NEWSLETTER

№4

## Kosovo Water

#ujëpërkosovën



The IWRM-K grant scheme reduces pressure from diffuse agricultural pollution by introducing more sustainable practices, in line with the principles of agro-environmental farming, good agricultural practices, precision agriculture, and climate-resilient agriculture.



Integrated Water Resources  
Management in Kosovo





# EDITORIAL

ROGER SCHMID

IWRM-K PROGRAM MANAGER  
SKAT CONSULTING LTD

In international cooperation, the generation, organization, sharing, and application of knowledge are crucial to effectively fostering relevant development results. For an intervention as complex as the Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo (IWRM-K) Program, learning from experience is key to genuine progress. **We believe in continuous learning** for maintaining the highest expertise, by which we work with our partners to turn lessons into action and lasting transformation. We also believe in open knowledge sharing and collective intelligence. This newsletter captures these beliefs. The IWRM-K Program partners most recently had the opportunity to engage in a major joint learning exercise: **the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Program's Phase 1.**

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More than two years ago, on May 1, 2020, the IWRM-K Program began its initial four years of implementation: unbelievable but true how fast time flies! Though the Program's take-off was somewhat challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions at that time, it reached cruising altitude rather soon. It has taken off to develop far-sighted plans and build long-lasting capacities for the protection and wise use of Kosovo's water resources. As per Program design, the mid-May MTR assessed the progress towards the expected results, reviewed the implementation strategy, and made the necessary adjustments until the end of Phase 1 of the IWRM-K. It also offered an opportunity to provide certain insights into the framing of the subsequent Phase 2 in advance.

Regarding the dynamic in the Program's context, the MTR findings showed increased thematic prioritisation, proactivity, and responsiveness of the institutional partners under the new Government set-up, whilst new uncertainties posed by the global economic, energy and security crises emerged. The review reaffirmed the program's overall relevance of intervention logic, thanks to its design foresight and flexibility. Finally, it suggests only minor adjustments to the results framework regarding indicator, baseline and target formulations based on the context developments and the current Program achievements.

This issue of the newsletter highlights some recent success stories of the Programme and the implications they have on the next two years in the cooperation with the partners. We are keen to share all our learnings from the review you – herein or in response to queries you may send to us.





## Interview with Mrs. Linda Çavdarbasha

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment,  
Spatial Planning and Infrastructure – MESPI

**• Kosovo has been facing various challenges regarding the water sector for years such as insufficient resources, inadequate utilisation of existing resources, water pollution, especially rivers, sedimentation, rapid urbanisation, deforestation, etc. What concrete steps have been taken by MESPI to improve this situation in Kosovo?**

The water sector and the rational use of water resources are priorities of our Government. We are currently working on completing and amending the water law, reviewing the water strategy and the action plan for the next 5 years, the plan for the management of the Drini i Bardhë basin, as well as the plans for the management of the Morava e Binçës, Ibër and Lepenc basins. Also, we intend to work on the Master Plan for the construction of new reservoirs in Kosovo, which will help alleviate the drinking water problem in some areas of Kosovo. According to the strategic documents, investments will come not only to the water sector but also to other sectors.

**• When talking about the water sector, do you think that the expansion and strengthening of the River Basins District Authority (RBDA) and the Hydro-Meteorological Institute of Kosovo (HMIK) are more than necessary?**

Of course, the expansion and strengthening of RBDA and HMIK are more than necessary if we want to achieve positive results. Through this program, the needs of the staff are being identified and they are being trained to avoid the problems that have been evident in the past years. Regardless of this, a gradual increase in staff is needed to create a sustainable water management system at the country level.

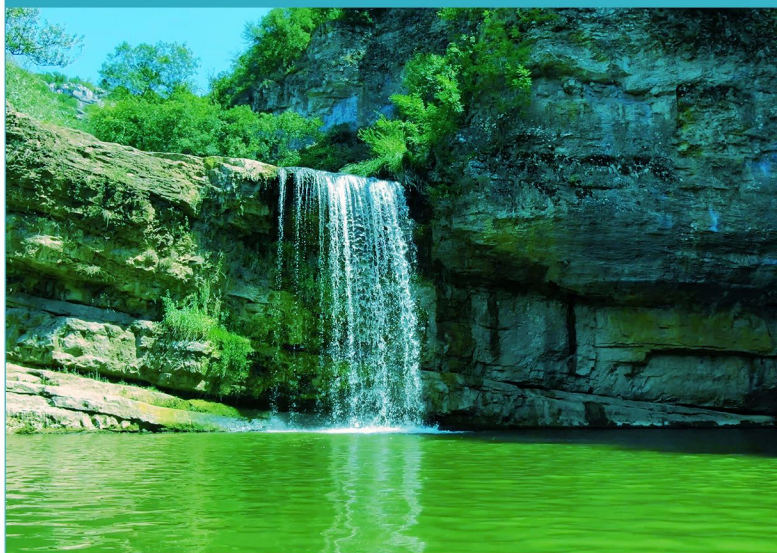
**• Which are some of the challenges you face as the Deputy Minister of MESPI including other environmental problems in Kosovo?**

For years, there has been no focus on the environment or water. The degradations that have occurred, some of which are irreparable, have led to a bad state of the environment.

We are facing big challenges even though we have pledged to work on stopping negative phenomena toward nature. Here, we also need cooperation with the institutions at the local level, as well as the police inspectorate, because the lack of staff numbers and the lack of professional staff in some departments, as well as the lack of investments, have made us face unfinished processes or processes that have not been started yet which consequently caused citizens' dissatisfaction.

The problems at the country level are very big, however, the possibilities to control each of them are slight. We need to continually strengthen cooperation with the local level so that control and help can come from there as well.

With the merging of MESP with the Infrastructure Department, we expect to have professional staff changes as well as some small changes in some departments and divisions that I believe will improve the performance of the ministry as well as the relationship with the public and third parties.

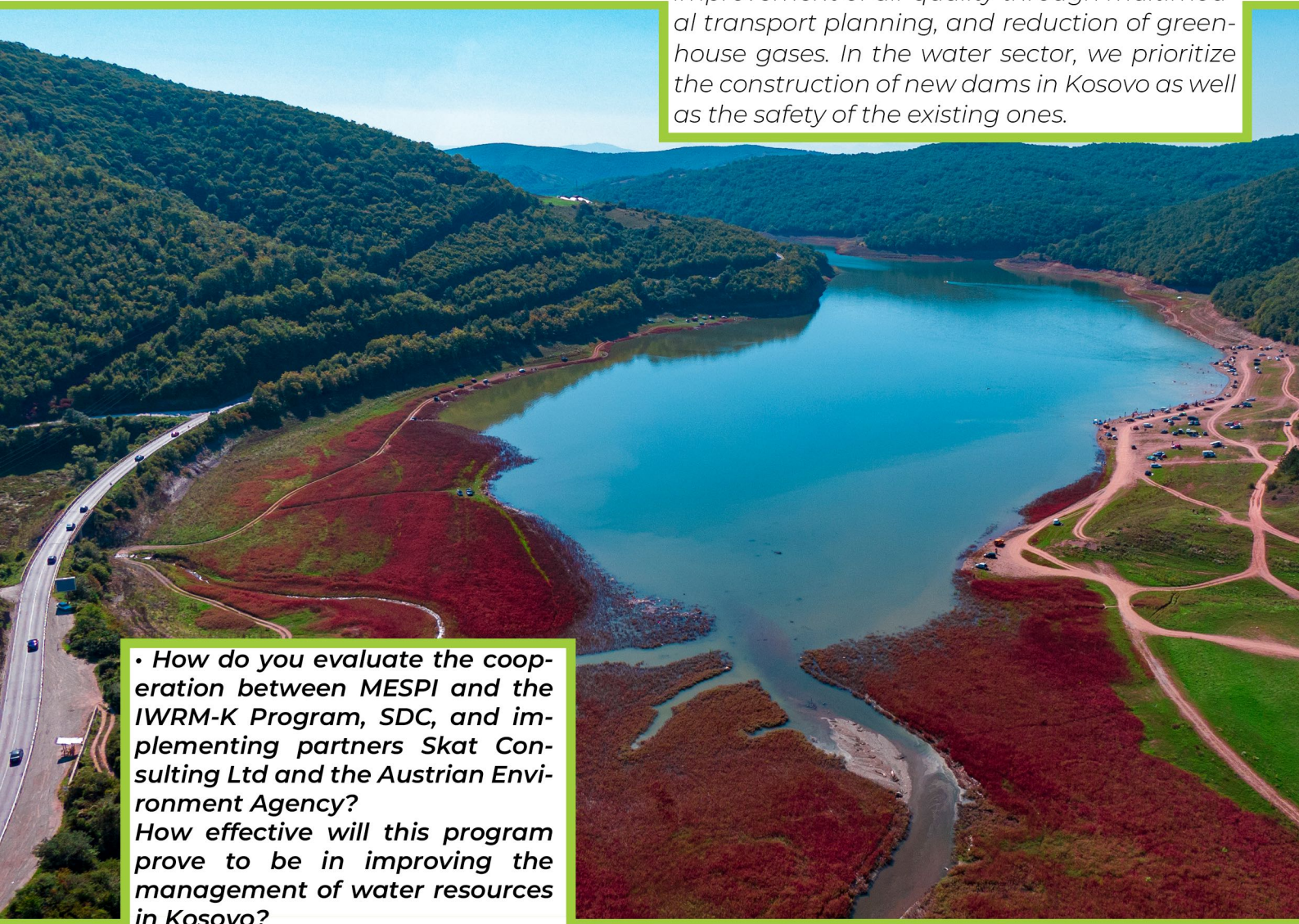




## • WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND PLANS THAT MESPI HAS SET FOR ITSELF IN THE FUTURE?

*Kosovo, as one of the signatory states of the Sofia Declaration and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, has taken on obligations that must be fulfilled. The targets of this agreement are quite clear and the state of Kosovo must do a lot of work to achieve them.*

*The Ministry aims to work in each sector covered by us. Starting with waste management and the transition to a circular economy, better management of protected areas and their promotion as potential areas for tourism, improvement of air quality through multimodal transport planning, and reduction of greenhouse gases. In the water sector, we prioritize the construction of new dams in Kosovo as well as the safety of the existing ones.*



**• How do you evaluate the cooperation between MESPI and the IWRM-K Program, SDC, and implementing partners Skat Consulting Ltd and the Austrian Environment Agency?**

**How effective will this program prove to be in improving the management of water resources in Kosovo?**

So far, the IWRM Program has proven to be a very good program for improving the management of water resources in Kosovo, due to the fact that the value of water resources is very high. Knowing that Kosovo ranks among the countries that suffer from water scarcity, even though there are many resources within the country, due to the lack of serious planning and strategic investments, our citizens still face a shortage of drinking water. This program is making it possible to identify all these challenges and create cadres that will serve in a professional manner. I am very pleased with the cooperation with the implementing partners. Our regular communication is making the program go according to plan and be successful.



In addition to supporting Kosovo institutions in establishing the planning framework for integrated water resources management, the IWRM-K Program aims to contribute to the reduction of pressures from diffuse pollution from agriculture by introducing more sustainable practices, in line with the principles of agro-ecological (agro-environmental) farming, good agricultural practices, precision agriculture, and climate-resilient agriculture. To achieve this goal, the Program designed a grant scheme and has started its implementation by

- a) selecting the most relevant crops (apple and raspberry),**
- b) inviting 60 farmers for cooperation and training, and**
- c) selecting 40 of them to receive grants of up to 7000 EUR each.**

As part of this grant scheme, the first set of equipment (refrigerators, data loggers, pH metres, EC metres) is delivered to the farmers during March-April this year.

Recently, the second set of equipment (drip irrigation systems, water pumps, water reservoirs, irrigation valves, rototillers, trimmers) has been delivered to the beneficiary farmers. This activity will lead to reduced use of agrochemicals and irrigation water by helping to reduce the production costs, making savings, and improving the marketability of local products.

## SMALL GRANT for farmers in the function of reducing diffuse pollution



The provided equipment will allow for optimal fertilisation and irrigation as essential factors for reducing water pollution from diffuse sources.

But, how can the farmers know the quantity of fertilisers and irrigation water to be used for their respective farmland? For this, an agrochemical soil test shall be the starting point. In this regard, the IWRM-K program organised agrochemical soil sampling and testing for 75 apples, raspberries, and potato farmers. All the beneficiary farmers are provided with information on the chemical and physical structure of their farmland, including an individualised fertilisation program for a variety of relevant parameters, including the content of nutrients in the farmer's land and the type and quantity of fertilisers to be used.

Finally, comprehensive training programs with farmers cover the implementation of good agricultural and irrigation practices, use of equipment supplied from the program, and the understanding the fertilisation program.





## MESPI Water Units gather for leadership best practices

Leadership is crucial to ensuring successful water governance. Visionary leadership produces clear procedures and outcomes through effective people engagement across all sectors.

Strong leadership is essential to bringing together all stakeholders in the private sector and in government to work in partnership towards common objectives. Dependence on one individual with strong leadership skills can lead to vulnerable water governance, especially without a strategy for leadership succession, and continuously updated and developed leadership competencies, emphasized Mrs. Myesere Hoxha, Certified Trainer.

IWRM-K Program has incorporated the organizational development (OD) element to strengthen the sustainability of the MESPI partner units (RBDA, KEPA/DESA, HMIK, Water Division, and Water Inspectorate). As a part of OD activities, the IWRM-K organised Leadership Workshops for both executives and officials (34 participants of MESPI partner units).

By presenting leadership best practices through interactive methods (group and individual exercises, presentations, discussions, videos, case studies, etc.), and introducing executive coaching into the workplace, the Workshops sought to update and enhance the following leadership competencies:

- 
- **Leading People (Directors, Heads)/ Group Engagement (staff):** Emotional intelligence, including communication and building coalitions/relationships, and conflict resolution skills
  - **Leading Change (Directors, Heads)/ Engagement for Change (staff):** Vision, strategic thinking, creativity and innovation, flexibility, resilience, and external awareness.
  - **Leading for Results (Directors, Heads)/ Engagement for Results (staff):** Results-driven work, accountability, customer service, decisiveness, entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and technical credibility.

These workshops were well-received and evaluated highly by all participants. They are considered a learning refreshment with the most current trends in leadership.

IWRM-K Program was briefed by MESPI partners several days after the workshops. The discussion on the raised topics continued in the offices of MESPI/water units between staff, no matter the positions.

“Strengthening such a work culture, engaging each staff for joint results and positive change, it is a public administration value that IWRM-K wants to strengthen through its OD activities,” said Mrs. Teuta Haxhimusa-Çerkini, IWRM-K Senior Advisor.

### Qualitative feedback from participants:

“A training with dimensions that I never experienced before. A completely different perspective on place, function, work, and management.”

“The interpretation of leadership as a notion based on research and current literature versus what we have been used to listen to before.”

“I evaluate this training as positive because I met all heads in the same place. I managed to understand the styles of the leaders. It was a refreshment of the brain with new knowledge and also away from work routine.”

“I learned about different leadership styles, the role of the leaders and change management, situational leadership, emotional intelligence, etc.”



## IWRM-K PROGRAM HAS COMPLETED THE FIRST SERIES OF TRAININGS FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS GROUPS

From May 30 to June 2, 2022, the Program completed a series of capacity-building trainings on the multi-stakeholder groups identified for participation in IWRM-K.

The training started with officials from the River Basin District Authority - RBDA continuing with the other sessions in the three river basins: Lepenci, Morava e Binçës, and Ibër. The diversity of stakeholders was high with 127 participants in 4 events, including RBDA, CSOs/NGOs, municipalities, universities, young water professionals, students, businesses, fishermen's associations, and farmers.



The training included the main principles of the IWRM, participatory approach, water management development and transparency, the economic value of water, and multi-stakeholder cooperation. The second part of the training consisted of practical sessions for participants such as addressing water-related issues, role-playing in the integrated water management, idea generation efficiency at the local level, awareness, and practical action on water resources protection.

A special session was organised by Hannah Baleta, WWF freshwater consultant from South Africa, who presented South African perspectives and experience in the implementation of IWRM.

The training was organised by the Program contractor WWF Adria, in consortium with IMD, Ecoapana, and EcoZ. The training sessions were conducted by Ms. Irma Popović Dujmović, WWF Water Expert Adria Zagreb, Croatia.





# CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER RESOURCES

Written by Maximus Team

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest challenges in recent decades on a global scale is climate change and its wide-ranging effects on the economy and human health. One of the most vulnerable environmental factors as a result of ongoing climate change is water resources. The impact of climate change, in particular, will affect the quantity, availability, and quality of water. What is worth noting is that the climate changes that have been happening for some time now have an effect on global warming.

Because of the increase in temperature, in particular, the average temperature near the Earth's surface, a greater amount of the planet's water will evaporate. As a result, rain storms will be more intense, which we are witnessing even on these summer days. Consequently, an increase in temperature will increase the risk of floods and droughts. If steps are not taken to prevent temperature increases, then the hydrological cycle will undergo extreme changes. Its management will be a challenge for the whole world. Many sectors will be directly affected by the impact of climate change, especially agriculture, industry, forestry, tourism, public health, biodiversity, and drinking water.

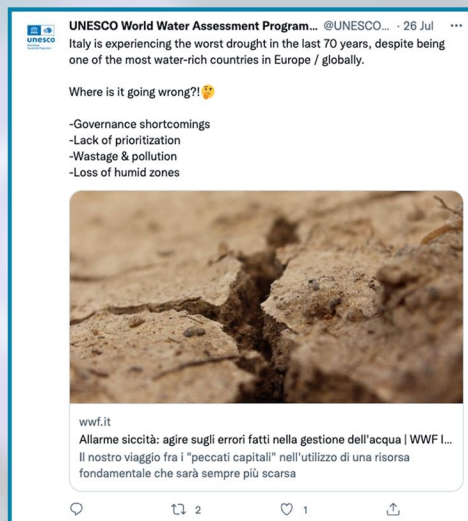
According to the Special Report "Impacts of 1.5°C global warming on natural and human systems" by the IPCC (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), climate change occurs for two reasons: natural causes that have occurred in long-term periods (changes in solar energy, ocean currents, changes in the earth's orbit, etc.) and the causes related to human activities (extensive use of fuels for industry and energy, transport, large deforestation, etc.). Therefore, it is necessary — even vital — to keep global temperature increases below 1.5°C. If it is possible to keep the temperature below 1.5°C then adaptation will be easier and our world will suffer fewer negative impacts of the intensity and frequency of extreme events affecting resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, food security, cities, tourism, and carbon reduction.\*

\*<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/chapter-3/>





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## This NEWSLETTER

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## Contact Us

Skat Consulting Ltd.  
Integrated Water Resources  
Management in Kosovo  
136 Pashko Vasa Street  
Floor I. No.5, Pejton  
Pristina, Kosovo  
Email: [kosovo@skat.ch](mailto:kosovo@skat.ch)





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