

From inception to implementation under difficult conditions: IWRM in Kosovo



*Springs of White Drin River, Radac, Kosovo
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Following an intensive period of expert analyses, stakeholder mobilisation and co-design, the Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo Programme financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) entered its implementation stage on May 1st. In spite of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the protracted political sensitivities causing multiple government changes in Kosovo, the Programme managed to kick-off important processes. With the vision to create the enabling

conditions for maturation of the management of the country's water resources, the team succeeded in setting the stage for the desired transformational agenda.

The Programme's strategic approach strongly relies on the close interlinkages between technical capacity-building and institutional development. Furthermore, it mobilises the resources required to meet the objective of developing the River Basin Management Plans. Moreover, the Programme supports the development of (young) water professionals' skills, while raising public awareness around environmental issues and citizens' engagement in water resources management.

Skat, with its management team at headquarters, ensures the strategic lead and steering of Programme delivery, deploys and supervises the team comprising the Programme Facilitation Unit (PFU) in Kosovo as well as the specific thematic experts subcontracted from World University Services. The Environment Agency Austria in turn provides expertise by deploying key advisors and a pool of experts as peer support to the staff of the Kosovar partner institutions, and provides thematic backstopping to the PFU.

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