

## TERMS OF REFERENCES

### Transboundary Water Resources Management International Expert

<b>Program Title:</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo (IWRM-K)
<b>Post Title:</b>	Transboundary Water Resources Management International Expert
<b>Duty Station(s):</b>	Home-based with a short mission to Kosovo and 1 study visit to selected transboundary river basin
<b>Duration of contract(s)</b>	Five months upon signing of the contract
<b>Estimated workload:</b>	35 expert-days
<b>Indicative start date:</b>	15 February 2023
<b>Budget:</b>	EUR 30,000

### PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo Program (hereinafter referred to as “IWRM-K” or the “Program”) is implemented by the Consortium of Skat Consulting Ltd., Switzerland, and the Environment Agency Austria (EAA), thanks to funding provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of Kosovo. Its main goal is to build long-lasting water resources management capacities at national and river basin levels in line with Kosovo’s socio-economic and political priorities, as well as the needs of future sustainable development. It aims to help replace the current fragmented approach with a more comprehensive, and highly participatory approach of managing water resources, aligned with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD).

The overall goal of the IWRM-K is to establish a functionally integrated water resources management framework for the protection, quality, sustainable use, and equitable allocation of water resources, thus contributing to the improved socio-economic well-being and population health, preserved resources, and reduced risks of internal and **transboundary water-related conflicts**.

The IWRM-K concentrates its efforts on creating the enabling environment for the envisaged transformation of Kosovo’s water resources management through: (i) Support to the development of institutional capacity for IWRM; (ii) Preparation of a coherent planning and technical documentation base to inform future measures and water resource management decisions (e.g., River Basin Management Plans<sup>1</sup> (RBMPs), other country-level policies, strategies, and plans); (iii) Support to knowledge and skills development of (young) water professionals whilst facilitating relevant job creation; and (iv) Public awareness-raising on environmental issues and creating stakeholder participation mechanisms in water resources management.

Kosovo is already part of some initiatives dealing with water resources management including in a transboundary context (e.g., Drin River Basin Transboundary Cooperation Platform; Adaptation to Climate Change through Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Western Balkans)<sup>2</sup>. This has

<sup>1</sup> Kosovo is a landlocked country featuring four main river basins: Drini i Bardhë, Ibër, Morava e Binçës and Lepenc. The country’s waters are unevenly distributed in space and time that is expected to exacerbate over the next decades, making all Kosovo basins water stressed. The stress levels are expected to grow in the future in light of the climate crisis and the increased demand for water for agriculture, industrial operations, mining and urban centres. The management of water resources in Kosovo becomes even more challenging considering the **transboundary character** of its four river basins.

<sup>2</sup> <http://drincorda.iwlearn.org/drin-river-basin/introduction>

provided the national institutions and other stakeholders with the preliminary knowledge to enter into more ambitious transboundary cooperation processes surrounding water resources management.

### ASSIGNMENT BACKGROUND

At this stage of implementation, the Program is providing targeted capacity-building support to the key national institutions charged with transboundary cooperation responsibilities in water resource management. This includes improvement of the legal basis and procedures, as well as piloting the development of a **river basin management plan in a transboundary context in cooperation with one of Kosovo's neighbouring countries** (e.g., North Macedonia in the case of the Lepenci River Basin). As part of this initiative, the countries would agree on common, transboundary environmental objectives and attempt to harmonize national river basin management plans with transboundary priorities<sup>3</sup>.

Throughout the process of ongoing preparation of the RBMP for the selected river basin, the Kosovo institutions are supported to enter transboundary cooperation and information exchange, including on water balance/hydrology, water quality, sources of pressures, and magnitude of impacts, and formulation of measures. Without aiming to formalize the transboundary cooperation according to international law, the Program fosters a consensus on transboundary environmental objectives based on which the national-level management priorities and investment plans can be harmonized.

Any transboundary bodies/working groups created throughout Program implementation is capacitated to organize relevant discussions, guide deliberations, and come to informed decisions. The process is used to catalyse stakeholder involvement and create a 'new standard' for transparency and openness in water resources management.

To complement these efforts, the Program intends to provide on-the-job coaching targeting the responsible institutions on the key principles of transboundary water resources management which then they can apply in other transboundary basins shared with one or more neighbouring countries.

Structured in such a way, the Program will help introduce required capacities for future transboundary cooperation initiatives in a bilateral or multilateral setting, facilitated through different donor-funded projects.

These efforts are taking place in a context where the neighboring countries are updating their water management approaches in line with the relevant international conventions and the EU environmental / water-related policy instruments. The complexity of the situation is further amplified considering the challenges posed by Kosovo's protracted efforts to complete international recognition and join multilateral environmental agreements and relevant conventions.

Against this backdrop, Kosovo is interested to improve the national legal framework to be able to pursue effective transboundary cooperation processes by harmonizing planning bases, creating transboundary management bodies and thematic working groups, organizing monitoring programmes and data exchanges, as well as coordinating water management decisions across boundaries.

### SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of this assignment is the provision of targeted capacity development support to Kosovo institutions (mainly the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure – MESPI) on the principles and approaches of IWRM in the case of shared/transboundary water resources management, considering the specifics of Kosovo's international status.

The work encompasses (i) drafting of a **proposal/guidance document/roadmap** recommending Kosovo's future legal and institutional development towards more efficient transboundary water

---

<sup>3</sup> The Program-supported RBMPs for Ibër, Morava e Binçës and Lepenci are at advanced stages of development. A broad-based expert team has been mandated with the technical aspects of RBMPs preparation and will support the responsible institutions in initiating the transboundary cooperation processes in a selected river basin (e.g., Lepenci)

resources management, (ii) drafting and delivering an introductory (basic) tailor-made **training**, (iii) supporting the organisation of a **study visit** to a selected transboundary river basin.

The **proposal** will outline a tailor-made legal and institutional development plan for Kosovo that will enable the country to pursue effective transboundary water resources management in the future. It will build upon the (i) previous and on-going initiatives in the country/region concerning (e.g., GWP's Drin River Basin, GLZ's flood risk management), and (ii) existing transboundary related legislation, policies, and agreements. The **proposal** will elaborate on the gaps, requirements, and justification for developing national capacities for effective transboundary water resources management.

The **introductory training** will be designed in a way to introduce the Kosovo stakeholders to the pertinent international conventions and EU directives guiding transboundary water resources management, and the most relevant case studies/models for transboundary cooperation from the region and more broadly<sup>4</sup>. It should equip the stakeholders with the basic practical knowledge, principles, approaches, and protocols required for entering transboundary cooperation processes in future.

The expert will also suggest potential locations for a **study visit** on a transboundary water resources management of a small group of Kosovo stakeholders. Following the selection of the basin, the expert will support the Program in arranging the study visit and accompany the group, providing organizational and thematic support.

The Expert is expected to visit Kosovo on one (1) mission during which s/he presents the proposal and delivers the training. Furthermore, s/he will join the stakeholder group in the study visit to the selected transboundary basin/commission.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Team Leader of the IWRM-K Program and Component 2 Leader, the Expert will be responsible for the following specific duties and responsibilities:

### **Task 1. Draft a Proposal on Transboundary Water Resources Management Cooperation capacities:**

- Carry out research based on review of available documentation produced by the Program and different relevant projects, country's legislation and institutional setup, transboundary water resources management experiences in the region, as well as through further stakeholder interaction (as needed).
- Prepare a draft Proposal that:
  - Proposes the model/setup for transboundary cooperation between Kosovo and North Macedonia for the case of the Lepenci River Basin considering the respective RBMP and other relevant ongoing initiatives/investments plans<sup>5</sup>. The proposal will outline the institutional set-up and processes (e.g., need of signing memoranda, agreements), information/data sharing approaches, joint bodies (political and thematic). The Proposal shall consider the development levels and plans, existing capacities, political relations, the respective legal contexts, and the bilateral relations<sup>6</sup>. It will propose the short-term/ad-hoc arrangements with an insight into future/long-term cooperation arrangements and corresponding instruments.
  - Proposes a broader legal and institutional development plan for Kosovo that will enable more effective transboundary water resources management in the given context. The plan will outline such aspects the necessary legislative amendments, internal MESPI capacity needs (e.g., responsible departments, number of staff and required qualifications), required collaboration

---

<sup>4</sup> These case studies/models should be considered as possible candidates for a study visit by the key Kosovo stakeholders to be supported by the Program.

<sup>5</sup> For example, Kosovo's plans to build the Firaja dam on Lepenci River basin with possible transboundary implications.

<sup>6</sup> For example, the existing memorandum/agreement between Kosovo and N. Macedonia.

with other Government entities (e.g., Inter-ministerial Water Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), share of responsibilities in pursuing transboundary water resources management.

- Present the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Proposal during the mission in Kosovo.
- Provide the final Proposal based on the feedback provided by the Program and its key partners/stakeholders.

**Task 2. Design and deliver a training programme:**

- Prepare an introductory training presentation and finalize it based on feedback by the Program.
- Deliver the training programme to a selected group of Kosovo stakeholders (up to 10 people) during the mission in Kosovo.

**Task 3. Organizing a study visit to a selected transboundary river basin:**

- Present candidate transboundary river basins exhibiting highest learning potential for Kosovo stakeholders<sup>7</sup>
- Take a lead role in communicating with the potential host(s) of the study visit (e.g., representatives of a basin commission, authorities) for defining the agenda and arranging the organizational details.
- Join/facilitate the study visit to provide thematic and organizational support to the Kosovo group.

**METHODOLOGY**

The interested applicants need to develop a concise methodology describing the approach and all steps to be undertaken that will lead toward the successful completion of the assignment.

**DELIVERABLES**

The following deliverables should be submitted to the IWRM-K:

- Proposal on transboundary water resources management
- Introductory training presentation and reference material
- Working material for the study visit
- Brief final report

**INPUTS AND TIMETABLE**

Tasks	Description of activities	Estimated distribution of days <sup>8</sup>	Tentative timetable
Task 1	1.1: Discussing and agreeing the list of activities, deliverables and timeline	1	February 2023
Task 1	1.2: Preparing draft version of the Proposal	14	To be agreed with Expert
Task 2	2.1: Preparing the training presentation	2	
Task 1 & 2	2.2: Mission to Kosovo: (i) presenting the draft Proposal, and (ii) delivering training	5	
Task 1	1.3: Finalizing the Proposal	4	
Task 3	3.1 Preparing for study visit	4	
Task 3	3.2 Partaking/facilitating the study visit	3	
Admin	0.1 Preparing a final Report	2	
<b>Total expert days:</b>		<b>35</b>	

<sup>7</sup> Indication on the costs (as an important selection criterion) for such study visit will be provided by the Program.

<sup>8</sup> The figures serve orientation purposes only. They are used to assess the anticipated workload for the expert. The distribution of days per tasks may be adjusted based on final methodology and approach.

## QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Expert shall possess the following qualification:

- Minimum master's degree in a relevant field (environmental/water law, environmental science/management, water management/governance, or similar).
- Minimum 10 years of direct experience in integrated water resource management / water governance / river basin management / transboundary water resources management / environmental/water law
- Minimum 5-year experience from transboundary water resource management cooperation initiative, preferably in the Balkan region and/or EU
- Experience from at least 2 projects / consultancies / assignments that involve transboundary water resources management (e.g., legal, institutional, and financial aspects of transboundary water resources management)
- Knowledge of water resource management legislation, management approaches, practices, and customs in Southeast Europe/Balkan region is considered an asset
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Excellent research and analytical skills, communication, and reporting skills.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### LANGUAGE

All deliverables/outputs need to be prepared in English.

### TIMELINE AND DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The estimated workload for the assignment is 35 expert days over 5 months.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The payment for the services will be made upon completion in three installments, as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> installment: Upon completion of activities 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1 (as indicated in the input table)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> installment: Upon completion of activities 2.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, and 0.1, and costs occurred during the mission to Kosovo

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

An application needs to be submitted to [kosovo@skat.ch](mailto:kosovo@skat.ch) by 20 January 2023. The application needs to comprise the following documents/information:

1. Cover letter (summarizing expertise and knowledge of the transboundary water resource management model/approaches)
2. A concise methodology describing the approach and all steps to be undertaken that will lead toward the successful completion of the assignment
3. Most updated professional CV
4. Financial offer (all-inclusive comprising fee, travel costs, accommodation in Pristina, and any other cost which may occur in the course of the assignment). Please provide a simple budget breakdown distinguishing the expert fee (EUR/expert day) and costs related to the visits to Kosovo (e.g., travel and accommodation). Note: Maximum budget for this assignment is EUR 30,000. The IWRM-K holds the right to eliminate offers exceeding the maximum available budget for this assignment.