

DIKTAS II

**Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System:
Improving Groundwater Governance and Sustainability of Related Ecosystems**

**GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSES UPDATES IN ALL PROJECT
COUNTRIES AND AT THE DIKTAS LEVEL**

Trebinje, 8-10 June 2025

Presenter: Prof. dr. sc. Zoran Nakić, Legal expert (HR)



Legal Policy expert (sub)group members

<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Participated in DIKTAS 1 project</i>
Ms Selma Čengić	BA	yes
Mr Zoran Nakić	HR	yes
Ms Neda Dević	ME	No
Mr Halit Kamberi	AL	No
Ms Raya Marina Stephan	International	Yes

Annual work plan (Legal Policy (sub)group) for 2025

COMPONENT/OUTCOME/Output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
COMPONENT 1, Outcome 1												
Output 1.1:												
Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established + PU				Project agencies + Beneficiary Countries								
Output 1.2:												
Draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of Consultation and Information Exchange Body (CIE) and its Secretariat prepared for governments approval.												
Output 1.3:												
Bilateral Agreements and Bodies. Options for the creation of bilateral agreements and management bodies to address the issues of concern in areas/basins of transboundary influence (Transboundary Aquifers of the TDA), and/or the strengthening of existing ones, will be formulated for decision by governments.												
Output 1.4:												
Stakeholder involvement plan formulated and implemented, including special focus on gender issues and women empowerment.												
COMPONENT 2, Outcome 2												
Output 2.1:												
Groundwater governance diagnostic analysis in all project countries, including a stocktaking of the governance situation — actors, legal framework, policies and plans, adherence to the EU WFD and GWD, available knowledge, enforcement capacity — and an assessment of gaps and opportunities.												

COMPONENT/Outcome/Output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
COMPONENT 3, Outcome 3 and Outcome 4												
Output 3.1:												
Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose Monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries.												
Output 4.1:												
Joint data sharing mechanism: joint design and implementation of a real-time data sharing mechanism and harmonization of different national classification standards of water quality, following EU guidelines.												
COMPONENT 4, Outcome 5												
Output 5.1:												
Joint Action Programmes for all 6 areas of transboundary influence identified in the TDA, including previously prepared such as the:												
1. Methodology for GWR assessment on TBA level												
2. Concept for Water Master Plans for 6 TBAs												
COMPONENT 5, Outcome 6												
Output 6.1:												
Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education.												



Priority activities of Legal/Policy (sub)group

- Online meetings of Legal/Policy (sub)group
 - May 28, 2025
 - July 2, 2025
- Priorities by the end of 2025:
 - a) preparation of groundwater governance diagnostic analysis in project countries and at the DIKTAS level and
 - b) drafting of a proposal for a multilateral agreement for the establishment of a Consultation and Information Exchange body (CIE)

Indication of legal and policy changes in project countries (2014-2025)

- Study of documents from the DIKTAS I project:
 - TDA document
 - National (Legal and Policy) reports
 - DIKTAS II - inception report
 -
- Goal: to identify the most important legal and policy changes since the end of the DIKTAS I project, within the framework of the following categories:
 - **Actors**
 - **Legal Framework**
 - **Policy and Plans**
 - **Adherence to the WFD and GWD**
 - **Available knowledge** (and professional capacities in decision-making institutions)
 - **Enforcement capacity:** i) legal mechanisms - ability to enact and apply regulations; ii) operational capacity - availability of human and financial resources for the implementation of policies and regulations; iii) supervision and sanctions: compliance monitoring and application of penal provisions of regulations)

Indication of legal and policy changes in project countries (2014-2025)

Countries	Actors	Legal Framework	Policy and Plans	Adherence to the WFD and GWD	Available knowledge	Enforcement Capacity
Croatia	i) new Institute for Water Josip Juraj Strossmayer established - main task: monitoring water quality; ii) water management within the remit of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition	i) new Water Act adopted in 2019; ii) amendments to the Water Management Financing Act adopted; iii) a new version of the Regulation on Water Quality Standards adopted in 2019	new River Basin Management Plan for the period 2022-2027 prepared	i) alignment with the WFD and GWD provisions fully implemented; ii) monitoring of groundwater and groundwater-dependent ecosystems implemented in line with relevant CIS guidance documents	knowledge and technical capacity of relevant institutions (competent ministry, Croatian Waters, Water Institute, etc.) on groundwater and groundwater-dependent ecosystems sufficient to fulfil obligations under the WFD and GWD	competent institutions able to implement all regulations and measures related to (ground)water management
Bosnia and Herzegovina						
Montenegro						
Albania						

Further steps

1. Agreement on the Head of the Socio-Economic/Legal-Policy Working Group (SE/LP WG) (one of the national experts, as in the DIKTAS I project?), who will coordinate and lead the work of the SE/LP WG (with the help of an international consultant) according to the agreed detailed annual (for the first year of the project) work plan (**during the meeting in Trebinje in July**).
2. Establish a table of contents (**all members of the Legal/Policy (sub)group**) for the elaboration of a proposal for a multilateral agreement establishing a Consultation and Information Exchange (CIE) body (**during the Trebinje meeting in July**).
3. Definition of a comprehensive and detailed annual work plan (for the first year of the project) for the SE/LP Working Group (**SE/LP Working Group Head with the help of an international consultant**), defining the activities and expected results (outputs) for each month of the first year of project implementation (**by mid-September 2025**).
4. Update of the questionnaire on groundwater/ecosystem management issues (originating from the DIKTAS I project) (**SE/LP WG Head with the help of international consultant**) to be used in the implementation of national diagnostic groundwater analyses (**by mid-September 2025**).
5. Conduct national diagnostic groundwater analyses (**all members of the SE/LP Working Group**) for all participating countries (**by mid-October 2025**).

Further steps

6. Study the results of the GEF/FAO groundwater governance project (***all SE/LP Working Group members***) to be used as a basis for conducting regional diagnostic groundwater analyses at the DIKTAS area level (by mid-October 2025):
 - a. discussion and agreement (***during the online meeting of the SE/LP WG members***) on the possible solutions of the GEF/FAO groundwater governance project for the DIKTAS II project (by the end of October 2025);
 - b. adoption of specific guidelines for the DIKTAS II project (***SE/LP WG Head with the help of an international consultant***) (by mid-November 2025).
7. Conduct monthly online meetings between representatives of the Socio-Economic/Legal Policy WG and the Groundwater Resources and Ecosystems WG to discuss the (from October 2025 to February 2026):
 - a. content of the draft multilateral agreement, in particular: objectives, purpose, obligations, responsibilities, composition and functioning of the CIE;
 - b. options for the creation of bilateral agreements and management bodies to address the issues in 6 TBAs (objectives; obligations; competences and composition of the members of each management body, considering the specific circumstances in each TBA).
8. Prepare a table of contents for a regional groundwater diagnosis at the DIKTAS area level and define specific tasks for each SE/LP working group member (***SE/LP working group Head with the help of an international consultant***) (by the end of November 2026).

Further steps

9. Preparation of a first draft of the regional groundwater diagnosis at the level of the DIKTAS area (***all members of the SE/LP WG according to previously agreed responsibilities***), including a SWOT analysis and a proposal for specific objectives, indicators and activities resulting from the SWOT analysis to refine the work plan defined in the project document (**December 2025 and January 2026**).
10. Communicate and coordinate the results and proposals of the regional groundwater diagnosis with the project leader and the representatives of the working group (***SE/LP working group Head with the help of an international consultant***) (**by mid-March 2026**).
11. Preparation of a proposal for a multilateral agreement:
 - a. the first iteration/version (by the (sub)group on law and policy) (**by the end of December 2025**);
 - b. the second iteration/version - ***agreed with the project manager and the Groundwater Resources and Ecosystems Working Group*** (**by the end of January 2026**);
 - c. the final proposal (***after consultations with the relevant national bodies and institutions***) (**by the end of March 2026**).
12. Draft bilateral agreements for each TBA (***international consultant with the help of SE/LP working group members from countries sharing a specific TBA***) (**from February to April 2026**).

Thank you for your attention

