



# DIKTAS II – 1<sup>st</sup> Expert in-person meeting

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP) OF  
THE DINARIC KARST AQUIFER SYSTEM: IMPROVING GROUNDWATER  
GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 9-10 July 2025

## MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Objectives

- Project progress between July 2024 and July 2025
- TDA update
- Annual Work Plan and activities prioritisation

### Background documentation for the meeting

- Approved GEF Project Document
- Inception Report
- DIKTAS – Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)



## Meeting Participants

Ms Shpresa Mezini	Director General of the General Directorate of Economic and Support Services, Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Nominated Representative of the Steering Committee Member from the Republic of Albania
Ms Tamara Brajović	Acting Director General of Directorate for Climate Changes and Protection of Nature	Steering Committee Member from Montenegro
Ms Rada Milisav	Head of the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Steering Committee Member from Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Mirela Hahn	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Nominated Representative of the Steering Committee Member from the Republic of Croatia
Mr Vladimir Mamaev	Regional Technical Advisor, Water & Ocean Governance Programme, BPPS, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub	
Mr Siniša Šešum	Head of Antenna Office in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe	
Ms Francesca Bampa	Project officer, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe	
Mr Boban Jolović	DIKTAS II Project Manager, UNESCO Antenna in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe	
Mr Želimir Pekaš	DIKTAS II International expert for Hydrogeology	
Ms Raya Marina Stephan	DIKTAS II International expert for Legal Policy	
Romano Zoga	DIKTAS II International expert for Stakeholder Involvement	
Umme-Kulsoom	DIKTAS II International expert for Gender analysis	
Mr Pambuku Arben	National expert - Hydrogeology	Albania
Ms Erjola Keci	National expert - Biodiversity	Albania
Mr Halit Kamberi	National expert - Legal policy	Albania

Ms Nevila Koçollari Furxhiu	National expert - Sociology	Albania
Mr Ermal Gjinaj	National expert - Communication	Albania
Mr Uroš Jurošević	National expert - Hydrogeology	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Selma Čengić	National expert - Legal policy	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Sanja Dobrnjac	National expert - Sociology	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr Nino Serdarušić	National expert - Gender	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms Maja Oštrić	National expert - Hydrogeology	Croatia
Mr Ivan Vučković	National expert - Biodiversity	Croatia
Mr Zoran Nakić	National expert - Legal policy	Croatia
Ms Marina Funduk	National expert – Communication + Gender	Croatia
Mr Dragan Radojević	National expert - Hydrogeology	Montenegro
Ms Snežana Dragičević	National expert - Biodiversity	Montenegro
Ms Neda Dević	National expert - Legal policy	Montenegro
Ms Lidija Brnović	National expert - Gender	Montenegro
Mr Vedran Furtula	DIKTAS II GIS expert	

## Day 1 – 9 July 2025

The 1<sup>st</sup> in-person expert meeting meeting was held in Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 9-10<sup>th</sup> 2025.

The meeting was officially opened by Mr Siniša Šešum, Head of Antenna in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

After opening, project manager Mr Boban Jolović present composition of 3 Working Groups (WG).

Actually, each WG consists of two or more working subgroups (WSG):

WG 1 - consists of two subgroups – Hydrogeology and Biology

WG 2 - consists of two subgroups Legal policy and Sociology

WG 3 - consists of three subgroups Communication/information, Gender and Stakeholder.

All WG members express preparedness to bring their best experience in DIKTAS II project as well as to strongly cooperate with other members of their WG, but also other WSG, considering this synergy as crucial for project success.

In addition, Mr Jolovic emphasized that more than 20 online meeting with WSG (least 2 per WSG) were held in the aim of the preparation in-person meeting in Trebinje. The calendar of the online meeting is attached as *Annex 1* of the minutes.

After the WSG introduction, project progress per components (1-5), in the period July 2025 - July 2026, was presented as follows:

- Component 1. Facilitating multi-country cooperation

Output 1.1: Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established by project countries and the support of Project agencies.

*Status: Working Groups created, the output completed.*

Output 1.2: Draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of Consultation and Information Exchange Body (CIE) and its Secretariat prepared for governments approval.

*Status: In progress, Draft of Table of Content of the Agreement proposed; for further progress timeline consult Annex 2*

Output 1.4: Stakeholder involvement plan formulated and implemented, including special focus on gender issues and women empowerment.

*Status: In progress, Draft of Table of Content of the Agreement proposed, for further progress timeline consult Stakeholder Involvement presentation (link given at page 5).*

- Component 2. Institutional strengthening for improved GW governance

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.

*Status: In progress, in process of the TDA update, numerous inputs for the output 2.1. already collected; for further progress timeline consult Annex 2*

- Component 3. Monitoring of karst waters and dependent ecosystems

*Output 3.1:* Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimisation, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonised across the countries.

*Status: In progress; 1 of 2 transboundary aquifers (TBA) for a monitoring program already selected (Cijevna, shared between Albania and Montenegro), second one will be selected until 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on already proposed criteria.*

- Component 5. Awareness raising and gender mainstreaming

*Output 6.1:* Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education.

*Status: In progress, DIKTAS project already presented in three high level events.*

*Output 6.2:* Gender analysis conducted in project countries water sector.

*Status: In progress, tools for data acquisition proposed as well as draft of the Table of the Content for the Report - output 6.2.*

*Output 6.3:* Participation in IW LEARN activities.

*Status: In progress, IW Learn will host web page of the DIKTAS II project (same as in DIKTAS); functionality of the proposed toolkits under test.*

During the next session, four subgroups coordinators (Hydrogeology, Biodiversity, Legal, Sociology) were presented the key findings of the TDA update, as following:

*WG 1:*

Hydrogeology - Ms Maja Oštrić

Biology - Mr Ivan Vučković

*WG 2:*

Legal - Mr Zoran Nakić

Sociology - Ms Nevila Koçollari Furxhiu

After presentations and 1/2 hour discussion, meeting day 1 was closed in 6.00 pm.

## **Day 2 – 10 July 2025**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting day started with presentations of the WG3 subgroups as following:

*WG 3:*

Stakeholder – Mr Romano Zoga

Media and communication – Ms Francesca Bampa

Gender – Ms Umme-Kulsoom

At the end of this session, devoted to the TDA update, temporary contracted GIS expert, Mr Vedran Furtula, shared the key findings of the GIS infrastructure Inception Report.

All presentations (Day 1 and Day 2) will be shared by e-mail and the link with the location of the documents is to be shared soon.

Final meeting session was focused on Annual Work Plan and prioritisation of the activities until May 2026 (expected date of Mid-term evaluation).

Group and inter-group discussions resulted in the prioritisation of the activities and timeline for the realisation of the key activities in preparation of prior outputs.

Activities timelines were proposed by each subgroup: Hydrogeology, Biology, Legal, Sociology, Stakeholder, Communication and Gender. Proposed timelines are available within the working subgroups presentations.

Furthermore, Legal subgroup developed very detail timeline after Trebinje meeting. The timeline is enclosed as the Annex 2 of the expert meeting minutes.

Other subgroup must to develop detail timeline, based on legal subgroup template (Annex 2), until September 1st 2025.

In addition, after selection of permanent GIS expert, and GIS infrastructure establishing, activities of the subgroup will be also focused on creation of relevant databases as well as visualisation of the inputs stored in DIKTAS II GIS database.

It was proposed that next expert meeting be organized in the second half of November or early December 2025. The venue of the meeting and final date will be proposed by Mr Siniša Šešum until September 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.


Meeting was officially closed about 1 pm.



**ANNEX 1**

DIKTAS II

*Online meeting calendar*

WORKING GROUP	WG 1		WG 2		WG 3		
SUBGROUP	Hydrogeology	Biology	Legal	Sociology	Communication	Gender	Stakeholder
	May 23	May 23	May 23	June 23	June 6	June 20	June 20
	June 3	June 13	May 28	July 2	June 23	July 2	July 2
	June 13	June 18	July 2				
	July 4	July 3					





**ANNEX 2**

**DIKTAS II**

Detail monthly timeline – WG2 - Legal subgroup - developed after 1<sup>st</sup> in-person expert meeting in Trebinje

MONTHLY (INTERNAL) OUTPUTS / PROJECT OUTPUTS	2025						2026							
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
3 <sup>rd</sup> internal on-line meeting of LP WG held on September 5														
ToC MA with explanation ready by September 10														
1 <sup>st</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held on September 12														
Consultations on ToC MA with PM completed by September 15														
ToC MA with explanation sent to NA by September 15														
4 <sup>th</sup> internal on-line meeting of LP WG held on September 24														
Final ToC of national GGDA ready by September 24														
2 <sup>nd</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of October														
Comments on ToC MA received by other WGs by October 15														
The first draft of the proposal of MA completed by the end of November														
6 <sup>th</sup> internal on-line meeting of LP WG held on December 1														
Consultation with PM on MA completed by December 5														
4 <sup>th</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held in mid-January														
Comments on MA received by NA by the end of January														
7 <sup>th</sup> internal on-line meeting of LP WG held on February 2														
5 <sup>th</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held in mid-February														
1 <sup>st</sup> draft ToC of regional GGDA prepared by mid-February														
Proposal of MA completed by the end of February (output 1.2)														
8 <sup>th</sup> internal on-line meeting of LP WG held on March 20														
National GW GGDA completed by the end of March (output 2.1)														
6 <sup>th</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held in mid-April														
1 <sup>st</sup> draft of regional GW GGDA completed by mid-June														
7 <sup>th</sup> on-line meeting with other WG held in mid-June														

ACTIVITIES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Preparation of ToC for Multilateral Agreement		1 <sup>st</sup> draft by Sept. 10		ToC MA under review										
Preparation of proposal of Multilateral Agreement				First draft of MA proposal by end of Nov.	PM feedback by Dec. 5		MA under review by NA							
							Final MA proposal by end of Feb.							
Preparation of ToC for national GGDA		Analysing results of GGP												
		1 <sup>st</sup> draft by Sept. 5												
Preparation of national GGDA			ToC final by Sept. 24		In preparation by national experts of LP WG		In preparation by national experts of LP WG							
Preparation of ToC for regional GGDA							1 <sup>st</sup> draft by mid-Feb.		ToC by mid-March					
Preparation of regional GGDA										1 <sup>st</sup> draft by mid-June				
Preparation of regional workshop					In preparation by LP WG; coordinated by PM									TENTATIVE: Final version of regional GW GGDA by end of August
Options for BA and MB														
Participation in JDSMA														
Participation in drafting CWMP														
Internal on-line meetings of LP WG														
On-line meetings with other WG-s														

*Explanation of abbreviations:*

- a) ToC – Table of contents
- b) WG – Working Group
- c) LP WG – Legal and Policy Working Group
- d) MA – Multilateral agreement on the establishment of CIE
- e) BA – Bilateral agreements in 6 TBAs
- f) PM – Project Manager
- g) NA – National Authorities
- h) GGP – GEF/FAO Groundwater Governance Project
- i) GGDA – Groundwater Governance Diagnostic Analysis
- j) MB – Management Bodies in 6 TBAs
- k) JDSMA – Joint Data Sharing Mechanism Activity
- l) CWMP - Concept(s) for Water Master Plans for 6 TBA-s

