

***Petersberg Process – Phase II and  
Athens Declaration Process***

**International Roundtable  
“Stakeholder / Public Participation for the  
Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources –  
The Case of Mesta / Nestos River Basin”**

Princess Hotel  
Sofia, Bulgaria,  
15-16 April 2008

***Conclusions***

Jointly organised by the  
**Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean  
Global Water Partnership - Bulgaria**

In the framework of

**GEF IW:LEARN  
Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative  
GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem**



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Cooperation





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## ***Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process***

The **Petersberg Process** is an initiative jointly coordinated by the German Government and the World Bank, launched in March 1998. Under Phase I of the process a ministerial level roundtable was held at Petersberg, Germany that resulted in the "Petersberg Declaration" which supports "water as a catalyst for cooperation." This was followed by roundtables of senior level experts on transboundary river basin and lake management (Berlin), lessons learned from management of transboundary waters in the Baltic Sea Region (Vilnius), experience in the Rhine River Basin (Bonn); and a special meeting on transboundary water management to support preparation of the World Bank Water Resources Strategy (Berlin).

Phase II of the Petersberg Process focuses on the concrete implementation of transboundary water management in catchment areas in Southeastern Europe (SEE) and is intended to merge current developments and to highlight options for future cooperation in transboundary water management (rivers, lakes and groundwater). Phase II was launched with a Roundtable in Berlin in December 2005 that brought together national representatives from the region as well as representatives of international organizations. It was confirmed that actions in Southeastern Europe are needed for:

- institutional strengthening and capacity building as a basic condition for effective cooperation on transboundary water resources management;
- improving the conditions for investments to support cooperative water resources management.

The **Athens Declaration Process**, jointly coordinated by the Government of Greece and the World Bank, was launched during the major International Conference, "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Waters, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge", 6-7 May 2003, Athens, Greece. The Conference was an important element of the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union.

The "Athens Declaration concerning Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge" provides a framework for a long-term process to support cooperative activities for the management of shared water resources specifically in the SEE and Mediterranean regions. The Athens Declaration Process is intended to assist SEE countries, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prepare Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans for major river basins and lakes, including a range of complementary interventions, with a coordinated mechanism to allow for exchange of information and experience between activities.

The two processes are linked in order to generate synergies and maximize the outcomes for the benefit of the SEE region, rather than duplicate activities and consequently efforts. The **joint Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process** has become a reference for many other processes and activities in the region. The Process would complement European Union (EU) integration processes, the Stabilisation and Association process of the European Union and other ongoing initiatives in the region. It contributes directly to the scope and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems.

### ***Key Steps in the Process***

In addition to the two aforementioned meetings that launched the Petersberg Process and the Athens Declaration Process key events were:

- The Berlin Roundtable, "Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters in South-Eastern Europe", Berlin, Germany 5-7 December 2005 that launched the joint Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process for Southeastern Europe
- The side event "Transboundary water cooperation in Southeastern Europe: a key to development and security" that was organized on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Belgrade, on 11 October 2007, co-organised with UNECE and the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public

Works and co-sponsored by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Three more International Roundtables were organized during 2005 -2007:

- “Integrated Management of Shared Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe”, Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 12-14 October 2006, jointly organized by GWP-Med and the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, financed by GEF IW:LEARN;
- “Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin”, Zagreb, Croatia, 15-17 November 2006, organized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety with the cooperation of the International Sava River Basin Commission, the World Bank, GEF IW:LEARN and GWP-Med;
- “Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in South Eastern Europe” Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 14-16 November 2007, Organized jointly by the Slovenian Ministry of Environment (SMEP) and Spatial Planning and Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean; financed by the GEF IW:LEARN and the SMESP.

### ***Objective***

The main objective is to build capacity and share experience on IWRM, and to develop IWRM plans for the shared water bodies in SEE as key elements of the development process as well as a response to the targets of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit.

### ***Principles of the Process***

- ✓ Provides a dialogue forum for identification and discussion of new ideas and challenges in transboundary water management in Southeastern Europe;
- ✓ Supports measures to obtain the political, economic and environmental benefits that may be realized through effective cooperation in the management of transboundary waters;
- ✓ Focuses on a set of key areas and conduct forums at an increasingly local level to facilitate a broader range of participants;
- ✓ The Process is not directly supporting investments; however, the exchange of ideas and experience would support the creation of conditions that enable investment activities.

### ***Priority Areas of Focus***

The following are the six complementary Areas of Focus of the Process:

- ✓ Integrated water resources management
- ✓ Transboundary groundwater management
- ✓ Multi-purpose water resources management
- ✓ Water governance, public participation and civil engagement
- ✓ Financial resource mobilization and management
- ✓ Linkage to European integration processes.

### ***Geographical Focus***

The ‘countries of focus’ are Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. Neighbouring countries – Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Slovenia and Turkey – will be included where relevant.

### ***Partners in the Process***

Activities are primarily supported by the Governments of Germany and Greece and the World Bank. GWP-Med provides technical and administrative assistance. Organizations and Institutions having experience and working in the field of transboundary water resources management, such as UNESCO, UNESCO-IHP / International Shared Aquifers Resource Management Programme (ISARM), UNESCO Chair and International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (UNESCO Chair/INWEB), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as well as key stakeholders from the countries of focus are collaborating partners. Synergies with active institutions, processes, initiatives and projects supported by GEF, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donor

countries, in the field of transboundary water management at the international, regional and national level, are being developed.

GEF IW:LEARN is supporting synergy in the Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, and contributions of practical experience from GEF projects working in transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater in the SEE region as well as elsewhere in the world.

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*Background material and information on the Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, GEF IW:LEARN–Activity D2 and transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe, are available at the Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for Southeastern Europe website ([www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)).*

## **International Roundtable “Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources – The Case of Nestos / Mesta River Basin”**

### **A. Introduction**

The International Roundtable “**Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources – The Case of Mesta / Nestos River Basin**” was organised by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean in cooperation with Global Water Partnership - Bulgaria, in Sofia, Bulgaria, 15-16 April 2008.

The Petersberg Phase II and Athens Declaration Process provided the policy framework for the organization of the Roundtable. It was the fifth in the series of relevant regional events that were organized as informal policy dialogues on transboundary water cooperation that convened governmental officials, stakeholders, experts and decision-makers in the water sector from Southeastern Europe (SEE) providing a forum for exchanging experience and stimulating synergies in this field. The Roundtable was also organized in the framework of GEF IW:LEARN Activity D2, GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (GEF SPM) and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

The International Roundtable was one of the activities within the project “Enhancement of Integrated Management of the Mesta / Nestos River Basin”, financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The project aims at enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in Bulgaria and Greece for the coordinated management of the Mesta / Nestos River Basin in an integrated and sustainable way and at assisting with the compliance with the provisions of the EU WFD.

The Project Activities entails the following activities:

- Elaboration of an *assessment* of the managerial actions undertaken in the Basin and the challenges currently faced in the context of the EU WFD implementation. The assessment served as the main background document for the International Roundtable (see below).
- Elaboration of a *stakeholders’ survey*, with an emphasis on public participation, covering the entire shared Basin, drawing upon relevant work already done in Greece and Bulgaria.
- Organization of *two local preparatory consultation meetings*, one for the Bulgarian side and one for the Greek side of the Basin, with the participation of the main stakeholders, aiming to voice interests and extract experiences in preparation of the International Roundtable, and finally;
- Organization of the International Roundtable “Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources – The Case of Mesta / Nestos River Basin”, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The overall implementation period of the Project is between August 2007 and June 2008. The Core Partners engaged in the project’s planning, implementation and monitoring are the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean and Global Water Partnership - Bulgaria.

## B. Background

### **Water resources management is becoming central in development policies worldwide and in related national strategies.**

Developing and implementing the necessary strategies to addressing both the needs for development as well as the quality of life and environmental needs is becoming a key concern worldwide. Transboundary waters represent in many cases a high percentage of countries' water resources. Any approach for management of shared waters, within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), need to take into account priorities of the countries sharing the resource.

### **Frameworks that facilitate and promote transboundary cooperation are already in place.**

The UNECE Water Convention offers an international framework for cooperation and has been signed by both countries. The EU Water Framework Directive is the most comprehensive piece of EU legislation on water; it has been transposed in the legal frameworks of both Bulgaria and Greece and has become the key driving force in the field.

Furthermore "soft" International Initiatives such as the Joint Petersberg Phase II and Athens Declaration Process offer useful ground for building capacities and for facilitating the creation of the necessary common "Vision" for the cooperative management of shared waters.

Acting in synergy, these frameworks can create the enabling environment for the enhancement of cooperation and the eventual preparation of Integrated Water Resources Management Plans in shared Basins and, in the present case, in the Mesta/Nestos Basin.

### **Public involvement:**

#### ***an integral component of an effective system for managing water resources and an internationally acknowledged right...***

Public involvement has been recognised as an integral component of an effective system for managing water resources. Decisions related to the use and management of water resources have impacts on people's everyday lives, their economic well-being, and, not least, on the health of the ecosystems on which all societies depends. The **right** of the public, and particularly of affected stakeholders, to participate in these decisions has been widely acknowledged by international law e.g. Aarhus Convention. The integration of stakeholders views and interests into international waters management reflects a broader recognition and application of the public's fundamental right to be involved in environmental decision-making processes. Among other, this recognition was clearly articulated in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

#### ***... as well as a tool***

Public participation in water management is not only a right, it is also **a very useful tool**. It has been proven that early and meaningful involvement of stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of water management, secures a much more sustainable and smooth operation of the relevant systems and schemes.

### **The EU Water Framework Directive sets comprehensive legal provisions regarding public participation in river basin management for all EU Member States.**

Three levels of participation are mentioned in Article 14 – the core public participation provision of the EU WFD: **information, consultation and active involvement** (modelled after the first two pillars of the Aarhus Convention). The directive gives considerable creative leeway to Member States in the design of public participation, particularly regarding active involvement of stakeholders.

According to the WFD Common Implementation Strategy Document No.8 "Public participation in relation to the Water Framework Directive" (WFD CIS on PP) Member States shall ensure consultation and shall encourage active involvement. Encouraging participation in the development and implementation of the management plans (interested parties

participate actively in the planning process by discussing issues and contributing to their solutions) can be considered as the core requirement of the Directive for active involvement. Higher levels of participation are self-determination and shared decision making; these two forms are not compulsory and not specifically required by the Directive but are considered as optional best practices.

It is the appointed competent authorities that are responsible for the outcome of the implementation of the Directive –whether it will be successful or not- hence it's up to them to decide to what extent they will share their power or responsibilities with other stakeholders.

*“In principle any level of public participation can be organized at any scale, even in the international river basin scale. The main issue is to find for each issue the right combination of scale, stakeholders, public participation levels and methods” (WFD CIS on PP).*

**However, coordination of the stakeholders as means for successful public participation, hence implementation of the EU WFD, in a shared river basin is not a prerequisite of the Directive.**

Though there is no such provision, experience from within Europe (e.g. Danube, Rhine etc.) as well as from outside (e.g. Nile, Orange, Okavango) has shown that coordination and engagement of stakeholders from the riparian countries –following different approaches in accordance to the different contexts- has led to a more successful transboundary cooperation and, through that, to a more balanced and efficient water resources management.

**The case of Mesta / Nestos river basin** (hereinafter referred to as the Basin).

Cooperation efforts between Greece and Bulgaria in the field of shared water resources have a long history. A number of agreements and protocols have been signed aiming at regulating water issues between the two countries. Special reference should be made to the Agreement of 1995 which specifically refers to the Mesta / Nestos River.

The EU WFD and the relevant to water EU Directives constitute the compulsory legal framework for the management of water resources in the EU Member States. Both countries are taking measures to obtain a coordinated management of the shared Basin on the basis of the relevant prerequisites of the EU WFD, the existing bilateral agreements and the international legal framework and practices. However, progress until now is still rather limited.

## **C. Overview**

The International Roundtable provided, for the first time, the chance for the stakeholders from the two parts of the Basin to meet and discuss together issues of common concern and express their aspirations regarding the management of the shared resource.

An *assessment* of the managerial actions undertaken in the area and the challenges currently faced served as the main background document of the International Roundtable. A brief *stakeholders' survey* in the entire river basin was executed to assist in better understanding the opinions and perceptions of the stakeholders.

### **Aims**

The International Roundtable aimed at:

- sharing international experience and best practices from within and outside the Southeastern Europe region on stakeholder / public participation in shared water resources management;
- elaborating on the progress achieved until now for the management of the Basin in each one of the countries and through their joint efforts;
- enhancing the involvement of the local stakeholders and identify possible next steps for their systematic engagement in accordance to the provisions of EU WFD;

- eventually assisting in identifying next steps for the enhancement of the cooperation between the two countries at national and local levels for the integrated management of the Basin in the context of EU WFD.

Based on the findings of the survey, two preparatory *local consultation meetings* with the major stakeholders of the respective part of the Basin were organised, one in Godze Delchev, Bulgaria (28 February 2008), and another one in Kavala, Greece (20 March 2008) to sound interests, extract experiences on the subject and provide feedback into the International Roundtable.

### **Participants**

The Roundtable was attended by 95 representatives of national and local stakeholders i.e. national and local authorities, water users associations, academia, private companies, NGOs and civil society organizations etc., as well as, international and regional institutions and organizations dealing with transboundary water issues (see Annex II for the List of Participants).

### **Material**

Background material and all presentations made during the International Roundtable (see Agenda in Annex I) can be found in [www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net).

## **D. Understanding Key Issues - Identifying Opportunities in the Mesta / Nestos Basin**

### **Sharing of benefits**

Integrated transboundary water resources management (ITWRM) involve both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Most important, it involves the sharing of benefits that result from the cooperative or joint management. Particular emphasis should be given to this aspect.

### **Stakeholders Involvement at transboundary level - Establishing a common "Vision"**

International experience has shown that establishing a common "Vision" and promoting ownership through structured public participation processes are key components for the successful cooperation in the coordinated or joint integrated management of a shared river basin. This is even more pertinent in the Basin within the existing common legal framework of the EU WFD. Moreover, fostering public participation at transboundary level is not only an add-on to the conventional management regimes; it can also be a strong instrument towards innovative and adaptive approaches under newly arising challenges (e.g. climate change).

### **Cooperation towards TWRM**

During the past years a number of attempts have been made and initiatives have been undertaken to address TWRM issues in the Basin. These were both:

- *formal*; this include a number of agreements and protocols with broader scope aimed to address relevant TWRM issues between the two countries and an agreement particularly referred to the Mesta / Nestos river,
- and *informal*; mainly in the form of ad-hoc scientific programmes with the participation of scientists from both countries.

Nevertheless, none of the aforementioned has dealt with the Public Participation issues in its essence or facilitated the cooperation among stakeholders and their involvement in the management of the Basin.

### **Implementing Public Participation notions**

Experiences presented by International Organizations, NGO's and a country -Austria- assisted in realizing that the meaningful implementation of the notions of Public Participation as well as the relevant legal provisions both at the transboundary and national levels, is not an easy task. Although extended work has been carried out internationally, Public Participation issues have not been "fully" resolved. This is not only because it is a difficult and long process that needs commitment, flexibility and continuity but also because the process needs to be adaptable to ever-changing realities in the river basin in question. In this

respect, the current initiative for the enhancement of stakeholders' involvement brings the case of the Basin at the forefront of relevant developments in the SEE region.

### **Experiences from Europe and especially the SEE can provide useful lessons as well as inspiration**

Experiences have shown that cooperation among stakeholders is feasible and can catalyze effective water management. In cases where cooperation evolved without the participation of the stakeholders, the latter were asked to participate in the course. There isn't a unique recipe / "winning" approach or process to follow in order to meaningfully involve stakeholders to lead in either the enhancement of cooperation or the preparation and implementation of appropriate managerial strategies and plans. The form and means have to be tailored and provided, respectively, in accordance to the specific realities in each case. The Basin represents, in comparison to other transboundary basins, a less difficult case since: it is shared between two EU Member States with established good relationship, involves less serious conflicts in terms of uses and, as it is up to now, there is less stress for allocation of water among uses.

### **The initiative for the enhancement of the stakeholders' involvement in the Basin - a bottom up approach**

The engagement of the water users and key stakeholders from the two countries can add value and solidify previous efforts and assist in moving effectively ahead in compliance with the EU WFD for the management of the Basin. A bottom up approach, involving the stakeholders can only contribute in a complementary way to the official cooperation process followed by the two countries. It has its own dynamic, and it can not and should not be guided by the authorities. At the same time, a bottom up approach can not be successful without the support of the national competent authorities.

The framework of the initiative follows international agreements and the EU acquis. The initiative comes as a service to both countries towards the implementation of the EU WFD.

### **Understanding and taking into account the opinions and perceptions of the stakeholders- The initial work is in place**

Understanding and taking into account the opinions and perceptions of the stakeholders is the first step of a long process, having as ultimate goal to meaningfully involve the stakeholders in the integrated management of river basins. The Stakeholders Survey, including a set of field visits, being part of the project's activities serves this cause. The two National Consultation meetings in Godze Delchev, Bulgaria (28 February 2008) and Kavala, Greece (20 March 2008) as well as the International Roundtable (15-16 April 2008) provided the relevant fora.

### **"Think outside the box" – towards a trust building process**

Serving also as awareness raising meetings, the aforementioned events gave the opportunity to the stakeholders from the two parts of the Basin to get informed and –up to a point- understand better the different national and sectoral issues and needs related to water resources management in the Basin. A trust building process has been initiated.

### **Key stakeholders from the two parts of the basin – responding**

- There was genuine support expressed by the participating representatives of the key stakeholders on the need for collaboration across different sectors at the local, national and transboundary levels.
- Representatives from hydropower, agriculture, forestry, tourism, fisheries, protected areas as well as academia, civil society groups, youth, educators for environment and sustainable development and different levels of government are the sectors/stakeholders identified as important to be involved and take an active role in this dialogue.
- In conformity with the WFD, the "subregional - Periphery" level was/is given particular emphasis and regarded as the most appropriate level to foster initiation of action in cooperation with the Central Government of each country.

### **Identifying expectations among stakeholders regarding eventual cooperation at local/transboundary level**

The expectations expressed by the representatives of the key stakeholders who participated in the International Roundtable were concrete and may constitute key elements for the eventual initiation of relevant cooperation processes. These included :

- Exchange of reliable information among scientists that will be further disseminated in appropriate formats to the wider public.
  - Appropriate identification of priorities and problems in the region at all levels.
  - Better utilization of opportunities emerging under the EU funding.
  - Better use of expertise and technology in the two parts of the Basin.
  - Targeted capacity building of stakeholders' groups facilitating better understanding, more efficient participation and, contributing in addressing the current and emerging challenges.
- Twinning between municipalities and youth exchange, combined with awareness raising activities, were proposed as means to facilitate and enhance common understanding in view of building a common "Vision" that will lead to joint action.

### **Identifying expectations of political importance**

Expectations of political importance were raised, and may provide valuable insight about stakeholders' understanding of key issues regarding water resources and basin management.

Such expectations include:

- Appropriate regulation of the river's flow to satisfy needs throughout the Basin;
- Common consideration and acceptance of hydro-technical constructions by the two sides;
- Adoption of appropriate approaches and measures to address flood and water quality issues, where relevant;
- Climate change issues need to be jointly investigated and be integrated in the solutions to be decided.

Nevertheless, it was noted that stakeholders' meetings and cooperation schemes are not suitable fora for any decision-making on these issues that remain responsibility of the competent authorities. Coordination and cooperation of the key stakeholders can only come complementary to the official cooperation activities for addressing the relevant issues. Sharing of information and dialogue can be used by the authorities for the preparation, enrichment, implementation and monitoring of appropriate management plans and strategies.

### **Realizing cooperation among the key stakeholders - Enhancing stakeholders involvement**

The International Roundtable identified the need for the creation of a platform of dialogue and cooperation among the stakeholders as means for the enhancement of communication as well as of mutual trust and transparency in activities related to the management of the Basin.

## **E. The Way Forward**

### **Structured cooperation and dialogue among stakeholders**

The International Roundtable endorsed and encouraged the approach, initiated through the GWP-Med and GWP Bulgaria initiative, for promoting coordination among the stakeholders at the local level.

A more structured cooperation among stakeholders is advisable. This should assist in the enhancement of stakeholders' involvement for the integrated management of the Basin.

Two schemes were proposed which are not mutually exclusive:

- A trans-national board of experts;
- A trans-national multi-stakeholder Forum for dialogue and cooperation (Forum).

It was agreed that the Forum was preferable and it may, in the future, include as one of its working groups a "board of experts".

**Structure and areas of activity**

Details about the structure and the areas of activity of such a Forum should be decided by the stakeholders participating in that.

The *stakeholders survey* about the opinions and positions of the key stakeholders and an initial stakeholders analysis which are already in place and presented, would provide background and suggestions regarding both the Forum's possible structure and areas of activity. In order for such material to be updated and pertinent, a series of follow-on consultations with the stakeholders are needed to review and validate the findings. The latter will complement the field visits, the two National Consultation meetings (in Godze Delchev and Kavala) and the International Roundtable. The outcomes of the consultations would be incorporated and complete the existing analysis.

Certain areas of priority activities for the Forum were already proposed by the Roundtable. The most important include:

- Flow of information;
- Capacity building on targeted themes and at various levels;
- Specific management issues at local level should be the field of work, at the level of the participating stakeholders own competences, assisting the work of the Central Governments within the framework of the plans that the latter prepare (e.g. solid wastes, water pollution etc.).
- Youth exchanges.

**Sources of financing**

Provided that the countries agree, national and local budgets, international organizations, other donor countries as well as the EU financing mechanisms (e.g. INTERREG) could be the funding sources for the Forum's establishment, functioning and implementation of activities.

The Basin municipalities may undertake a part of the financing - a relevant proposal was made by the representatives of the authorities of certain municipalities.

## ANNEX I

### AGENDA

#### **Day 1 –Tuesday, 15 April 2008**

**09.30 Introductory Remarks**

- Ms. Lubka Katchakova, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria
- Mr. Panagiotis Georgiadis, Director, Water Resources Management Directorate, Region of the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Greece
- Mr. Ron Hofer Environmentt and Water Advisor, Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank
- Ms. Janot Mendler de Suarez Deputy Director GEF IW:LEARN
- Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean

**10.00 Purpose of the Roundtable and organization of work**

*Mr Michael Scoullos, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean*

<b>Management of Shared Water Resources</b>
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**10.20 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) – stories of success**

*Ms Ana Drapa, UNECE*

**10.50 The UNESCO’s “Man and the Biosphere” Programme**

*Mr Karl-Heinz Gaudri, UNESCO*

**11.20 Coffee break**

**11.50 Water resources management in the Basin – Assessment of the managerial actions undertaken and the challenges currently faced in the context of the EU WFD implementation**

*Mr Giorgos Zalidis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki / Balkan Environment Center*

<b>Public Participation in Integrated Water Resources Management Presentation of Experience at the National level - Understanding the Issues</b>
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**12.20 Lessons learned / Practical experiences from implementing Public Participation in Integrated River Basin Management in Austria**

*Ms Susanne Brandstetter, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management*

**12.50 Discussion**

**13.30 Lunch break**

**14.45 The involvement of stakeholders in the Integrated Water Resources Management**

*(Conversation table dialogues - Participants will discuss in groups framing questions and will identify key roadblocks to involving stakeholders in integrated water resources management at national level. Each table will report key points made by the group. Facilitated plenary discussion will follow.)*

14.45 Introductory presentation

15.00 Discussion in groups

15.45 Presentation of the outcomes of the group discussions

16.15 Discussion in Plenary

*Facilitator: Ms Janot Mendler de Suarez, GEF IW:LEARN*

**17.30 Conclusions of Day 1**

*Mr Michael Scoullos, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean*

**19.30 Folk Dinner**

**Day 2 – Wednesday, 16 April 2008**

**Public Participation in Integrated Management of Shared Basins.  
Presentation of Experience at the International Level -  
Understanding the Issues, moving to Action**

**09.30 Involving stakeholders in the Management of Shared Basins -  
Initiatives / Experiences**

**Experiences of Public Participation in shared basins management**

(A presentation by each of the participants will be followed by facilitated panel discussion on key topics. The panel will interact with the participants)

Case studies:

- Public Participation under the EU-WFD in the Elbe River Basin - Experiences on the International and national Level (Czech Republic, Germany), *Ms Wenke Karstedt, German Ministry of Environment*
- Danube River Basin, *Ms Milena Dimitrova, Danube Environmental Forum*
- Peipsi/Chudskoe Lake Basin (Estonia, Russia), *Ms. Margit Säre, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation*
- Prespa Lake Basin (Albania, Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), *Ms Daphne Mantziou, Society for the Protection of Prespa*
- Shkoder Lake Basin (Albania, Montenegro), *Mr Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-Med*

*Facilitator: Mr Ron Hoffer, World Bank*

**11.30 Coffee break**

**12.00 Multipurpose use of shared water bodies – The Sava river basin**  
*Mr Dejan Komatina, International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)*

**12.30 Lunch break**

**Public Participation for the Integrated Management of the Basin**

*Facilitator: Mr Michael Scoullos, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean*

**14.00 Stakeholders involvement in the management of the Basin – a Stakeholders survey**  
*Mr Dimitris Faloutsos, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean*

**14.50 Plenary Discussion: Using the existing frameworks to enhance involvement of stakeholders in the Integrated Management of Shared Basins**  
Key Question: What are the main steps needed to advance a roadmap for the enhancement of stakeholders' involvement in the integrated management of the Basin?

**16.30 Presentation of the Conclusions of the International Roundtable – Next steps**  
*Mr Michael Scoullos, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean*  
*Ms Galia Bardarska, Global Water Partnership - Bulgaria*

**17.00 End of the Roundtable**

**ANNEX II**

**International Roundtable  
“Stakeholder / Public Participation for the  
Integrated Management of Shared Water Resources –  
The Case of Mesta / Nestos River Basin”**

Princess Hotel  
Sofia, Bulgaria,  
15-16 April 2008

**List of Participants**

		First name	Family name	Position	Section	Institution / Organization	
1.	<b>Bulgaria</b>	Ms	Lubka	Katchakova	Deputy Minister		Ministry of Environment and Water
2.		Mr	Boyko	Peev	Expert	Water management department	Ministry of Environment and Water
3.		Ms	Kremena	Simonova	Expert	Water usage	Ministry of Environment and Water
4.		Mr	Grigor	Vassilev	Head of Department	Legislation and management of eco-projects	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
5.		Mr	Nikolay	Yonov	Head of Department	Sciences, education and international relations	State Forests Agency
6.		Mr	Nikolay	Lyubenov	Head of Department	Electricity production	National Energy Company
7.		Mr	Yuriy	Yohnev	Engineer	Technical exploitation	National Energy Company "Reservoirs and cascades"
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9.		Mr	Aleksandar	Yanev	Chief Expert	Regional Development	Regional Administration of Blagoevgrad
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12.		Ms	Rositsa	Vassileva	Head of Department	Control	West Aegean Basin Directorate
13.		Ms	Tanya	Ivanova	Junior Expert	Planning and management	West Aegean Basin Directorate

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19.		Ms	Sashka	Vuchkova	Deputy Mayor		Bansko municipality
20.		Ms	Yoanna	Popova	Project management expert		Bansko municipality
21.		Mr	Ivan	Radoykov	Consultant	Ecology	Gotse Delchev municipality
22.		Mr	Iliyan	Yurukov	Director		Irrigation systems EAD - Gotse Delchev
23.		Mr	Krasimir	Munev	Chairman		Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Gotse Delchev
24.		Mr	Krasimir	Gerchev	Chairman		Local Agency for Economic Development (LEDA)
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36.	Mr	Viktor	Shilegov	Deputy Chairman		Sofia Association of Water Affairs	

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40.		Ms	Illina	Dimitrova	Publisher	Private firm	PublishScieSet-Eco
41.		Ms	Dani	Kenanova	Executive officer	Press	Ekology 21
42.		Ms	Ani	Velcheva	Marketing and advertising manager	Press	Ekology 21
43.		Ms	Svetlomira	Dimitrova	Editor	Press	Newspaper "Dnevnik"
44.		Mr	Vasil	Petkov	Edit-redactor	Press	Newspaper "Sega"
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58.		Mr	Grigoris	Triantafillidis	Mayor		Municipality of Keramoti
59.		Mr	Ioannis	Papadopoulos	Deputy Mayor		Municipality of Keramoti
60.		Mr	Petros	Markopoulos	Mayor		Municipality of Kato Nevrokopi
61.		Mr	Emmanouil	Tsepelis	Deputy Mayor		Municipality of Xanthi
62.		Mr	Gerasimos	Sidiropoulos	Director	Quality Control	Xanthi Water Supply Municipal Company
63.		Ms	Maria	Likidou	Director	Technical Service	Xanthi Water Supply Municipal Company
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65.		Mr	Andreas	Kabageorgis	Member of the Board		Local Organisation of Land Amelioration / Chrisoupoli
66.		Mr	Charalabos	Ninachidis	Member of the Board		Local Organisation of Land Amelioration /Thalasia-Kremasti
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69.		Mr	Ioannis	Michailidis	Director	Nestos Dams Complex	Public Power Corporation SA
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71.		Mr	Konstantinos	Antoniadis	Chairman		Technical Chamber of Greece- East Macedonia Branch
72.		Mr	Charalampos	Chrysanidis		Geotechnical chamber of East Macedonia	
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85.		Ms	Ana	Drapa	Focal point in Romania		UNECE
86.		Mr	Dejan	Komatina	Executive Secretary		International Sava River Basin Commission
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89.		Mr	Dimitris	Faloutsos	Programme Officer		GWP-Med
90.		Ms	Bessie	Mantzara	Finance and Administration		GWP-Med
91.		Ms	Olga	Papathanassopoulou	Secretary		GWP-Med
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94.		Ms	Susanne	Brandstätter			Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

95.		Ms	Margit	Säre			Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonia
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