
Wastewater Management Decision Support Tool (WEMDST) for the Drin basin

Technical Webinar - 11 and 12 November 2020, 10:00 - 12:00 (CET)

CONCEPT NOTE

Summary

In the Western Balkan region, a significant part of wastewater remains uncollected, or is collected in the sewage systems and released untreated into the rivers, posing an important threat to biodiversity and development prospects. In the Drin basin in particular, only 17 out of 108 agglomerations are served by wastewater treatment plants. In the future, a significant share of resources will be directed toward effective wastewater treatment processes in the region.

This Webinar will guide participants through the use of the Wastewater Management Decision Support Tool (WEMDST) developed for the Drin basin. The web-based model allows users to select/build and graphically display scenarios for wastewater emissions from human settlements into water bodies across the Drin Basin. The model is a practical tool to assist the identification of the most environmentally appropriate and cost-efficient solutions to address wastewater related issues in ecologically important areas.

The Webinar is aimed at **public utility operators** and **wastewater treatment (investment) process planners and related stakeholders** on the national and regional level and in the Drin catchment.

Project background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Project “Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin” (GEF Drin Project) aspires to promote joint management of the shared water resources of the transboundary Drin River Basin, including coordination mechanisms among the various sub-basin joint commissions and committees. The Project is implemented by UNDP and executed by the GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

Within the context of the project, Pilot activities are intended to provide multiple benefits to allow countries to (i) accrue direct experience on approaches, technologies, practices and organizational settings novel to the region and test their cost effectiveness and feasibility in the regional context, (ii) test cooperative arrangements.

The main objective of the Wastewater Management Decision Support Tool (WEMDST) Pilot Project is to support decision-making related to wastewater management. It can assist with the implementation of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD).

The WEMDST helps with the planning of new wastewater treatment plants and solutions on the catchment or city level. The model enables planners to prioritise agglomerations in the Drin catchment

which need to be equipped with wastewater treatment technologies. It offers information on the current state of river quality in the Drin catchment area and the possibility of predicting river quality and indicative infrastructure costs (both investment and operating) for various pre-set or custom scenarios.

The WEMDST employs spatial visualization and enables the extraction of systematized datasets for the display of different wastewater treatment scenarios in the Drin region and their effect on Drin water quality. It can predict the main quality characteristics of the treated wastewaters regarding the pollutants and contaminants of significant concern and interest as a function of the operation of the treatment systems.

The WEMDST is aimed at local and national institutions and policymakers in Albania, Kosovo¹, Montenegro, North Macedonia and at regional coordination mechanisms in the field of wastewater treatment and wastewater related environmental management. The WEMDST will be publicly available and free of charge.

Who should attend?

This training is designed for the following groups of users:

- Wastewater treatment (investment) process planners
- Wastewater related stakeholders on the national and regional level
- Municipalities and wastewater treatment staff and operators

The use of the WEMDST aims to:

- Enable key decision-makers making informed technical and investment choices
- Build awareness/capacity towards sustainable and affordable wastewater related services
- Promote the increase in resource recovery from wastewater

Webinar content / structure

During the Technical Webinar the participants will be presented:

- The use of the Tool for current and future (modeled) loads of pollutants in wastewater.
- Selecting/building and graphically displaying the scenarios for the Drin river basin, when addressing wastewater emissions from human settlements (agglomerations) into water bodies.

Future user/operators will test the Tool and provide feedback.

The training is structured in three main parts:

1. Introduction

Welcome, overview of the Webinar's contents, videos, materials provided before the training and Zoom features to be used.

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



2. Demonstration of the WEMDST

Live presentation of two main user levels: (a) basin wastewater scenario for wastewater treatment process planning and (b) city /agglomeration wastewater treatment planning.

3. Feedback from participants

Participants will be guided through their own trial of the WEMDST. Discussion of results; questions, observations and feedback will be provided.

Detailed agenda is annexed to this document.