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## Findings and Recommendations KOSOVO\*

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### Glossary

EUFD	European Union Floods Directive [Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks]
EUWFD	European Union Water Framework Directive[Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy]
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
APFSR	Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risk
FH&FRM	Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Map
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
DesInventar	Conceptual and methodological tool for the generation of National Disaster Inventories and the construction of databases of damage, losses and in general the effects of disasters



ADMINISTRATION



## 1. Legal and Institutional Framework for Flood Risk Management

The legal framework of water management of Kosovo\* is regulated with the Law on Waters 04/L-147 which is substantially in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) but it does not transpose EU Floods Directive (EUFD). The Law on Water assigns the overall management and policy development on water to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and to the Inter-ministerial Council for Waters.

Though the provisions of the EUFD are currently missing into the legal framework of Kosovo\*, the transposition of the requirements of EUFD is in progress. The Water Department within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has drafted a regulation<sup>1</sup> in line with the requirements of the EUFD and harmonized with the current legislations (Law on Waters 04/L-147). It is expected that the regulation will be approved within early 2016.

The Law on Water introduces a single Water Basin District for the entire territory of Kosovo\* and envisages the creation of the River District Authority. This authority is expected to be formed not later than March 2016, however the structure of the organization has already been established. Furthermore, the Laws on Water generally assigns the competencies and responsibilities for flood protection to Municipalities and Authorities under the coordination of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. The institutional framework reflects the gaps of the current legislations in a full approximation of EUFD. Indeed, none of the existing technical institutions/agencies/departments have received the mandate and have the full capacity to conduct Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping and to coordinate the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plan.

*The adoption of EUFD provisions into the legal framework of Kosovo\* is in progress by amending the existing Law on Water, and it is recommended to fully complete the transposition.*

*It is further recommended to strengthen the institutional capacity aimed to implement the requirements of the EUFD: clarifying roles, functions and responsibilities of institutions/agencies; assigning the mandate of conducting PFRA, FH&FRM and FRMP to appropriate institutions with clear deadlines. The draft regulation released by The Water Department within the Ministry of Environment*

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

<sup>1</sup>The text of the Regulation was not shared with IPA FLOODS team since it is not a public document.

and Spatial Planning partly comprehends the above mentioned issues, but a final effort has to be done to complete the process.

## 2. Units of Management

The Law on Waters 04/L-147 defines as a Unit of Management for river basin management the entire territory in Kosovo\*; thus Kosovo\* has one single River Basin District. Furthermore, the Law on Waters 04/L-147 introduces the River District Authority and assigns to the Authority duties and responsibilities. This authority is expected to be formed within early 2016.

*It is recommended to complete the process within the presumed deadlines.*

## 3. International River Basins

With regard to transboundary issues, international river basins of Kosovo\* are of extreme importance, indeed the main river basins (White Drin, Plave, Ibrit, Morava and Binces) are shared with neighborhood countries. The first attempts on coordinating water managementg at trans-national level are: the “Memorandum of understanding for the Management of the Extend Transboudary Drin Basin” signed in Tirana, November 2011 by Ministers of Water and Environmental Management of Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo\* and Montenegro; the Joint Conclusions for the development and deepening of regional cooperation in the field of crisis management between the Republics of Albania, Kosovo\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, signed in Skopje on 27th May 2011 by directors of each different institutions; it has to be mentioned also the existence of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ ) project, that is of importance both for the hydro-meteorological data and data sharing policies.

*It is recommended to promote the creation of multi-national River Basin councils in collaboration with neighborhood countries on the base of existing international agreement.*

## 4. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is not developed in Kosovo\*, however some initiatives have been conducted by pilot projects (Water Project for flood risk in the location of Skenderaj). A digital database on historical floods has been developed by Emergency Management Agency (EMA) with the support of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and CIMA Foundation; data have been registered by using the DesInventar methodology and system. Moreover, the Water Department has collected by its own some reports on historical floods.

*It is recommended to develop and adopt common methodologies and techniques, in collaboration with civil protection, (e.g. historical flood data collection or criteria to define relevant floods of the past) for Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment as required by EUFD and to identify Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risk. The “Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs good practices” developed by IPA Floods Programme should be used as reference for the methodology.*

*It is further recommended to implement a training/capacity building program dedicated to the institutions that will receive the mandate for conducting PFRA.*

## 5. Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping

The situation on Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping is similar to PFRA. FH&FRM have been prepared for some river basins within specific projects, however there is a need to develop and adopt a common methodology that will ensure the homogeneous elaboration of FH&FRM at national level.

*It is recommended to develop and adopt a common methodology for Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Mapping, based on the experience acquired during the implementation of different completed projects, in compliance with EUFD provision and Member States Good Practices. The “Guidelines for the implementation of EU Floods Directive and MSs good practices” developed by IPA Floods Programme should be used as reference for the methodology.*

*Secondly, it is recommended to implement a training/capacity building program dedicated to national institutions and stakeholders that will have the mandate for conducting Hazard and Risk Assessment in the whole country.*

## 6. Flood Risk Management Plans

Currently there are no properly defined Flood Risk Management Plans operating in the country and there is a strong need both to develop them and to identify structural and non-structural measures for flood risk reduction/mitigation. FRMPs need to include the Early Warning System and integrate local, territorial and National disaster and civil protection plans as well as emergency plans.

*It is recommended to develop FRMPs for the River Basin District and to ensure an harmonization with the River Basin Management Plan as required by the EUWFD and EUFD; FRMPs should specifically address transboundary flood risk management. It is further recommended to establish a mechanism for the effective implementation of the FRMPs.*

## 7. Data Sharing and Data Information Systems

Data exchange among institutions and agencies is not fully developed in Kosovo\*. Few information systems are currently in place (112 emergency system and DesInventar for disaster loss accounting), however the access to data by different stakeholders needs to be facilitated and highly enhanced.

*It is recommended to develop and adopt a data sharing policy framework among national and international institutions, organizations and general stakeholders to access flood risk data and maps.*

*It is further recommended to adopt standards for geospatial data in line with WISE system and INSPIRE Directive.*

*It is recommended to develop an integrated data information system for collecting, recording and sharing flood risk information. The system should allow the recording of historical floods in line with the guidance document of the EUFD. The Flood Risk Information System, developed under IPA Floods, should be used as an asset for addressing this recommendation.*