



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe



## Water Family Meeting Symposium on Water Equity in South East Europe and the Mediterranean

28 March 2019 Palazzo Zorzi, Venice (Italy)

**Improved water resources management and access to safe, clean water for all is an essential step towards eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable human development under fair and equitable conditions in South-East Europe and the Mediterranean. Millions in the region still lack access to safe water and sanitation, and these are the most excluded segments of the region's populations. In addition, climate change and other global changes are increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters and extreme events, which affect disproportionately the most vulnerable parts of the region's population, and exacerbate inequalities.**

UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to science, education and capacity building on water. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, based in Venice, is responsible to implement IHP's programme in the region, with the support of the UNESCO Water Family which includes 11 National Committees, 3 water-related category II centres and 5 UNESCO water related Chairs. UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) coordinates the work of 31 UN-Water members (UN agencies) and 39 partners (international organisations, NGOs etc.) in producing annually the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR), that is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water.

In this context, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in cooperation with WWAP and other partners is organizing a high-level regional symposium on water equity in South east Europe and the Mediterranean following the launch of the 2019 World Water Development Report (WWDR) 'Leaving No One Behind'. Prior to the symposium, the Regional Bureau is organizing on 28 March a regional Water family Meeting, bringing together 8 countries from the region, including IHP National Committees, UNESCO Water Chairs, Water-related UNESCO Category II Centres and other key stakeholders. The water family meeting will consist of an introductory session by the UNESCO Regional Bureau and WWAP, followed by short presentations by all water family members, and finally informal discussions on how to strengthen the South East Europe and Mediterranean UNESCO water network and increase its impact in the region.

The format for the short presentations by water family members will be 10 minutes power point presentations, including descriptions of the key activities of the IHP committees/centres/chairs/institutes/commission, as well as a few slides on the expected contributions of each member to the SEE and Mediterranean UNESCO water network, and expectations for what the regional network can achieve.

### Key Expected Results

- Increasing synergies and strengthening UNESCO's regional network of water stakeholders
- Understanding how WWDR 2019's main messages can be best utilized by the water family members and the countries in the region

### Agenda

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>14:00-14:15</b> | Introduction to the water family meeting by Jonathan Baker, Head of Science unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe |
| <b>14:15-14:30</b> | Intervention by Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator, WWAP   |
| <b>14:30</b>       | Interventions by UNESCO South East Europe and Mediterranean water Family members (10 minutes each)   |



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IHP National Committees (Alphabetical order by country)

**Biljana Rajić**, Senior Adviser on Water Resources, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Elena Bojilova**, Secretary, IHP National Committee, Bulgaria

**Bojana Horvat**, Researcher, Water management Institute, IHP National Committee, Croatia

**Miroslava Nenadić**, Directorate for Water Management, Montenegro

**Jovan Despotović**, President, IHP National Committee, Serbia

**Mitja Brilly**, IHP National Committee, Slovenia

**Murat Ali Hatipoğlu**, General Directorate of the State Hydraulic works (DSI), IHP National Committee, Turkey

**16:00-16:30** Coffee break

**16:30-17:30** Continuation of interventions

Centres (Alphabetical order by country)

**Konstantinos Voudouris**, Vice President, UNESCO Category II Centre on Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Brankica Majkić-Dursun**, Director, UNESCO category II Center for Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change, Serbia

Chairs (Alphabetical order by country)

**Jacques Ganoulis**, UNESCO Chairholder, International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans on 'Sustainable Management on Water and Conflict Resolution', Greece

**Marko Ivetić**, UNESCO Chairholder, Chair in Water for Ecologically Sustainable Development, Serbia

International Sava River Basin Commission

**Dragana Milovanović**, Deputy Secretary for integrated river basin management and water planning, International Sava River Basin Commission

**17:30-18:30** Discussion on strengthening the South East Europe and Mediterranean UNESCO water network and increasing its impact in the region

**18:30** Concluding remarks

**19:00-21:00** Dinner at Luna Sentada restaurant

### Contact information

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