



Strengthening of master curricula in water resources management for the
Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders (SWARM)
(597888-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP)

SWARM newsletter, Issue 1/June 2019

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Welcome to the SWARM newsletter!

This bulletin provides information on the latest SWARM project activities.



Enjoy your reading and visit the SWARM website (www.swarm.ni.ac.rs) to find more information.

With the best regards,

SWARM project team



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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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PROJECT

The project **Strengthening of master curricula in water resources management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders (SWARM)** is capacity building action in the field of higher education, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The proposed project is in line with Regional Priorities for Joint & Structural Projects (Erasmus+ KA2 – Capacity Building in Higher Education) for the Region 1 (Western Balkan) and is related to the “Learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches including learning outcomes and ICT-based practices (inter alia, flexible learning paths, blended courses, virtual and real mobility, practical placements etc.)” and area „Environmental protection“.

The wider objective of the SWARM project is to improve the quality of higher education in Water Resources Management (WRM) field, strengthen its relevance for the labour market and society, enhancing the level of competences and skills of experts for WRM in WB partner countries (Serbia, Kosovo*, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) by developing new competence-based and improvement of existing master curricula in line with EU trends. This wider objective is fully compliant with the priorities of the Capacity Building projects within the Erasmus+ program.

The introduction of modernized curricula will provide new kind of professionals equipped with broader cognition, knowledge and skills about WRM. New students will be able to foster development at all levels of WRM's in their countries and therefore adopt EU directives faster and more efficient. In practice this should also result in growth of a water sector in WB region.

New master curricula will be accredited by National certification bodies for Higher education. The project will cover establishing of the infrastructure (organisational, methodological and technical) for implementation of developed curricula.

The study programmes delivered by the project will be created in cooperation and

under supervision of the EU partner HEIs, acknowledging EU directives and standards (Europe 2020, ET 2020, the Bologna Declaration, Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, etc.). Reported needs of relevant institutions and project partners from water sector for providing well-trained personnel will be to the greatest extent respected.

The trainings for professionals in water sector will be delivered in the centers for lifelong learning at WB HEIs (where it is applicable) and the certificate of key skills acquired will be issued in the end of training.

Wider objective

Education of experts for water resources management in the Western Balkans (WB) in line with the national and EU policies.

Specific objectives

- ❖ Improve the level of competencies and skills in HEI's by developing new and innovative master programmes in the field of water resources management (WRM) in line with the Bologna requirements and national accreditation standards
- ❖ Design and implement seven new and up-to-date laboratories in WB partner HEIs in cooperation with EU project partners
- ❖ Develop and implement LLL courses for the water sector in line with EU Water Framework Directive

CONSORTIUM

The project Consortium is made up of 14 partners from EU countries and Western Balkan and one associated partner.



University of Niš



University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna



Norwegian University of Life Sciences



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy



Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Rijeka



Universidade de Lisboa



Technical University of Crete



University of Priština settled in Kosovska Mitrovica



Technical College of Applied Sciences Urosevac with temporary seat in Leposavic



Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar



University of Montenegro



University of Sarajevo



Public Water Management Company Vode Vojvodine

KICK-OFF MEETING

The kick-off meeting for the SWARM project was held in Nis, Serbia, on 20th-21st December 2018. The Consortium partners met for the first time at this meeting which was organized by the project coordinator, University of Nis. This was an opportunity for all project partners to meet and discuss the plans and realization of future activities of this project.



Presentations from the event can be downloaded from:

<http://www.swarm.ni.ac.rs/activities?id=8>

WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN THE EU WATER SECTOR

The workshop on innovative practices in the EU water sector was held in Vienna, Austria, on 8th-10th May 2019. It was organized by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

The objective was to introduce to all project partners the most relevant issues related to the realization of activities related to work package 1 (WP1) Analysis of water resources management in the Western Balkan region.



Presentations from the event can be downloaded from:

<http://www.swarm.ni.ac.rs/activities?id=25>

FIRST THEME-BASED TRAINING OF TEACHING STAFF IN SOFIA

University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy organised the first theme-based training of teaching staff for acquiring new teaching and learning methods for Western Balkan partner HEIs, 29-31 May, 2019 in Sofia.

The third day was related to the field visit of Wastewater Treatment Plant “Kubratovo” – operated by “Sofiyska voda” AD (part of VEOLIA Group). Sofiyska Voda JSC, one of the SWARM associated partners, is the water supply and sewerage operator for the capital city, treats wastewater and brings it pure and healthy back to nature. The wastewater treatment processes, aiming to achieve compliance with the standards, are related with the use of chemicals and materials which may become hazardous to people if strict health and safety measures are not implemented.

The event was concluded with positive impressions. It was everyone's opinion that the training was very beneficial.

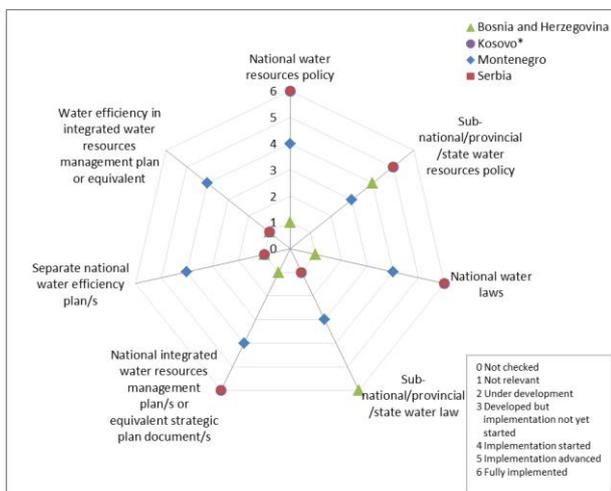


Presentations from the event can be downloaded from:

<http://www.swarm.ni.ac.rs/activities?id=27>

REPORT ON WB REGIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO WRM

The current status of key policy making, strategic planning and legal frameworks for the development, management and use of water resources have been indicated by each WB country. The comparison of main national instruments for water resources management shows that in Serbia the policy, laws and management are fully implemented on national level, while in Bosnia and Herzegovina the water resources management is mainly done on sub-national/provincial level. In Montenegro the legal framework in general is developed and the implementation has partly started. Additionally, the evaluation shows that water efficiency plans or the consideration of water efficiency in integrated water resources management plans are not implemented in any country. In Serbia, Kosovo* and Bosnia and Herzegovina this topic is even evaluated as not relevant.



More details can be found on the web page

<http://www.natrisk.ni.ac.rs/activities?id=16>

REPORT ON EU WATER POLICIES AND INNOVATION

The European Union has adopted a set of strategies, plans, directives and legislation related to the water sector, in particular due to the increasing environmental challenges. A systematic overview of the current state of EU legislation in the field of water resource management will be given in the following report. Afterwards, the implementation of this legislation in EU project partner countries will be highlighted.

The final report details the fundamental basis of EU legislation, which will be further used for project initiatives to manage the complexity of water challenges in WB partner countries. In addition, it will be used in preparing trainings for professionals in water sector.

The EU directives and strategies in the field of water resource management are listed below and described in detail in the following subchapters.

- Water Framework Directive
- Floods Directive
- Drinking Water Directive
- Groundwater Directive
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy
- Industrial Emissions Directive
- Renewables Energy Directive
- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive

The EU directives were adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council and afterwards incorporated into national legislation by the member states of the European Union.

More details can be found on the web page

<http://www.natrisk.ni.ac.rs/activities?id=17>



For further information about the project please refer to the website www.swarm.ni.ac.rs, and feel free to get in touch with us also via swarmuni@gmail.com or on one of our other social media channels.



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