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## SWARM INITIATIVE – THREE SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF COLLABORATION IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BETWEEN EU AND WESTERN BALKANS

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Novi Sad, 23-24 September 2021

## Project consortium



- University of Nis - UNI
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna - BOKU
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences – NMBU
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - AUTH
- University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy – UACEG
- University of Rijeka, Faculty of Civil Engineering – UNIRIFCE
- Universidade de Lisboa – UL
- University of Novi Sad – UNS
- University of Sarajevo – UNSA
- Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar – UNMO
- University of Pristina in Kosovska Mitrovica – UPKM
- Technical College of Applied Sciences Urosevac with temporary seat in Leposavic - TCASU
- University of Montenegro – UoM
- Public Water Management Company "Vode Vojvodine" – PWMC VV

## Kick-off meeting



The importance of cooperation between the countries of the Western Balkans with EU countries, especially when it comes to sustainable water resources management, is very illustratively represented through the Erasmus + SWARM project.

A series of activities planned and implemented during the implementation of the Erasmus + SWARM project.

The new approach to water resources management, implemented through this project involves the introduction of the concept of variability, **both water needs and variability within natural system, environment, changes in the purpose and manner of land use, climate change, as well as their impact on water resources, which should be a key challenge when considering the education of students and future professionals.**





In order to implement this component through the project, first of all a very detailed **analysis of water resources management in the Western Balkan region was done.**

The analysis **provided a very good cross-section of the knowledge of experts**, with the aim **of finding shortcomings in the existing teaching syllabi**, which deal with this issue.

**Through a series of trainings and education of the teaching staff of the WB, and intensive cooperation with EU partners** in a project in which EU partners through the analysis of the water management sector in their countries contributed to the development of competence-based curricula aligned with EU trends in partner countries.



Serbia



Croatia



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Bulgaria



Austria



Greece



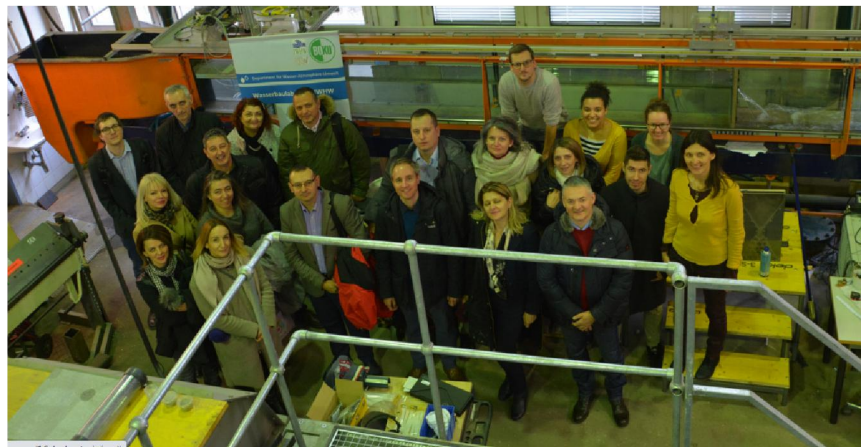
Norway



Portugal



Montenegro





Recognizing that strengthening the water sector alone through curriculum development is not enough, the dual approach to education applied in the project is considered an approach that can yield very good results. Namely, this approach focuses on the project in the education of experts in this field, in order to fill the existing gaps in knowledge and to implement all international obligations and convention

A very detailed analysis of the water sector in terms of needs, existing and missing knowledge, the needs of the economy, was performed.

Through the project, round tables were held with experts in the water sector, through which the importance of such projects was discussed, the shortcomings and omissions made in the water sector so far, but also the needs that the labor market requires from new experts.

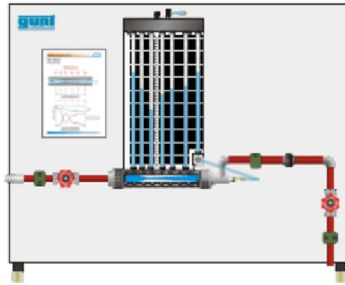
In connection with that, the Workshop on innovative practices in the EU water sector: barriers and opportunities were realized through the project.



The importance of such projects is reflected in

- educational training for both teachers and students** since it encourages harmonization with the knowledge and skills of students in the EU countries and assists the mobility of students and teachers,
- cooperation for the preparation of teaching materials** with the development and implementation of innovative practices, exchange of good practices, ideas, joint initiatives to promote cooperation, and
- raising knowledge and awareness of the need for integrated WRM** by contributing to sustainable WRM in accordance with EU and domestic legislation and international agreements and conventions.

It is certainly important to emphasize the procurement of equipment for the partner countries of the Western Balkans, equipment that greatly raises the quality of teaching



Thank you for attention!