



Regional Bureau  
for Science and Culture  
in Europe

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



# UNESCO's water family in South East Europe and the Mediterranean

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# Mission

Contribute to the implementation of **UNESCO's Science and Culture programmes** with special focus on **South-East Europe**;

Support **cooperation** with and among countries in the region;

Facilitate the **integration** of science and culture into **development** programmes/strategies at country and regional levels, in line with Agenda 2030

Represent UNESCO in the **UN reform process** and **country programming** exercises





# Where we work

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Greece
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- The Republic of North Macedonia
- Turkey
- Kosovo\* (\*as defined by the UNSCR 1244 of 1999)
- Italy (host country)

## How we work

Policy-advice and the **exchange of knowledge and best practices**

*(providing support and expertise, supporting regional networks, etc.)*

Trainings and other **capacity-building**

activities  
*(workshops, developing tools, etc.)*

Managing **projects** funded by different donors *(on heritage rehabilitation, intercultural dialogue, disaster risk reduction, etc.)*

- **Networks e Partnerships** *(UNESCO designated sites/elements, i.e. MAB Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, EuroMaB, ASPnet, PhytoChemNet, Network of Experts, CSOs, etc.)*

# Natural Sciences

Support for policies and decision makers for the **integrated water resources management** in the shared river basins:

- Focusing on cross-border river basins (Sava, Drin, Mura-Drava-Danube)
- Conservation of nature, the development of sustainable tourism and the reduction of flood risk
- Improving stakeholders' involvement in Integrated River Basin Management
- Promoting best transboundary management practices in the river basins at the regional level, which aim to mitigate and adapt to climate change



Danube Floodplains of the river, Croatia

Contribution to strengthening the resilience and climate change adaptation of member states in line with the Sendai Framework for **Disaster Risk Reduction** (2015-2030)



GEO4CIVHIC



SHELTER

# Natural Sciences

Promotion and use of biosphere reserves as a network model sites for sustainable development and outreach:

- Promote sustainable development in the region
- Professional and institutional capacity building, creation of a support network for development and co-operative projects
- Developing the demonstration and learning potential of UNESCO Sites
- Regional communication, outreach and partnership promoted on UNESCO sites



summer university 2019



Ministerial Roundtable on Science, Technology and Innovation, 2012 Sarajevo

Institutional and human capacity to produce, disseminate and apply **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)** in South East Europe:

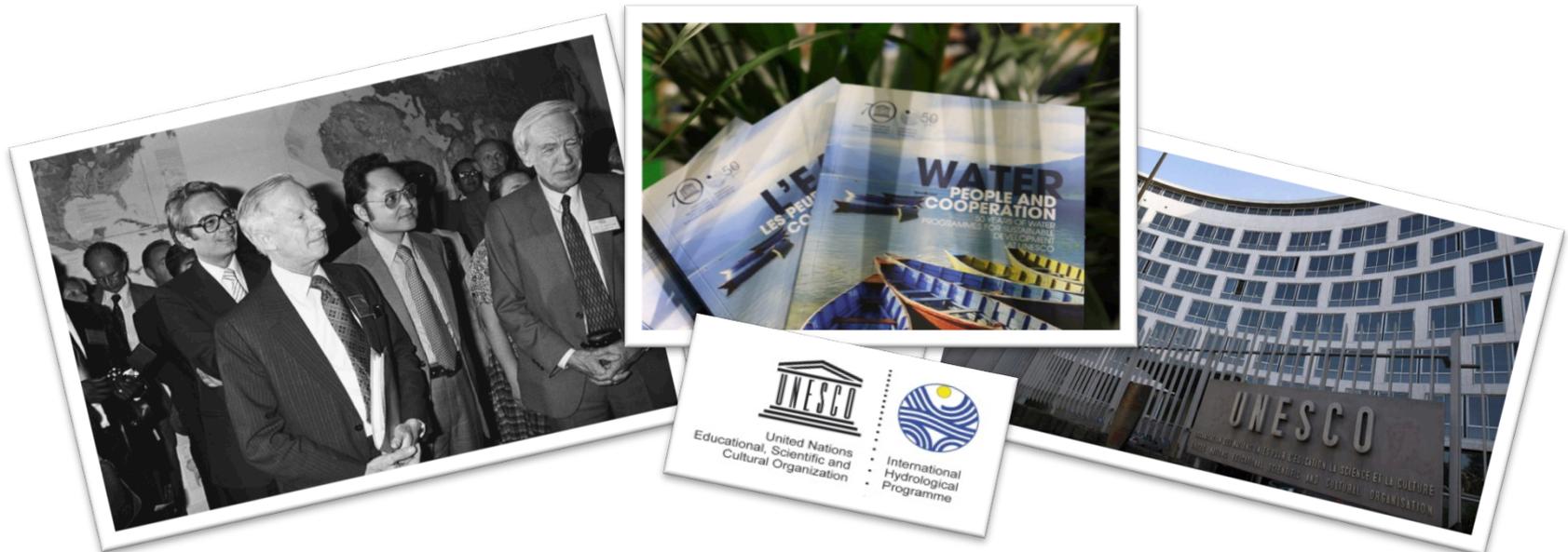
- promoting open science and technology and the free exchange of scientific information throughout the region
- promoting the role of science as a catalyst for consolidating stability and peace in the Region.

# What Is Unesco IHP ?



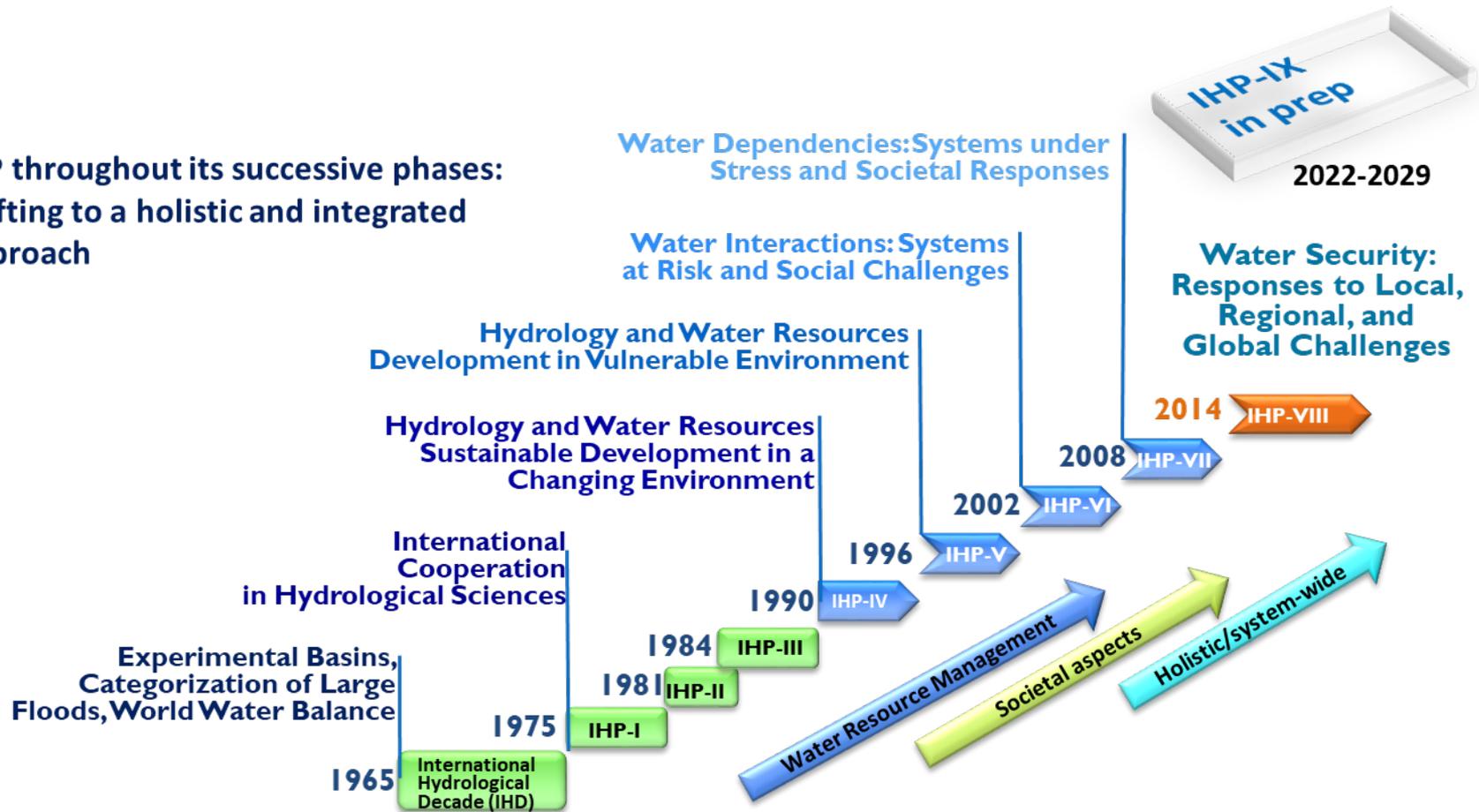
The **Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)** is UNESCO's intergovernmental scientific cooperation program on **water**

It was created in **1975**, becoming the first and only intergovernmental freshwater initiative institutionalized in the UN system



# Evolution of IHP: From Hydrological Science to Integrated Science, Policy, and Society

IHP throughout its successive phases:  
shifting to a holistic and integrated  
approach



# IHP-VIII Responses: 6 Themes, 3 Axes 2014-2021

## Serving Member states for 55 years



# UNESCO Water Family



## Europe & North America

- 23 Chairs
- 11 Centres

## Arab States

- 5 Chairs
- 5 Centres

## Latin America & the Caribbean

- 12 Chairs
- 6 Centres

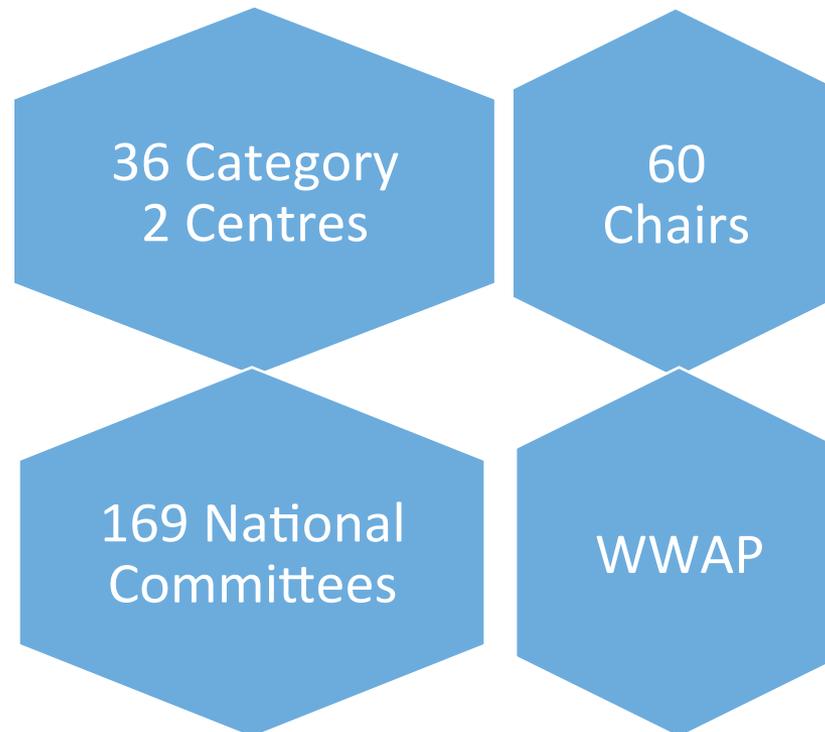
## Asia and the Pacific

- 12 Chairs
- 11 Centres

## Africa

- 8 Chairs
- 3 Centres

*Aims to advance hydrological knowledge by supporting scientific research programmes*



## UNESCO water related Centers

Centre for Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change/Jaroslav Černi Institute	Serbia
Category II Centre on Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage/ Institute of Hydrotechnics and Aquatic Ecological Engineering	Serbia
International Centre on Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC)	Germany
International Centre for Water Cooperation	SWEDEN
Institute for Water Education	The Netherlands
International Centre for Coastal Ecohydrology	Portugal

## UNESCO water related Chairs

UNESCO Chair in Water for Ecologically Sustainable Development	Serbia
UNESCO Chair/International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans on 'Sustainable Management on Water and Conflict Resolution' (INWEB)/ Greek UNESCO IHP	Greece
UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Management and Culture/Center H2CU – Honor Center of Italian Universities	Italy
UNESCO Chair on the prevention and sustainable management of geo-hydrological hazards	Italy
UNESCO Chair for Water Related Disaster Risk Reduction	Slovenia
UNESCO Chair in Hydrological Change and Water Resources Management	Germany
UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management	Austria
UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Water Services	Finland
UNESCO Chair on International Water Cooperation	Sweden
UNESCO Chair in Hydropolitics	Switzerland
UNESCO Chair in Ecohydrology Water for Ecosystems and Societies	Portugal
UNESCO Chair on Ecohydrology and Applied Ecology	Poland



# What we want to achieve

- **Links** between IHP COM and the UNESCO National Commission of the country
- A water family network strengthened where smooth **communication** mechanism is established
- **Information sharing** platform, i.e. water event, reorganization of IHP, joint project, etc.
- IHP/Water focal points reconfirmed/identified and UNESCO database/website information updated on IHP of the country



Since 1975, cooperation between hydrologists of the Danube River Basin has been conducted within the framework of IHP, through IHP Danube.

UNESCO Regional Bureau is supporting the Regional Cooperation of Hydrology for the Danube Countries by:

- Strengthening UNESCO's Danube network of Hydrologists and supporting the institutionalization of the network
- Supporting the cooperation and dialogue of IHP Danube in water management and transboundary cooperation
- Dissemination and promotion of knowledge, scientific results and instruments and mobilizing knowledge & expertise in IRBM

## Bridging the science policy gap in river basins in South-East Europe: the role of UNESCO IHP and its partners (12 October 2020)

- The webinar brought together National authorities in the riparian states and regional commissions in the river basin commissions, IHP National Committees and UNESCO water family members, academia, NGOs and other key water stakeholders in South-East Europe.
- It explored how UNESCO, its scientific networks and its partners can better support transboundary cooperation in river basins of the region, and the participants discussed how to better promote a stronger nexus between scientific networks and decision makers.





## IBC on Environment and Climate Change

- UNESCO's Regional Bureau co-leads the UN system's issue based coalition on Environment and Climate Change, along with UNECE and UNEP.
- In particular, UNESCO and UNECE, which hosts the Secretariat of the Water Convention, are co-leading the **IBC's task team on water resources management** in the region.



**Members:** UNESCO, UNECE, UNOPS, WHO, WMO

## **Past activities:**

- 16.9.2020 First meeting to discuss ideas for future actions, make concrete plans and identify scope of topics
- 27 May 2020 webinar on the **2020 United Nations World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change” for RCs and UNCTs of Europe and Central Asia**
- 7 July 2020 webinar on **transboundary cooperation based on water management in the Drin and Drina river basins**

## **Proposal future activities end 2020-early 2021:**

- Input to the *Compendium of practical measures on post-COVID green recovery* on measures related to water (specific comments and a new additional measure on transboundary water cooperation)
- Organization of a webinar early next year on the *2021 World Water Development Report* and/or SDG 6

27 May 2020 webinar on the **2020 United Nations World Water Development Report “Water and Climate Change”** for RCs and UNCTs of Europe and Central Asia organized by UNESCO and UNECE, in coordination with UNDCO, and with the participation of IBC members, RCs and UNCTs from the region. It presented the results of the WWDR report, notably its regional perspective for Europe and Central Asia, and initiated a discussion with RCs and members of UNCTs that are planning, implementing and monitoring water and climate activities.



7 July 2020 webinar on **transboundary cooperation based on water management in the Drin and Drina river basins** was organized by UNECE and UNESCO with contributions of UNDP and WMO and in collaboration with two RCs namely in Albania and Serbia. Target audience was RCOs, UN Country Teams in programme countries in Europe and Central Asia and IBC members.





# THANK YOU



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