

Water Resources Management in WB countries: challenges and opportunities

Ivana Ćipranić
University of Montenegro

Daniel Wildt
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Final Conference / March 31, 2022

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

University of Nis



www.swarm.ni.ac.rs

Strengthening of master curricula in water resources
management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders
Project number: 597888-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-IP

Outline

1. Analysis of strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
2. Results
3. Conclusions

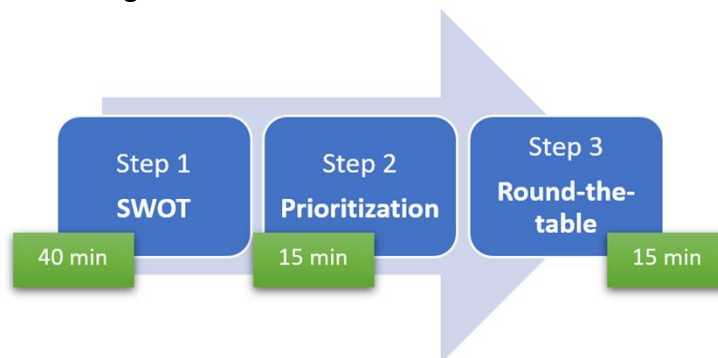
SWOT Analysis



Workshop in Vienna, 8 – 10 May 2019

Method

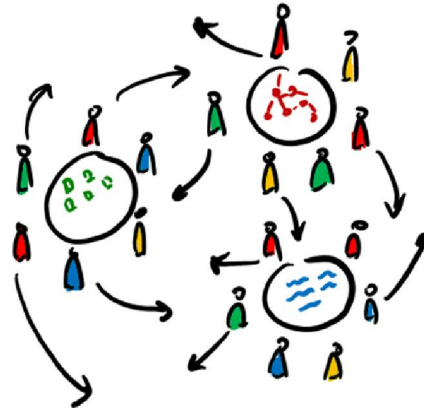
- SWOT analysis using GroupMap – a real-time online brainstorming tool



SWOT analysis

Helpful to achieving the objective	Harmful to achieving the objective
S Strengths Table 1	W Weaknesses Table 2
O Opportunities Table 3	T Threats Table 4

Discussion at each table – 10 minutes




After 10 minutes – change the table

Results: Strengths

Strengths	
Creativeness and resilience	
Human resources (professionals and academics)	
Good education (particularly in water-related issues)	
Possibilities to learn from good examples and practices e.g. in EU countries	
Human potential in IT sector to develop smart systems	
Possibilities to learn from mistakes already made somewhere else	

- ➔ Great trust in the human potential and the education system in the WB partner countries
- ➔ Resilience inherent to several generations of people after enduring the Balkan Wars is identified as an important asset

Results: Weaknesses

Weaknesses	
Lack of water related laws implementation on all levels	
Corruption	
No politics to save water and to prevent pollution	
Lack of understanding (ignorance) of political class about Water Resource Management	
Lack of cooperation and communication between Ministries and authorities	
The penalties of polluters are not paid as nobody collects them	








- Lack of water-related governance identified as major concern
- Development of curricula and LLL courses reduce associated weaknesses over time, with well-educated stakeholders entering the labor market and developing policies
- Corruption can hardly be addressed on an academic level

Results: Opportunities

Opportunities	
Lessons learned - WB countries will not repeat the mistakes done in EU countries	
Information systems & digitalization - abundance of data	
Strengthen collaboration between countries in region	
Ready to apply for EU funds, with preparation of data and projects in time	
Possibilities to obtain European support and funding for implementation	
Use international knowledge networks	
IT sector, artificial intelligence	

- Top nomination: advantage of applying existing knowledge
- Technological aspect of novel information systems, data science and digital tools received nearly a similarly high ranking; possible bias due to technical background of many participants
- Cooperation of countries with common history: key opportunity

Results: Threats

Threats	
Corruption	
Lack of educated people in decision-making positions	
Unstable political situation	
Lack of political willingness for implementation of WRM	
Not holistic vision of WRM	
Lack of transboundary cooperation	
Lack of public awareness	

- ➔ Corruption perceived as top threat
- ➔ Lack of educated people in decision-making positions is directly addressed by the new and updated curricula developed
- ➔ Higher political stability could be expected upon accession of the WB region towards European Union membership

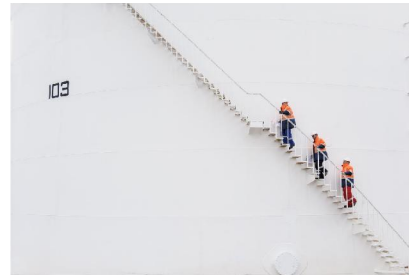
Conclusions - Opportunities

- High capital
 - creativeness
 - human resources
 - education
- existing experience
 - best practice from EU
 - learn from mistakes
- digitalization
- collaboration between WB countries
- EU funding systems



Conclusions - Challenges

- missing legal framework
- corruption
- water related issues not on political agenda
- lack of technical understanding of decision makes
- no cooperation between different government units
- existing legislation insufficiently implemented
- unstable political situation



Thank you for your attention!

**Water Resources Management in WB
countries: challenges and opportunities**

Ivana Ćipranić
University of Montenegro
ivanac@ucg.ac.me

Daniel Wildt
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
daniel.wildt@boku.ac.at

Final Conference / March 31, 2022