



Multi-Level Governance of Water Allocation on Transboundary Basins in European Union. A Point of View from Bulgaria

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CONTENTS

MLG/MLWG and their relevance to the 7th ASEM SDD

Bulgaria: adding value to MLWG in the early 90s

Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG

Conclusions



MLG/MLWG and their relevance to the 7th ASEM SDD



MLG as an **International Relations** concept and
practice

MLG in European Union

MLW(ater)G – solutions and bottlenecks





MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Since the end of 80s the concept of MLG had been challenging traditional state-centric views in IR, arguing that

**the emerging global (dis)order needs
global policy making,**

the sovereignty of states will be affected by supra-, sub-, and extra-national actors, which tackle global threats and opportunities, and their local implications.

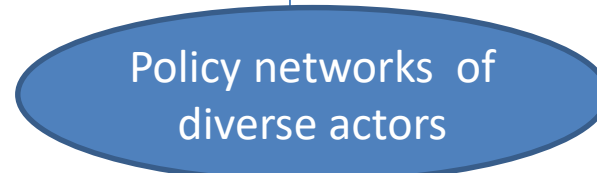
MLG: no power center, no hierarchy, bottom up and top down policy initiatives



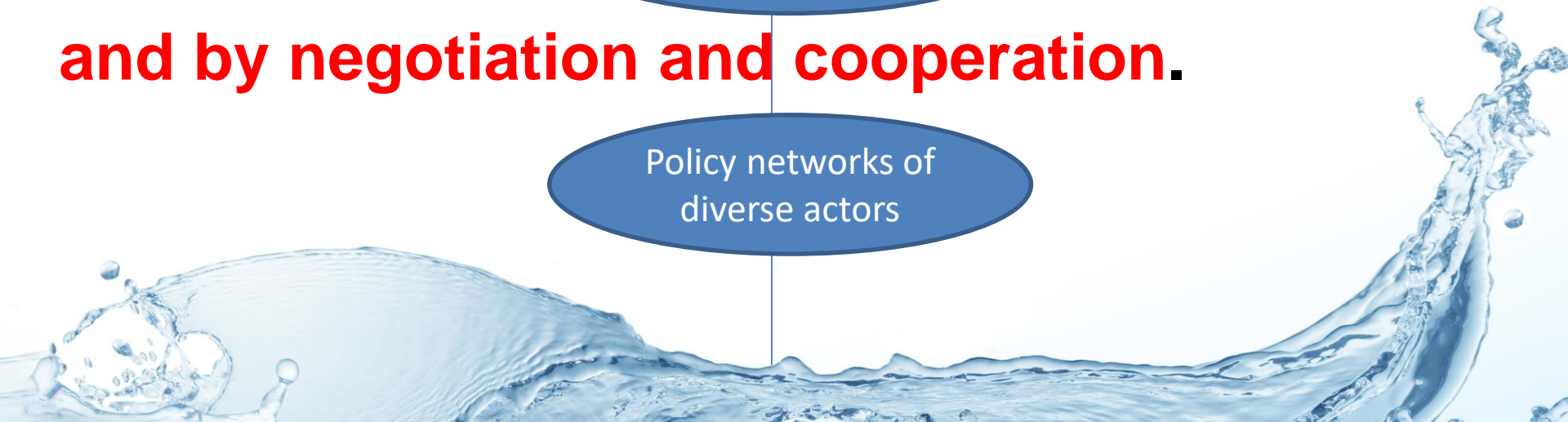
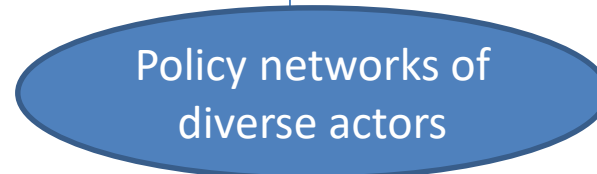
Coordination between levels is assured



by an exchange of information and resources



and by negotiation and cooperation.



2 types of MLG

1. Multiple Issue MLG – **EU MLG (36 policy areas)**

**E.g. EU regional policy aims at cohesion
(overcoming social and economic disparities)
through territorial cooperation:**

- interregional,
- transnational,
- cross-border.



2 types of MLG

Single Issue MLG – **MLWG**



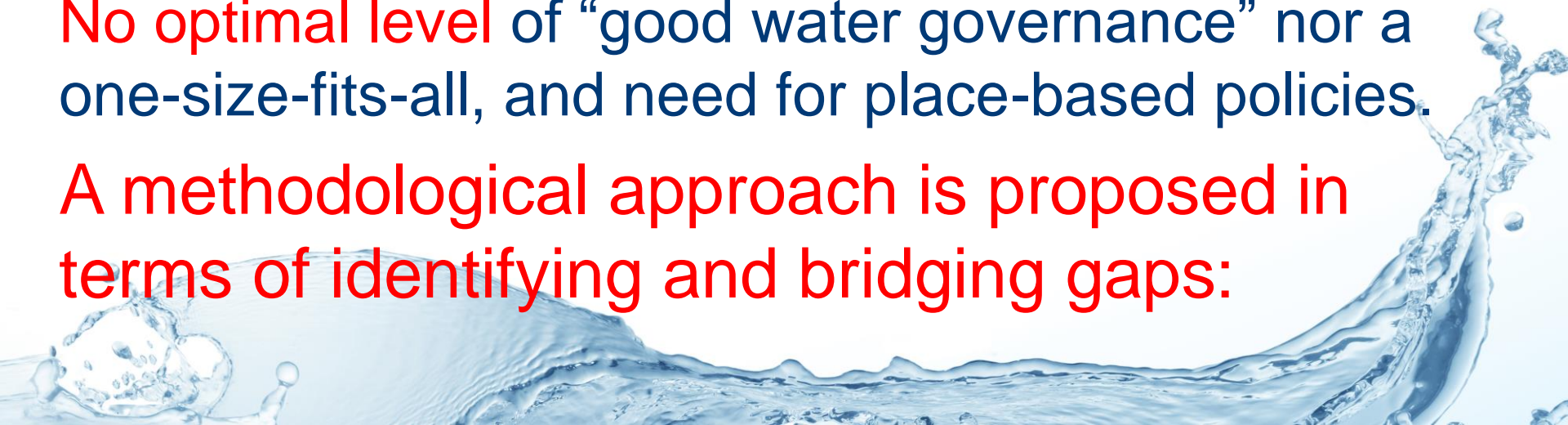
MLWG as viewed by **OECD**:

The water crisis is largely ... **a governance crisis.**

Interdependencies across multiple stakeholders are poorly managed, all countries experience institutional & territorial fragmentation of water policy.

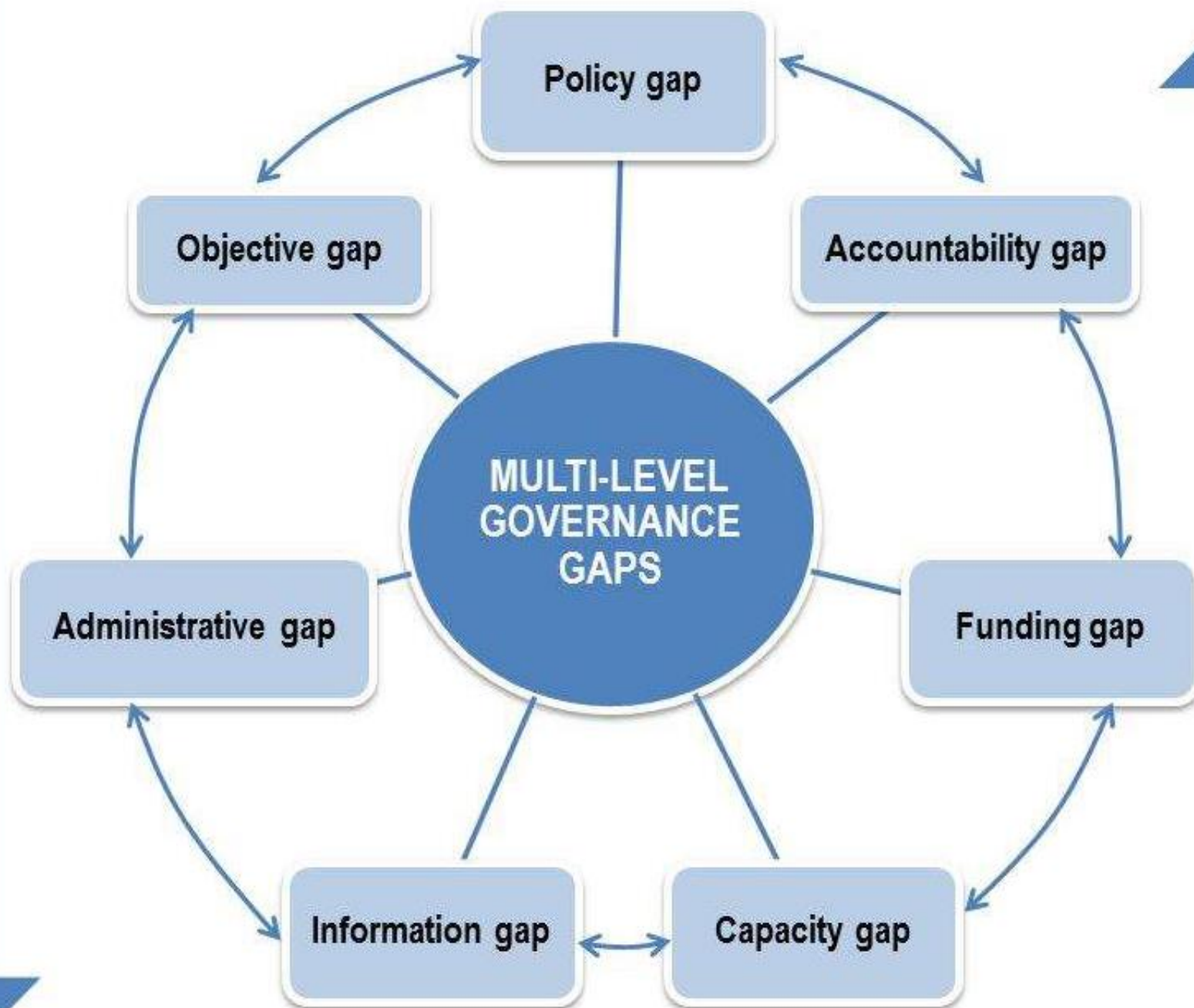
No optimal level of “good water governance” nor a one-size-fits-all, and need for place-based policies.

A methodological approach is proposed in terms of identifying and bridging gaps:

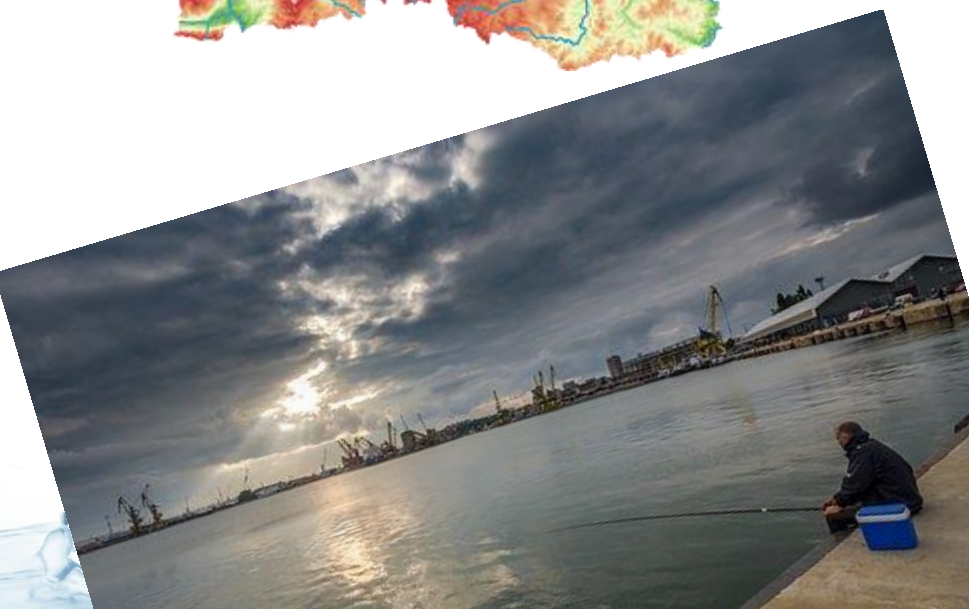
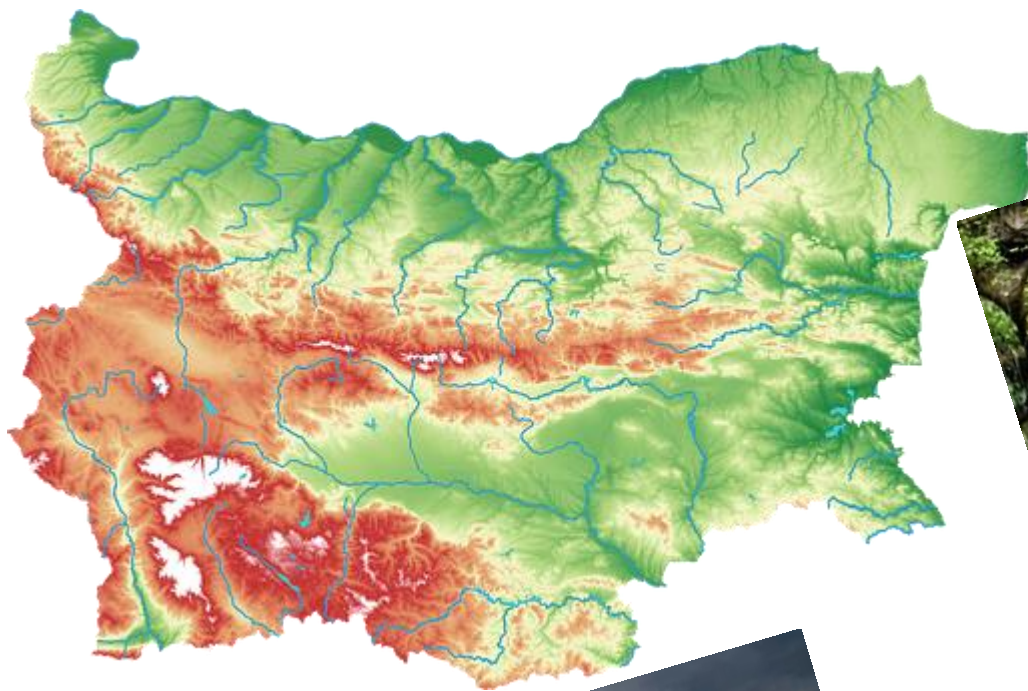


DIAGNOSE THE GAPS

BRIDGE THE GAPS



Bulgaria in the context of MLG



Adding value to MLWG in the 90s

Bulgaria is **among the earliest contributors** to the governance of transboundary water resources:

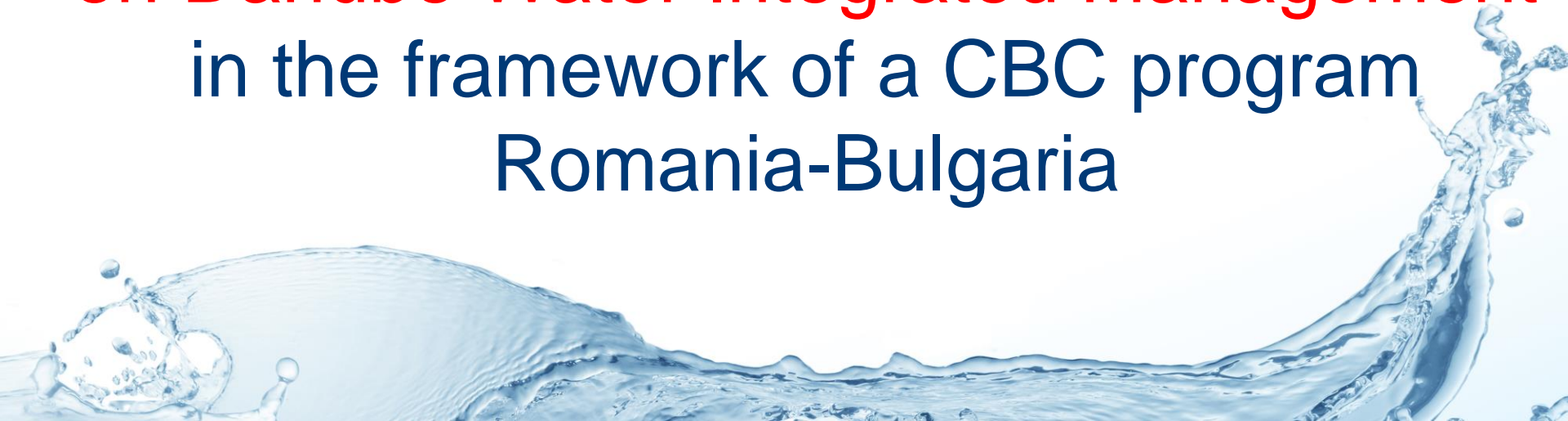
- ❖ Initiative on The Environmental Program for the Danube River Basin (EPDRB) was **launched in 1991 in Sofia.**
- ❖ Danube River Protection Convention, based on the Initiative and its Strategic Action Plan, was **signed in 1994 in Sofia.**



Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG



**Implementing
EU territorial cooperation project
on Danube Water Integrated Management
in the framework of a CBC program
Romania-Bulgaria**



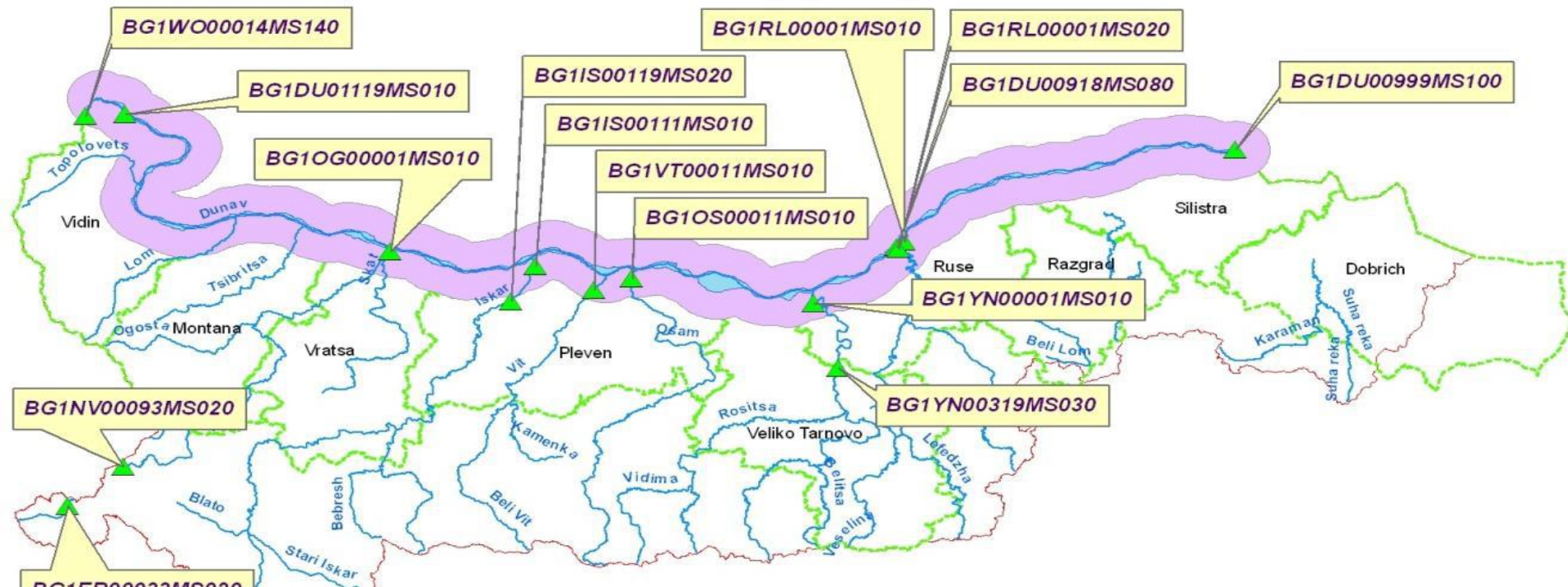
Seeking for common solutions of common problems



Activities to collect common data, and identify common analytical methodologies



SURVEILLANCE AND OPERATIONAL TRANSNATIONAL MONITORING STATIONS AND TNMN IN DRBD



Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG



**Implementing
EU territorial cooperation project
to develop a flood warning system for
Arda river basin to minimise the risk
in the framework of a CBC program
Greece-Bulgaria**



Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG



Arda generates the most hazardous floods in the southeast Balkans, which propagate downstream to Maritza/Evros and cause serious losses at the BG-GR CBC region.



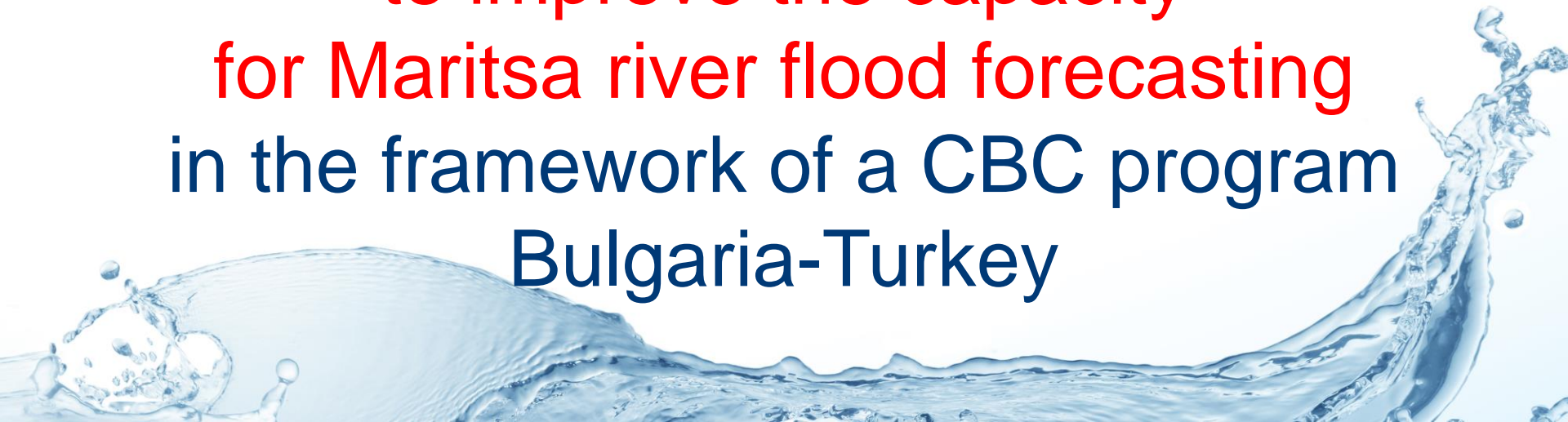
The project develops:

- reliable flood forecasting tools and reservoir operation scenarios for accurate and timely flood forecasts,
- alarm procedures and information campaigns,
- practices of dissemination of flood forecast information, of warning messages, of training and learning for local administration across the border .

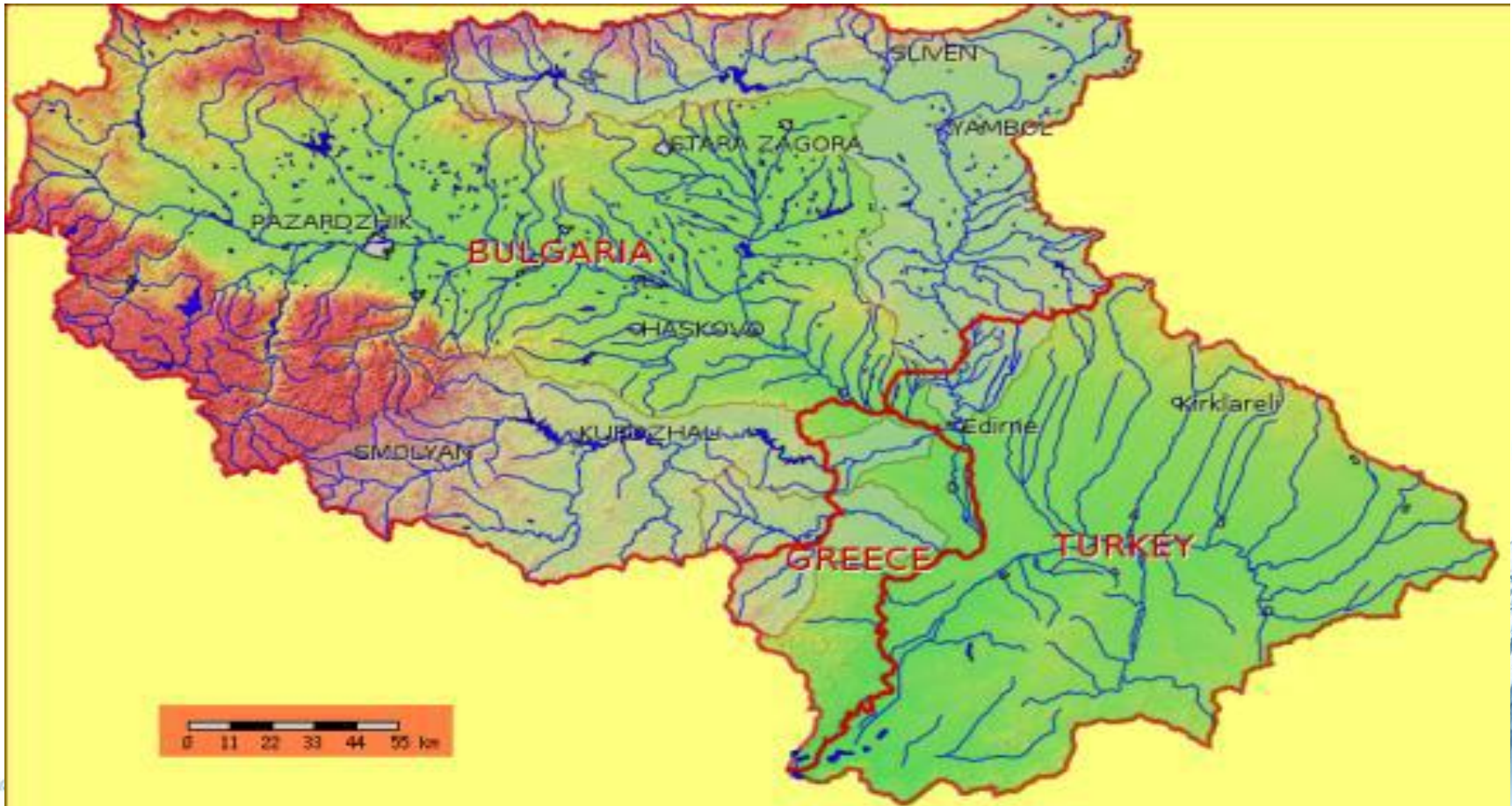


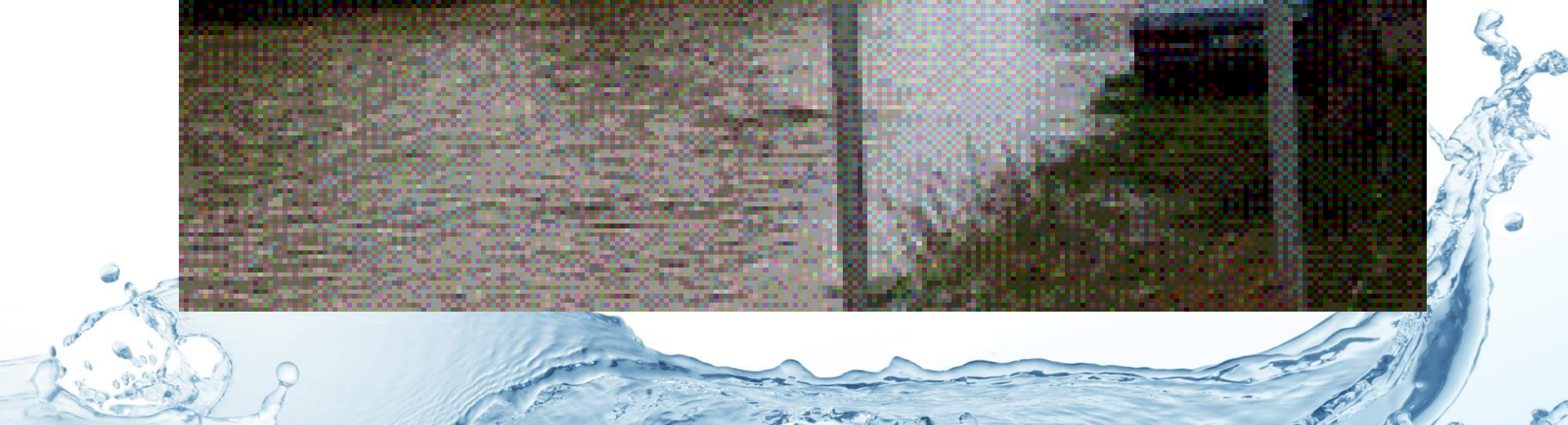
Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG

**Implementing
EU territorial cooperation project
to improve the capacity
for Maritsa river flood forecasting
in the framework of a CBC program
Bulgaria-Turkey**



The transboundary basin of Maritsa river

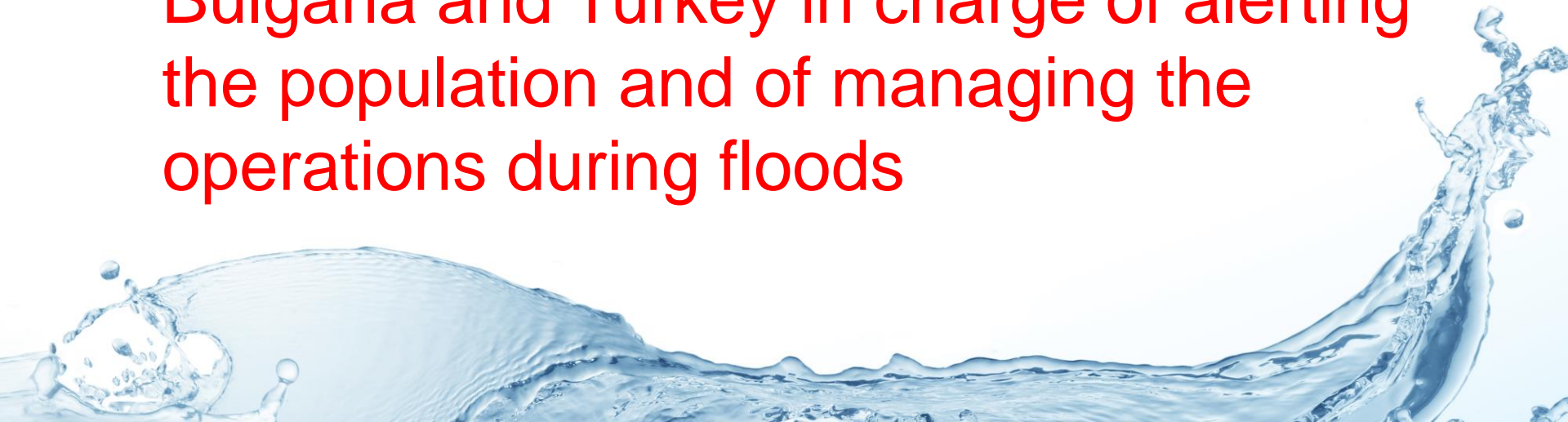




The project helps to mitigate future flood consequences along the Maritza and Tundja, and provides:



- an operational information system for flood analysis, flood mapping and flood forecasting.
- on time information to authorities from Bulgaria and Turkey in charge of alerting the population and of managing the operations during floods



CONCLUSION



A Lesson from Bulgaria

Territorial cooperation programs of the EU cohesion policy and the relevant cross-border cooperation projects:

1. Address transboundary basins complexity;
2. Support the emergence of multi-level water governance,
3. Lack a particular focus on allocation of transboundary water resources.

Way Ahead for EU:

1. To recognize the need for **transboundary water allocation governance** in the framework of the cohesion policy;
2. To consider programs with goals, objectives, measures and indicators, related to **planning of transboundary water allocation.**

An Imminent Challenge for EU: Tackling the planning of transboundary water allocation in Programming Period 2021-2027:



Assessment of transboundary situations: *availability and demands of water resources,*

Development of scenarios *with regard to different allocation options,*

Identification of scenarios' implications *for the environment, the economy and the people (social equity),*

Policy Recommendations for *planning and implementing transboundary water allocation*



Acknowledgements to:

7th ASEM SDD organizers

THANK YOU!

