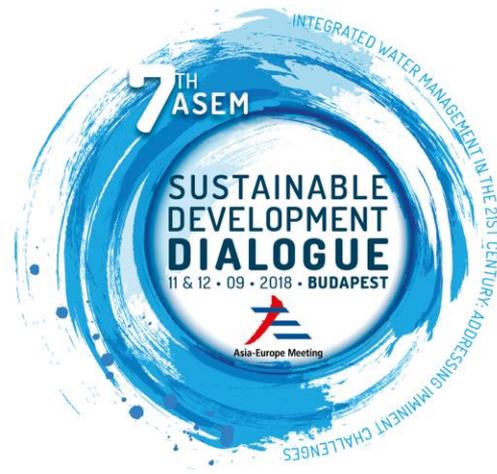




# Multi-Level Governance of Water Allocation on Transboundary Basins in European Union. A Point of View from Bulgaria

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and  
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# CONTENTS

MLG/MLWG and their relevance to the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

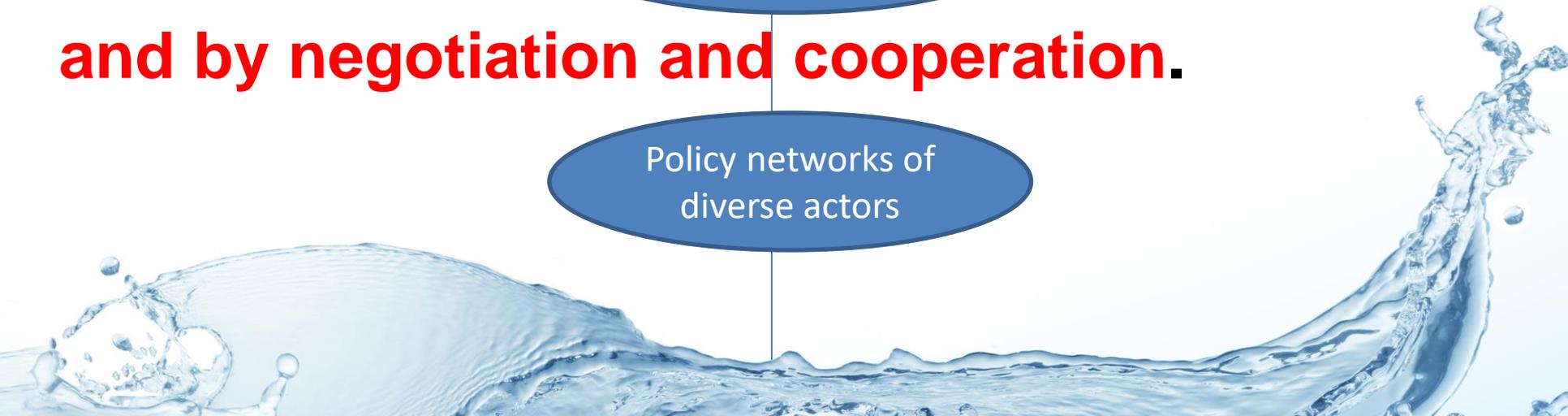
Policy networks of  
diverse actors

**by an exchange of information and resources**

Policy networks of  
diverse actors

**and by negotiation and cooperation.**

Policy networks of  
diverse actors





# 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.

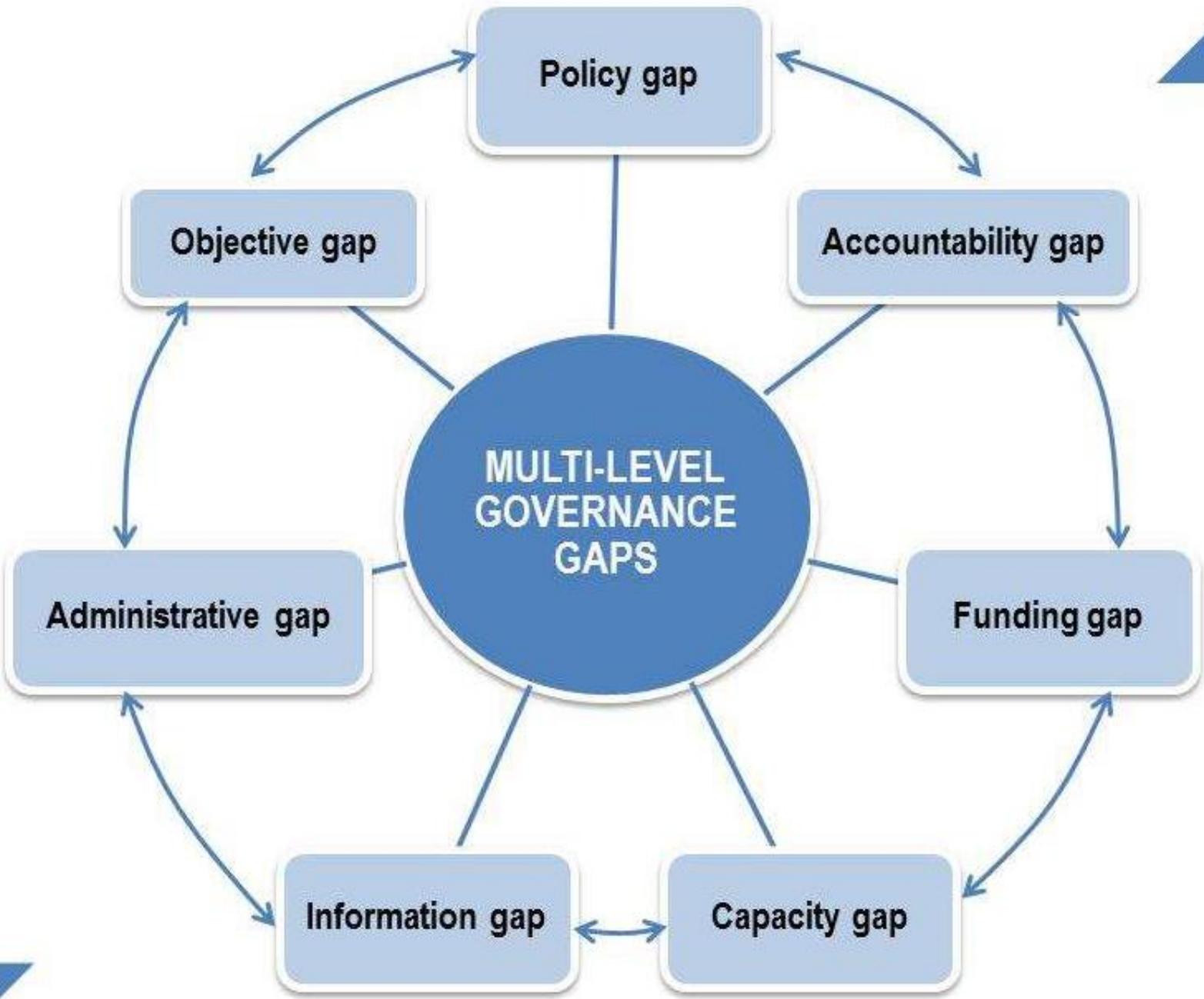
**No optimal level** of “good water governance” nor a one-size-fits-all, and need for place-based policies.

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

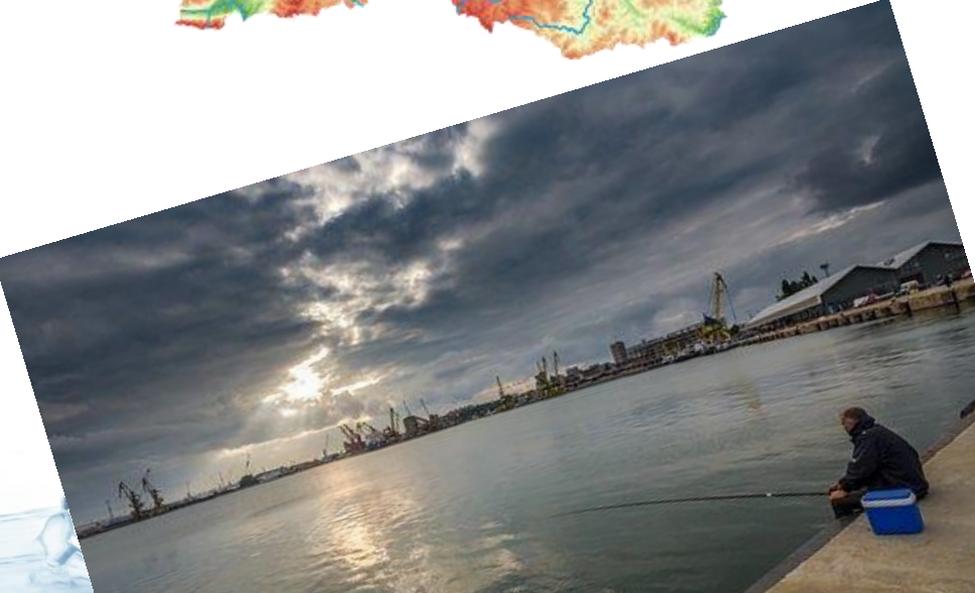
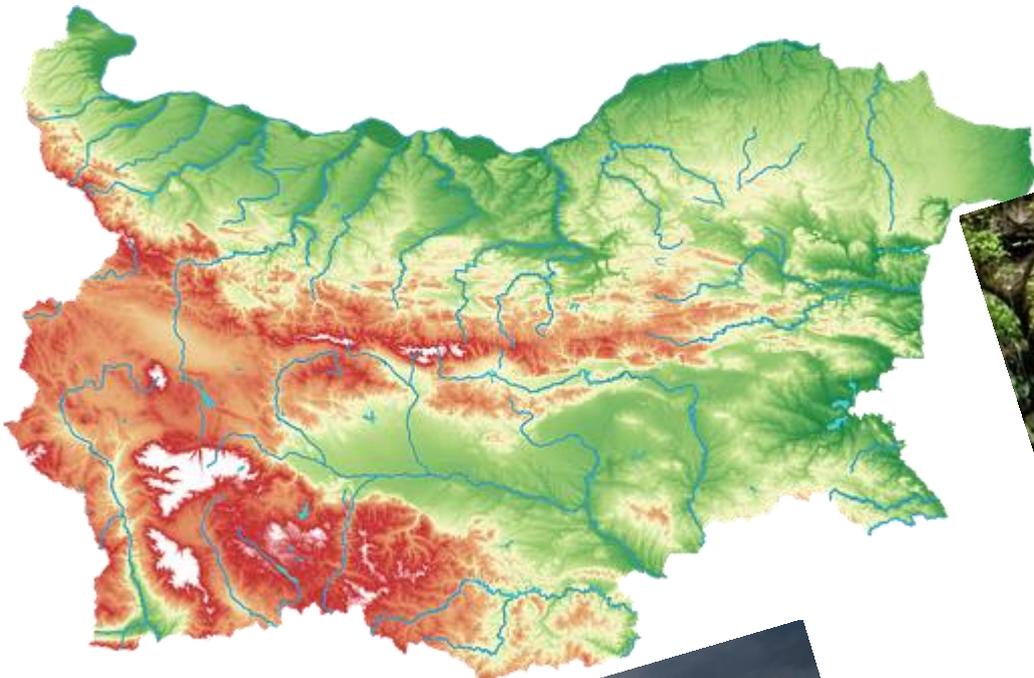


**DIAGNOSE THE GAPS**

**BRIDGE THE GAPS**



# Bulgaria in the context of MLG





# Adding value to MLWG in the 90s

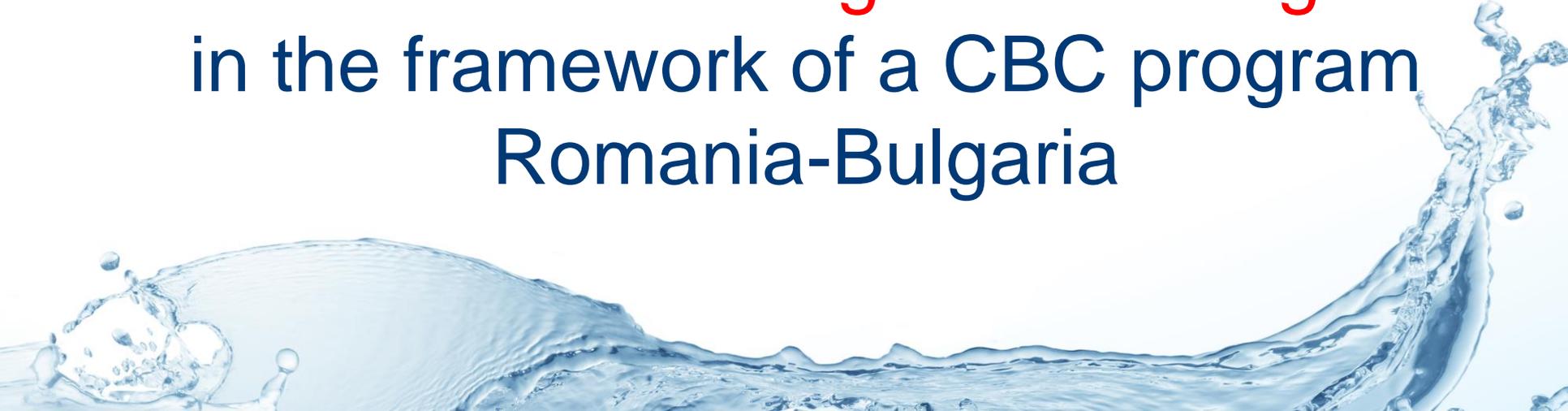
Bulgaria is **among the earliest contributors** to the governance of transboundary water resources:

- ❖ 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



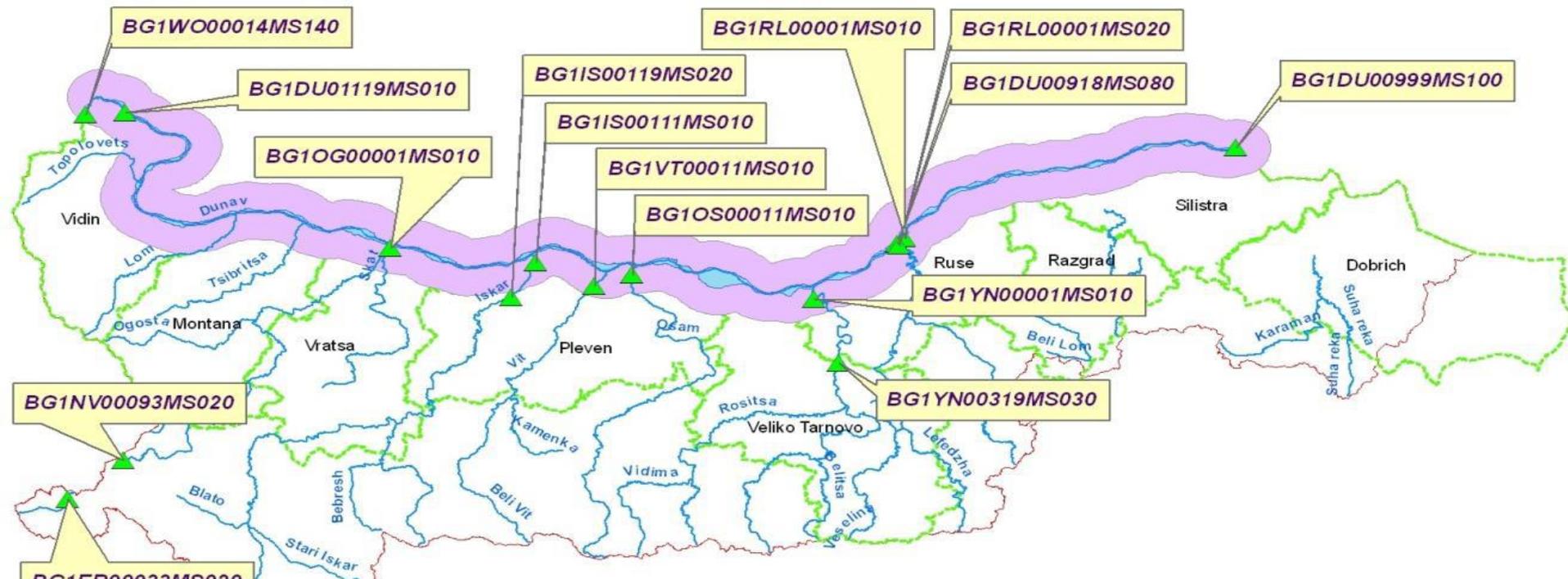
M. YAVOR MICHEV  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY



# 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.

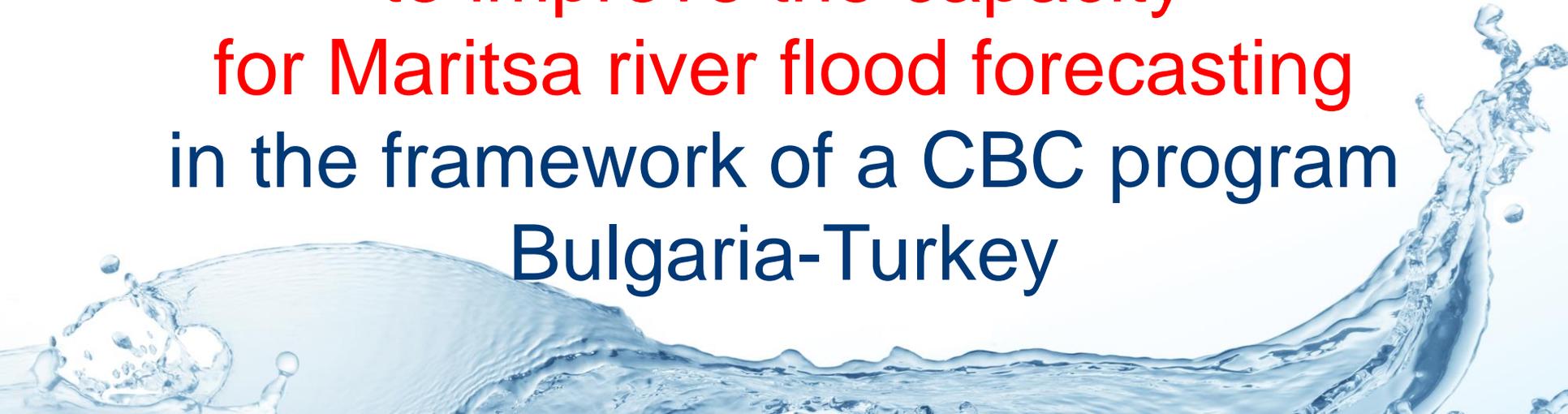
The project develops:

- 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 .

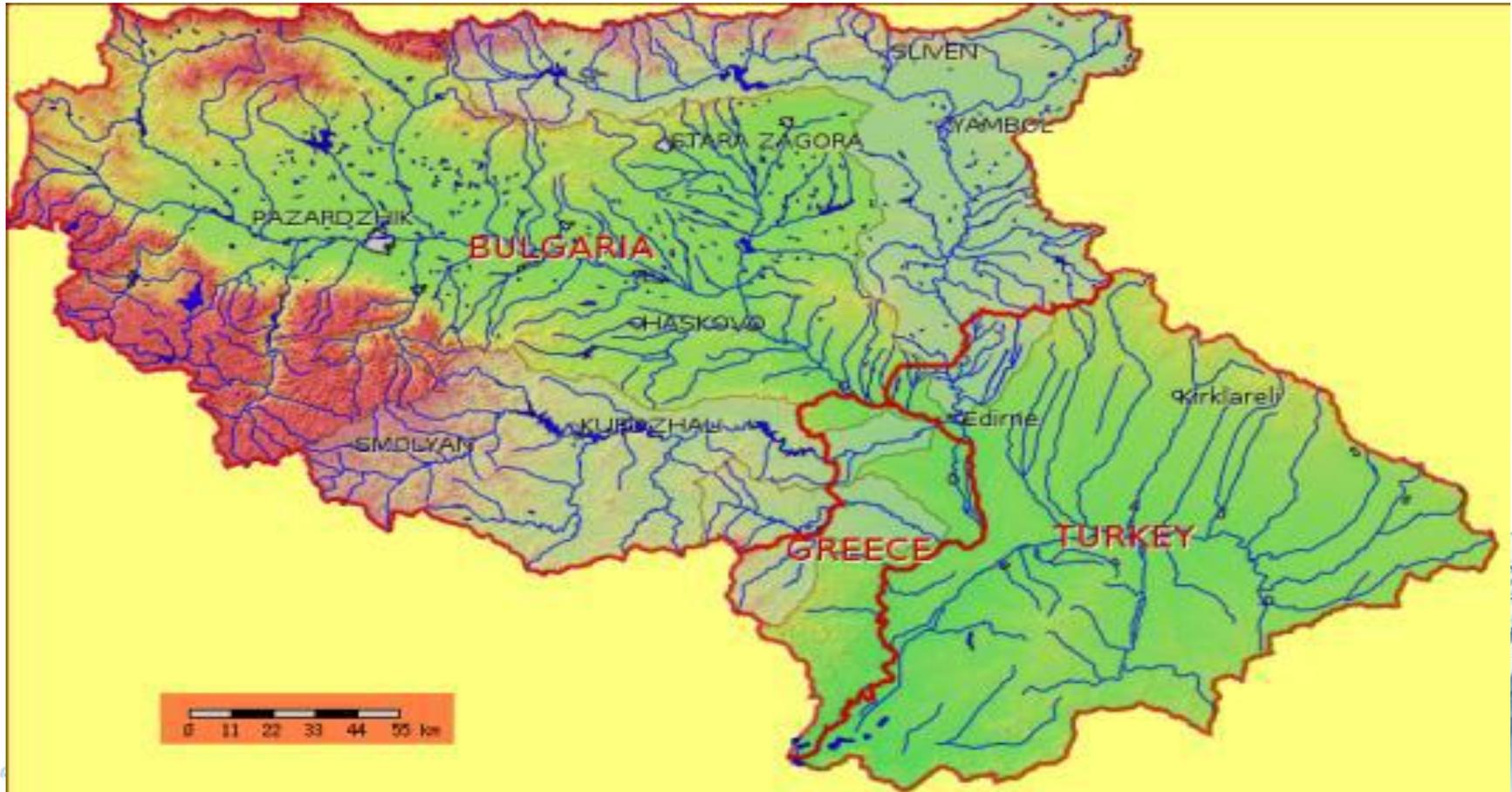


# **Bulgaria as a EU member state: promoting transboundary waters agenda in MLG**

**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:**

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**THANK YOU!**

