

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA'S NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO WATER-ENERGY-CLIMATE-FOOD NEXUS: THE EFFECTS ON TRANSBOUNDARY SAVA RIVER BASIN

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During the Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, United Nations defined the 'water-food-energy nexus (WECF)' as a key element in today's process of greening the economy or its transition towards the circular economy. The analysis of interactive linkage between these sectors is certainly new field of research (Biggs, et al, 2015). The report by the UN (Waughray and Workman, 2011), underlined the concerns in the world regarding growing water, energy and food demands under the conditions of demographic and economic growth, urbanization and climate change.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also, came to the realization that water, energy, climate and food issues are closely interconnected and that there is an urgent need for integrated policies to address this nexus on national level. The country is facing interconnected challenges such as water availability, energy access, climate change impacts and food security on both national and local levels. Currently, Bosnia and Herzegovina's response to the WECF challenges is being shaped by its own national interest and international obligations. National priorities and policy responses to mentioned challenges as well as other external factors affect the Sava River basin which is one of the most important parts the country, having high economic and social importance.

This paper evaluates Bosnia and Herzegovina's political and institutional response to the nexus and explores its implications on the Sava River basin through a comprehensive analysis of the political and institutional settings and a causal-chain analysis, identifying root causes of the problems in the basin. To achieve this objective, national and strategic documents as well as interviews with representatives from different institutions were analyzed.

Key words: *Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sava River basin, water-energy-food-climate nexus, governance, political response, national priorities*