

On the occasion of the XIII Alpine Conference, Italy and Slovenia, here represented by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea and the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, are glad to announce their will to cooperate in the transboundary area of the Soča/Isonzo river basin on the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus project.

This initiative of cooperation, developed in the framework of the activities of the Alpine Convention devoted to water management and thanks to the cooperation with the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention), aims at contributing to the management of water resources in a holistic approach in the Alpine region, also favoring the exchange of the experiences at an Alpine and global level.

In this context, the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention proposed to UNECE to include an Alpine transboundary basin among the basins from pan-Europe, Africa and Asia to be assessed in the framework of the activities of the Task Force.

Working together in transboundary basins improves mutual understanding and learning from experiences, and as a consequences it allows better synergies and potentially better solutions. In view of this, the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention included an assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in selected transboundary basins in the programme of work for 2013–2015 and established the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus to oversee the process.

The first part of activities within the cooperation in the transboundary river basin Soča/Isonzo will be developed in 2015 on the downstream part of the basin, taking into account the different sectors relevant to integrated water resources management in the basin and involving the key stakeholders, especially authorities and experts from all levels and civil society of both Countries. The preliminary results of the activity will be presented to the attention of the seventh Meeting of the Parties of the UNECE Water Convention (Budapest, 17-20 November 2015) together with the timetable for the development of the second part of the project, to be realized between the end of 2015 and 2016, mainly involving the upper part of the river basin in coordination with the first part of the work.

This project will also contribute to develop a good practice in the cooperation between two international Treaties, fostering the approaches of both the Alpine Convention and the Water Convention on integrated water management in a specific transboundary water area.

*November 2014*

*The Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea supports the implementation of the UNECE project Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus on the Soča/Isonzo transboundary river basin*



*The Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning supports the implementation of the UNECE project Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus on the Soča/Isonzo transboundary river basin*



*The nexus assessment of the Soča/Isonzo will support the implementation of the programme of work under the UNECE Water Convention*



*The nexus assessment of the Soča/Isonzo will support the implementation of the programme of work under the Alpine Convention*

