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| **GEF-SCCF**  **West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Project**  |

In response to the urgent need for more efficient management and mitigation of the consequences of floods and droughts in the Drina river basin, the three countries of the basin (BiH, Serbia and Montenegro), under the auspices of the World Bank, launched the Regional Initiative for the Western Balkans to manage floods and droughts in the Drina river basin.

The Regional Initiative is a three-year non-borrowing technical assistance program aimed at improving regional cooperation and a more efficient, integrated approach to river basin management in accordance with the requirements and principles of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60 / EC).

The regional initiative was completed in 2012, but it has become the basis for the implementation of a series of regional projects in the Drina river basin.

 In cooperation with the relevant institutions of BiH, Serbia and Montenegro, the West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Projecthas been prepared and it is funded from the GEF (Global Environmental Facility) and SCCF (the Special Climate Change Fund).

 Grant funds for the three basin countries (BiH, Serbia and Montenegro) were approved on May 9, 2016 in the amount of USD 8,732 million, and on 22 July 2016, the Grant Agreement was concluded between the Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as project implementer.

The three basin countries through the West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Projectstrengthen regional cooperation for the purpose of: providing a more effective tool for better decision-making in order to apply the integrated water management principle to the Drina River Basin, implementation of applicable policies and reforms as well as development of adaptation mechanisms to climate change and water management investments on the Drina river basin.

For the purpose of the Project implementation, the Memorandums of Understanding defining key issues for implementing common project activities, have been signed:
• Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation on the Implementation of the West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Project and
• Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro on Cooperation on the Implementation of the West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Project.

The project became effective on May 11, 2017.