

# „RESTORATION OF STRUMICA RIVER BASIN – Implementation phase“



**F**or several decades, the ecological state of the Strumica river basin is under threat from pollution and increase of the consumption of water for agricultural and industrial development and urban centers.

Unsustainable agricultural practices, including the growing use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides and inefficient irrigation methods have a negative effect on the quality and quantity of water.

The consumption of water by the economy and settlements, combined with the method of water management, increases the fluctuations of water levels, raising the risk of floods and droughts.

These accumulated pressures have increased the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change, which, in turn, affect the rising temperatures and extreme weather events. This increased variability in water resources is an additional threat to the socio - economic status of the population, which is largely dependent on agricultural production.

Implementation of this project will enable mitigation of threats and strengthening the resistance of the basin to climate change.

## Short description of the project:

### The project leader:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### Project partners:

- Ministry of environment and physical planning
- Centre for development of the South-East planning region
- Strumica basin's Municipalities

### Duration:

6 years (July 2015 – June 2021)

### Financed by:

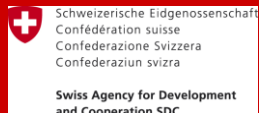
- Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

### Objective of the project:

Improving the living conditions of the population and ecological status of Strumica River Basin through integrated water resources management.

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### Objectives of the project:

- Effective water management by establishing a new mechanism for balancing the interests on water management and optimizing the benefits for the local economy and the environment;
- Reducing the risk of floods through the establishment of the Early Warning System;
- Establishment of sustainable agricultural practices through organizing trainings, awarding grants and direct support in the introduction of sustainable farming practices;
- Establishment of pollution control by demonstrating the decentralized treatment of sewage water, as efficient and cost effective solutions with potential for their wider application in the region.

### Results of the project:

- A significant reduction in pressures and improvement of the ecological situation;
- Improvement of the hydrological regime - better protection from floods and droughts;
- Benefits for the local population and the main sectors (agriculture, health, water supply);
- National / regional model for integrated management of water resources;
- Cross-border effects;
- Strengthening of sustainable capacities.