



NEXOGENESIS
STREAMLINING WATER RELATED POLICIES

Water-energy-food-ecosystem governance and policy coherence assessment in the Lielupe river basin

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Introduction

Thanks!

- The aim of today :
 - Present the results of the governance and policy assessment in the Lielupe river
 - Discuss your feedback and insights on the results
 - Reflect on what you would need or expect to enhance cross-sectoral interaction and potential transboundary cooperation



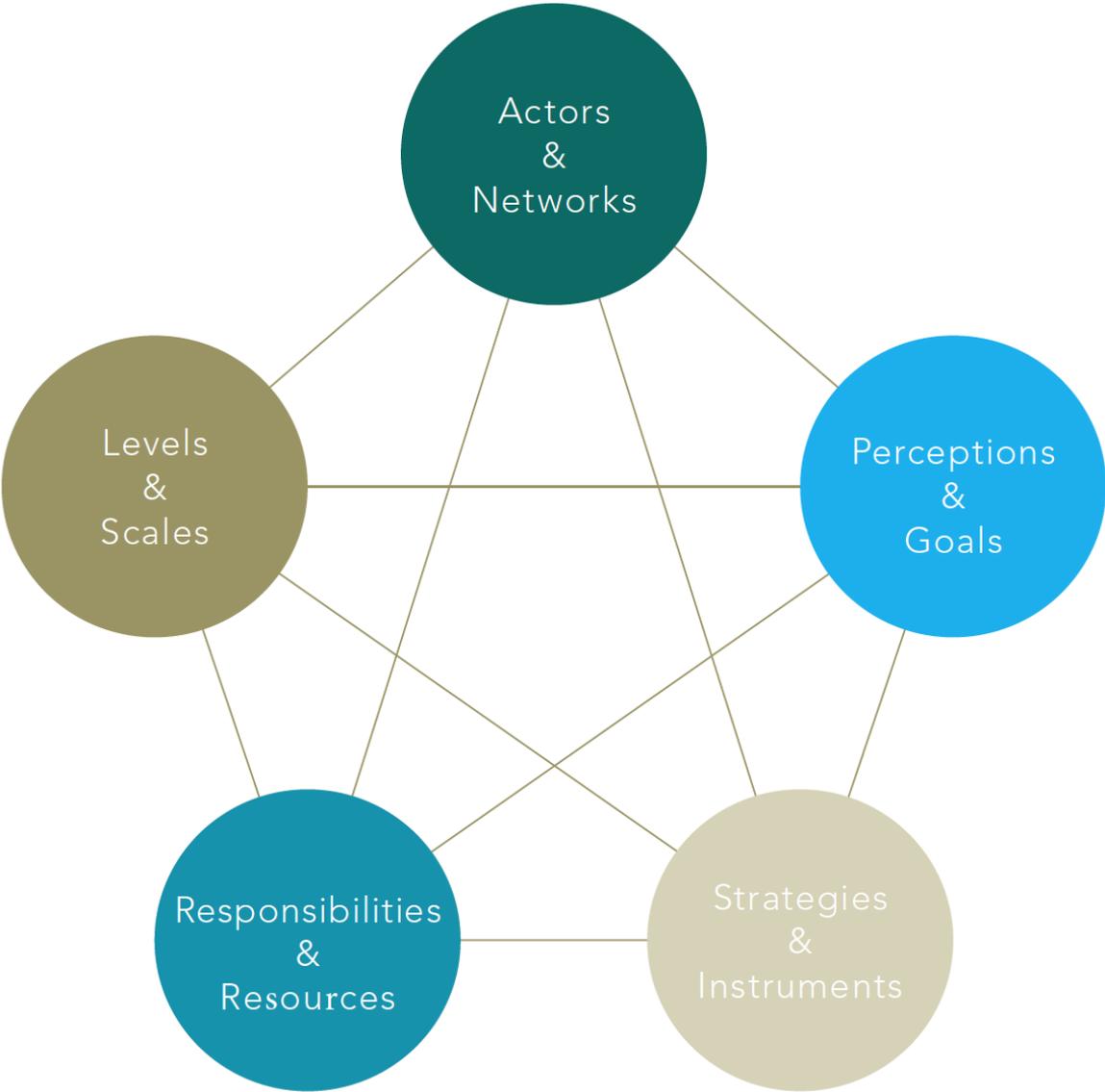
Methodology of the investigation

- **Data collection**

- Work with case study leaders (policy inventory, desk study, literature review, stakeholder mapping, discussions)
- Lielupe visit for face-to-face interviews and field visit
- 4-11 June 2022 in Latvia: 19 stakeholders interviewed
- 14-17 September 2022 in Lithuania: 18 stakeholders interviewed
- 30 September 2022 in Bauska : 11 stakeholders in the workshop
- Policy coherence assessment : two remote focus groups (Latvia March 9 Lithuania March 31)



Dimensions of public governance



Quality criteria: assessment per each governance dimensions

Comprehensiveness

Are all relevant aspects of the governance system (actors, levels, perspectives, etc.) taken into account?

Coherence

Are all relevant aspects of the governance system reinforcing rather than contradicting each other?

Fit WEFE

The degree the current governance system matches ecosystems properties and functions

Flexibility

Are multiple roads to the goals, depending on opportunities and threats as they arise, allowed and supported?

Intensity of action

To what degree does the governance system urge and support changes in the status quo or in current developments?



Quality of water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus governance system

Governance dimensions	Comprehensiveness	Coherence	Flexibility	Intensity of action	Fit
	<i>The degree to which the current governance system includes relevant WEFE nexus elements</i>	<i>The degree to which the elements of the governance system are strengthening rather weakening each other</i>	<i>The capacity of the current governance system to provide different pathways towards WEFE nexus governance</i>	<i>The capacity of the current governance system to urge more WEFE nexus oriented actions</i>	<i>The degree to which the current governance system matches ecosystems properties and functions</i>
Actors and networks	To what degree are relevant actors and networks affected by or affecting WEFE nexus domains involved?	To what degree are interactions of relevant actors and networks across WEFE nexus domains cooperative, solid and based on trust?	To what degree does the governance system allow to include new actors or shift the lead from one actor to another when needed?	To what degree is there pressure from a relevant actor or actor coalition across WEFE nexus domains towards behavioral change or management reform?	To what degree relevant actors and networks across WEFE nexus domains are appropriate to deal with ecosystem properties and functions?
Levels and scales	To what degree are relevant levels and scales across WEFE nexus domains involved?	To what degree do relevant levels and scales across WEFE nexus domains work together, acknowledging interdependencies and trusting each other?	To what degree does the governance system allow to change levels and/or scales at which WEFE nexus issues are addressed?	To what degree is there pressure from relevant levels and/or scales across WEFE nexus domains towards behavioral change or management reform?	To what degree do relevant levels and scales of the governance system match ecosystem properties and functions?
Problem perspectives and goals ambitions	To what degree are various problem perspectives and goal ambitions across WEFE nexus domains taken into account?	To what degree are problem perspectives and goal ambitions across WEFE nexus domains mutually reinforcing?	To what degree does the governance system allow to re-assess goals across WEFE nexus domains and combine multiple goals in package deals as needed?	To what degree do problem perspectives and goal ambitions across WEFE nexus domains urge for WEFE nexus orientation?	To what degree do problem perspectives and goal ambitions across WEFE nexus domains take into account ecosystem properties and functions?
Strategies and instruments	To what degree do relevant strategies and instruments include WEFE nexus orientation?	To what degree are relevant strategies and instruments across WEFE nexus domains mutually reinforcing?	To what degree does the governance system allow to combine or make use of different strategies and types of instruments across WEFE nexus domains?	To what degree do relevant strategies and instruments across WEFE nexus domains urge WEFE nexus oriented behavior or management reform?	To what degree do relevant strategies and instruments across WEFE nexus domains take into account ecosystem properties and functions?
Responsibilities and resources	To what degree are responsibilities and resources clearly assigned to support WEFE nexus-oriented management?	To what degree do responsibilities and resources across WEFE nexus domains lead to cooperation among these domains?	To what degree does the governance system allow to pool assigned responsibilities and resources across WEFE nexus domains without compromising accountability and transparency?	To what degree do responsibilities and resources across WEFE nexus domains urge implementation of WEFE nexus oriented actions?	To what degree are the assigned responsibilities and resources across WEFE nexus domains appropriate to deal with ecosystem properties and functions?
Overall scoring	Very high / High / Low / Very low	Very high / High / Low / Very low	Very high / High / Low / Very low	Very high / High / Low / Very low	Very high / High / Low / Very low

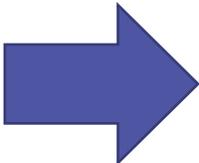
Concluding evaluation

Supportive / Moderately Supportive / Restrictive / Highly restrictive

Nexus governance scoring system

Level of supportiveness of the current governance system towards WEFE nexus governance, i.e. cross-sectoral resource management

Assessment of each criteria for all dimensions



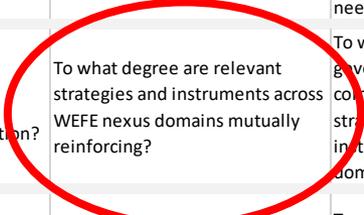
Overall evaluation of the WEFE nexus governance orientation



Policy coherence assessment as in depth investigation of one governance dimension



Quality of water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus governance system					
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Concluding evaluation	Supportive / Moderately Supportive / Restrictive / Highly restrictive				



Policy coherence assessment process

Selection of relevant WEF E policy documents by case study leads



Initial assessment of the policy coherence by case study leads



Validation of policy coherence scores by Nexogenesis research team



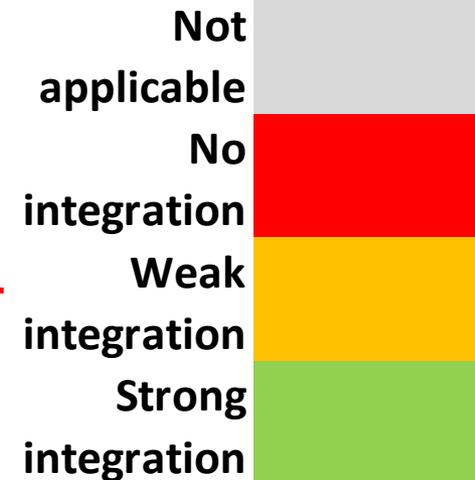
Validation of policy coherence scores by stakeholders in focus groups



Scoring of policy coherence

Policies were scored based on the **degree they acknowledge mutual dependencies**:

- **Strong integration:** The policy document prescribes specific measures to ensure that impacts on other sectors are managed and synergies exploited.
- **Weak integration:** The policy document only mentions/acknowledges the possible impacts/synergies with other sectors' policies but there is no mandatory measures.
- **No integration:** The policy document does not refer to other sectors or sectors' policies although impacts and/or potential synergies exist.
- **Not applicable:** The policy document is not expected to refer to other sectors or sectors' policies.



Not applicable

No integration

Weak integration

Strong integration



Results for Lielupe River Lithuania



Policy coherence assessment results

Sector	Policy	Water	Energy	Food/ Agriculture	Land / soil	Biodiversity/ ecosystems	Climate
Water	Lielupe River Basin District Management Plan						
Water	Water Law						
Water	Water Development Program 2017–2023						
Water, agriculture	Regulation on the designation of control authorities for the approval and management of the description of the requirements for the management of agricultural activities and the requirements for the use of fertilizers and plant protection products						
Land-use	Special Land Use regulations						
climate, ecosystems, water	National environmental strategy						
Land-use, food, agriculture	Land Reclamation Law						
Land-use	Natural Resources Tax Law						
Land-use, agriculture	Land law						
Energy, water, land, climate, ecosystems,	Sustainable development strategy of Lithuania						

How stakeholders self-assess the cross-sectoral management of resources

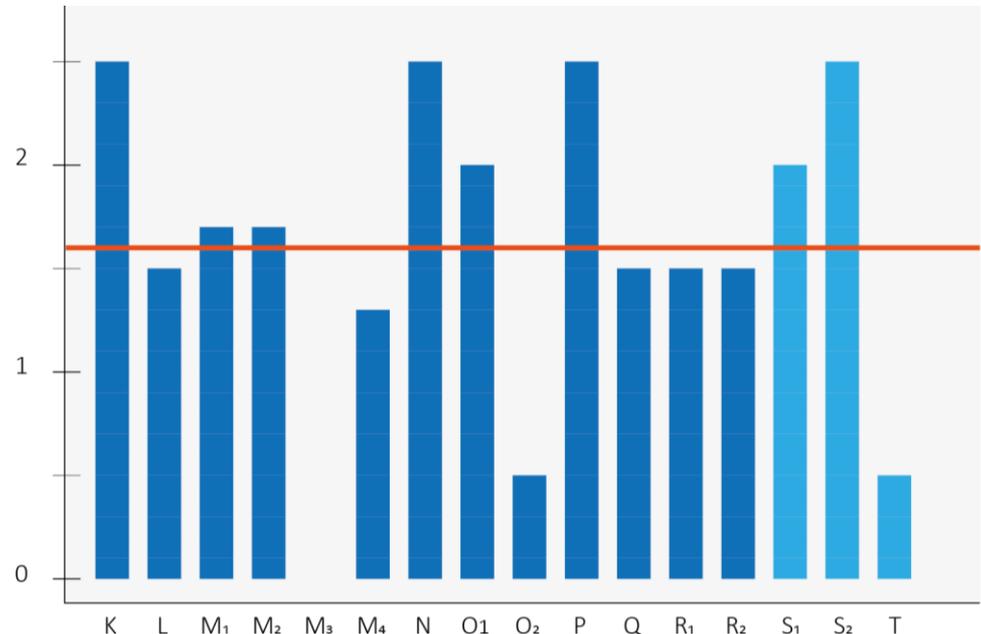
- In Lithuania

SCORES

- 0 : no cross-sectoral management
- 1 : 2 sectors are collaborating
- 2 : 3 sectors are collaborating
- 3 : wefe nexus collaboration reached

“of course there is cooperation on energy and water and water management”

“in principle the control of the protective sites is ministerial level, not the municipality level”



LITHUANIA CROSS SECTORAL SCORING

■ NATIONAL LEVEL

- K. BEF Lithuania
- L. Viva Sol Association
- M. Ministry of Environment
- N. Ministry of Energy
- O. Center for Environment Policy
- P. Ministry of Agriculture

- Q. Lithuanian Energy Agency
- R. Environmental Protection Agency

■ LOCAL LEVEL

- S. Panevezys Municipality
- T. Birzai District Municipality

— AVERAGE

Governance assessment - Lithuania

RESTRICTIVE

Dimensions / Criteria	Comprehensiveness	Coherence	Flexibility	Intensity	Fit
Actors and networks	LOW	LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW
Levels and scales	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Problem perspectives and goals ambitions	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Strategies and instruments	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Responsibilities and resources	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Overall assessment	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Concluding evaluation	The current governance system is restrictive toward WEF nexus governance				



Why these results in Lithuania?

- Overall 'restrictive' because of a lack of:
 - Lack of involvement of local actors in the development of the RBMPs
 - Lack of mandate at local (municipal) scale while there is no regional scale
 - Lack of expertise and human resources at all levels
- But not totally 'restrictive' because:
 - Green Deals initiatives (pushed by EC) at national level supports cross-sectoral context
 - Renewable energies development due to energy crisis urges for more cross-sectoral interactions
 - Initiatives to push for more cross-sectorality: STRATA initiative (Government Strategic Analysis Center) ; working group set up at ministerial level



Results for Lielupe River Latvia



Policy coherence assessment results

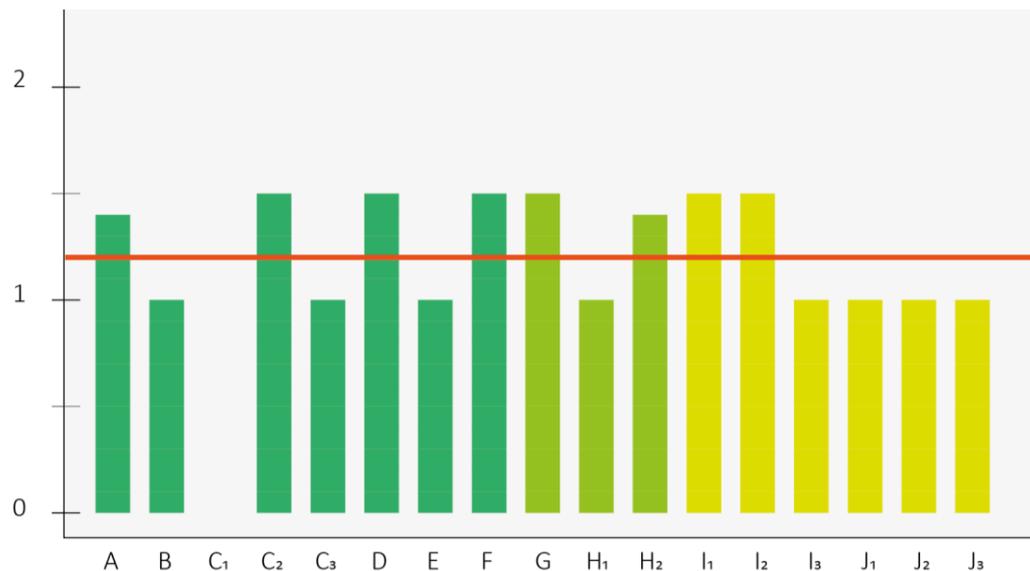
Sector	Policy	Water	Energy	Food/ agriculture	Land/Soil	Biodiversity/ ecosystems	Climate
Water	Lielupe River Basin District Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan						
Water	Water Management Law						
Water, agriculture	Requirements regarding the protection of water, soil and air from pollution caused by agricultural activity						
Food	Action plan for development of biological farming						
Climate, ecosystems, water	The 2021-2027 environmental policy guidelines						
Land-use, food, agriculture	Amelioration law						
Land-use, agriculture	Land Management law						
Energy, water, land, climate, ecosystems,	Latvia 2030 - Sustainable development strategy of Latvia until 2030						
Food, Energy, Land use, Climate	Latvian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030						
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	Law: On Agriculture and Rural Development						
Ecosystems,	Law on the Conservation of Species and						

How stakeholders self-assess the cross-sectoral management of resources

- In Latvia

SCORES

- 0 : no cross-sectoral management
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LATVIA CROSS SECTORAL SCORING

NATIONAL LEVEL

- A. University of Life Sciences
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Latvian EGM Center
- D. Ministry of Economics
- E. Latvian WWW Association
- F. Latvian Found for Nature

REGIONAL LEVEL

- G. Zemgale Regional Energy Agency
- H. Zemgale Planning Region

LOCAL LEVEL

- I. Salgale Parish
- J. Bauska Municipality

— AVERAGE

“we have a small country and we know each other”

“the result is that the water is not good”



Governance assessment - Latvia

RESTRICTIVE

Dimensions / Criteria	Comprehensiveness	Coherence	Flexibility	Intensity	Fit
Actors and networks	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Levels and scales	LOW	LOW	HIGH	LOW	LOW
Problem perspectives and goals ambitions	LOW	LOW	HIGH	VERY LOW	LOW
Strategies and instruments	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	LOW
Responsibilities and resources	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	VERY LOW	LOW
Overall assessment	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	VERY LOW	LOW
Concluding evaluation	The current governance system is restrictive toward WEF nexus governance				



Why these results in Latvia?

- Overall 'restrictive' because of:
 - Really top-down decision-making even at RBMP level
 - Lack lack of environmental expertise at national and local level
 - The perception of problems remains focused on the sector
- But not totally 'restrictive' because:
 - The regional level has a supra-local vision and the ability to link up with the European level, BUT without any power
 - The existence of an advisory council (interministerial coalition) where representatives of the various ministries are involved in resource management



Barriers and levers towards WEFE nexus governance in Lielupe River

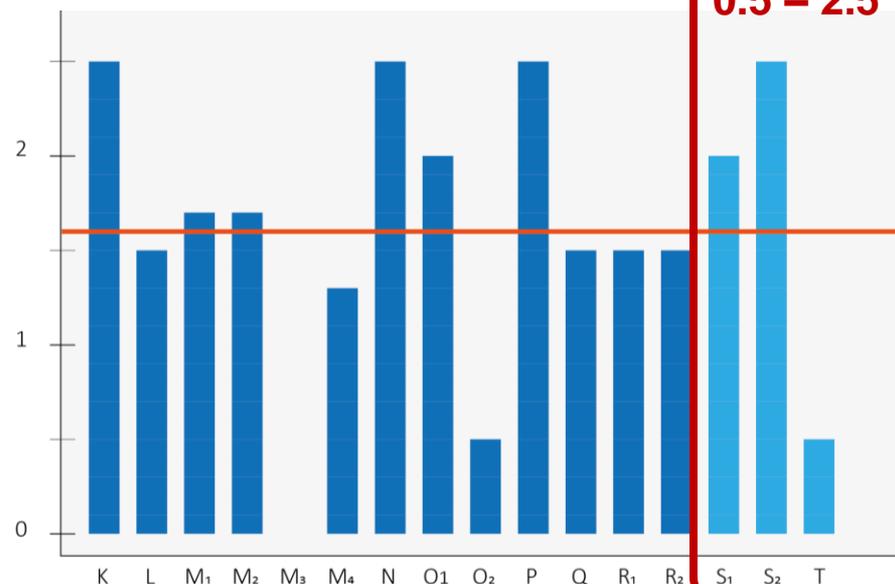


How stakeholders self-assess the cross-sectoral management of resources

Latvia



Lithuania



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— AVERAGE



Main barriers in Lielupe

- Lack of experts and expertise
- Lack of environmental awareness
- Lack of involvement of local actors in the development of the RBMPs
- Little transboundary cooperation generating misunderstandings on water quality issues



Main levers in Lielupe

- Managers of sectors at national and regional level are connected
- EU Green Deals increase environmental awareness
- Existing motivation for more transboundary connexion



Discussion points



Discussion process

- First, we ask you to vote *(by using Mentimeter)*
 - ⇒ Agree
 - ⇒ Count of votes
 - ⇒ Disagree
 - ⇒ Count of votes
- Second, we ask you to discuss and develop ideas



Is there a need to increase environmental expertise?

- YES: votes =
- NO: votes =

- Discussion:
- At which level it is the most urgent?
- How?



If yes, at which level(s) is it most urgent?

- Local: votes =
- Regional: votes =
- National: votes =

- Discussion: **How**



Is there a need to increase involvement of the local actors in the design of the RBMP

- YES: votes =
- NO: votes =

- Discussion:

Which stakeholders in particular?

How?



Is there a need to ensure continuation of funding for transboundary initiatives?

- YES: votes =
- NO: votes =

- Discussion:

How can we do that?

At which level?



If yes, how do to see that done?

- List of ideas from the audience:

-
-
-
-



Next steps for an agreement in the Lielupe for more cross-sectorality

- What do you think could be the next steps?
- What do you expect from Nexogenesis?
- How do you want the next step to be shared with you?



Thanks for your participation!

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