CLEAN FLOW WB6 – From Wastewater Practice to Policy

Regional Advocacy & Learning Platform on Wastewater Management

AGENDA	
DATE	17-18 November 2026
PLACE	Hotel Tara in Bečići, Budva, Montenegro
PARTICIPANTS	• Wastewater practitioners (WWTP operators, engineers, managers) – members of Wastewater Communities of Practice (CoPs) • Representatives of public utilities and utility associations • Civil society organisations (consumer protection, governance & transparency, environmental CSOs) • Line ministries and regulators (environment, water, finance) • Regional institutions and partners (Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), European Union (EU), donors)
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	To strengthen **regional advocacy, learning, and cooperation on wastewater management in the Western Balkans Six (WB6)**, in line with the Revised Green Agenda Action Plan 2025-2030, by translating operational experience from wastewater practitioners into **credible, collective policy recommendations** through structured dialogue with civil society, utilities, and institutions.
SPECIFIC OUTCOMES	By the end of the platform, participants will: • Understand shared regional challenges in wastewater management based on operational realities • Recognise gaps between policy, regulation, financing, and implementation capacity • Strengthen evidence-based advocacy grounded in practitioner experience • Co-develop realistic regional advocacy messages and policy recommendations • Support the implementation of the water depollution pillar of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB), including alignment with the European Water Resilience Strategy • Build and reinforce regional peer networks among wastewater practitioners and advocates
MODERATOR/S	Zoran Bogdanovski and Gordan Kozulj
REMINDER	Participants are kindly requested to review in advance: • Regional Wastewater Issue Brief (prepared from CoP inputs); summary notes from domestic Wastewater Communities of Practice; short briefing on relevant EU wastewater policy frameworks • Related Actions of the GAWB, specifically Actions 26a and 26b

Day 1 – 17/11/2026, Tuesday		
Time	***Session name***	***Key topic(s)***
09:00 – 09:30	**Opening words of the event:** • Ivana Markovic Boskovic, Senior Expert on Green Agenda/Coordinator of the Green Agenda at the Regional Cooperation Council • Iven Schad, Head of Section for Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Tirana • TBD, SECO Representative	• Importance of regional cooperation under the GAWB framework • EU water acquis requirements
09:30 - 10:30	**Why CLEAN FLOW – From Regional Commitments to Operational Reality**	• Context, objectives & expected results • Why now – EU requirements, GAWB and implementation challenges • Voices from the Plants – operational realities • Compliance pressure & shared challenges
10:30 - 11:00	***Coffee break***	
11:00 - 12:00	**From Plant Reality to the CLEAN FLOW Agenda**	• Reflection on the Voices from the Plants • What can be addressed at utility level and what requires policy/institutional action? • Common challenges & domestic-level specificities • Link to the three CLEAN FLOW topics
12:00 - 13:00	**When Policy Misses the Plant – And When Plants Miss the Public**	• Policy gaps • Test the cases from different perspectives: authorities, utilities and CSOs • What is a policy/institutional barrier and what is a management/operational issue? • Who bears the cost and consequences? • Identify different or contested explanations
13:00 - 14:30	***Lunch break***	
14:30 - 16:15	**Dialogue Labs – Turning Frustration into Structured Recommendations** incl. coffee break	• Financial Sustainability (Tariffs and Investment) • Sludge Management • Human Capital

16:15 - 16:45	**Joint Findings Day 1 – What Do We Take Forward?**	• Main findings from the three thematic discussions • Areas of convergence and shared concerns • Different or contested explanations that should remain visible
16:45 - 17:00	**Wrap-up Day 1**	• Key findings day 1 • Outlook day 2

Day 2 – 18/11/2026, Wednesday		
Time	***Session name***	***Key topic(s)***
09:00 - 09:15	**Recall & framing Day 2**	• Key findings day 1 • Agenda day 2
09:15 - 10:30	**EU Rules, Regional Approaches, Domestic Systems – Policy Reality Check**	• EU wastewater obligations • Actions under the GAWB • Domestic-level implementation • Reality check of Day 1 findings against EU / GAWB priorities and implementation needs
10:30 - 11:00	***Coffee break***	
11:00 - 12:00	**From Joint Findings to the Regional Position**	• Review the main positions emerging from the three topics • Agree what should be reflected in the Regional Position Paper • Distinguish shared regional positions from domestic-specific issues • Confirm areas where further evidence or qualification is still needed
12:00 - 13:00	**Agreement on CLEAN FLOW Advocacy Messages and Follow-up**	• Agree which messages can be taken forward regionally, and which require domestic follow-up • Identify realistic follow-up routes and responsible actors, without assuming unagreed institutional ownership
13:00 - 13:30	**Wrap-up & closing**	• Key agreements and conclusions • Next steps
13:30	***Lunch and adjourn***	