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Role of Law in Water Disputes Prevention and Fostering Cooperation

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The paper deals with certain policy and law aspects of transboundary water governance in the SEE countries. Having in view increasing number of legal regimes (international and national) applicable to the same shared water resource in a number of SEE cases, some actual policy requirements, considered as elements of the good water governance concept, are examined. The concept of river/lake basin water management is in focus as an unavoidable part of efforts towards achievement of sustainable water management.

Highlighted are interactions between legal regimes established by international law instruments, as well as those established by national law instruments, and growing interdependence between international and national legal regimes. Some conclusions indicate the way how multidisciplinary scientific efforts comprising legal and institutional issues could contribute to fostering cooperation and preventing disputes between parties interested in use of the same shared water resources.