



## Ministry of Interior of Hungary

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# Development of soft-law tools and other publications in the framework of UNECE Water Convention

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## Why to develop soft-law instruments?

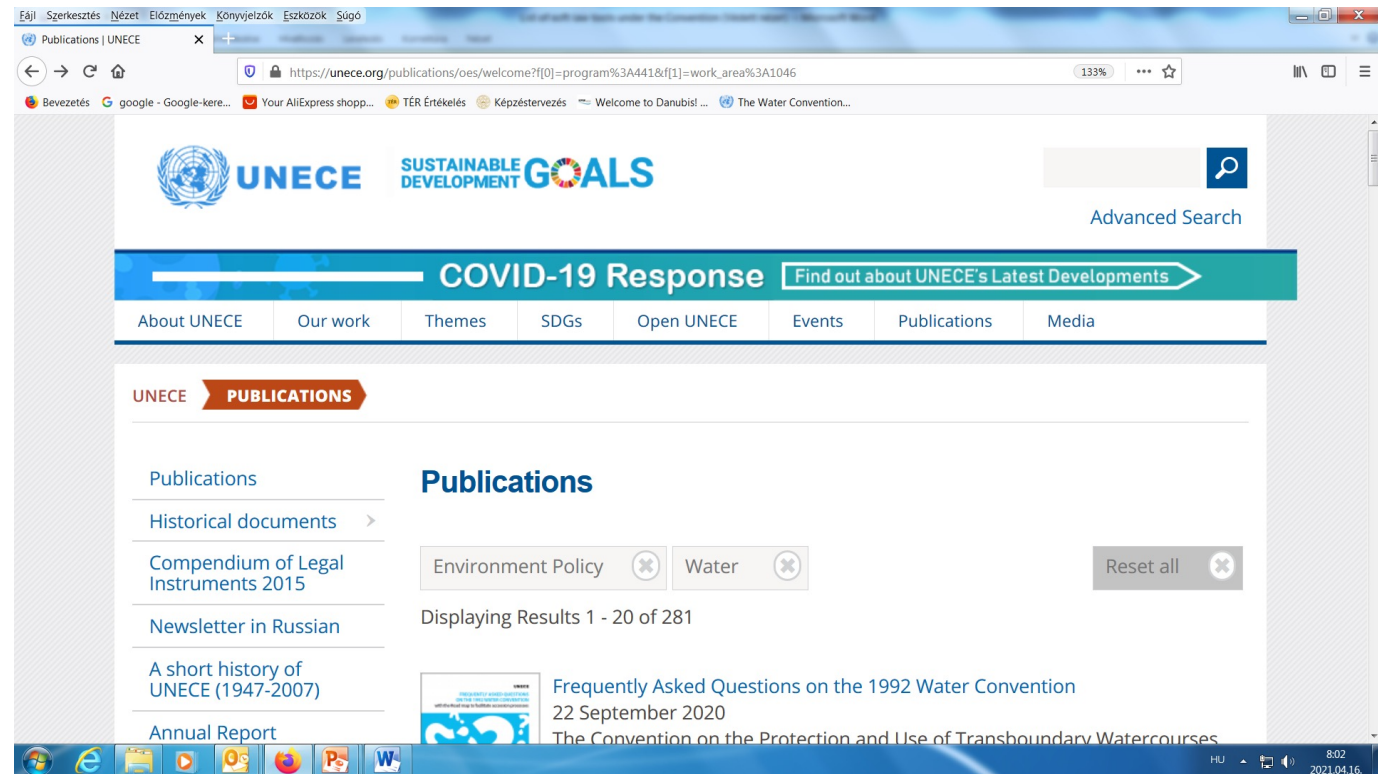
### Strong need from the countries to

- **Exchange experiences and solutions** (national and transboundary) related to the implementation of the Water Convention and Protocols
- **Cope with new challenges** (eg. Climate Change, hydropower, irrigation development, etc.)
- **Promote good practices, tools and lessons learned from international experiences** on monitoring, assessment, development of agreements, etc.
- **Strengthen cooperation between countries** sharing water resources



## Which soft-law instruments are developed so far?

- Guidelines
- Model provisions
- Policy briefs
- Recommendations
- Methodologies,
- Postcards



Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (*under development, 2021*)

Checklist on the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation (*under development, 2021*)



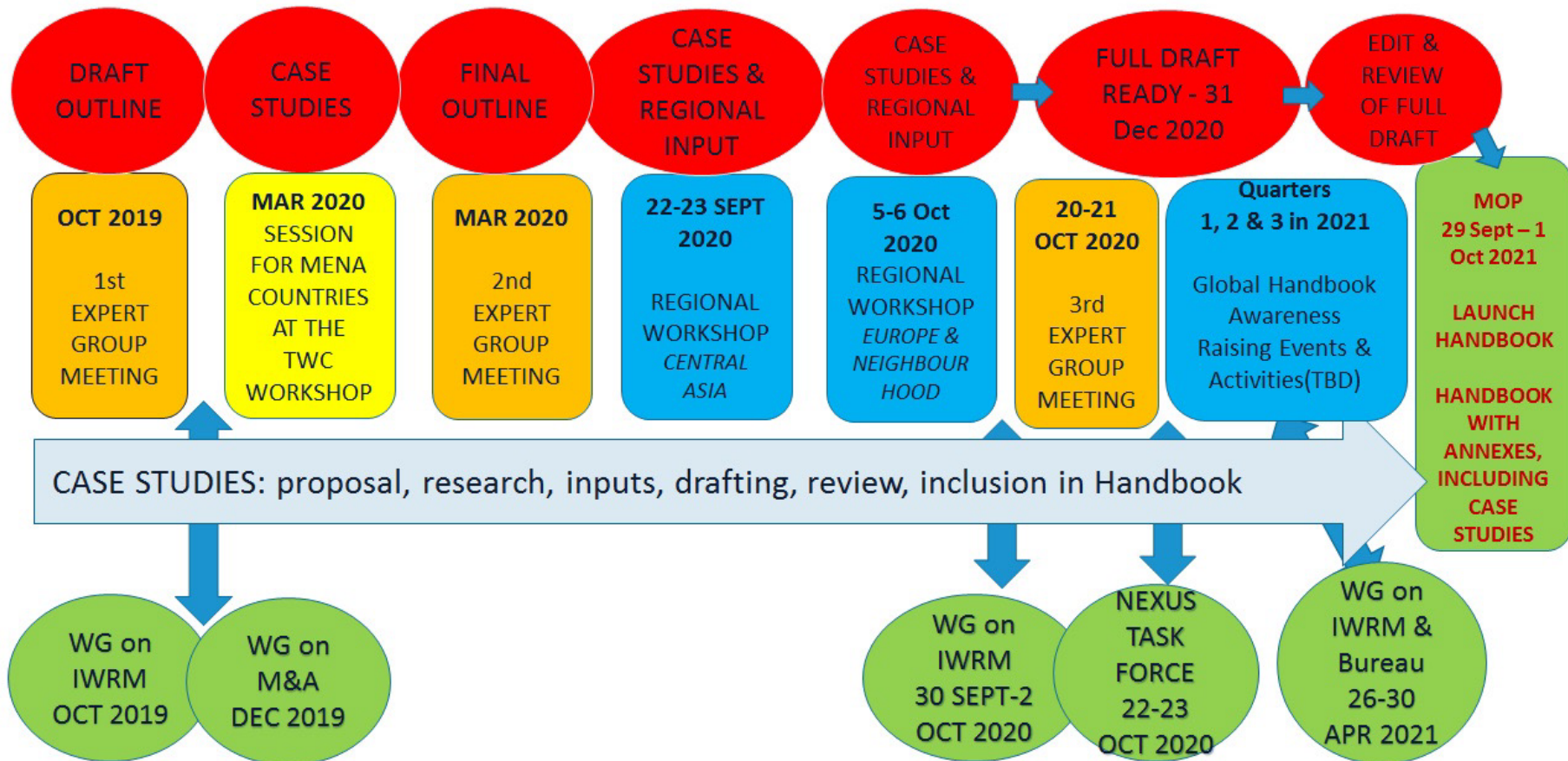
## Process of development of soft-law instruments

- Request from the parties, countries, convention body – approval of the Bureau, MoP
- Assessment of resources (human and financial) for the development of such an instrument
- Identification of responsible body (Lead Country, Secretariat, Working Group, Expert Group, ad-hoc body)
- Invitation of experts (both legal and technical) involvement of external bodies (consultants, universities, institutions) if it is needed (Implementation Committee are often involved)
- Elaborate a first proposal, start an open consultative process, open to non-Parties and other stakeholders, organization of consultative meetings
- Discussion during Bureau, IWRM meetings, adoption by the MOP.



## E.g. Handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context

### Timeline for development & publication until MoP9





## Practical implementation of soft-law instruments

These instruments are:

- Free to download from the UNECE web site
- Available in printed form, shipped by request
- Available in many languages (ENG, FRA, RUS and few Arabic and Spanish)
- Free to translate into national languages (e.g., HU translated many of these guidelines)
- Financial support might be available for the implementation
- Guidance can be tested as a pilot activity (feedbacks can improve the documents)

UNECE Publications are influencing the global agenda and global water governance and give an examples of development of soft-law instruments.

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**Thank You very much for your kind attention!**