

Cooperative Water Management in the Sava River Basin

**INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

26 - 27 November 2012, Rome, Italy

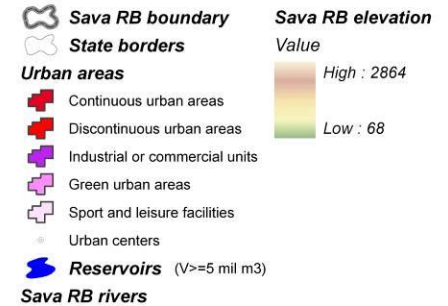
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Overview

- Introduction on the Sava river basin
- Establishment of cooperation in the Sava River Basin
- Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
- International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
- Summary

Sava River Basin overview map



Area: 97 713 km² (the second largest Danube sub-basin; share: 12%)

Average flow at the mouth: 1722 m³/s
tributary; contribution: 25%)

River length: 940 km (594 km of which is the waterway)

Population: approx. 8.5 million

(the largest Danube



Country	Share of the basin (%)	Share of the territory (%)
Albania	0.2	0.6
Bosnia & Herzegovina	39.2	75.8
Croatia	26.0	45.2
Montenegro	7.1	49.6
Serbia	15.5	17.4
Slovenia	12.0	52.8

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the ISRBC

Data sources:
 DEM data: The NASA Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM) processed by the CIAT-CSI (<http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org>), USGS
 CORINE land cover: EEA (<http://www.eea.europa.eu>)
 Other data: ICPDR, ESRI, the Parties to the FASRB (SI,HR,BA,RS)

0 20 40 80 120 160 Km

1:2,000,000

Coordinate system: ETRS 1989
 Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area

November 2009

Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
 - Natural beauty
 - High landscape diversity
 - High biological diversity (natural wetlands, parks, protected areas)
 - Large retention areas
 - High potential for transport of cargo and passengers
 - High potential for tourism and recreation



Establishment of cooperation

- **Decay of Yugoslavia – a challenge to WRM in the SRB**
 - Sava river used to be the biggest **national river** of the former SFRY
 - Activities related to WRM in the SRB were regulated by **national regulation, plans and programs**
 - Appropriate institutional framework for implementation of water policy in the SRB existed **until decay of the SFRY**
 - Upon establishment of independent countries in the basin, Sava river became an **international river**
 - **New, international framework required** for exploitation, protection and control of the Sava river, i.e. for **the TWRM**
 - Consequences of the war in 1990's – an **obstacle** for the establishment of the framework

Establishment of cooperation

- **From different priorities to Integrated TWRM approach**
 - Rehabilitation and development of **navigation**
 - **Flood protection**
 - Utilization of potentials for **tourism development**
 - Utilization of potentials for **energy production**
 - Maintenance of **water quality and quantity**

Establishment of cooperation

- **The Sava River Initiative**

- **Launch of the Initiative:** June 2001
- **Signing the Letter of Intent on Coop. in the SRB:** Nov. 29, 2001
- **Signing the FASRB:** Kranjska Gora, Dec. 3, 2002
- **Est. of the Interim Sava Commission:** Brussels, March 12, 2003
- **Ratification of the FASRB:** December 29, 2004
- **Est. of the ISRBC:** Zagreb, June 27-29, 2005
- **Est. of the ISRBC Secretariat:** Zagreb, January 9, 2006

FASRB

- **Key objective:**

Transboundary cooperation
for **sustainable development** of the region

- **Particular objectives:**

- To establish an **international regime of navigation**
- To establish **sustainable water management**
- To **prevent/limit hazards** (floods, droughts, ice and accidents) and **reduce/eliminate** their negative **consequences**

FASRB

- **Principles of transboundary cooperation**
 - Cooperation on the basis of **sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit** and **good faith** in order to achieve the goals of the FASRB
 - Cooperation in accordance with the **EU WFD**
 - Regular **exchange of information** within the basin
(on the water regime, navigation regime, legislation, organizational structures, administrative & technical practices)
 - Cooperation with **international organizations** (ICPDR, DC, UNECE, EU)

FASRB

- **Principles of transboundary cooperation (cont.)**

- **Reasonable and equitable use** of water
- Securing **integrity** of the water regime in the basin
- Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities of the Parties
- **Prevention of causing significant harm** to other Party(-ies), when using water of the Sava River Basin

Principles are completely in line with UNECE Water Convention!

ISRBC

- **Coordinates the FASRB implementation**
- **Fields of work** of the ISRBC
 - Issues of **sustainability**:
 - Improvement of water quality
 - Protection of aquatic ecosystem
 - Protection against the harmful effects of water (due to floods, ice, droughts, accidents)
 - **Development** activities:
 - Different kinds of water use (navigation, hydropower generation, water supply, sewerage and drainage, fishery, tourism and recreation)
- **Broadest scope of work** among European river / lake commissions

ISRBC

- **General**
 - Composed of 8 **representatives** of the 4 countries
 - Given the international **legal capacity**, for:
 - Making **decisions** in the field of **Navigation**
 - Providing **recommendations** in all other fields, i.e. **Water Protection and Hazard Management**
 - **Decisions and recommendations** are adopted by unanimous vote
 - **Languages** of the ISRBC:
 - **Official** (3 official languages of B&H, Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian)
 - **Working** (English)

ISRBC

- **Financing**

- **Functioning on the Secretariat** – through regular annual contributions of the Parties from their budgets
- **Projects**
 - From **additional contributions of the Parties**
 - From **international programs / funds**

- **Reporting**

- Report on the Secretariat work **to the ISRBC** (3-4 sessions per year)
- Annual report on the ISRBC work **to the Parties**
- Country reports on implementation of the FASRB **to the ISRBC**
- Report on implementation of the FASRB and the ISRBC work **to the Meeting of the Parties** (every 2 years)

ISRBC

- **Coordination of:**
 - Development of joint / integrated **plans** for the SRB
 - River Basin Management Plan (according to EU WFD)
 - Flood Risk Management Plan (according to EU Flood Directive)
 - Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB
 - GIS (according to INSPIRE Directive and WISE)
 - RIS – River Information Services (according to EU RIS Directive)
 - Flood Forecasting and Warning System
 - Accident Emergency Warning System
 - Preparation of **development programs** for the SRB
 - Rehabilitation and development of **navigation**
 - Development of (nautical, eco) **tourism**

ISRBC

- **Coordination of (cont.):**
 - Harmonization of **regulation** (national → EU)
 - Creation of additional **protocols to the FASRB**
 - Navigation regime
 - Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation
 - Flood protection
 - Emergency situations
 - Sediment management
 - Transboundary impacts
 - **Cooperation and public participation**

Summary

- **Key features of the approach**

- **Cohesive**, providing conditions for:
 - **Cooperation** of the Parties
 - Implementation of **joint, basin-wide projects**
 - **Harmonization** of national regulation, methodologies, procedures ...
- **Integrated** (whole basin, sustainability, development)
- **Transparent** (public participation)
- **Aligned with UNECE and EU regulation** (UNECE Water Convention, EU Directives, ...)
- **Pragmatic and practical** (offering, to the Parties, “products” such as joint plans, development programs, protocols, harmonized regulation, integrated systems)

Summary

- **Challenges/possible obstacles to implementation**
 - **Differences between the countries**
 - **Status** with respect to EU & **eligibility** for approaching funds
 - Level of **economic development** (financial resources)
 - **Organizational structure** in decision-making process
 - **Environmental awareness** of the public
 - **Financing** priority projects / strategic studies, establishment of integrated systems
 - **Resolving** conflicts of interests of different users of water (within a country / between countries / climate change)
 - **Different legal capacity** of the ISRBC in the fields of Navigation and Water Management
 - Number of **official languages** of the ISRBC

Summary

- **Conclusions**

- **FASRB** appears to be **a good framework** for Integrated TWRM
 - By scope
 - By vision of transboundary cooperation (principles, mechanism)
- **Many focal points** and **good inter-sectoral coordination and communication** within a Party needed due to broad scope of the FASRB
- **Protocols are necessary** to regulate specific issues addressed by the FASRB
- Involvement of **expert groups** is very important for realization of regular activities, not only as a support to the Secretariat, but also as a link to other experts of the Parties
- **Political commitment** and support at high political level (Joint Statement, MoU) is crucial for launching new projects

Contact information

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Sava River Basin Commission website. The header features the organization's logo and navigation links for Home, Sava River Basin, Contacts, and Donate. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a large image of a river scene with a bridge and a boat. Below the image is a news section with several articles, including '5th Regular Session of the ISRBC' and 'NOTICE TO SHIPPERS'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with categories like Mission, Vision, History, Fields of Work, Funding, and Organization. Another sidebar on the right contains a calendar for November 2008 and a list of recent publications.