

How to connect policy and science for an improved water management: A practical introduction to application of knowledge brokering in the Sava river basin management planning

A Training Workshop organized with the support of the PSI-Connect project

30 November – 2 December 2011, Zagreb, Croatia

INTRODUCTION

The **International Sava River Basin Commission** (ISRBC) has been established for the purpose of the implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB), which was signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia on 3 December 2002, at Kranjska Gora (Slovenia), and entered into force on 29 December 2004. The ISRBC was established in June 2005, and its permanent Secretariat started to work in January 2006.

The ISRBC is coordinating the cooperation of the countries for realization of the following goals:

- Establishment of an international regime of navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries, which includes provision of conditions for safe navigation on the Sava River and its tributaries;
- Establishment of sustainable water management, which includes cooperation on management of the Sava River Basin water resources in a sustainable manner, including integrated management of surface and ground water resources;
- Undertaking of measures to prevent or limit hazards, such as floods, ice, droughts and accidents involving substances hazardous to water, and to reduce or eliminate related adverse consequences.

According to the FASRB, the countries shall cooperate on the basis of, and in accordance with, the EU WFD. In this respect, the first Sava River Basin Management (RBM) Plan has been elaborated and is expected to be finalized and adopted in 2012.

Since 2000, the **UNESCO Venice Office** is developing in South Eastern Europe a series of activities aiming at the promotion of the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage, as part of a larger environmental integration effort which transversally involves all the key development activities and well reflect the multi-faceted mandate of the Organization. Such efforts are particularly needed in the field of the governance of water resources with a focus on shared water systems, ecosystem services and river basin management, but also risk preparedness and management, in which the stakeholders at the local, national and transboundary levels have a central role to play for the sound formulation, and most importantly implementation, of management strategies and plans.

Taking advantage of being a partner of the PSI-connect three-year collaborative project funded under the EU FP7, the UNESCO Venice Office offered to support the organization of the Training Workshop.

The **Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network** (GEF IWLEARN3) seeks to strengthen global experience, sharing and learning, dialogue facilitation, targeted knowledge sharing and replication. The project will be implemented from January 2011 until approximately June 2014. Activity 1b, Dialogue in South Eastern Europe and

the Mediterranean, implemented by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med), aims to improve stakeholders' capacities towards enhanced transboundary water resources management (TWRM) through the implementation of Regional Roundtables and Targeted Capacity Building Workshops on policy tools and “technical” instruments to address river basin management issues, bringing up the benefits stemming from cooperation.

In this context, the ISRBC and the UNESCO Venice Office have decided to join their forces and, with the assistance of the GWP-Med, to explore possibilities, elaborate options and implement activities for the enhanced participation of the stakeholders and the public in the ISRBC activities and assist in reaching the FASRB objectives. Related activities include the following: the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform – the “Sava Water Partnership” (SWP) – that should facilitate effective coordination of stakeholders' involvement is being considered; a stakeholder analysis is being prepared with the assistance of the GWP-Med to provide related input; capacity building workshops are being organized also with the assistance of GEF IWLEARN.

The PSI-Connect project

The PSI-Connect is a three-year collaborative project funded under the EU FP7. The project aims to develop, test and disseminate effective knowledge brokering practices between science and policy communities in the field of water management and climate change. The PSI-Connect organizes tailored training workshops to introduce policy-makers and scientists to the theory and practice of knowledge brokering and knowledge brokering instruments, including group model building, scenario planning and role playing games.

THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Scope of the Workshop

There is commitment on high political level for stakeholder involvement in the Sava WFD process, as well as practical need for stakeholder involvement in the preparation and implementation of the RBM Plan. As a response, the ISRBC has already initiated the process for the preparation of a stakeholder analysis and a public participation plan with the support of UNESCO Venice Office and the assistance of the GWP-Med. While these documents will assist the ISRBC to strategically plan the implementation of related actions, the ability of the key national stakeholders (those involved directly in the ISRBC activities) to contribute in this regard is crucial. In addition, information and knowledge dissemination at the national level in each of the Sava countries, that will assist stakeholder groups to understand the key issues at the transboundary level as well as their stakes, and hence be motivated to meaningfully participate, can't be undertaken by the ISRBC alone; the national institutions role in this regard is important.

The PSI-Connect Training Workshop will be geared towards a better connection of science and policy related to this stakeholder process. The aim of the Workshop is to build capacity of the science and policy communities expected to be involved directly or indirectly in the preparation and/or implementation of the Sava RBM Plan, to be able to:

1. share all available (scientific, local and procedural) knowledge related to a river basin;
2. integrate and apply this knowledge in a river basin management planning process; and
3. use knowledge brokering practices to improve the stakeholder involvement in the river basin management.

Learning outcomes and methodology

Participants will learn new methods to share knowledge and strengthen the relationships between science and policy and be able to apply these methods in their own situations.

The training will be set up around practical examples, case studies, practical exercises, reflection and facilitated discussion.

Target group

The science and policy stakeholders expected to be involved in the preparation and/or implementation of the Sava RBM Plan.

Draft agenda

Wednesday 30 November

12.30 – 13.30 Arrival of participants, light lunch

13.30 – 13.40 Welcome (Dejan Komatina, Adriaan Slob)

13.40 – 14.00 Who is who?, expectations from the training

14.00 – 15.00 Introduction to knowledge brokering (Piotr Magnuszewski)

Presentation with an overview of knowledge brokering

Interactive session gathering participant's ideas and experiences with linking science and policy

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 17.15 Group model building / system analysis (Piotr Magnuszewski)

Introduction and exercise

17.15 – 17.45 Short feedback / discussion on applicability in own work (Adriaan Slob)

Thursday 1 December

9.00 – 11.00 Scenario planning (Adriaan Slob)

Introduction and exercise

11.00 – 13.00 The Blue River Restoration game (Geiske Bouma)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Facilitated discussion on implications for Sava River Basin Management (Piotr Magnuszewski, Geiske Bouma, Adriaan Slob)

Parallel sessions: break-out in three groups, short feedback

Implications for sharing knowledge, input from scientific knowledge, and stakeholder involvement in the Sava River basin

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break

15.45 – 16.15 The Five golden rules for stakeholder involvement (Adriaan Slob)

16.15 – 16.45 Stakeholder analysis for the Sava River Basin (Dimitris Faloutsos)

16.45 – 18.00 Exercise

Discussion on the main points for involvement of stakeholders for Sava river basin (who?, how?, when?)

In three break out groups

Friday 2 December

9.00 -10.30 Process design (Adriaan Slob)

Introduction to process design

Exercise as follow up on 'stakeholders exercise': draft a plan for stakeholder process

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 12.30 Design a “plan” to develop a “partnership” with main stakeholders for Sava River basin (Adriaan Slob, Geiske Bouma)

Exercise to put all pieces together in a “plan” or “advice” for the Sava River Basin Commission on a potential partnership with main stakeholders in the Sava River Basin (in groups)

12. 30 – 13.00 Evaluation and feedback (Adriaan Slob)

Expectations met?

13.00 Closure (Dejan Komatina)