

**International Roundtable**  
**“Stakeholder / Public Participation for the Integrated Management of  
Shared Water Resources – The Case of Nestos / Mesta River Basin”**

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**Multipurpose Use of Shared Water Bodies  
– The Sava River Basin**

by

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Organized by

**Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean and  
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In the framework of

**Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process**

**GEF IW:LEARN**

**Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative**

# Overview

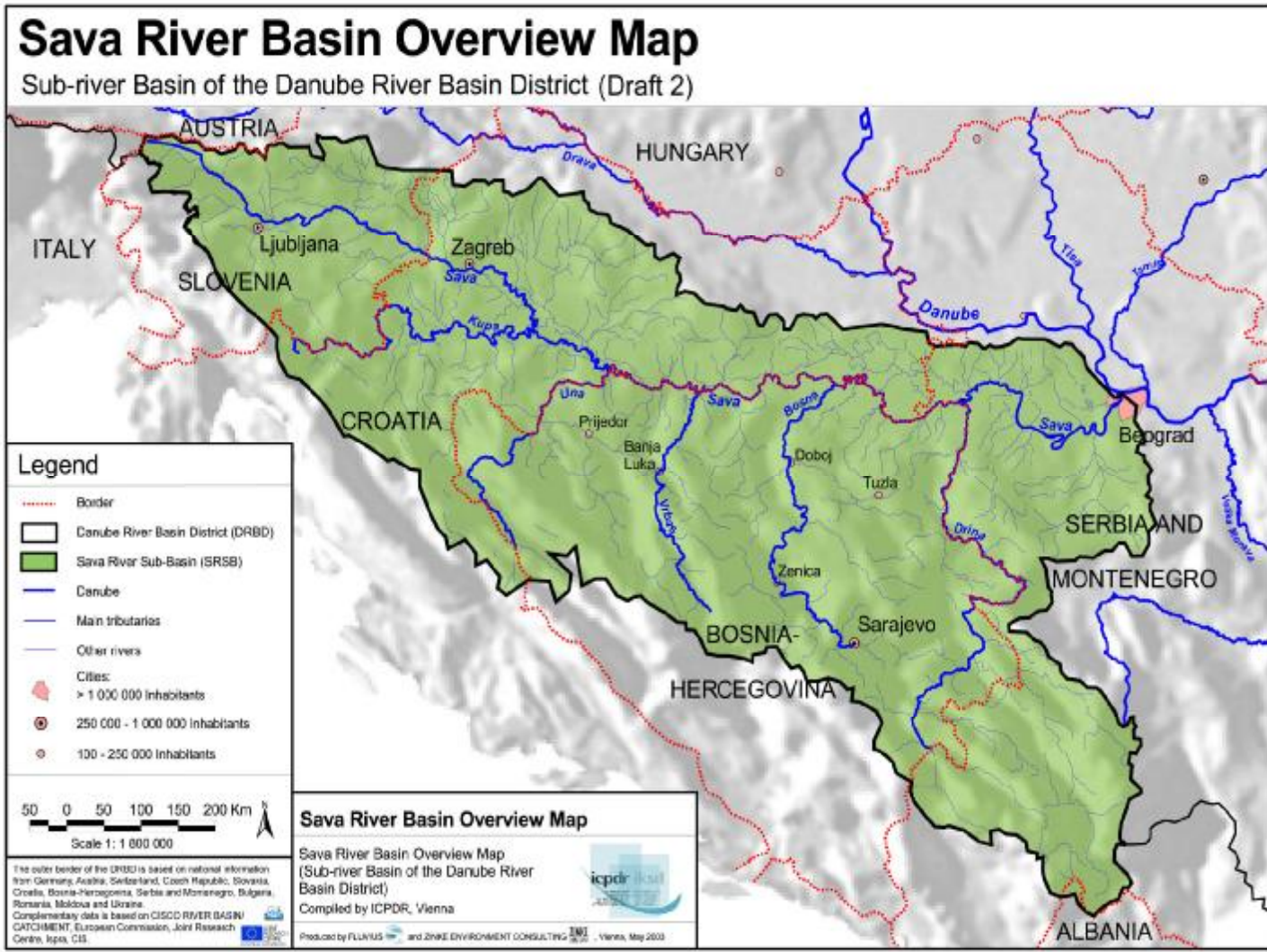
- Introduction
- Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
- International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
- Transboundary Multipurpose Water Management (TMWM) in the Sava River Basin (SRB)
- Summary of the Approach

# Introduction (1/3)

- **The Sava River Basin as a Danube sub-basin**
  - Basin area: 95 720 km<sup>2</sup> (the second largest, after the Tisza basin)
  - Average flow (at the mouth): 1722 m<sup>3</sup>/s (the largest tributary)
  - River length: 940 km (586 km of which were navigable before the war)

Country	Share of the basin (%)	Share of the territory (%)
Albania	0.1	0.5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	40	76
Croatia	26	45
Montenegro	7.5	52
Serbia	15.4	17
Slovenia	11	53

# Introduction (2/3)



## Introduction (3/3)

- **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 Sava Commission:** Zagreb, June 27-29, 2005
- **Est. of the ISRBC Secretariat:** Zagreb, January 9, 2006

## FASRB (1/3)

- **The first multilateral agreement** in the region signed after the Dayton Peace Agreement (1995)
- **Regulates** transboundary cooperation in the Sava River Basin
- **Signed** in December 2002, **entered into force** in December 2004
- **Parties:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia (Montenegro to express the interest)
- Implemented by the **Sava Commission**, with the **Secretariat** as its executive and administrative body

## FASRB (2/3)

- Key objective:

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

– **Issues of sustainability:**

- Improvement of water quality
- Protection of aquatic ecosystem

– **Development activities:**

- Different kinds of water use  
(navigation, hydropower, water supply, irrigation, recreation...)
- Protection against the harmful effects of water  
(due to floods, ice, droughts, accidents)

## FASRB (3/3)

- Particular objectives:
  - To establish an international regime of **navigation**
  - To establish a sustainable **water management**
  - To prevent / limit **hazards** (floods, droughts, ice, accidents) and eliminate / reduce the **consequences**

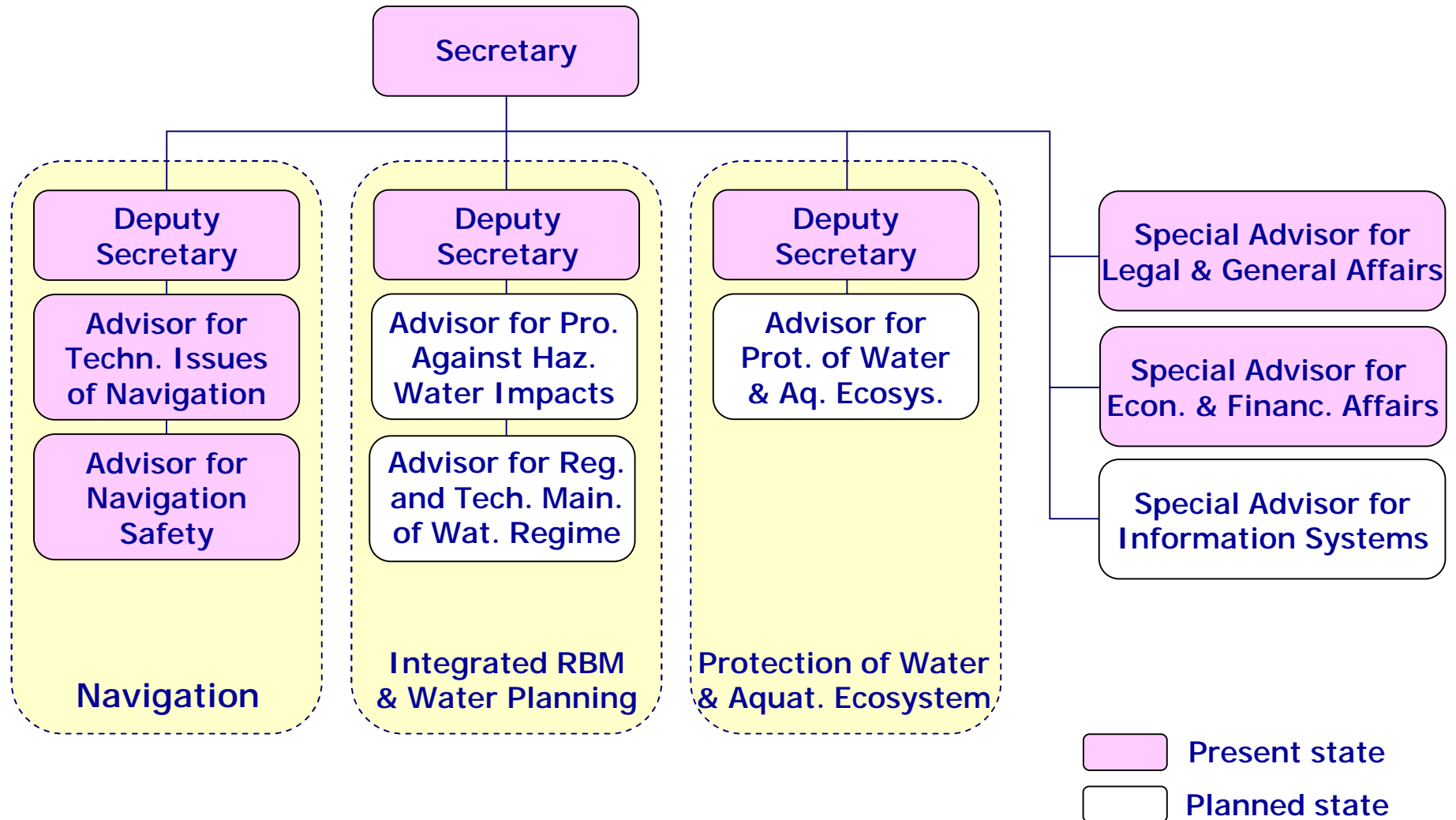
## ISRBC (1/4)

- Established for **implementation** of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
- Established in June 2005, seated in Zagreb (Croatia)
- Composed of 8 **representatives** of the 4 countries
- **Financed** through regular annual contributions of the Parties from their budgets
- Given the international **legal capacity**, for:
  - Making **decisions** in the field of Navigation
  - Providing **recommendations** on all other issues (i.e. WM)

## ISRBC (2/4)

- **Secretariat**
  - Permanent working body of the ISRBC (seated in Zagreb, HR)
  - Staff members: experts, not representing the countries
- **Expert Groups**
  - Meet quarterly
  - Group members: experts – national representatives
- **National Institutions of the Sava countries**
- **Projects**
  - Launched by the Sava Commission
  - External

# ISRBC (3/4)



## ISRBC (4/4)

- **Expert Groups**
  - **Permanent**
    - River Basin Management
    - Accident Prevention & Control
    - Flood Prevention
    - Navigation
  - ***Ad-hoc***
    - Legal
    - Financial
    - GIS
    - Hydrological and Meteorological

## TMWM in the SRB (1/10)

- **Activities:**
  - Development of joint / integrated **plans** for the SRB
  - Preparation and realization of **projects**
  - Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB
  - Harmonization of **regulation** (national à EU)
  - Creation of additional **protocols** to the FASRB
  - **Cooperation and public participation**

## TMWM in the SRB (2/10)

- **Joint / integrated plans:**
  - River Basin Management Plan (according to EU WFD)
  - Flood Risk Management Plan (according to EU Flood Directive)
  - Contingency Plan

## TMWM in the SRB (3/10)

- **Projects:**
  - Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation on the Sava River
  - Prevention of the Pollution Caused by Navigation (establishment of the system for collection of waste from vessels)
  - Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin
  - Flood Risk Assessment Study for the Sava River Basin
  - International Contingency Plan for the Sava River Basin
  - Joint Sava Survey

## TMWM in the SRB (4/10)

- **Integrated systems:**
  - GIS
  - RIS (River Information Services)
  - Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning Systems
    - Floods
    - Accidents

## TMWM in the SRB (5/10)

- **Harmonization of regulation:**
  - Set of documents related to navigation prepared and adopted
  - Documents in line with those of CCNR and DC

## TMWM in the SRB (6/10)

- **Protocols to the FASRB:**

- Transboundary impacts **DRAFTED**
- Accidental situations
- Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation
- Protection against floods
- Exploitation of stone, sand, gravel and clay
- Protection against excessive groundwater, erosion, ice, draught and water shortage
- Water use/utilization
- Protection and improvement of water quality & quantity
- Protection of aquatic eco-systems

## TMWM in the SRB (7/10)

- **Cooperation and Public Participation**
  - **International Organizations / Initiatives**
    - River Commissions (ICPDR, DC, ICPR, CCNR, ICPE, etc.)
    - EC and UN Institutions
    - Financial Institutions (WB, EBRD, EIB, USAID)
    - Professional Organizations (WMO, PIANC, GIS Forum, ...)
    - OSCE, SEETO, Stability Pact for SEE, **GWP**, Adriatic Initiative, **Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process**

## TMWM in the SRB (8/10)

- **Cooperation and Public Participation**
  - National Organizations / Institutions
    - Authorities / Bodies responsible for implementation of the FASRB
    - Governmental Institutions (HM Institutes, Harbour Master Offices, Agencies, ...)
  - NGOs and other Stakeholders
    - Network of NGOs in the Sava River Basin (within DEF)
      - Observer Status at the Sava Commission (DEF, others)
    - Network of Local Actors in the Sava River Basin
      - Stakeholder Parliament recently established
      - Expected to be a permanent link with the SRB stakeholders

## TMWM in the SRB (9/10)

- **Cooperation and Public Participation**

- Sava Day (the 1<sup>st</sup> of June)

- Proclaimed at the ministerial meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the FASRB) held on June 1, 2007
    - This year – the first ever celebration of the Sava Day
    - A number of events, including:
      - Distribution of promotion material in the capitals
      - Eco-camp for the youth
      - Rafting and kayaking (~ 100 km)
      - Boat tour (~ 600 km in 5 days)
      - Signing the MoU with the ICPDR
      - Workshop for presentation of the Draft Strategy on Implementation of the FASRB and the Draft GIS Strategy to wider public

## TMWM in the SRB (10/10)

- **Cooperation and Public Participation**
  - Web-site of the Sava Commission
    - In 6 official languages + English
    - ~ 1500 visits per month
    - Visits from more than 30 countries

[www.savacommission.org](http://www.savacommission.org)



## Summary of the Approach (1/2)

- Key features:
  - **Cohesive** (promoting cooperation of the countries after conflict)
  - **Integrated** (whole basin, sustainability, development)
  - **Transparent** (public participation)
  - **Aligned with EU directives** (WFD, Floods Directive,...)
  - **Subregional** (“finer resolution” of results, when compared to a regional one)
  - **Pragmatic and practical** (offering, to the Sava countries, “products” such as joint plans, development programs, protocols, harmonized regulation, integrated systems)

## Summary of the Approach (2/2)

- Challenges / possible obstacles to implementation:
  - Differences between the countries
    - Level of economic development
    - Eligibility for approaching funds
  - Financing
    - Priority projects / strategic studies
    - Establishment of integrated systems
  - Conflict management in MWM
    - Expansion of the RBM Plan structure towards the structure of the Integrated WRM Plan
    - Resolving conflicts of interests of different users of water

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