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**Multipurpose Use of Transboundary Water  
Resources: the case of the Sava River Basin**

by  
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# Overview

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

# Introduction (1/4)

- **The Sava River 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	Part of the basin (%)	Part of the territory (%)
Albania	0.1	0.4
Bosnia & Herzegovina	40	76
Croatia	26	45
Serbia & Montenegro	23	22
Slovenia	11	53

## Introduction (2/4)



## Introduction (3/4)

- **International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)**
  - Established for implementation of the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
  - Established in June 2005
  - Composed of 8 representatives of the 4 countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia)

## Introduction (4/4)

- **Secretariat of the ISRBC**
  - **Executive and administrative body of the ISRBC**
  - **Established in January 2006, seated in Zagreb (HR)**
  - **Composed of 8 experts from the 4 countries, covering:**
    - **Navigation**
    - **Integrated RBM and Water Planning**
    - **Protection of Water and Aquatic Ecosystem**
    - **Legal and General Affairs**
    - **Economic and Financial Affairs**

## FASRB (1/4)

- 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 (2/4)

- Principles of transboundary cooperation:
  - Cooperation in accordance with the **EU WFD**
  - Regular **exchange of information** within the basin (on the water regime, navigation regime, legislation, organizational structures, admin. & technical practices)
  - Cooperation with **international organizations** (ICPDR, DC, UN/ECE, EU)
  - Securing **integrity** of the water regime in the basin
  - Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities

## FASRB (3/4)

- Mechanism of transboundary cooperation:
  - Sava Commission (ISRBC)
  - Secretariat of the ISRBC
  - National institutions
  - Expert Groups of the ISRBC
  - Local actors, NGOs and other institutions

## FASRB (4/4)

- Forms of **transboundary cooperation**:
  - Creation and realization of **joint plans** of the SRB
  - Preparation of **development programs** of the SRB
  - Harmonization of **legislation** (national à EU)
  - Creation of **protocols**

## TMWM in the SRB (1/7)

- Development of plans (1/3):
  - **RBM Plan**  
(in accordance with the EU WFD)
  - **Integrated WRM Plan**  
(sustainable water management, incl. sustainable use of water resources and protection against hazardous water impacts)

## TMWM in the SRB (2/7)

- Development of plans (2/3):
  - **RBM Plan Structure and Road Map**  
(developed through the UNDP/GEF DRP Sava Component project)
  - **Content of the RBM Plan**  
(data obtained by the countries within the ICPDR activities)
  - **Structure of the Integrated WRM Plan**  
(developed through the CARDS Sava project)
  - **Conflict management in MWM**  
(support by the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process)

## TMWM in the SRB (3/7)

- Development of plans (3/3):
  - **Cooperation of river commissions**
    - Joint Statement on Cooperation related to Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Inland Navigation (CCNR, ICPR, DC, ICPDR, ISRBC)
    - Consensus Statement on Inland Waterway Transport in the Danube River Basin (ICPDR, DC, ISRBC)
  - **Further development to be performed by:**
    - Expert groups of the ISRBC (4 permanent and 3 *ad-hoc* groups)
    - National institutions responsible for realization of the FASRB and coordinated by the ISRBC Secretariat

## TMWM in the SRB (4/7)

- **Development Programs / Action Plans (1/2)**
  - Are to be based on the results of the basin-wide strategic studies
  - List of priority projects / strategic studies:
    - Flood risk assessment study for the SRB
    - Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the SRB
    - Improvement of the monitoring system of water quality and quantity parameters for the SRB
    - Establishment of the early warning system for flood protection and the accident risk assessment study for the SRB
    - Study on waterway traffic on the Sava River

## TMWM in the SRB (5/7)

- **Development Programs / Action Plans (2/2)**
  - **Update and upgrade of the list of priority projects by the ISRBC / Secretariat**
  - **Project Preparation Phase and Project Management by the ISRBC Secretariat**

## TMWM in the SRB (6/7)

- **Information Management**

- Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB:

- Information System (GIS)
    - River Information Service (RIS), incl. Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC)
    - Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning Systems

- **Cooperation and Public Participation**

- International and national organizations
  - Network of **local actors** in the Sava River Basin (developed through an OSCE project by REC)
  - Network of **NGOs** in the Sava River Basin (developed through an UNDP/GEF DRP project by DEF)

## TMWM in the SRB (7/7)

- **Protocols on:**

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

## 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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