

The background of the slide is a light gray map of the Sava River Basin, showing the river's course and its tributaries. A white compass rose is located in the lower-left corner, with cardinal directions labeled: N (North), NE (Northeast), SE (Southeast), and SW (Southwest).

# **Approach of the International Sava River Basin Commission**

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# Overview

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- § Transboundary Multipurpose Water Management (TMWM) in the Sava River Basin (SRB)
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# Introduction (1/2)



## 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 (2/2)

## 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
- § 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 (1/6)

## Development of joint plans:

§ **RBM Plan** (in accordance with the EU WFD)

§ **RBM Plan Structure and Road Map**  
(developed through the UNDP/GEF DRP Sava Component project)

§ **RBM Plan Contents**  
(data obtained by the countries within the ICPDR activities)

§ **Development of key WM Issues**  
(performed through the Regional CARDS Sava project)

§ **Conflict management in MWM**  
(support by the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process)

## TMWM in the SRB (2/6)

### Development of joint plans (cont.):

#### § 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 (3/6)

## Development Programs / Action Plans

§ Are to be based on the results of the basin-wide strategic studies

§ List of priority projects / strategic studies:

- Study on waterway traffic on the Sava River
- 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

# TMWM in the SRB (4/6)

## Development Programs / Action Plans (cont.)

- § 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 (5/6)

## 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

# TMWM in the SRB (6/6)



## 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)

# Summary of the approach

## 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

## 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

- Resolving conflicts of interests of different users of water