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ANNUAL REPORT
on Work and Activities of ISRBC
for the Period April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

May 2016

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Introduction

General tasks and competencies of International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) are stipulated by *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)* and, more specifically, by Annex I to *FASRB – Statute of International Sava River Basin Commission*. The obligation of ISRBC to submit the annual report on its work and activities to the Parties is stipulated by Article 10 of Annex I to *FASRB*.

On this basis, *Annual Report on Work and Activities of ISRBC for Year 2015* was prepared. The *Report* corresponds to the financial year 2015 of ISRBC, covering the period as of April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016. All the Work Programmes and Work Plans, mentioned throughout the *Annual Report*, also correspond to the financial year (FY) stated.

Significant efforts were invested during the reporting period to make further progress in the *FASRB* implementation, and additionally strengthen the basis for the future implementation of *FASRB* by ensuring new commitments of the Parties on principal activities of ISRBC.

The ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation (Figure 1) was organized by ISRBC in this period (Brčko, July 6, 2015), to discuss current issues of the *FASRB* implementation, and to review the progress made based on the outcomes of the two ministerial meetings held in FY 2014, i.e. the meeting on regional cooperation on flood protection (Belgrade, June 16, 2014), and the 5th Meeting of the Parties to *FASRB* (Zagreb, December 2, 2014). This meeting certainly represents the benchmark for the progress accomplished in the reporting period.



Figure 1. The ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava River Basin (Brčko, July 6, 2015)

Four sessions of ISRBC were organized in FY 2015: 38th Session (Brčko, July 6-7, 2015), 39th Session (Zagreb, October 19-20, 2015), 40th Session (Zagreb, December 14, 2015), and 41st Session (Belgrade, February, 17-18, 2016). In addition, 11 meetings of the ISRBC expert groups and 37 conferences, workshops and other meetings with stakeholders were held.

The main accomplishments toward the achievement of the *FASRB* objectives, made in FY 2015, include:

- entry into force of *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB* and signing of *Protocol on Sediment Management to FASRB*
- ensuring funding and completing preparatory steps for development of *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin* and for establishment of Flood Forecasting and Warning System for the Sava River Basin

- further progress in the unification of rules relating to technical standards and safety of navigation on the Sava River
- establishment of the Sava GIS core functionalities, as well as the hydrological information system for the basin (Sava HIS)
- further strengthening of public participation and stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process through the establishment of Sava Water Council as a standing advisory platform of ISRBC.

A major part of the activities are performed through the implementation of projects. Therefore, continued efforts have been made to ensure funding for the priority *FASRB*-related (regional) projects from external sources, resulting in a further increase of the share of external funding to over 92%. In addition, several project applications have been submitted to the funding programme supporting the implementation of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region* (EUSDR), so the level of external funding is expected to remain as high.

Challenges have been identified in the processes associated with the introduction of the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management, the further extension of cooperation with Montenegro towards their full membership in ISRBC, as well as the ratification / final harmonization of protocols to *FASRB* that were signed / drafted in the past years.

Detailed overview of the ISRBC activities is presented in the sections below. The annexes to the *Report*, provided for completeness of information, contain the lists of the ISRBC members and deputy members (Annex I), the active expert groups of ISRBC, and their meetings in FY 2015 (Annex II), the *FASRB*-related projects, implemented, ongoing or launched during the reporting period (Annex III), the planned projects (Annex IV), as well as a brief overview of the public participation and stakeholder involvement activities (Annexes V and VI). The list of acronyms is attached as Annex VII to the *Report*.

1. Navigation

Taking *Work Plan of ISRBC for FY 2015* into account, ISRBC's work in the field of navigation was focused on coordination of activities aiming to facilitate development of the remaining documentation needed for rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway.

1.1. Navigation safety

In FY 2014, UNECE adopted the version 5 of *European Code for Navigation (CEVNI)*, in which experts achieved a high level of harmonization of regulations between the countries and river commissions on European level. Based on the new version of *CEVNI*, a decision on amendments to *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin* (Decision 4/16 on Amendments of Decisions 14/14, 19/10 and 30/07 on *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*) was adopted by ISRBC, and it will enter into force on January 1, 2017.

At the same time, on the basis of Chapter 12 of the *Navigation Rules – Rules for safety inspection*, a web application for safety inspection was developed. It was completed in the last quarter of FY 2015 and first results of its use are expected. Joint activities of ISRBC and Danube Commission have started in order to develop, based on ISRBC's application, a similar web application for the whole Danube region and, possibly, for the EU waterways.

In accordance with the adopted policy, ISRBC continued its cooperation with EU and river commissions on professional qualifications and training standards in the framework of the EC, with the aim to develop a new European framework on professional qualifications and training standards. As a result, a proposal of the new EU directive was developed and adopted by European Commission in the beginning of 2016, and passed on to the Parliament and Council for adoption. Taking this document into account, ISRBC started developing a proposal on amendments of ISRBC's rules for the professional qualification of the crew.

ISRBC also participated in the establishment of the European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI). The CESNI objectives are to contribute to the adoption of uniform standards on the entire network of inland waterways in Europe with a view to increasing navigation safety and environment protection in the context of inland navigation transport, promoting employment in inland navigation and rendering the sector more attractive, and facilitating transport operations and promoting international trade.

In order to facilitate the implementation, new rules are systematically presented to representatives of the competent authorities of the Parties. All the same, ISRBC follows implementation of all decisions in the Parties, with the aim to improve the content of the documents based on inputs of the direct users.

ISRBC finished the development of *Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries* for the sector upstream of Sisak (up to the Slovenian-Croatian border) and for the navigable sector of the Kupa River (Figure 2), and published the second, updated edition of the *Indicator*. The data for the Slovenian sector are expected from the Slovenian competent authorities.

Development of *Album of Bridges* for the sector upstream of Sisak continued, in cooperation with the competent authorities, and a first concept of the *Album* was prepared.

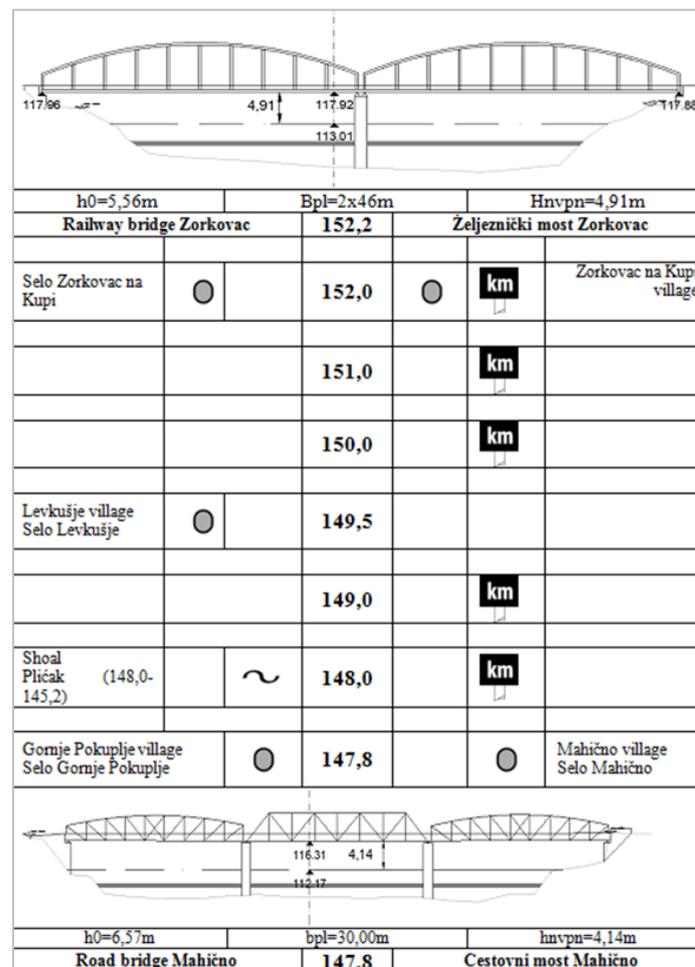


Figure 2. Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries (2016)

With the aim to promote *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River* and improve the image of inland navigation, ISRBC continued with holding public presentations of the *Manual* in the Sava countries. In FY 2015, such presentation was organized in Belgrade, in cooperation with the Faculty for Transport and Traffic Engineering (with participation of students from the high schools for inland navigation from Belgrade and Novi Sad, the faculty, and representatives of industry), while presentations in other countries are planned to be organized in FY 2016.

1.2. Technical standards

Based on conclusions from the meeting with national bodies responsible for implementation of the technical rules in the Sava countries, a draft decision has been prepared to enable direct application of the appropriate Annexes to *Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels (Directive 2006/87/EC)* on the waterways in the Sava River Basin. The draft decision has been supported on the expert level (by PEG NAV), however minor changes will be necessary to accommodate new developments on European level (i.e. foundation of CESNI and adoption of the ES-TRIN – Technical standards for the vessels). The upgraded draft decision will be delivered to ISRBC for adoption in FY 2016.

The ISRBC continued cooperation on further harmonization of the *Technical Rules*, and procedures for amending it, with Danube Commission, UNECE and EU bodies responsible for the *Technical Rules*.

1.3. Waterway infrastructure

Keeping in mind difficulties and delay in the implementation of preparatory activities on rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway (described in detail in the *Annual Report on the Work of ISRBC for FY 2014*), a number of activities were undertaken by the Parties and ISRBC in FY 2015 to ensure urgent implementation of the demining of parts of the Sava River banks, preparation of the remaining design documentation, and funding for the execution of works on the waterway rehabilitation and development, including:

- Republic of Serbia started with the activities to secure financing for development of the Sava project on the Serbian sector from the available IPA funds.
- Republic of Croatia completed the documentation needed to launch urgent works on the most critical sectors on the common Croatian-B&H part of the waterway. This will only be a temporary measure to improve the navigation conditions given the delay in implementation of the whole project, and in any way it cannot replace the integral solution of the problem.
- At the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation (Brčko, July 6, 2015), the rehabilitation of navigation on the Sava River waterway was discussed and declared a high priority, requiring further intensification of the activities.

Currently, the following main problems are connected to implementation of the project *Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation and Transport on the Sava River Waterway*:

- Following the cancellation of the EU financing for development of the detailed design for the waterway on the sector Brčko-Belgrade and demining of the Sava bank in B&H, there is still no available financing for implementation of these tasks
- After more than 1.5 years, the IPA funded project of development of the detailed design for the waterway on the sector Brčko-Sisak is still under suspension for administrative reasons
- There is still no significant progress in ensuring funding for the execution of works on the rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway,
- Especially alarming is the lack of financial resources for the maintenance of the fairway, because the poor maintenance will inevitably result in further deterioration of the fairway conditions
- The cessation of activities of the Croatian-B&H bilateral commission for inland navigation also caused some delays in the activities related to the border section of the Sava River waterway which is, on some sectors, especially critical for navigation.

In order to overcome all mentioned problems, in the following year it is of great importance to focus on:

- Urgent continuation of the activities on the project *Rehabilitation and Development of the Navigation and Transport on the Sava River Waterway*, namely development of the necessary documentation, demining and securing the financing for the works
- Maintenance of the fairway, especially on the most critical sectors, in order to prevent the stoppage of navigation in the low water period and to stop further deterioration and possibly improve the fairway conditions, and
- Continuation of activities of ISRBC, as well as of the countries, in the framework of the EU *Danube Strategy* and the Rhine-Danube Corridor Forum, in order to secure support of the EU institutions to the Sava River fairway rehabilitation.

In accordance with Article 10(4) of *FASRB* and Article 9 of *Protocol on Navigation Regime to FASRB*, ISRBC coordinated and supported activities of the Parties on the waterway marking during the reporting period and, in this respect, regularly adopted the decisions on annual marking plans for the Sava and its navigable tributaries and maintained the functionality of the web application for preparation of *Marking Plan for the Sava River and Its Navigable Tributaries*. It is important to mention that, in 2015, marking of the fairway was improved on the sector which is under the responsibility of B&H.

ISRBC continued participation in the work of the Steering Committee for the Priority Area 1a of the EU *Danube Strategy*, with the aim to support development of navigation and promote the transport possibilities on the Sava River as a part of the European Core Transport Network.

2. Integrated water management

In FY 2015, ISRBC's activities in integrated water management were focused on continuation of actions related to RBM planning, flood risk management, and development of integrated systems (GIS, HIS and monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems related to accidents and floods) for the basin. Significant efforts were invested *inter alia* in the activities dealing with climate change impacts, sediment issues, further enhancement of hydrologic and hydraulic models, as well as in preparation of various projects and project proposals aiming to support achieving the targets in the priority areas of cooperation, agreed by the Parties.

2.1. River basin management

Preparation of *Sava RBM Plan* represents the most important task in reaching one of the ultimate goals of *FASRB* – establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin. Following the approval of the *Plan* at the 5th Meeting of the Parties (Zagreb, December 2, 2014), activities of the second RBM planning cycle have been performed in FY 2015.

Preparation of the second Sava River Basin Analysis (SRBA) is well underway. Several drafts of the report were prepared and discussed by relevant expert groups, and its finalization is expected in 2016. Delivery of the missing data and information by the countries is of the utmost importance for the successful completion of this activity. Special attention in the analysis is paid to cross-cutting issues. Specifically, flood related issues elaborated in the 2nd SRBA were discussed at meetings of the relevant expert groups and at the workshop on FRM measures & interlinkages with *WFD*, held in November 2015.

The other important activity, which is being performed in parallel with the SRBA, is a review of significant water management issues (SWMI) in the Sava River Basin. Besides the key issues, the SWMI paper also includes a brief interim overview of implementation of measures set by the Sava countries in the first *Plan*. It is very important since there was no separate overview of implementation of the measures due to a late endorsement of the *Plan*. The document is under finalization and it will be posted on the web for public consultation after approval of ISRBC, and completed thereafter. The other activities leading to the upgrade of the first *Sava RBM Plan* will continue in FY 2016. Preparation of the first outline of the *Plan* will follow the finalization of the Sava River Basin Analysis. In the meantime, the Secretariat will continue to investigate possibilities of getting the financial support for preparation of the *Plan*, which seems necessary.

Further progress toward *Sediment Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*, as stipulated by *Protocol on Sediment Management to FASRB*, was achieved within the project *Towards the Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, launched by ISRBC in 2012, in cooperation with, and with support of, the UNESCO Venice Office and SedNet. Following the finalization of *Estimation of Sediment Balance for the Sava River (BALSES)* in 2013, the activities continued by implementing the project *Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River Basin*. The main outcomes of the project include a training course on sediment monitoring for experts from national institutions (Figure 3), and the final project report, completed in November 2015. In the report, the strategic goals and specific objectives were established, the existing sediment monitoring data and technical standards and technics were reviewed, and the proposal of an on-line free database, to be established within Sava HIS, was elaborated. The report is available at http://savacommission.org/project_detail/20/1.

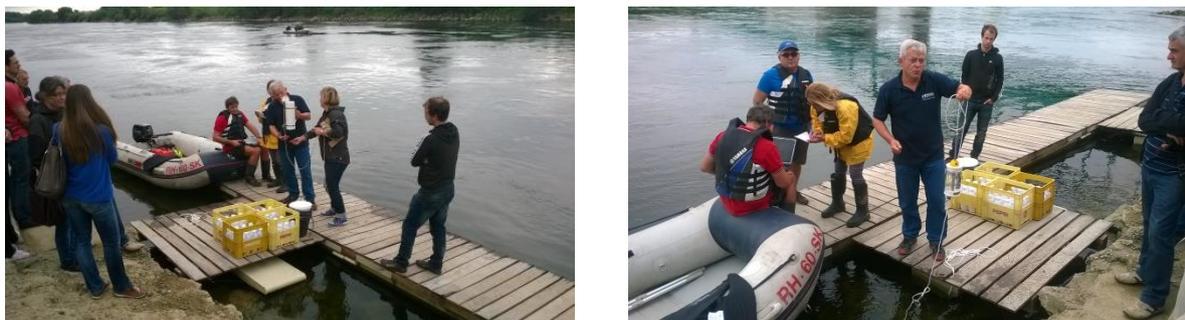


Figure 3. Training course on sediment monitoring (Zagreb, September 3-4, 2015)

The issue of adaptation to climate change was given due attention in the reporting period. The long-term project *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin (WATCAP)*, implemented by World Bank (2010-2015), was finalized in November 2015. The project aiming to assess impacts of climate change and propose options for adaptive management actions for the most important water sub-sectors, resulted in the main report and the guidance notes on adaptation to climate change for navigation, hydropower, agriculture and flood protection, as well as in the guidance note on economic evaluation of climate change impacts in the basin. Completion of the project was preceded by a public consultation performed through ISRBC web site, and the final stakeholder workshop held in November 2014. All the final outputs of the project are available at the ISRBC web site: www.savacommission.org/index.php?idproject=18&l=en&page=project_detail&pgn=1.

In November 2015, ISRBC signed *Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers*, a non-binding document calling for action on climate change adaptation in basins, and joined the family of more than 300 governments, international organizations, donors, national and transboundary basin organizations, local authorities, the civil society and companies worldwide which have signed the *Pact*. In addition, ISRBC has started to negotiate with UNECE a project proposal for preparation of an overview study on climate change and a program for development of the Sava climate change adaptation strategy. The implementation is expected to start in the beginning of 2017.

In order to contribute to further integration of water policy with other policies and further dialogue with the key sectoral stakeholders, as specific objectives in river basin management, defined in *Strategy on Implementation of FASRB*, the project *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment in the Sava River Basin*, implemented as a part of the UNECE *Water Convention's Work Programme 2013-2015*, was completed in 2015. The project contributed to better understanding of the interactions between water, food, energy and ecosystems in the basin, as a precondition to strengthen synergies and policy coherence between the water, agriculture, energy and land management sectors. The assessment report was endorsed at the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the *UNECE Water Convention* (Budapest, November 17-19, 2015), and, thereafter, posted at the UNECE web-site (www.unece.org/index.php?id=41427&L=0).

Additional activities on the same issue are being performed by the EC Joint Research Center (JRC), as a case study within the ongoing *Danube Water Nexus* project. Draft results of the project were presented by JRC and discussed at the two PEG RBM meetings held in the reporting period, and the draft report was produced in late 2015. However, activities on modelling the water demand and availability scenarios for current and future land use and climate in the Sava River Basin continued and the new results are expected to be provided to ISRBC in June 2016.

The project *Towards the Assessment of Ecological Status of Water Bodies in the Sava River Basin (STAWA)* was implemented in FY 2015, under the START – Danube Region Project Fund, with the main objective to propose a platform for efficient exchange of environmental monitoring data and information in the Sava River Basin. As the project formally ended on March 31, 2016, its results will be considered in the coming period.

2.2. Accident prevention and control

In the reporting period, no tests of Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS) were performed, except the one that was launched during the training for operators and users of AEWS (Zagreb, March 16, 2016), organized jointly by ISRBC and ICPDR, which has established and maintains the system. More than 20 participants from the national institutions responsible for protection and rescue, civil protection and water agencies of all Parties participated in the training.

ICPDR has initiated the process to develop an inventory of Accident Risk Spots, which encompasses operational industrial sites associated with major risk of accidental pollution and Contaminated Sites, including landfills and dumps in areas liable for flooding. Last inventory was finalized in 2001 and updated in 2003, so new inventory is needed to prevent accidental pollution and improve response capability. The process is progressing slower than expected, due to delays in the provision of relevant data and information by the countries.

In addition, funding has been sought for the project relating to *Water Pollution Contingency Management Plan for the Sava River Basin* (project No.9 on “A list” in Annex IV), previously granted with a Letter of Recommendation under PA5 of the EU *Danube Strategy*. The Expression of Interest on *Water Pollution Contingency Management System (WAPCOS)* project was submitted to the 1st call for project proposals within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 in November 2015. The University of Ljubljana is a Lead Partner, while ISRBC is a member of the international consortium consisting of partners from SI, HR, BA, RS, RO, HU. The decision on approval of the project is expected in autumn 2016.

2.3. Flood management

The entry into force of *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB* on 27 November 2015 can be regarded as the most important fact in the reporting period. The *Protocol* formalizes a firm commitment of the Parties to further cooperate on implementing joint activities aimed at improvement of flood protection in the Sava River Basin.

Entering of the *Protocol* into force has enabled the completion of *Program for Development of Flood Risk Management Plan in the Sava River Basin (Sava FRM Plan)*, which has been considered as a “living” document in a long period. The *Program* provides for activities and actions required for the development of *Sava Flood Risk Management Plan (Sava FRM Plan)*, taking into account the activities already finished or ongoing in the Parties and at the basin-wide level. Further implementation of the activities envisaged by the *Protocol* is supported through the project *Improvement of joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin*, approved by Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) in June 2014 and financed and implemented by World Bank. It provides technical assistance to the implementation of the following activities:

- Preparation of the joint *Sava FRM Plan*
- Establishment of Flood Forecasting and Warning System (Sava FFWS).

By the end of FY 2015, the following preparatory activities for implementation have been in the final stage or completed:

- *Sava FRM Plan*: Preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for technical assistance for development of the *Plan* is in progress and it will be reviewed at the PEG FP meeting in May 2016. Upon approval of the ToR, WB will conduct the procurement and award the contract for technical assistance. The *Plan*, including Programme of Measures, should be prepared by the end of 2017 and adopted by the Parties in early 2018.
- *Sava FFWS*: According to WB, the procurement procedure for technical assistance for development of the system has been finished. It is expected that implementation will start in May 2016, as soon as the contract is signed with the successful tenderer. It is planned that the project is completed, and the Sava FFWS is operational, in the first half of 2018. A special attention in the project implementation will be given to related efforts in the countries, with the aim of achieving synergies on the basin-wide level.

Further progress has been made in relation with the hydrologic-hydraulic modeling. A successful long-term cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has continued. The second phase of cooperation was approved by U.S. Government and additional efforts to accommodate the functional use of the hydrologic and hydraulic models, developed in the first phase to support flood forecasting and flood mapping, are in progress. It is planned to deliver the enhanced Sava hydrologic model to ISRBC in spring 2016, and hydraulic model at a later stage. In the meantime, U.S. Government has approved additional funds (0,8 M€) for LiDAR surveying of the areas along the Sava River and preparation of related digital terrain models and orthoimagery. The surveying should be done in 2016 and the final products delivered in early 2017. In the framework of cooperation with USACE, it is planned to hold an additional training for national experts on the use of LiDAR for the modeling purposes and the functional use of 2-D hydraulic models.

After the devastating floods in May 2014, ISRBC has also taken significant steps to support and coordinate efforts of the Parties leading to better flood preparedness, including the activities aimed at supporting a number of regional projects. ISRBC has also, jointly with ICPDR, prepared and published an overview report on the May 2014 floods (Figure 4). The printed version of the joint report has been distributed to institutions in the Sava countries, while the digital version is available on the websites of ISRBC and ICPDR (www.savacommission.org/publication/0/1/).

Among many important events, the Workshop on Flood Risk Management measures and Links to EU *WFD*, organized in November 2015 together with UNECE, WMO and ICPDR, can be emphasized as an opportunity for experts from many institutions and a wider audience to discuss and share their experiences related to the whole flood management cycle. The proceedings from the workshop were prepared by ISRBC and published in cooperation with the other co-organizers (Figure 4).

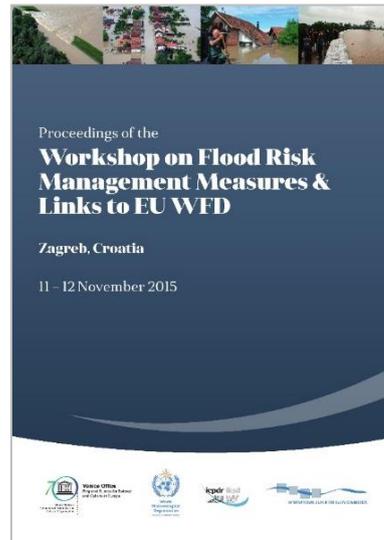
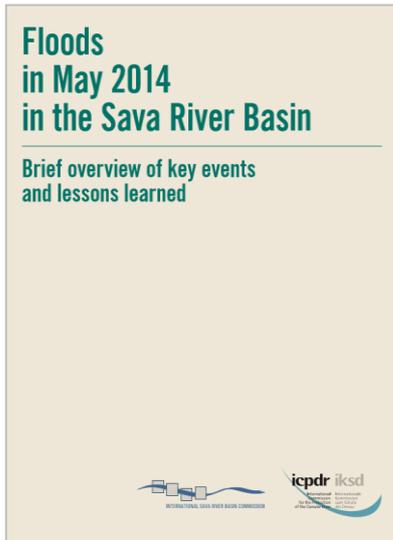


Figure 4. Publications related to flood management

3. Cross-cutting and other issues

3.1. Information management

The main accomplishment in the reporting period is the establishment of the fully functional Sava GIS. A long-term goal, set-up by *GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin* (2008), to establish a seamless and a platform-independent access to the integrated spatial data, information products, services and tools to address important water management issues in the Sava River Basin, finally resulted, in late 2015, with the establishment of the Sava Geoportal.

The following was accomplished (Figure 5):

- Software (Operating system and GIS) needed for the Sava Geoportal setup purchased
- IT equipment room set up in the premises of ISRBC
- Sava GIS database, consisting of RBMP and FRM models, designed and structured in accordance with the reporting requirements of related EU directives, and populated with the existing datasets of the first *Sava RBM Plan* and the collected FRM datasets
- Sava GIS web application which allows users to view, visualize, share and retrieve geographic information and the Sava GIS related datasets designed and produced
- Sava GIS Geoportal with its viewing/graphical and catalogue/metadata functionalities, implemented. The Sava GIS Geoportal functionalities include spatial data visualization and management for the public and registered users, with different level of functionalities allowed.

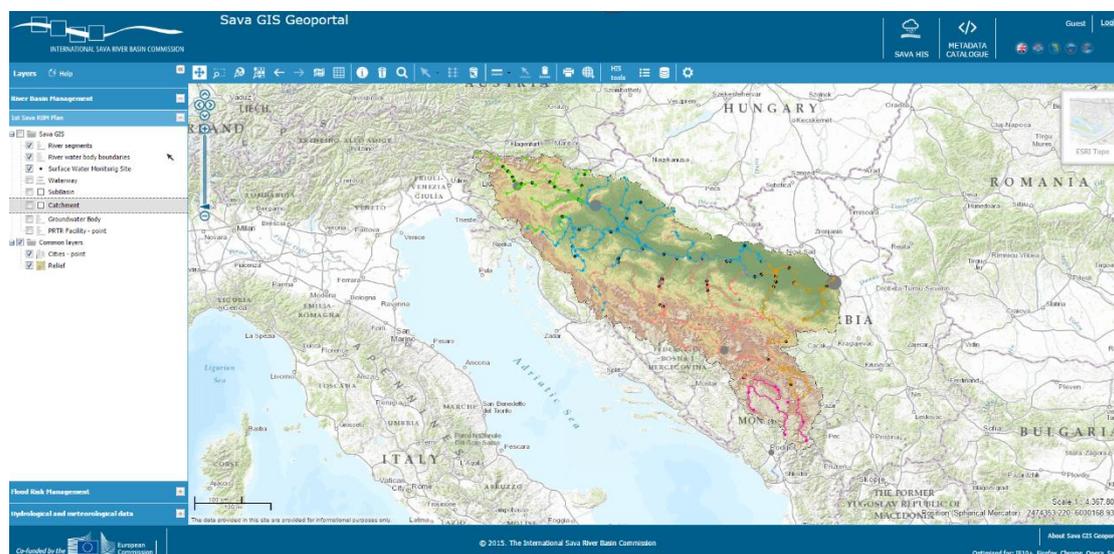


Figure 5. Sava GIS Geoportal – public (accessible via www.savagis.org)

By this accomplishment, Phase 1 – Establishment of the core functionalities of Sava GIS, has been fully implemented, but also many advanced functionalities, planned for Phases 2 and 3 of the GIS development, have been established.

A follow-up project proposal (covering Phases 2 and 3) has been included as a milestone in the road map of PA4 of the EU *Danube Strategy* (project No.10 on “A list” in Annex IV).

3.3. Other development issues

Sustainable river tourism was identified at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties (Belgrade, June 1, 2009) as an area for future work of ISRBC. Since then, a number of activities have been performed in this field, as described in the previous annual reports.

Taking into account the findings of *Feasibility Study and Project Documentation for Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway*, and following the development of the first ever *Nautical and Tourist Guide for the Sava River* in cooperation with the Forum of Chambers of Commerce from the Parties, project proposals for preparation of *Master Plan for the Development of Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin* and *Establishment of Mooring Places for Tourist Vessels along the Sava River* (projects No.1 and 2 on “B list” in Annex IV) have been developed and funding opportunities are being investigated.

Building on *Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* (<http://www.savacommission.org/publication>), developed by ISRBC in 2013, and the project *Transboundary Ecotourism Development using Sava River Basin as a showcase (Sava EcoTour)*, financed through the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects, the Expression of Interest for the project *Wetlands Ecotourism in the Danube River Basin (Danube Wets Ecotour)* was submitted to the 1st call for project proposals within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020, in November 2015. REC (HU) is a Lead Partner and ISRBC is a member of the international consortium consisting of partners from SI, HR, BA, ME, RS, HU, BG and SK. The project proposal addresses small and medium-sized wetlands areas in the Danube River Basin aiming to formulate a long term development framework for enhancing eco-tourism. The decision on approval of the project is expected in autumn 2016. The mentioned activities are also expected to facilitate preparation and implementation of other relevant, basin-wide projects (e.g. projects No.3 and 4 on “B list” in Annex IV).

Keeping in mind a high interest for the development of bicycle lanes along the Sava River, expressed by cities and local communities along the river, preparatory activities for a project on this topic (project No.5 on “B list” in Annex IV) have been undertaken in close coordination with biking associations as direct end-users, which is another example of the combination of the “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches. The Expression of Interest for the project was submitted to the 1st call for project proposals within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (November 2015). In order to promote the project, two international cycling tours, from the Sava source to its mouth, were organized within the Sava Day celebrations in 2013 and 2015 (see Annex VI), and the third one, to be organized within the 2016 celebration, is being prepared.

Efforts have also been made to raise funds for implementation of the projects aimed at development of the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector, and integration of water sub-sectors with spatial planning and development in the Sava River Basin (projects No.6-10 on “B list” in Annex IV).

4. Cooperation, promotion activities and stakeholder involvement

4.1. Cooperation with international organizations and other relevant institutions

Cooperation of ISRBC with a large number of international organizations has been maintained during the reporting period, with a special emphasis on the organizations and institutions specified in Article 5 of *FASRB*.

Cooperation with ICPDR and Danube Commission is formally based on the memoranda of understanding, signed with each of the two commissions, which provide opportunities for a close cooperation and coordination of activities of the commissions. In the reporting period, this coordination has been ensured by means of mutual participation at sessions, expert group meetings and other events of the commissions. In addition, ICPDR directly supported the implementation of Sava HIS by co-financing this activity of ISRBC. The process of implementation of *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, coordinated jointly by ICPDR, DC and ISRBC, together with European Commission, continued by organizing the 6th Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement* (Vienna, September 10-11, 2015).

Cooperation with UNECE has been further intensified. In addition to participation of ISRBC in the framework of the UNECE working groups and other events, the two organizations have cooperated on the implementation of the project *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment for the Sava River Basin* under *Programme of Work 2013-2015* of the UNECE *Water Convention*. On the other hand, ISRBC supported promotion of the UNECE *Water Convention* through presentations of benefits of river basin organizations to other UNECE sub-regions.

Cooperation of ISRBC with European Commission was focused on the finalization of Phase 1 of the Sava GIS establishment, financed from an EC grant to ISRBC. In addition, ISRBC has been actively involved in the implementation of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*, in order to ensure implementation of the *FASRB*-related projects in the framework of the *Danube Strategy*, in the EC initiative on the development of a regionally integrated flood response strategy for BA and RS launched following the May 2014 flood in the Sava River Basin, as well as in the process of drafting the new European legal framework for professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation.

Cooperation with UNESCO is developing progressively. Implementation of the project *Enhancement of the Stakeholder Involvement in the Management of the Sava River Basin*, supported by UNESCO Venice Office and GWP-Med, is under finalization. Implementation of the project *Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, financially supported by the UNESCO Venice Office, has continued. Also, the Regional Workshop on Flood Risk Management measures and Links with WFD (Zagreb, November 11-12, 2015) was organized with support of the UNESCO Venice Office, and in cooperation with WMO and ICPDR.

Cooperation with U.S. Government's institutions has been further developed. In the reporting period, it was focused on the upgrade of the hydrologic and hydraulic models of the Sava River (Basin) with support of USACE, and the implementation of the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*, supported by U.S. Government.

Cooperation is being maintained with other navigation commissions (i.e. CCNR and Mosel Commission), and other river and lake protection commissions (e.g. commissions for the protection of the rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder) from Europe, while an increased interest for cooperation (primarily, for transfer of experience) has been expressed by non-European basin commissions, e.g. from other parts of South-Eastern Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, and South-Eastern Asia.

There has also been a continued cooperation with regional organizations (OSCE, RCC, REC, GWP-Med, GWP CEE), international financial institutions and cooperation agencies (World Bank, GIZ), specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum), and business sector (Coca-Cola). Finally, contacts have been continued with the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia.

4.2. Cooperation with national institutions

A continuous cooperation of ISRBC with the national institutions responsible for implementation of *FASRB*, has taken place in the reporting period. In addition to the cooperation related to the *FASRB* implementation in general, which also included participation of representatives of the Parties in the work of ISRBC's expert groups, a particular attention has been paid to:

- preparatory activities for development of Flood Forecasting and Warning System and *Flood Risk Management Plan* for the Sava River Basin (ministries of the Parties responsible for water management and environment)
- rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River (ministries of the Parties responsible for inland waterway transport)
- preparation of the *FASRB*-related regional projects (all involved ministries), and
- preparatory activities on the organization of the Sava Day celebration and other PR activities related to the *FASRB* implementation (ministries, nominated representatives of the Parties).

Cooperation with representatives of the Parties in the implementing bodies of the EU *Danube Strategy* was continued, in order to coordinate actions of the national representatives and ISRBC within the process of implementation of the *Danube Strategy*.

In addition to the national institutions responsible for implementation of *FASRB*, a cooperation has been kept with other organizations, such as national hydro-meteorological services of the Parties, inland waterway agencies, port master offices, registers of shipping, regional chambers of commerce, tourist organizations, faculties and institutes dealing with natural and technical sciences, all kinds of technologies, nature conservation, etc. A tradition of annual meetings with directors of the NHMSs of the Sava River Basin countries, as well as with captains of port master offices from the basin, has been maintained (see Annex V).

4.3. Promotion activities and stakeholder involvement

Taking into account the significance of stakeholders' involvement within the framework of activities of ISRBC and implementation of *FASRB*, the cooperation with relevant institutions, NGOs and local actors from the Sava River Basin has been continued throughout the reporting period. A broad range of tools for public participation and stakeholder involvement have been developed and applied on three levels (provision of information, consultation, active involvement), as foreseen by European water legislation (Figure 7).

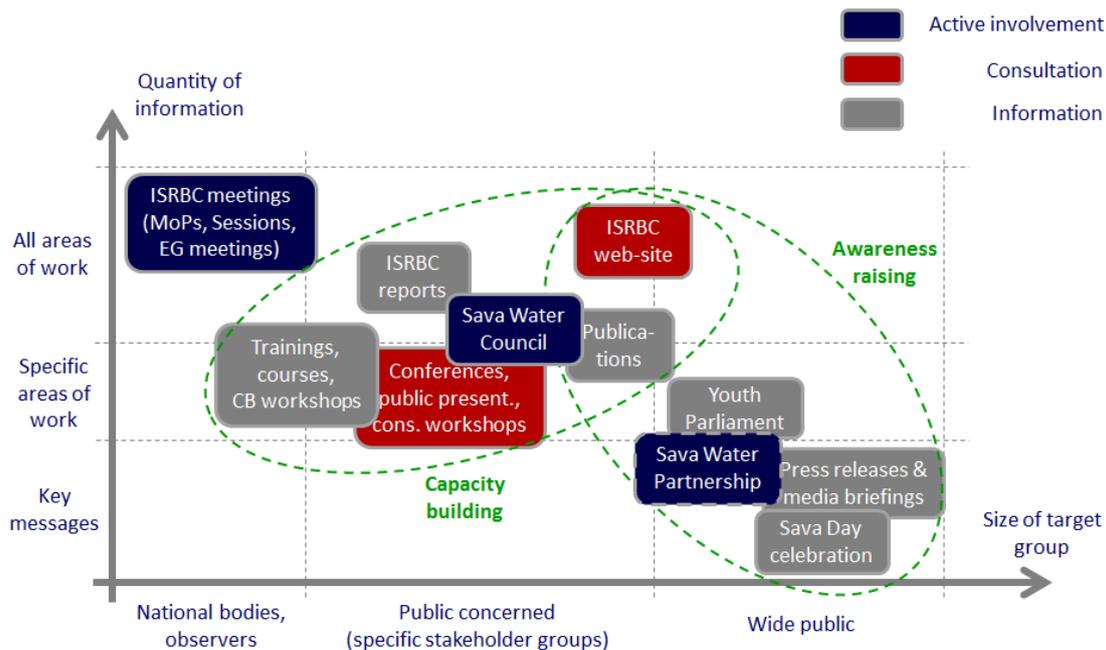


Figure 7. Tools for public participation and stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process

In FY 2015, the information on the *FASRB* implementation was provided to stakeholders and wider public via:

- Trainings, courses and capacity building workshops, organized or co-organized by ISRBC, as listed in Annex V.
- Official web-site of ISRBC (www.savacommission.org), where the information on the activities, projects and documents, are made available to wider public and continuously upgraded with the most recent facts and news.
- Official bulletin of ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash*, issued twice per year as a bilingual publication (in English and one of the official languages of ISRBC). In the reporting period, the issues No.15 to No.16 (Figure 8) were published.
- Reports and publications, including *Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries* (the second, updated edition), the booklet *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* (in English and all official languages of the ISRBC, Figure 9), as well as posters and leaflets, primarily for dissemination within the Sava Day 2015 celebration.
- Contributions to projects, bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/institutions.
- Press-releases and media briefings, e.g. those related to the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava River Basin (Brčko, July 6, 2015), or to the Sava Day celebration.
- Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin, aiming to foster the awareness raising of young population in the basin. To ensure permanent communication with, and among, the youth throughout the year, a special web-site was created in 2015, within the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*, supported by the U.S. Government.
- The Sava Day 2015 celebration (overview of the activities given in Annex VI).



Figure 8. *Sava NewsFlash* No.15 (May 2015) and No.16 (November 2015)

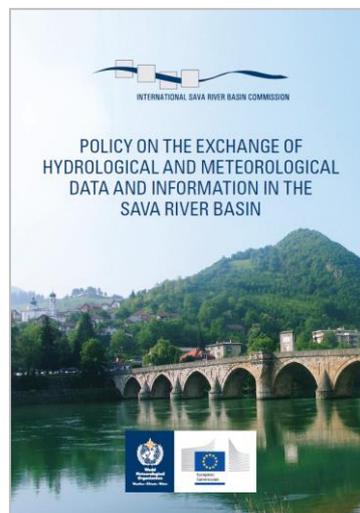


Figure 9. *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* (2015)

The consultation activities have been performed by organizing consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders (listed in Annex V), as well as the consultations on the ISRBC web-site, in regard with the processes such as:

- the 2nd cycle of river basin management planning in the Sava River Basin
- development of Sava GIS and Sava HIS
- implementation of *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, led jointly by ISRBC, ICPDR and Danube Commission,

or with preparation of the documents such as:

- *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin*
- *Report on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment in the Sava River Basin*.

The active involvement of stakeholders has been ensured primarily for the national bodies responsible for the *FASRB* implementation, and the institutions / organizations having the observer status in ISRBC, through their participation at the Meetings of the Parties, sessions of ISRBC, and meetings of the ISRBC expert groups. Based on *Criteria and Procedures for*

granting *Observer status in ISRBC*, Regional Environmental Center (Hungary) was granted the *ad hoc* observer status at ISRBC in the reporting period, while the *ad hoc* observer status of WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme and GWP CEE was renewed.

As an important additional tool for active involvement of stakeholders, foreseen by *Public Participation Plan for the Sava River Basin*, Sava Water Council (SWC) has recently been established within the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*. SWC (Figures 10 and 11) has been established as a standing advisory platform of ISRBC, consisting of representatives from non-governmental, academic and business sectors from all countries of the Sava River Basin. Thus, ISRBC has become the first international basin organization in Europe establishing a permanent advisory platform to further improve the quality of its decisions and recommendations, and the quality of the *FASRB* implementation process, as well.



Figure 10. Logo of Sava Water Council



Figure 11. The first meeting of Sava Water Council (Belgrade, February 18-19, 2016)

Based on *Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the Sava Water Partnership*, which is currently under finalization, possibilities to further strengthen the active involvement of stakeholders, by broadening the multi-stakeholder platform in the Sava River Basin (through the establishment of Sava Water Partnership), will be considered in the near future.

In the reporting period, ISRBC has been invited to present its experiences in public participation and stakeholder involvement at a number of international events, in most cases as the only international basin organization from Europe. This shows that the above-mentioned tools provide a good basis for public participation and stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process. Nevertheless, there still is a room for further improvement of some of the tools. Therefore, ISRBC will keep working on it with the aim to ensure the integrated water resources management of the Sava River Basin and successful implementation of *FASRB*.

5. Legal issues

5.1. FASRB and protocols to FASRB

With the aim to ensure further progress in the FASRB implementation, by introducing the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management and amending the procedure for adoption of *Sava RBM Plan* and *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*, in 2014 ISRBC delivered to the Parties the draft amendments to FASRB and *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB*. Negotiations on final harmonization of the amendments of the mentioned international agreements will be organized depending on readiness of the Parties.

Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB, aimed at regulation of the issues related to sustainable flood protection by means of prevention and/or reduction of flood hazard, by undertaking appropriate measures and activities, along with adequate measures for the environment protection, entered into force on November 27, 2015. According to a provision of the *Protocol*, the Parties should develop a *Flood Risk Management Plan*, which defines the goals of the flood risk management of common interest on the basin level, measures to achieve these goals, mechanisms of coordination on the basin-wide level and a mode of joint cooperation of the Parties in flood defense emergency situations. The bodies responsible for implementation of the *Protocol* have been designated by the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia so far.

Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to FASRB was signed at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties, on June 1, 2009. The *Protocol* is aimed at prevention, control and reduction of pollution originating from vessels, establishment of technical requirements for the equipment of port facilities, and other reception stations, development of the best available techniques, informing and development of spill response measures and monitoring of water quality. So far, the *Protocol* was ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009), the Republic of Croatia (2010) and the Republic of Serbia (2015).

Protocol on Sediment Management to FASRB was signed at the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation, held on July 6, 2015, in Brčko. The *Protocol* has been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, while the required internal procedure in the Republic of Slovenia is in progress. The main objective of the *Protocol* is to facilitate establishment of sustainable sediment management in the basin, by addressing the quality issues such as sediment pollution (including risk assessment), control of source and deposition of polluted sediment, and the quantity issues such as dredging, erosion and torrent control, reservoir sedimentation and morphological changes. It sets out a number of sustainable sediment management principles and suggested sediment management measures. It also stipulates the development of a *Sediment Management Plan* for the basin and outlines the content of the *Plan*.

Protocol on Emergency Situations to FASRB comprises several goals aimed at identification of hazardous activities, their character and possible consequences, prevention, emergency planning and preparedness, adequate alarm and warning system compatible with already existing systems on the wider basin level, assessment of extraordinary impacts, emergency response and mutual assistance of the Parties. *Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations* was adopted by ISRBC in 2009 and distributed to the Parties for final review. Final harmonization of the *Protocol* is expected, depending on readiness of the Parties.

Protocol on Transboundary Impacts to FASRB was initially meant to regulate the issues concerning the measures for securing the integrity of the water regime in the Sava River Basin and elimination or reduction of transboundary impacts on waters of other parties caused by economic and/or other activities. However, in the meantime, *Espoo Convention*, on which the *Protocol* mostly leans, was ratified by all the Parties and the expert consultations were organized to reconsider the actual benefit of the *Draft Protocol*. It was concluded that the *Protocol* in its present form is no longer indispensable as an added value to the already existing mechanisms.

5.2. Administration management and legal support

Under this section of work, a permanent legal support was provided within the work of ISRBC, its working groups and the Secretariat, including organization of ISRBC's sessions, preparatory activities for the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation (Brčko, July 6, 2015), as well as preparation of various types of written documents.

In FY 2015, the attention was also given to analysis of legal documents of ISRBC in terms of functionality of its work and several improvements were made.

Taking into account the experience from the past years, as well as the need to harmonize practice and regulations regarding the ISRBC expert groups, ISRBC revised the terms of references of its expert groups and the composition of their membership, and passed the respective decision accordingly.

Rules of Procedures of ISRBC were upgraded and amended, as well.

In order to improve efficiency of participation of the governmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant factors that could contribute to practical implementation of *FASRB* in the ISRBC work, *Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in ISRBC* were upgraded and amended.

6. Financial issues

6.1. Budget

At the 37th Session of ISRBC (Zagreb, February 24, 2015), the decision on adoption of *Budget of ISRBC for Financial Year 2015* (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016), in the total amount of 535,700.00 Euro, was passed. The adopted *Budget* consists of the regular annual contributions in the amount of 487,960.00 Euro (i.e. 121,990.00 Euro per country), of a transfer from the Reserve Fund in the amount of 27,740.00 Euro, and of a part of the grants for implementation of the ongoing and planned projects, in the amount of 20,000.00 Euro.

The list of the Parties' annual contributions and other inflows into the General Fund, as well as the list of expenses in FY 2015, can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Received regular annual contributions and other inflows for FY 2015 (in Euro)

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Inflows for FY 2015</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	121,990.00 ¹
Croatia	121,990.00 ²
Serbia	121,990.00 ³
Slovenia	121,990.00 ⁴
Total received amount of contributions	487,960.00
Transfer from the Reserve Fund	32,740.00 ⁵
Miscellaneous	17,335.14 ⁶
Total General Fund Inflow	538,035.14

Note: ¹ The contribution was paid on June 17, 2015. ² The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on March 13 and March 27, 2015. ³ The contribution was paid in two parts, on May 12, 2015. ⁴ The contribution was paid on April 29, 2015. ⁵ Transferred amount for covering unexpected expenditures. ⁶ A part of the US GOV, the UNESCO and the GWP CEE grant funds for implementation of projects.

Table 2. Expenditures per basic intention in FY 2015 (in Euro)

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures</i> ¹
Staff salaries and allowances	437.860,84
Current costs	31.389,09
Travel expenses	23.542,30
Operational costs	23.030,59
Equipment	1.384,58
Total expenditures	517.207,40 ²

Note: ¹ The amount of expenditures on March 31, 2016. ² In accordance with Financial Rules of ISRBC, the rest of the General Fund shall be allocated to the Reserve Fund.

The budget items of the General Fund are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts, making a 97% realization of the planned amount.

6.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

In FY 2015, the total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund was 135,459.81 Euro. The received funds were intended for implementation of the projects:

- Support to ISRBC in the development of Sava GIS (EC grant)

-
- *Hydrological Information System of ISRBC (Sava HIS) (grants of ICPDR and Finnish Meteorological Institute)*
 - *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin (UNDP B&H grant)*
 - *Sava Nexus Assessment (UNECE grant)*
 - *Workshop on Flood Risk Management Measures & Links to EU WFD (grants of UNESCO and WMO)*
 - *Establishment of Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River (UNESCO grant), and*
 - *Towards the Assessment of Ecological Status of Water Bodies in the Sava River Basin (STAWA) (START – Danube Region Project Fund grant).*

The total expenditures of Special and Trust Fund during FY 2015 were 222,461.85 Euro, the main part of this amount for implementation of the projects:

- *Support to ISRBC in the development of Sava GIS*
- *Hydrological Information System of ISRBC (Sava HIS)*
- *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*
- *Sava Nexus Assessment*
- *Workshop on Flood Risk Management Measures & Links to EU WFD*
- *Establishment of Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River, and*
- *Towards the Assessment of Ecological Status of Water Bodies in the Sava River Basin (STAWA).*

6.3. Other activities

During the FY 2015, the implementation of internal and external financial management continued. Audit of the financial management of ISRBC in FY 2014 has been performed, and ISRBC took note on *Report on the Audit* at the 39th Session.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. List of the ISRBC members and deputy members

No.	Name and surname	Function	Institution
Bosnia and Herzegovina			
1.	Enisa Babić	Member to ISRBC (temporary)	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.	Savo Gluvić	Deputy Member to ISRBC	WMC "SAVA" Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Republic of Croatia			
3.	Igor Butorac	Member to ISRBC, <i>until February 11, 2016</i>	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
4.	Janko Brnardić	Member to ISRBC, <i>as of February 11, 2016</i>	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
5.	Dražen Kurečić	Deputy Member to ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia
Republic of Serbia			
6.	Nataša Milić	Member to ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
7.	Leposava Sojić	Deputy Member to ISRBC	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia
Republic of Slovenia			
8.	Mitja Bricelj	Chairman, Member to ISRBC	Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
9.	Robert Kojc	Deputy Member to ISRBC, <i>until December 23, 2015</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
10.	Marko Sotlar	Deputy Member to ISRBC, <i>as of December 23, 2015</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

ANNEX II. List of the ISRBC expert groups and the overview of their meetings held in FY 2015

The following expert groups have been active during the reporting period:

- Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM)
- Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC)
- Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP)
- Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV)
- Permanent Expert Group for GIS (PEG GIS)
- Permanent Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues (PEG HMI)
- *Ad hoc* Expert Group for RIS (*Ah* RIS EG)
- *Ad hoc* Legal Expert Group (*Ah* L EG)
- *Ad hoc* Financial Expert Group (*Ah* FIN EG).

According to *FASRB*, the expert groups are envisaged as the official platform for provision of assistance, guidance and coordination to all activities of ISRBC related to the implementation of *FASRB*. It also means that all relevant papers, documents and proposals prepared by the Secretariat are to pass an evaluation of the expert groups prior to submission to ISRBC for approval.

The following meetings of the expert groups were held in FY 2015:

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue
1.	18 th PEG NAV Meeting	15-16 Jun 2015	Zagreb
2.	29 th PEG RBM Meeting	17-18 Jun 2015	Zagreb
3.	12 th <i>Ah</i> GIS EG Meeting	1 Jul 2015	Zagreb
4.	27 th PEG FP Meeting	9-10 Sep. 2015	Zagreb
5.	13 th <i>Ah</i> GIS EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb
6.	11 th <i>Ah</i> HM EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb
7.	20 th PEG APC Meeting	6 Oct. 2015	Zagreb
8.	30 th PEG RBM Meeting	5-6 Nov. 2015	Zagreb
9.	9 th <i>Ah</i> FIN EG Meeting	17 Dec. 2015	Zagreb
10.	28 th PEG FP Meeting	26-27 Jan. 2016	Zagreb
11.	12 th <i>Ah</i> HM EG Meeting	1 Feb. 2016	Zagreb

ANNEX III. List of the FASRB-related projects implemented, ongoing or launched in FY 2015

Project title		Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
River Basin Management							
Water – food – energy – ecosystems nexus assessment for the Sava river basin	UNECE	18 months	Implemented	Jan 2014 – Jun 2015	UNECE	~ 50.0	UNECE
	Danube Nexus	2 years	Ongoing	Started in Jan 2014. Expected to be finalized by Jun 2016	EC Joint Res. Centre	~ 50.0	EC
Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin		1 year	Implemented	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016	Institute for Biological Research „Siniša Stanković“, Belgrade, RS	~ 35.0	EC (EUSDR)
Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase		~ 2.5 years	Ongoing	Started in Apr 2012; Step 1 (out of 5) implemented; Step 2 under implementation; Step 3: fund-raising in progress	UNESCO, ISRBC	225.0	UNESCO (ISI, IHP, Venice Office), Sed-Net, Deltares, VMM, BRGM, HAW
Flood Management							
2 nd phase of the USG support to flood modelling activities in the Sava river basin		~ 2 years	Ongoing	Started in Dec 2014	USACE, ISRBC	N/A	USG
Improvement of joint flood management actions in the Sava river basin	Preparation of the FRM Plan	30 months	Ongoing	Preparatory steps under way		2,000.0	WBIF
	Development of the FFWS	30 months	Ongoing	Selection of the consultant procedure under finalization			
Navigation Development							
Web application for Navigation Safety Inspection Support System		4 months	Implemented	Nov 2015 – Mar 2016	IT Cooperative, Varaždin, HR	3.8	ISRBC
EIA study and Detailed design of the Sava river waterway (Section Brčko – Sisak)		~ 2 years	Ongoing	Review of preliminary documentation done; Development of detailed design pending	Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd., US (Review); Witteveen+Bos, NL (Design)	2,125.0	EC (IPA HR)
						375.0	HR

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
Demining and project documentation (EIA study and detailed design) of the Sava river waterway (Section Belgrade – Brčko)	~ 2 years	Ongoing	Implementation pending	AECOM, ES (Study); VPB and IGH, HR (Design)	5,270.0	EC (IPA BA)
Implementation of RIS on the Sava river	3 years	Ongoing	In Serbia, implemented	Plovput, RS	~ 1,100.0	EC
			In Croatia, implementation started in August 2015	RGO komunikacije, HR	1,360.0	EC (IPA HR)
			In B&H, fund-raising in progress		240.0	HR
Rehabilitation of the Port of Brčko		Ongoing	Started in 2012. The project documentation developed. Negotiations on the financing of works pending.		5,800.0	World Bank
Information Management						
Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – 1 st implementation phase	4 years	Implemented	1 st part: May 2010 – Aug 2012 2 nd part: Feb 2014 – Dec 2015	IN2 Ltd., Zagreb & IGEA Ltd., Varaždin, HR	168.0	EC
					22.0	ISRBC
Hydrological and Meteorological Issues						
Establishment of the Sava HIS	9 months	Implemented	Mar 2015 – Jan 2016	IN2 Ltd., Zagreb & IGEA Ltd., Varaždin, HR	20.0	EC / ICPDR
					17.0	Finnish Government
					5.0	ISRBC
Rehabilitation and modernization of the HM observing network and data exchange procedures in RS and BA	2 years	Ongoing	Started in Jan 2015	Finnish Meteorological Institute, FI	~ 400.0	Finnish Government
Climate Change Issues						
Water and climate adaptation plan for the Sava river basin	6 years	Implemented	Jun 2009 – Aug 2015	World Bank	~ 240.0 (~ 300 k\$)	World Bank

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement						
Enhancement of the stakeholder involvement in the management of the Sava river basin – Towards the establishment of the Sava Water Partnership	9 months	Implemented	Nov 2010 – Dec 2015; Final report to be submitted	GWP-Med	~ 50.0	UNESCO, EC, GWP-Med
Strengthening public participation and stakeholder involvement in the Sava river basin	18 months	Ongoing	Started in Dec 2014; Ending in Jun 2016	ISRBC	47.5	USG, USAID

ANNEX IV. List of the planned *FASRB*-related projects**Projects directly linked to the main objectives of *FASRB* („A list“)**

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
Navigation Development						
1	Construction works for the rehabilitation of the Sava River waterway	5-6 years	Development of detailed design in progress	~ 85,000	IPA, WB, EBRD	Following the design finalization
2	Establishment of the system for collection, treatment and disposal of hazardous and ship waste on the Sava River	~ 5 years	Project idea available	~ 4,000	IPA, IPF	Following the estab. of a new legal and financial framework, proposed by <i>COWANDA</i> project
River Basin Management						
3	Examination of biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin	2 years	Project proposal available; Granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4; A „quick start“ project <i>STAWA</i> , financed within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’, is under implementation	1,490	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured
4	Towards sustainable sediment management in the Sava River Basin	~ 2.5 years	Project idea granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4	~ 1,500	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	
5	Protection and sustainable use of water resources from alluvial aquifers in the Sava River Basin	~ 2 years	Project idea granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4	~ 1,500	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	
6	Preparation of the 2 nd Sava RBM Plan	~ 4 years	Project idea included as Milestone No.8 in Road Map of Action 2 in the EUSDR PA4	/	EU funds, GEF	

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
Accident Prevention and Control						
7	Water pollution contingency management plan for the Sava river basin	2.5 years	Project proposal available; Granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA5; Project application submitted in response to the 1 st DTP call	1,400	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured
Information Management						
8	Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – 2 nd and 3 rd implementation phases	~ 3 years (Phase 2)	Project idea included as Milestone No.5 in Road Map of Action 3 („Support to data collection systems developed by the ICPDR“) in the EUSDR PA4	/	EU funds, GEF	
Hydrological and Meteorological Issues						
9	Hydrological study for the Sava river basin	2.5 years	Detailed programme (ToR) available; Granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4	~ 1,250	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured

Other regional projects beneficial for the implementation of *FASRB* („B list“)

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
River Tourism Development						
1	Master Plan for development of nautical tourism in the Sava river basin	~ 1 year	Project fiche available	500 - 1,000	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	
2	Setup of pontoon network for touristic vessels along the Sava river	~ 1 year	Project proposal available	~ 500	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured
3	Master Plan for development of eco-tourism in the Sava river basin	~ 1 year	<i>Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin</i> available; Technical assistance for preparation of further steps (<i>Sava Ecotour</i>) finished; Application for the project <i>Wetlands Ecotourism in the Danube River Basin</i> submitted in response to the 1 st DTP call	~ 500	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	
4	Establishment of an ‘eco-mark’ for the Sava river basin	6 months	<i>Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin</i> available	~ 100	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	
5	Development of bike lanes along the Sava river	/	Project proposal for Phase 1 (development of the initial concept) available; Project application submitted in response to the 1 st DTP call	~ 75 (Phase 1)	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	Ready for implementation (Phase 1) as soon as funding is ensured
Development of Small and Medium Enterprises						
6	Development of infrastructure for food production and fish farming in the Sava river basin	/	/	/	WBIF	
7	Development of infrastructure for waste water and manure treatment in the Sava river basin	/	/	/	WBIF	
8	Development of small hydropower plants in the Sava river basin	/	/	/	WBIF	

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
9	Development of small shipyards and small ports/marinas in the Sava river basin	/	/	/	WBIF	
Spatial Development						
10	Integrated spatial development concept for the Sava river basin	/	Project idea available	/	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	

ANNEX V. List of the meetings with stakeholders, organized or co-organized by ISRBC in FY 2015

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
1.	Meeting with national institutions of the Parties on the implementation of the flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava river basin	7 May 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
2.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the Sava GIS project	8 May 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
3.	Consultation workshop on the Sava Nexus Assessment	25 May 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC, UNECE
4.	Visit of a delegation from the Central Asian countries to the ISRBC	27 May – 2 Jun 2015	Zagreb, Bihać, Sisak, Lonj. polje	ISRBC, GIZ
5.	The 4 th Meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin	29-30 May 2015	Bihać	ISRBC, NP Una
6.	Start of the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	29 May 2015	Zelenci (Kranjska Gora)	City of Kranjska Gora, ISRBC
7.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	30 May 2015	Ljubljana	City of Ljubljana, ISRBC
8.	Sava fair (within the project „Our beautiful Sava“)	30-31 May 2015	Zagreb	Coca-Cola HBC HR, MA and MMATI HR, ISRBC, other partners
9.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	1 Jun 2015	Sisak; NP „Lonjsko polje“, Krapje	Tourist Assoc. Sisak, NP „Lonjsko polje“, ISRBC
10.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	2 Jun 2015	Gradiška	Municipality of Gradiška, ISRBC
11.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	3 Jun 2015	Slavonski Brod	City of Slavon. Brod, ISRBC
12.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	4 Jun 2015	Odžak, Brčko	Odžak, Brčko District, ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
13.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	5 Jun 2015	Sremska Mitrovica	Municipality of Sr. Mitrovica, ISRBC
14.	End of the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	6 Jun 2015	Belgrade	Rep. Water Direct., PWC Srbijavode, ISRBC
15.	Meeting with national institutions of the Parties on the implementation of the flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava river basin	10 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
16.	18 th PEG NAV Meeting	15-16 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
17.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the Sava GIS project	16 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
18.	29 th PEG RBM Meeting	17-18 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
19.	Workshop on stakeholders' participation in the 2 nd Sava RBM planning cycle	18 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC, GWP CEE
20.	12 th Ah GIS EG Meeting	1 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
21.	Kick-off meeting on the establishment of the Sava HIS	1 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
22.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the project <i>Towards practical guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava river basin as a showcase</i>	2-3 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
23.	Ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava river basin	6 Jul 2015	Brčko	ISRBC
24.	38 th Session of the ISRBC	6-7 Jul 2015	Brčko	ISRBC
25.	Meeting on the implementation of the STAWA project	9 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
26.	Workshop on the sediment monitoring on the Sava river	3-4 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
27.	27 th PEG FP Meeting	9-10 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
28.	6 th Meeting on implementation of the <i>Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube Basin</i>	10-11 Sep. 2015	Vienna	DC, ICPDR, ISRBC
29.	2 nd Sava GIS Workshop	21 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
30.	13 th Ah GIS EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
31.	11 th Ah HM EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
32.	20 th PEG APC Meeting	6 Oct. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
33.	Presentation of the <i>Manual for Navigation on the Sava River</i>	9 Oct. 2015	Belgrade	Fac. for Transport and Traffic Eng. Belgrade, MCTI RS, ISRBC
34.	39 th Session of the ISRBC	19-20 Oct. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
35.	10 th Meeting of the Captains from the Portmaster Offices from the Sava river	28-29 Oct. 2015	Sisak	ISRBC, MMATI HR
36.	30 th PEG RBM Meeting	5-6 Nov. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
37.	Workshop on Flood Risk Management measures and links with WFD	11-12 Nov. 2015	Zagreb	UNESCO, WMO, ICPDR, ISRBC
38.	5 th Conference on regulation and multipurpose use of the Sava river	3-4 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	NGO „Slap“, ISRBC and other org.

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
39.	Training on the use of Sava GIS	9 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
40.	Training on the use of Sava HIS	10 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
41.	40 th Session of the ISRBC	14 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
42.	9 th Ah FIN EG Meeting	17 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
43.	Presentation of Sava GIS and Sava HIS	21 Dec. 2015	Ljubljana	MOP SI, ISRBC
44.	Study tour to Croatia for members of the Sava Water Council from B&H and Serbia	17-19 Jan. 2016	Zagreb, Lonjsko polje	NGO „Slap“, ISRBC
45.	28 th PEG FP Meeting	26-27 Jan. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC
46.	Consultation Workshop „Sava Nexus Assessment – Lessons Learned and Further Steps“	28 Jan. 2016	Sarajevo	ISRBC, UNECE
47.	National Consultation Workshop „Sava Nexus Assessment – Lessons Learned and Further Steps“	29 Jan. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC, UNECE
48.	12 th Ah HM EG Meeting	1 Feb. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC
49.	Workshop in the framework of the STAWA project	10-12 Feb. 2016	Ljubljana	ISRBC
50.	41 st Session of the ISRBC	17-18 Feb. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC
51.	1 st meeting of the Sava Water Council	18-19 Feb. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC
52.	Meeting with Directors of NHMSs from the Sava River Basin	23 Feb. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
53.	Training on the Accident Emergency Warning System for officials from the Sava River Basin countries	16 Mar. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC

ANNEX VI. Overview of the activities performed within the Sava Day 2015 celebration

The celebration of the Sava Day 2015, that took place in the period from May 29 to July 3, 2015, included the events directly organized by ISRBC, and the events organized through national projects of the Parties (e.g. social responsibility projects of the Coca Cola company).

The central events organized by ISRBC were the 4th meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin, and the 2nd International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“ (Figures 12 and 13).



Figure 12. Posters announcing the events organized by ISRBC within the Sava Day 2015 celebration



Figure 13. Logos of the Youth Parliament Meeting 2015 and the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“

Meetings of the Youth Parliament are organized traditionally, as gatherings of scholars from secondary schools from the Parties, with the main aim to raise awareness of the young population about outstanding environmental values and economic potential, possibilities of water use, the importance of the water and aquatic ecosystem protection, as well as the importance of transboundary water cooperation, in the basin.

The Youth Parliament Meeting 2015 – the 4th gathering of scholars – was organized on May 29-30, 2015, in Bihać, with support of the U.S. Government (through the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*), UNDP B&H and Coca Cola HBC for Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. About 50 scholars and teachers from 8 secondary schools from the Parties were brought together at the event. The participating schools were selected based on results of the photo-contest *Live with the River and on the*

River, organized by ISRBC to raise the youth awareness on natural beauties of the Sava River and its tributaries, environmental risks associated with human activity, as well as the need for life and economic development in harmony with nature, using photographs as a medium.

In addition to presentation and exhibition of the best photos, a strategy and action plan of the Youth Parliament for the next year, as well as possibilities to improve communication among the youth by using modern technologies, were considered at the meeting. The information on the meeting was disseminated through a number of media and web portals in the Parties. Currently, preparatory activities for the 5th meeting of the Parliament are going on.

The second International Cycling Tour along the Sava River – „Sava 2015“ – was held from May 29 to June 6, 2015. The 9-day tour, 962 km long, included the whole course of the Sava River, from the source of the Sava Dolinka River to the mouth of the Sava River. The core group, consisting of six experienced cyclists from the four countries, drove the whole distance, whereas other cyclists and citizens were joining the group at certain sections. The main objectives of the Tour were to promote the potential for development of the bicycle routes along the Sava and other types of sustainable river tourism, as well as to disseminate the key messages associated with the Sava Day celebration. Accordingly, events and gatherings of the cyclists with representatives of local authorities and citizens were organized (by the local authorities) at 20 locations along the Sava River, including all major cities in the four countries located along the river. Beside the media coverage of the events, a special addition was created on the ISRBC web-site, providing all relevant information on the Tour, including brief reports of the cyclists and the photos taken within the Tour. Additionally, a video of the whole Tour has been prepared and posted on the ISRBC web-site.

In addition to the events organized by ISRBC, a number of activities were performed through national projects of the Parties, in which ISRBC was involved as a partner or a guest, depending on the type of a project:

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the 4th Youth Parliament meeting was held, an important contribution to the organization of the event was provided by the “Una” National Park and the Medical School from Bihać. In addition, the ecological rafting regatta along the Vrbas and Sava rivers (from Banja Luka to Belgrade), along with various events in cities along the rivers, was organized from September 22 to October 8, 2015, by the Rafting Club “Canyon” from Banja Luka, to promote rafting and river tourism, as well as strengthen bonds between municipalities and cities in the basin.
- In Croatia, the implementation of the project *Our Beautiful Sava*, financed by Coca-Cola HBC Croatia, has continued. In the 7th year of the project implementation, the number of the project partners further increased to over 45 organizations and institutions (including the Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of maritime affairs, transport and infrastructure, Coca-Cola HBC Croatia, and ISRBC), indicating a continuously growing success of the project. Based on a similar concept as in the previous years, the project included four Sava fairs (Zagreb, Sisak, Županja and Slavonski Brod), visited by more than 20000 people (according to Coca-Cola). In addition to media coverage, the information on the events has also been disseminated through the project web-site and “facebook” network.
- In Serbia, the celebration included a broad range of activities, performed at several locations on the Sava River, marking also the beginning of the Danube Day 2015 celebration in Serbia. The events, organized by the Directorate for water of the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management in cooperation with local NGOs and civil sector, included cleaning of the river banks, ecological educative

workshops and artistic workshops for scholars of primary and secondary schools, as well as educative presentations for young population and citizens in general. The events were promoted or shown in national, regional and local media, as well as on web-sites of a number of institutions and organizations in Serbia.

- In Slovenia, the implementation of the social responsibility project *Mojareka.si*, financed by Coca-Cola HBC Slovenia, was continued. In 2015, the project included a competition of scholars of primary and secondary schools for the best stand-up show “Sustainable Development (health, nature, economy)”.

ISRBC was represented at most of the above mentioned events. It is important to note a good cooperation between ISRBC and organizers of the events in the Parties, which contributes to the overall quality of the Sava Day celebration.

Within the celebration, a number of promotion publications and a wide range of promotion articles of ISRBC were distributed.

ANNEX VII. List of acronyms

AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
APC	Accident Prevention and Control
BA, B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières, France
BG	Republic of Bulgaria
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
CESNI	European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation
<i>CEVNI</i>	<i>European Code for Navigation</i>
CO	Country Office
<i>COWANDA</i>	The <i>WANDA</i> follow-up project
DC	Danube Commission
DTP	Danube Transnational Programme
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EG	Expert Group (of ISRBC)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Kingdom of Spain
<i>Espoo Convention</i>	<i>UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</i>
EU	European Union
EUSDR	<i>EU Strategy for the Danube Region (Danube Strategy)</i>
<i>FASRB</i>	<i>Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin</i>
FFWS	Flood Forecasting and Warning System
FIN	Financial (issues)
FP	Flood Prevention
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FY	Financial Year of ISRBC
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP CEE	Regional Partnership of GWP for Central and Eastern Europe
GWP-Med	Mediterranean Regional Partnership of GWP

HAW	Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
HBC	Hellenic Bottling Company
HIS	Hydrological Information System
HM(I)	Hydrological and Meteorological (issues)
HR	Republic of Croatia
HU	Hungary
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IPF	Infrastructure Projects Facility (for the Western Balkans)
ISI	International Sediment Initiative
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
JRC	Joint Research Center (of EC)
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MA HR	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia
MCTI RS	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia
ME	Montenegro
MMATI HR	Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
MOP SI	Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
NAV	Navigation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
NL	The Netherlands
NP	Nature Park / National Park
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Priority Area (of the EU <i>Strategy for the Danube Region</i>)
PEG	Permanent Expert Group (of ISRBC)
PR	Public Relations
Q	Quarter of a year
RBM	River Basin Management
RBMP	<i>River Basin Management Plan</i>
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council

REC	Regional Environmental Center
RIS	River Information Service
RO	Romania
RS	Republic of Serbia
SedNet	European Sediment Network
SEE	South East Europe
SI	Republic of Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
SRBA	Sava River Basin Analysis
<i>STAWA</i>	<i>Project Towards the Assessment of Ecological Status of Water Bodies in the Sava River Basin</i>
SWC	Sava Water Council
SWMI	Significant Water Management Issues
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
U.S.	United States (of America)
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USG	U.S. Government
VMM	Flemish Environment Agency, Belgium
<i>WANDA</i>	<i>Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube</i>
<i>WATCAP</i>	<i>Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin</i>
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
<i>WFD</i>	<i>Water Framework Directive (of EU)</i>
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund