INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

REPORT
on IMPLEMENTATION of FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT on the SAVA RIVER BASIN and WORK of ISRBC for the Period August 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016

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FOREWORD

At the beginning I would like to emphasize that in 2015, ISRBC celebrated its 10th anniversary. Once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the establishment and operation of this extremely important international body in the Sava River Basin.

Why is ISRBC an extremely important international body?

Above all, I believe that its exceptional importance lies in the fact that ISRBC's operation enabled cooperation of four countries in the Sava River Basin, leading to efficient solutions that would not be possible without cross-border cooperation. They include: rehabilitation of navigation, reduced pressures and impacts and sustainable development of the Sava River Basin. As one of the most important achievements in 2015, I would like to highlight the implementation of *Protocol on Flood Protection*. It represents an extremely important legal basis which allows cross-border planning and implementation of harmonised measures.

Moreover, together with the *Protoco*l, ISRBC also developed modern technical tools – Sava GIS and Sava HIS, allowing the Parties to *FASRB* the modernisation of the national systems to increase the efficiency in reducing the flood risk. A modern early flood warning system is also in preparation, in order to establish a complex system for reducing vulnerability of life and material damage along the international river. Therefore, active participation of representatives of national institutions, connected through ISRBC, is essential. This is a very concrete contribution to security and stability of the region, representing a starting point for development.

Cooperation of the Parties to *FASRB* under ISRBC provides entirely new development opportunities for the countries in the context of implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies. This was recognised at the ministerial meeting of the Parties to *FASRB* in Brčko (July 2015) by a decision that the said experience should also be used in the EU *Adriatic-Ionian Strategy* (EU*SAIR*).

The Sava Water Council is a breakthrough, progress and a new opportunity for integration of economy and local communities in finding the appropriate solutions to improve the quality of life along the international river within the preparation of *Sava River Basin Management Plan* in the second planning cycle according to the EU *Water Framework Directive*.

In cooperation with the European Commission, Slovenia will organise the Mediterranean Coast Week (Izola/Koper, 25-30 September 2016) entitled "Synergies between the EU Macro-Regional Strategies" (EU*SDR*/EU*SAIR*/EU*SALP*), aiming to show good practices in the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies. The implementation of *FASRB* with the above-mentioned achievements is certainly an example of good practice and a reference worth following. Therefore, you are sincerely welcome to attend this event to find new synergies for improving the quality of life in the international basins of the Sava River and of the Adriatic Sea.

Dr. Mitja Bricelj, the Chairman

I Introduction

According to Article 14 of *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin* (*FASRB*), International Sava River Basin Commission (hereinafter: ISRBC) is supposed to submit a report on implementation of *FASRB* and its work to the Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties (MoP) is foreseen to be held at least once every two years with the aim to review the work and actions of ISRBC, make decisions based on proposals and recommendations of ISRBC, consider and adopt proposals of new protocols and amendments to *FASRB*, and consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for fulfillment of purposes of *FASRB*. At the Meetings of the Parties, not only the process of implementation of *FASRB* and the work of ISRBC are reviewed and discussed, but directions for the future work are determined, as well.

This *Report* outlines the main achievements in the *FASRB* implementation made so far, focusing on the activities and results of ISRBC in the period as of August 1, 2014, to March 31, 2016.

Five meetings of the Parties have been held so far (Zagreb, June 1, 2007; Belgrade, June 1, 2009; Brdo, May 31 – June 1, 2011; Sarajevo, May 31, 2013; Zagreb, December 2, 2014). Two ministerial meetings were held in the reporting period (Figure 1), namely the 5th Meeting of the Parties and the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation (Brčko, July 6, 2015). The latter event was organized to discuss current issues of the *FASRB* implementation, and to review the progress in the field of flood protection, that was made based on the outcomes of the ministerial meeting on regional cooperation on flood protection (Belgrade, June 16, 2014). These meetings certainly represent the benchmarks for the progress accomplished.

Figure 1. The 5th Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Zagreb, December 2, 2014) and the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava River Basin (Brčko, July 6, 2015)

The main accomplishments toward the achievement of the *FASRB* objectives, made during the reporting 20-month period, include:

- approval of *Sava RBM Plan* (at the 5th MoP)
- 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 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 permanent 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* (EU*SDR*), so the level of external funding is expected to be 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. These, as well as other, challenges and obstacles for the implementation process are addressed in the *Report*.

Monitoring of the *FASRB* implementation process has continued on the basis of *Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of FASRB*, which introduces a set of principles, and a reporting mechanism harmonized with the reporting obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements. An important element of the reporting mechanism is the preparation of *Country Reports on Implementation of FASRB* and their submission to ISRBC by the Parties. According to the *Methodology*, integral versions of the *Country Reports* are made available to wide public on ISRBC's web-site (www.savacommission.org).

The *Fifth Country Reports on Implementation of the FASRB*, recently prepared by the Parties, provided a valuable additional input to ISRBC for the preparation of this *Report*. To make the best use of this input, this *Report* is structured, to a great extent, in line with the *Country Reports*, addressing the main issues relevant for the implementation of *FASRB* and the work of ISRBC. For completeness, annexes are attached to the *Report*, providing the lists of national authorities and bodies responsible for implementation of *FASRB* (Annex I) and representatives of ISRBC (Annex II), as well as overviews of the ISRBC sessions (Annex III), the *FASRB*-related projects (Annexes IV and V), relevant international agreements (Annex VI), and the public participation and stakeholders involvement activities performed within the reporting period (Annexes VII and VIII).

II *FASRB* and ISRBC

Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (*FASRB*) was signed on December 3, 2002, at Kranjska Gora, and entered into force on December 29, 2004. It represents a unique international agreement that integrates all aspects of the water resources management and establishes ISRBC for the implementation of the *Agreement*.

The key objective of *FASRB* is the establishment and maintenance of transboundary cooperation in the Sava River Basin in order to provide conditions for sustainable development of the region. In particular, the *Agreement* aims at the establishment of:

- international regime of navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries
- sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin, and
- sustainable management of hazards in the Basin, such as floods, droughts, ice and accidents involving the water pollution.

The basic principles stipulated by *FASRB* include:

- cooperation based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and good faith in order to achieve the goals of *FASRB*, as well as based on regular exchange of information within the basin, cooperation with international organizations, and being in accordance with the EU *WFD*, and
- reasonable and equitable use of the water resources, applying measures aimed at securing the integrity of the water regime in the basin and reduction of transboundary impacts caused by economic and other activities of the Parties, and respecting the "no harm rule".

There are two peculiarities associated with *FASRB*:

- it is the first multilateral agreement in this region, signed after *Dayton Peace Agreement* and *Agreement on Succession Issues*,
- by involving the whole of water resources management and addressing both sustainability and development issues, and thus integrating environmental protection in economic sectors, *FASRB* provides ISRBC with the broadest scope of work among international basin organizations in Europe.

FASRB is implemented by the officially nominated national authorities of the Parties, listed in Annex I to this *Report*. The implementation is coordinated by ISRBC, which is the joint institution established as an international organization, with the international legal capacity necessary for exercising its functions, and with the permanent Secretariat as its executive body. It consists of two representatives of each Party, one member and one deputy member (Annex II), having one vote in ISRBC. It is mandated with a number of tasks and responsibilities as specified in Annex I to *FASRB – Statute of ISRBC*, and is given capacity for making decisions in the field of navigation and providing recommendations on all other issues. A valuable support to ISRBC is provided by 6 permanent and 3 *ad hoc* expert groups established by ISRBC, which are active at the moment.

ISRBC held 41 sessions since its establishment on June 27, 2005, in Zagreb. Within the reporting period (August 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016), 6 sessions of ISRBC were held, as briefly summarized in Annex III to this *Report*. Since June 2014, the Chairmanship of ISRBC has been held by the Republic of Slovenia (Dr. Mitja Bricelj, as the Chairman).

Based on *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between ISRBC and Montenegro*, there is a permanent cooperation with Montenegro on technical level, as a transitional step until the expected full membership of Montenegro in ISRBC.

A basis for harmonized and efficient implementation of *FASRB* is provided by *Strategy on Implementation of FASRB* and the accompanying *Action Plan for the Period 2011-2015*. The *Strategy* illustrates specific objectives of the *FASRB* implementation and measures for their achievement, while the *Action Plan* outlines the activities and the corresponding deadlines related to development of strategic plans (such as *RBM Plan* and *Flood Risk Management Plan*) and integrated systems (GIS, RIS, flood forecasting and warning system, and accident emergency warning system) for the Sava River Basin, as well as the improvement of infrastructure and safety of navigation, and the development of tourism on the Sava River. The documents also provide a basis for development of annual work plans of ISRBC and the corresponding programmes of work of the expert groups.

Progress in the implementation of *FASRB* is illustrated in the following chapters of the *Report*.

III Implementation of *FASRB*

III.1 Water Management

1. River basin management

Sava River Basin Management Plan (*Sava RBM Plan*), prepared in line with the EU *Water Framework Directive* (EU *WFD*) under coordination of ISRBC, certainly presents a key milestone in cooperation of the Parties to *FASRB*. Development of *Sava RBM Plan*, required by Article 12 of *FASRB*, represents the most important task in reaching one of the ultimate goals of *FASRB* – establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin. On the basis of consensus of all Parties, the *Plan* was approved at the 5th Meeting of the Parties to *FASRB*, held in December 2014. The Parties also strongly supported ongoing activities related to the second cycle of RBM planning, which started even before the official endorsement of the first *Plan*.

Preparation of the second Sava River Basin Analysis is well underway and it will be completed in 2016. A review of significant water management issues (SWMI) in the Sava River Basin is also being done. The SWMI paper includes a brief interim overview of implementation of measures by the Sava countries. The document will be posted on the web for public consultation, after approval of ISRBC, and completed thereafter.

The sediment management related activities are being performed within the project *Towards the Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, which is a cooperative effort associating UNESCO Venice Office, ISRBC, European Sediment Network (SedNet) and UNESCO-IHP International Sediment Initiative (ISI), with the main objective to develop and validate a practical guidance to achieve a *Sediment Management Plan* on the river basin scale. Building on the previous outcomes of the project, i.e. Training Course on Sustainable Sediment Management in the Sava River Basin – Part I (October 2012), *Guidance on Sustainable Sediment Management in the Sava River Basin – Part I* (2013), and *Estimation of the Sediment Balance of the Sava River* (2013), the project activities in the reporting period have been focused on establishment of the sediment monitoring system for the Sava River. The activities resulted in the capacity building workshop on sediment monitoring for experts from national institutions (Zagreb, September 3-4, 2015), as well as in the final report *Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River Basin*, 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 on-line free database has been established. The report is available at http://savacommission.org/project_detail/20/1.

The climate change issues were considered in the project *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin* (*WATCAP*), financed and implemented by the World Bank. Based on the previous project outcomes, i.e. analysis of historic climate trends (2010), climate modelling (2011-2013), and hydrological modelling using the hydrologic model of the Sava River Basin, developed within the same project (2012-2013), the activities in the reporting period were focused on the preparation of a set of guidance notes on climate adaptation of various water sub-sectors (navigation, hydropower, agriculture, flood protection, economic evaluation of climate change impacts), as well as the final project report. Following a consultation with stakeholders on the draft project outcomes, the project officially ended in

November 2015. All the outputs are available at http://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 has 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.

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. The draft report has been produced, while the final report on modelling water demand and availability scenarios for current and future land use and climate in the Sava River Basin is expected to be available in the first half of 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.

As for the groundwater issues, an initial project idea for the alluvial part of the Sava River Basin was prepared and granted with a Letter of Recommendation in the Priority Area 4 (PA4) of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region* (EU*SDR*). For the karstic area of the basin, the implementation of an important external project, *Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System* (*DIKTAS*), followed by ISRBC, finished in 2015.

Finally, fund-raising activities have been performed for four regional projects for the Sava River Basin (projects No.3-6 on "A list" in Annex V), all of them being, either included as milestones in the road map of the EU*SDR* PA4, or granted a Letter of Recommendation under the same priority area of EU*SDR*. For implementation of these projects, primarily EU funds will be targeted as possible financial sources.

2. Accident prevention and control

Among the three principal goals of *FASRB*, the accident prevention and control covers the prevention and limitation of hazards and reduction or elimination of adverse consequences of accidents (Article 2c and Article 13). In the field of accidental pollution management, the Parties to *FASRB* use Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), developed and maintained by ICPDR. The system has been implemented by the Parties through the establishment and functioning of Principal International Alert Centers (PIAC). The AEWS of the Danube River Basin is activated whenever there is a risk of transboundary water pollution, or threshold levels of certain hazardous substances are exceeded. The AEWS sends out international warning messages to the countries downstream to help the authorities put environmental protection and public safety measures into action.

In the reporting period, four tests of the system have been performed to check the preparedness of PIACs in handling accidental pollution. In the Sava River Basin, tasks were completed successfully by all PIACs, although there is still a problem of the 24/7 operability of PIAC in BA and RS. Additionally, a training on AEWS was organized (March 16, 2016) for operators and users, with participation of over 20 representatives of institutions responsible for protection and rescue, civil protection, and water agencies from all Parties.

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.7 on "A list" in Annex V), previously granted with a Letter of Recommendation under the 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 decision on approval of the project is expected in autumn 2016.

3. Flood protection

From the perspective of the *FASRB* implementation, the field of flood management is mainly based on Articles 2(c) and 13(1) of *FASRB*. The entry into force of *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB* on 27 November 2015 can be regarded as the most important fact in this field. The *Protocol* formalizes a firm commitment, expressed at the 5th Meeting of the Parties, to further cooperation in implementing joint activities aimed at improvement of flood protection in the Sava River Basin, via their joint platform – ISRBC.

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 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, as a grant of 2,0 M€. 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 the reporting period, all preparatory activities for implementation have been completed in cooperation with World Bank, which directly implements the project.

The joint *Sava FRM Plan*, including *Programme of Measures*, should be prepared by the end of 2017 and adopted by the Parties in early 2018. Regarding the establishment of a coordinated Sava FFWS, a special attention will be given to related efforts in the countries, with the aim of achieving synergies on the basin-wide level. It is planned that the project is completed, and the Sava FFWS operational, in the first half of 2018.

Further progress has been made in relation with the hydrologic-hydraulic modeling. In the frame of *WATCAP* project, a training for national experts on the use of the Sava hydrologic model, previously delivered to the national institutions, was held in November 2014. A successful long-term cooperation with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has continued. The second phase of cooperation was approved by the US Government and additional efforts to accommodate the functional use of the hydrologic and hydraulic models, developed in the first phase, for supporting 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, the US 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 additional training for national experts on the use of LiDAR for the modeling purposes and 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 activities related to supporting a number of regional projects. ISRBC has also, jointly with ICPDR, prepared and published an overview report on the May 2014 floods (Figure 2). 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 2).

4. Establishment of the information system

The preparatory steps for establishment of Sava GIS have been conducted almost since the establishment of the ISRBC Secretariat in early 2006. *GIS Strategy for the Sava River Basin* (2008) set up commonly agreed principles for establishment of a geo-information system which would provide 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 and to support a wide range of planning and supporting activities of

ISRBC. Several phases of the Sava GIS establishment were anticipated by the *Strategy*, starting with the establishment of the core functionalities of the system. That was supported by two EU grants and finally resulted, in late 2015, with the establishment of the Sava Geoportal's, not only core, but also certain advanced, functionalities.

Figure 2. Publications related to flood management

The following was accomplished (Figure 3):

- 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
- Sava GIS Geoportal with its viewing/graphical and catalogue/metadata functionalities is scalable and flexible solution implemented as a combination of commercial and open source technologies. The Sava GIS Geoportal functionalities include spatial data visualization and management for the public and registered users, with different level of functionalities allowed. Currently, the public can view all datasets of RBMP 2010 and FRM APSFR on Sava GIS Geoportal, select particular dataset and search for data and metadata. Registered users are able to view more datasets and its attributes, search for data, and view uploaded working datasets in RBMP 2016 and FRM databases. Interested parties (general public, private entities, government institutions, etc.) are able to overview spatial datasets through the usage of the Sava Geoportal catalogue and metadata services.

Special attention was given to the Sava GIS Geoportal design (Figure 4), in order to build an attractive, responsive and easy-to-use portal, allowing users to receive its content in a fast and intuitive way. The Geoportal supports multilingual usage (all ISRBC's official languages), as well as the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets.

A special part of Sava GIS is a module for viewing and editing of historical hydro-meteorological data and information. More on this is provided in the next subchapter.

Figure 3. Architecture of the Sava GIS

Figure 4. Sava GIS Geoportal – public (accessible via www.savagis.org)

5. Hydrological and meteorological issues

Exchange of the hydrological and meteorological information is needed for implementation of an effective water resources management, flood management and navigation. The obligation to establish an effective information exchange on the water regime of the Sava River Basin is stipulated by Article 4 of *FASRB*.

In cooperation with relevant national institutions of the Parties (ministries for environment and/or water management, water agencies and national hydro-meteorological services – NHMSs), and taking into account *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* (2014), ISRBC has established a platform for the exchange and use of the hydrological and meteorological information through:

- Development of an annual summary of the water regime at relevant gauging stations in the Sava River Basin including data on water levels, daily discharges, water temperatures, suspended sediment discharge and precipitations. Until now,

Hydrological Yearbooks for years from 2006 until 2011 have been developed and made available on the ISRBC web-site (http://www.savacommission.org/publication).

- Establishment of Hydrological Information System for the Sava River Basin (Sava HIS) – Figure 5, as a component of Sava GIS, providing a tool for collecting, storing, analyzing and reporting a sufficiently high quality hydrological and meteorological data. Sava HIS supports the Sava countries in sharing and disseminating of hydrologic and meteorological data, information and knowledge about the water resources in the Sava River Basin and enables an effective common channel for exchanging and viewing the hydrologic and meteorological data and information in emergency situations, primarily those related to flood events. Sava HIS operates on http://savahis.org (real-time data for the last 30 days available) and http://savagis.org/ (historical data available). It has been recognized by World Meteorological Organization as a good example of implementation of the WMO resolutions on a basin level. The project has been supported by ICPDR and Finnish Meteorological Institute.
- Joint measurements at the border river sections, which were performed by the NHMSs in 2015. The main purpose of such measurements is to compare the results of joint and simultaneous measurements and coordinate the water balance of the rivers. Reports on the joint measurements will be available in Sava HIS after receiving results of the measurements from all countries.

Figure 5. Hydrological Information System for the Sava River Basin (Sava HIS)

6. Summary and conclusions

The results, achieved in the field of water management during the reporting period, largely correspond to the plans specified by *Strategy on Implementation of FASRB*. The main achievements include:

- Approval of the first *Sava RBM Plan*, prepared in accordance with the EU *WFD*
- Continuation of the activities of the next RBM planning cycle, especially those related to preparation of the second Sava River Basin Analysis report and the SWMI paper
- Advances regarding the climate change adaptation and cross-sectoral cooperation

- First estimation of sediment balance in the Sava River and proposal of the establishment of an effective sediment monitoring system
- Improvement of the existing Accident Emergency Warning System by training, testing and capacity building of the existing structures responsible for the accident prevention and control in the Parties
- Continuation of activities leading to preparation of the first joint *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*
- Further advances in development of a coordinated flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin
- Enhancement of the hydrologic and hydraulic models in the Sava River Basin
- Establishment of the fully functional Sava GIS, and
- Establishment of Sava HIS and implementation of joint measurements at border river sections, supporting the implementation of *Policy for the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Information within the Sava River Basin*.

As suggested at the four ministerial meetings held between June 2013 and July 2015, ISRBC has further investigated possibilities to introduce the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management, and developed a proposal of amendments to *FASRB*. The proposal was distributed to the Parties in October 2014, and further steps will be made depending on the outcomes of the internal procedures necessary for launching the official negotiations on the proposed amendments.

Based on the *Fifth Country Reports*, submitted by the Parties, it can be concluded that the Parties are generally satisfied with the overall level of cooperation in the field of water management and the results achieved, but they also see possibilities for further improvement. From their perspective, it is obvious that the achievements are strongly correlated with the situation in the Parties. Their perception of difficulties in implementation of *FASRB* differs depending on the situation in each country.

However, few main obstacles in implementing *FASRB* are emphasized by the Parties repeatedly. The difficulties are primarily associated with inadequate human and financial resources of the Parties for funding and implementation of priority projects and other agreed actions.

Regarding the next phase of the *FASRB* implementation, the Parties expressed specific expectations, ranging from general (e.g. acceleration of adoption of the plans and protocols to *FASRB* and improvement of coordination in the field of water management at the national level; orientation toward a multipurpose use of water resources, taking into account environmental objectives and cross-sectorial coordination) to specific ones (e.g. giving the highest priority to flood protection, or addressing climate change issues adequately).

Therefore, in further implementation of *FASRB*, the Parties should focus on:

- ensuring adequate human and financial resources for follow-up of the process of the *Sava RBM Plan* implementation, as well as for the agreed actions in the subsequent RBM cycles
- activating all available national mechanisms and resources in order to successfully implement all activities required by *Protocol on Flood Protection*, with special attention given to development of *Sava FRM Plan*, as well as to actions leading to

establishment of a coordinated flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin

- further improvement of functioning of AEWS in the countries of the Sava River Basin (by developing the legal background and institutional arrangements to incorporate PIACs into the civil/environmental protection system to be operational 24/7 in BA and RS, and encouraging ME to establish an operational functionality of the PIAC), as well as supporting ISRBC's activities related to accident prevention and control and seeking funding for further development of a contingency plan to increase the effectiveness of prevention, preparedness and responses in cases of accidental pollution
- accelerating development of the inventory of Accident Risk Spots and Contaminated Sites to prevent accidental pollution and to improve response capability in such events
- supporting the ongoing activities of ISRBC related to sustainable sediment management, by ratification of *Protocol on Sediment Management* by the countries which have not done that yet, and participation of relevant institutions/experts in the related ongoing activities and projects, coordinated by ISRBC
- ensuring a normal functioning of Sava GIS and Sava HIS and supporting ISRBC in their further development
- further implementation of *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* and encouragement of other relevant organizations (e.g. water agencies) to sign the *Policy*
- provision of relevant hydrological and meteorological data and metadata in the database established by Sava HIS, and
- securing adequate support to ISRBC in preparing and implementing the priority projects.

III.2 Navigation

1. Unification of rules and navigation safety

According to Articles 10(1) and 10(3) of *FASRB*, as well as Articles 2, 3 and 8 of *Protocol on the Navigation Regime to FASRB*, the unification of rules in the field of navigation is one of the main activities stipulated in *Strategy on Implementation of FASRB*, with the aim to establish a unified regulatory system in the Sava River Basin, which will be harmonized with the rules on European level.

In the reporting period, ISRBC participated actively in the process of further harmonization and upgrade of the navigation rules in the framework of UNECE. The process resulted in the adoption of the version 5 of *European Code for Navigation* (*CEVNI*), as well as in a very high level of harmonization of the rules between ISRBC and the navigation commissions for the Danube, Rhine and Mosel Rivers.

At the same time, the new chapter 12 of *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin* – Safety inspection, was prepared and adopted by ISRBC, with the aim to harmonize the inspection procedure on the Sava as much as possible and consequently increase navigation safety, especially on the border parts of the waterway. It also provided a basis for the development of a web application for the safety inspection, aiming to enable storage and usage of the

inspection data for the whole Sava River in a harmonized way. The application was finished in the first quarter of 2016 and first results of its usage 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.

ISRBC continued its active participation in the work of the Common Expert Group 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. Based on a non-paper prepared by the Group, 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 safety of navigation and protection of the environment 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.

In accordance with Article 10(4) of *FASRB* and Article 9 of *Protocol on the 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*.

A need for unification of *Reports on Realization of the Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries* has been recognized and ISRBC adopted a harmonized methodology and blue print for the reporting on realization of the *Marking Plan*. The new methodology, which contained the data on the fairway depths, has been used for development of the reports since 2013.

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 6), 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 6. *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* (prepared by ISRBC in cooperation with experts from the Parties, and published in 2014 in Croatian and Serbian languages), as well as improve the image of inland navigation, public presentations of the *Manual* have been organized by ISRBC in Sisak (with participation of students from the High school for inland navigation, Figure 7) and 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.

As for technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels, options for the development of technical rules for vessels in the Sava River Basin, in accordance with Article 8 of *Protocol on the Navigation Regime to FASRB*, have been elaborated by ISRBC and discussed with the national bodies responsible for implementation of the technical rules. All parties supported ISRBC adopting a decision which will 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. Accordingly, a draft decision has been prepared and 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.

Figure 7. Public presentation of the *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River*

Using the legal capacity given by Article 16(1a) of *FASRB*, ISRBC has adopted a number of decisions related to navigation safety so far. In the reporting period, ISRBC passed the decisions on adoption of *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries* for years 2015 and 2016, as well as the following decisions:

- Decision 14/14 on Amendments to Decisions 19/10 and 30/07 on *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*
- Decision 4/16 on Amendments to Decisions 14/14, 19/10 and 30/07 on *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*
- Decision 15/14 on Amendments to Decisions 02/13 and 31/07 on *Rules for Waterway Marking in the Sava River Basin*
- Decision 16/14 on Amendments to Decision 13/10 on *Rules for Definition of Winter Ports and Winter Shelters*.

The rules, put forward by ISRBC, became parts of the internal laws in Croatia and Serbia (new law on inland navigation), while B&H and Slovenia (up to Brežice) directly applied it in practice. Although certain difficulties have been noticed in implementing the ISRBC decisions into the legislation of the Parties, it is expected that further harmonization of national legislation with the EU legislation will contribute to an easier implementation of the ISRBC decisions into the national legislation.

2. Rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway

Rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River, pursuant to Article 10(4) of *FASRB*, is the highest priority of the Parties and ISRBC in the field of navigation. Keeping in mind difficulties and delay in the implementation of preparatory activities (described in the *Report*, adopted at the 5th Meeting of the Parties to *FASRB*), a number of activities were undertaken in the reporting period 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:

- Two meetings were held on the ministerial level, i.e. the 5th Meeting of the Parties (Zagreb, December 2, 2014), and the meeting on regional water cooperation (Brčko, July 6, 2015), where the issue was discussed.
- The meeting of the Joint Commission of Croatia and B&H for the Croatian IPA Project (sector Brčko – Sisak) was held in February 2015, where funding of the demining of the B&H bank of the Sava River was the main topic.

- A meeting with representatives of the EU Delegation in B&H was organized (Sarajevo, August 28, 2014) regarding the cancellation of financing of the project (sector Belgrade – Brčko) from IPA funds, where reasons for the cancellation were confirmed, but also the EU support to further development of the project in B&H was reaffirmed, provided a strong commitment of the B&H authorities to the project.

ISRBC continued its participation in activities in the framework of *Sava Zagreb Development Programme*, within which the possibilities for extending the Sava navigability upstream of Sisak toward Slovenia are investigated.

ISRBC continued its participation in the work of the Steering Committee for the Priority Area 1a of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region* and the Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor Forum, 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. In the framework of PA 1a, *Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its Navigable Tributaries* was prepared by the PA Technical Secretariat in close cooperation with the countries, river commissions and the operative level of waterway administrations (via *NEWADA duo* project). It is a step towards implementation of the *Declaration of Luxembourg* (2012) and represents the technical basis for concrete projects which can significantly improve the navigation conditions on critical sectors. The Sava River waterway is included in the *Plan*. The *Fairway Master Plan* was adopted by a majority of the Danube region transport ministers during a special event organized on the margins of the EU Transport Ministers' Council meeting on December 3, 2014.

3. Development of RIS

The implementation of RIS has been finished on Serbian sector of the Sava River. In this framework, Serbia has implemented the program of equipping the vessels operating on the Serbian inland waterways with AIS transponders. Croatia started the RIS implementation on its sector of the Sava River, and the project is expected to be finalized by the end of 2016.

4. Summary and conclusions

Results of ISRBC's activities in the reporting period are, to a great extent, in line with the aims and objectives posed by the *Strategy*. The main achievements include:

- Fully operational RIS in Serbia and final phase of RIS implementation in Croatia
- High level of harmonization of a set of rules related to navigation through implementation or direct application of ISRBC's rules in all Parties
- Further development and upgrade of the set of rules, based on the follow up of the implementation of the rules in the Parties and cooperation with EU, UNECE and river navigation commissions
- Adoption of the new chapter 12 – Safety Inspection of *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*, and development of web application for the safety inspection, enabling storage and usage of the inspection data for the whole Sava River in a harmonized way, which will improve the cooperation between the competent authorities and increase the safety of navigation
- Promotion of the first *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River* to students and representatives of industry in the Parties

- Publishing of the second, updated edition of *Indicator of River Kilometers* including the sector of the Sava River upstream of Sisak (up to the Slovenian-Croatian border), and the navigable sector of the Kupa River.

On the other hand, there are still difficulties associated with the implementation of the project *Rehabilitation and Development of the Navigation and Transport on the Sava River Waterway*, namely:

- 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.

Rehabilitation and development of navigation is perceived as the main goal of ISRBC in this field. Therefore, in further implementation of *FASRB*, 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 in the framework of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region* and the Rhine-Danube Corridor Forum, in order to secure the support of the EU institutions to the Sava River fairway rehabilitation.

III.3 Other development issues

In line with the key objective of *FASRB*, i.e. sustainable development of the region (through transboundary cooperation), the sustainable **river tourism** was identified at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties (Belgrade, June 1, 2009) as an area for future work of ISRBC. Accordingly, a number of activities have been performed in this field so far.

Nautical tourism. 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 V) have been developed and funding opportunities are being investigated.

Eco-tourism. Building on *Transboundary Ecotourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* (http://www.savacommission.org/publication), developed by ISRBC in 2013, the technical assistance for preparation of further steps was implemented in 2014 through the project *Transboundary Ecotourism Development using Sava River Basin as a showcase*, financed through the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects. As the next step, 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. The project proposal addresses small and medium-sized wetlands areas in the Danube River Basin aiming to formulating 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 V).

Recreational tourism. 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 V) have been undertaken in close coordination with biking associations as direct end-users, which is an 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 VIII), and the third one, to be organized within the 2016 celebration, is being prepared.

Culturally and/or socially conscious tourism. The activities, performed so far in this regard, have been based on the promotion of local tradition and culture, traditional food and drinks, as well as handicraft articles, mainly at events within the celebrations of the Sava Day. The activities will continue within the framework of the Sava Day 2016 celebration.

In addition to tourism development, an initiative has been launched by ISRBC to develop projects on fostering **contribution of the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector** to the *FASRB* implementation, bearing in mind a potential contribution of the SME sector to the development activities in the basin (e.g. navigation, river tourism, hydropower generation, fish farming and food production, waste water and manure treatment), but also the potential for mobilizing a broad group of stakeholders from the governmental, business and academic sectors from the basin, through these projects (projects No.6 – 9 on "B list" in Annex V). At present, funding opportunities for the project implementation are being explored.

There are also ongoing efforts to raise funds for the implementation of the project *Integrated Spatial Development Concept for the Sava River Basin* (project No.10 on "B list" in Annex V). The project aim is to investigate possibilities and propose solutions for integration of water sub-sectors with **spatial planning and development** in the Sava River Basin.

IV Legal issues

IV.1 Review of legislation and institutional framework

From legal point of view, *FASRB* establishes favourable grounds for development of regional water cooperation in a very ambitious and comprehensive manner, since the cooperation promoted under *FASRB* involves different sectors of the central administrations of the Parties, their relevant local authorities, other public and private stakeholders and NGOs. This improves collaboration, awareness, knowledge and capacity at cross-sectoral and multilayered levels in each Party and regional contexts. The Parties to *FASRB* have different status in regard to the EU membership but they cooperate on the basis and in accordance with the EU *Water Framework Directive* and align their legislation with EU.

Besides these political and international legal elements constituting a framework in which the sustainable water management in the Sava River Basin should be developed, the implementation of *FASRB* also depends on institutional mechanisms within the states and their readiness to accept and implement in practice the decisions, conclusions and recommendations of ISRBC. The overall effectiveness of the ISRBC mechanisms will be further increased with the amendements of *FASRB*, expected to be signed in near future.

<u>International agreements</u>

Certain parties to *FASRB* have previously concluded specific bilateral agreements regulating the water management and navigation relations. So, in the *FASRB* implementation process, it is necessary to take a special care of activities that the states, by themselves, can and need to agree upon on a bilateral basis, and which part of their mutual relations is under the authority of the joint body – ISRBC.

A comprehensive review of international agreements relevant for the Sava River Basin is given in Annex VI, including a review of signatories and parties of the relevant *multilateral treaties* and a list of *bilateral agreements*, being of importance in the light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of *FASRB*.

The examples of bilateral relations in the Sava River Basin demonstrate benefit of long-term institutional cooperation between the Parties realized through conclusion of bilateral agreements. A joint goal of these agreements is commitment to resolving certain water management issues by mutual agreement which is of interest for the countries in question and their stakeholders. The agreements require harmonized measures regarding the water management issues with the other state. Besides this, the EU policy in the field of integrated water management frequently encourages the implementation through international agreements on cooperation in water management, as well.

<u>National legislation</u>

Due to the fact that the water resources legislation are generally very comprehensive and, at the same time, part of other fields of national legislation, data on relevant laws and regulations of importance for the implementation of *FASRB* from the *Fifth Country Reports* demonstrate significance which the Parties to *FASRB* assign to water management and navigation issues.

According to the submitted *Fifth Country Reports*, the Parties generally perceive no serious legislation obstacles to implementation of *FASRB*, however a lack of appropriate policies and laws, as well as a weak law enforcement capacity were still noted in some cases, as in the previous *Country Reports*. On the other hand, all Parties are undergoing the procedure of harmonisation of their national legislation with the European regulations and progressively transpose the applicable standards in the water sector, which directly affects the practical implementation of *FASRB.*

Detailed list of the respective national laws and regulations of the Parties, being directly or indirectly relevant for the implementation of *FASRB*, collected by ISRBC through the *Fifth Country Reports*, will be available to the public concerned through the web-site of ISRBC.

Organizations competent for realization of *FASRB*

In order to enable efficient implementation of *FASRB* and in accordance with Article 6 of *FASRB*, the Parties have nominated organizations (authorities or bodies) competent for realization of *FASRB* on the part of the Sava River Basin within their territories, as listed in Annex I.

IV.2 Protocols

FASRB stipulates several areas which should be addressed by additional protocols. In the reporting period, related activities were focused on the following protocols to *FASRB*.

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, 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 in Brčko on July 6, 2015. 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.

V Financial issues

This chapter outlines basic facts on inflows and outflows of the budgetary funds of ISRBC during the eight months of the financial year 2014 (i.e. the period from August 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015) and the whole financial year 2015.

The external audit of the financial management, including the accounting records of ISRBC for FY 2014, has been performed. The audit team submitted the *Report on Audit* to ISRBC members, stating that the statement of account, related notes and other disclosures are correct and in accordance with ISRBC's rules and regulations and the general accounting principles.

The most part of the ISRBC income for the General Fund comes from the regular annual contributions of the Parties. The other inflows come from other sources: transfers from the Reserve Fund, grant funds of different institutions/organizations for implementation of special projects, interests, etc. The total inflow into the General Fund in the reporting period was 891,878.85 Euro. The annual contribution of the Parties in that period was 121,990.00 Euro per country, and they were paid.

Generally, realization of the budget was being monitored continuously and in the reporting period did not differ significantly from the planned amounts. The budget items of the General Fund are comparable with the originally stipulated amounts, making a 97% of realization of the planned amount in FY 2014. Realization of the Budget of ISRBC by main budget items, for the eight months of FY 2014 and FY 2015, is illustrated in the following table (in Euro):

Budget Chapters	*Two trimesters of FY 2014*	*FY 2015*
Staff salaries and allowances	287,445.54	437,860.84
Current costs	21,201.39	31,389.09
Travel expenses	19,454.59	23,542.30
Operational costs	13,086.11	23,030.57
Equipment	97.66	1,384.58
Total expenditures	341,285.29	517,207.40

In accordance with *Financial Rules of the Sava Commission*, the rest of the General Fund is allocated to the Reserve Fund. The transfers from the Reserve Fund into the General Fund or the Special and Trust Fund were used for covering unexpected expenditures, necessary for an effective functioning of ISRBC, and expenditures not envisaged in the budget for the respective year.

The inflows into the Special and Trust Fund come from grant funds of different institutions/ organizations for implementation of special projects. In the eight months of FY 2014 and in FY 2015, the total received amounts in the Special and Trust Fund were 186,071.22 Eur, while the total expenditures were 276,191.86 Euro, respectively.

VI Cooperation, promotion activities and stakeholder involvement

VI.1 Cooperation with international organizations

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 the *Programme of Work 2013-2015* of the UNECE *Water Convention*.

Cooperation of ISRBC with European Commission was focused on the finalization of the 1st phase 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.

VI.2 Cooperation with national institutions

A continuous cooperation of ISRBC with the national institutions responsible for implementation of *FASRB* (listed in Annex I), 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 *Strategy for the Danube Region* 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 captains of port master offices from the Sava River Basin has also been maintained, by organizing the 9th meeting (Sremska Mitrovica, November 25-26, 2014) and the 10th meeting (Sisak, October 28-29, 2015).

VI.3 Promotion activities and stakeholders 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 8).

Figure 8. Tools for public participation and stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process

In the reporting period, 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 VII.
- 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.14 to No.16 (Figure 9) have been 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 10), as well as posters and leaflets, primarily for dissemination within the Sava Day 2015 celebration.
- The introductory chapter in the book *The Sava River*, published by Springer in its series *The Handbook of Environmental Chemistry* (Figure 11).
- Contributions to projects, bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/institutions.
- Press-releases and media briefings, e.g. those related to the 5th MoP (Zagreb, December 2, 2014) and the ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava River Basin (Brčko, July 6, 2015), or to the Sava Day celebration.

Figure 9. *Sava NewsFlash* No.14 (Nov. 2014), No.15 (May 2015) and No.16 (Nov. 2015)

Figure 10. *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* (2015)

Figure 11. *The Sava River* (2014)

- 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 VIII).

The consultation activities have been performed by organizing consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders (listed in Annex VII), as well as the consultations on the ISRBC web-site, in regard with 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 the *Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in the International Sava River Basin Commission*, Regional Environmental Center (Hungary) and NGO "Center for Environment" (Banja Luka, B&H) have been 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 has been 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 12 and 13) 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 12. Logo of Sava Water Council

Figure 13. 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.*

VII Conclusions and recommendations

Generally, *FASRB* is proven to be a good platform for intensified contacts and an improved cooperation among the Parties, providing opportunities for exchange of experiences and an additional training, not only of the representatives involved in the work of the expert groups of ISRBC, but also other experts from the Parties. It also provides for an improved inter-sectoral cooperation, especially among the competent authorities, within the Parties.

In the field of water management, the accomplishments in the *FASRB* implementation include the approval of the first *Sava RBM Plan* and continuation of the activities of the next RBM planning cycle, advances related to the issues of sediment management, climate change and inter-sectoral coordination, preparatory steps for development of *Flood Risk Management Plan* and development of a coordinated flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin, the establishment of the fully functional Sava GIS and Sava HIS, as well as the improvement of the accident emergency warning system in the Sava River Basin.

In the field of navigation, the main achievements include the fully operational RIS in Serbia and final phase of RIS implementation in Croatia, further development and upgrade of the set of rules related to navigation in cooperation with EU, UNECE and river navigation commissions, high level of harmonization of the rules in all Parties, and the development of web application for the safety inspection.

Major obstacles and difficulties in the *FASRB* implementation in the Parties are associated with a lack of human and financial resources for realization of the activities (e.g. lack of financial resources for the maintenance of the fairway). There is also a space for improvement of bilateral cooperation, where ISRBC is perceived as a possible mediator, and for further improvement of the inter-sectoral coordination on the national level.

For an efficient future implementation of *FASRB*, entering into force of the protocols to *FASRB* is of the utmost importance. Therefore, a great attention of the Parties in the coming period needs to be paid to ratification of *Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation* and *Protocol on Sediment Management* by the countries which have not done that yet, as well as to final harmonization of *Protocol on Emergency Situations*.

Keeping in mind the present status of the *FASRB* implementation, as well as the specific expectations expressed by the Parties in the *Country Reports*, the future efforts should be oriented to:

- ensuring adequate human and financial resources for follow-up of the process of the *Sava RBM Plan* implementation, as well as for the agreed actions in the subsequent RBM cycles
- activating all available national mechanisms and resources in order to successfully implement all activities required by *Protocol on Flood Protection*, with special attention given to development of *Sava FRM Plan*, as well as to actions leading to establishment of a coordinated flood forecasting and warning system for the Sava River Basin
- further improvement of functioning of AEWS in the countries of the Sava River Basin, and fostering development of the inventory of Accident Risk Spots and Contaminated Sites

- ensuring a normal functioning of Sava GIS and Sava HIS and supporting ISRBC in their further development
- urgent continuation of the activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation 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
- consideration of other development activities in the basin (e.g. hydropower generation, water supply, agriculture, tourism, recreation), taking into account their environmental sustainability and possible impacts of climate change
- orientation toward a multipurpose use of water resources, taking into account environmental objectives and cross-sectoral coordination and addressing the climate change issues adequately, and
- further activities on introducing the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management.

To this end, further progress should primarily be made in relation to:

- providing adequate financial instruments for realization of the respective activities and projects, especially those to be performed under the umbrella of ISRBC
- exchange of information within the basin (e.g. hydrological and meteorological data)
- harmonization of national methodologies (e.g. related to collection of hydro-meteorological data, hydrological and hydraulic analyses, flood risk and damage assessment, etc.)
- availability of basic data (topographic, hydrologic, etc.), needed for preparation of specific studies of common interest under the coordination of ISRBC, especially the data owned by national institutions not officially nominated as responsible for implementation of *FASRB*
- capacity building in the fields of work related to *FASRB*, and
- involvement of stakeholders in the *FASRB* implementation and, especially, broadening the multi-stakeholder platform to include the academic and business sectors, as well.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. National authorities of the Parties competent for realization of FASRB

Country	Competent national authorities	Address
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Communications and Transport of B&H	Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1, 71000 Sarajevo
	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of B&H	Musala 9, 71000 Sarajevo
	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Srpska	Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka
	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry	Marka Marulića 2, 71000 Sarajevo
	Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Srpska	Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka
	Federal Ministry of Transport and Communications	Braće Fejića bb, 88000 Mostar
	Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska	Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banjaluka
	Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Marka Marulića 2, 71000 Sarajevo
	Government of the Brčko District	Bulevar mira 1, 76100 Brčko
Republic of Croatia	Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure	Prisavlje 14, 10000 Zagreb
	Ministry of Agriculture	Ulica grada Vukovara 220, 10000 Zagreb
Republic of Serbia	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection	Bulevar umetnosti 2a, 11070 Novi Beograd
	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure	Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Beograd
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kneza Miloša 24-26, 11000 Beograd
	Directorate for Inland Waterways	Francuska 9, 11000 Beograd
	Republic Hydro-meteorological Service of Serbia	Kneza Višeslava 66, 11000 Beograd
	Republic Geodetic Authority	Bulevar vojvode Mišića 39, 11000 Beograd
Republic of Slovenia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Prešernova cesta 25, 1000 Ljubljana
	Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning	Dunajska cesta 47, 1000 Ljubljana
	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology	Kotnikova 5, 1000 Ljubljana
	Ministry of Infrastructure	Langusova ulica 4, 1535 Ljubljana

ANNEX II. Members and deputy members to ISRBC

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, *until February 11, 2016*	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
4.	Janko Brnardić	Member to ISRBC, *as of February 11, 2016*	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, *until December 23, 2015*	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
10.	Marko Sotlar	Deputy Member to ISRBC, *as of December 23, 2015*	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

ANNEX III. Sessions of ISRBC

As of August 1, 2014, to March 31, 2016, ISRBC held six sessions in total:

- 36th (special) Session (October 14, 2014)
- 37th (regular) Session (February 24, 2015)
- 38th (special) Session (July 6-7, 2015)
- 39th (special) Session (October 19-20, 2015)
- 40th (special) Session (December 14, 2015)
- 41st (regular) Session (February 17-18, 2016).

Work under these sessions, involved reconsideration of numerous issues, and adoption of different conclusions and decisions, which are briefly introduced in the section below:

- Meetings of the Parties (MoP) to *FASRB*
  - Organization of the 5th MoP and the 6th MoP
  - Preparation of documents for the 5th MoP and the 6th MoP
    - *Draft Report on Implementation of FASRB and Work of ISRBC for the period April 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014*
    - *Draft Declaration of the 5th Meeting of the Parties*
    - *Draft Report on Implementation of FASRB and Work of ISRBC for the period August 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016*
    - *Draft Declaration of the 6th Meeting of the Parties*
  - Preparation of post-meeting documents of the 5th MoP (reports and adopted documents)

- Ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava River Basin (Brčko, July 6, 2015) – organization of the meeting and preparation of the meeting documents

- Water Management issues
  - Approval of *Sava RBM Plan* at the 5th MoP
  - Performing the activities related to the 2nd RBM planning cycle, i.e. preparation of the second *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* and *Significant Water Management Issues Paper*
  - Preparation of a proposal of sediment monitoring system for the Sava River Basin
  - Follow-up of finalization of *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin*
  - Finalization of projects *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment in the Sava River Basin* and *Danube Water Nexus – Sava Case Study*
  - Testing and improvement of the existing Accident Emergency Warning System
  - Preparation of *Program for Development of the Sava FRM Plan* and coordinating the activities of the Parties on the preparation of *Sava FRM Plan*
  - Preparation of *Report on May 2014 flood*, jointly with ICPDR
  - Preparatory activities for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin*
  - Improvement of hydrologic/hydraulic modelling in the Sava River Basin
  - Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities for their implementation (see Annex V)

- Navigation issues
  - Monitoring and coordination of activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway
  - Improvement and harmonization of the rules related to navigation
  - Publishing of the second updated edition of *Indicator of River Kilometers for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries*
  - Follow-up of implementation of RIS in the Parties
  - Participation of ISRBC within *NEWADA duo* project
  - Adoption/acceptance of documents
    - *Marking Plan on the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2016*
    - Amended *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*
    - Amended *Rules for Waterway Marking in the Sava River Basin*
    - Amended *Rules for Definition of Winter Ports and Winter Shelters*
  - Follow-up of the implementation of the ISRBC decisions in the Parties
  - Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities for their implementation

- Other development issues
  - Promotion of various forms of sustainable river tourism (eco-tourism, recreational tourism, culturally and/or socially conscious tourism)
  - Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities for their implementation

- Cross-cutting issues
  - Establishment of Sava GIS (Phase 1 – setup of the core functionalities)
  - Preparation of *Hydrological Yearbooks* for the Sava River Basin
  - Establishment of the hydro-meteorological information system for the basin (Sava HIS)
  - Implementation of *Plan of joint measurements at border river sections in 2015*
  - Follow-up of implementation of Recommendation 2/14 related to nomination of national coordinators for regional projects of common interest relevant for the *FASRB* implementation
  - Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities for their implementation

- Follow-up of work of the expert groups of ISRBC
  - Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management
  - Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control
  - Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention
  - Permanent Expert Group for Navigation
  - Permanent Expert Group for GIS
  - Permanent Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues
  - *Ad hoc* Expert Group for River Information Services
  - *Ad hoc* Expert Group for Legal Issues
  - *Ad hoc* Expert Group for Financial Issues,

  including the revision and update of the groups' ToRs.

- Annual work plans and programs
  - Follow-up of realization of the work plans of ISRBC for FY 2014 and FY 2015, and preparation of the work plan for FY 2016
  - Approval of the annual programs of work of PEGs and *ad hoc* EGs (for FY 2015 and FY 2016)
  - Adoption of the annual reports on work and activities of ISRBC (for FY 2014)

- Protocols to *FASRB*
  - Follow-up of the ratification process in the Parties
    - *Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to FASRB*
    - *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB*
  - Signing of *Protocol on Sediment Management to FASRB* and follow-up of the ratification process in the Parties
  - Follow-up of the national procedures in the Parties preceding the final harmonization of *Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations to FASRB*

- Cooperation, promotion activities and stakeholder involvement
  - Follow-up of the implementation of *Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin*, jointly with ICPDR and Danube Commission
  - Follow-up of preparation of *Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the Sava Water Partnership*
  - Implementation of the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*, including the establishment of Sava Water Council
  - Granting the *ad hoc* observer status to Regional Environmental Center for CEE (REC) and NGO "Center for Environment" (Banja Luka, B&H), and renewal of the *ad hoc* observer status of WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme and GWP CEE
  - Cooperation with different national institutions, regional and international organizations
  - Organizations of conferences, workshops and meetings
  - Organization of the Sava Day 2015 and 2016 celebrations
  - Publication of the official bulletin of ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash*, as well as other promotion publications and materials
  - Continuous up-date of ISRBC's web-site
  - Activities of public relations

- Legal and other issues
  - Amendments to *FASRB* and *Protocol on Flood Protection to FASRB*
  - Amendments to *Rules of Procedure of ISRBC*
  - Upgrade of *Criteria and Procedures for granting Observer status in ISRBC*
  - Review and analysis of the legal documents of ISRBC in terms of functionality of work of ISRBC and improvement of its regulations
  - Analysis of relevant bilateral agreements between the Parties

- Financial issues
  - Adoption of the budget for FY 2015 and FY 2016
  - Adoption of *Report on Realization of the Budget* for FY 2014
  - Audit of the financial management of ISRBC, and adoption of the auditors' report for FY 2013 and FY 2014
  - Development of internal financial regulations of ISRBC.

ANNEX IV. The *FASRB*-related projects implemented, ongoing or launched in the reporting period

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
Assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the Drina River Basin		1 year	Ongoing	Started in Jan 2016	UNECE	~ 300.0	UNECE
Flood Management							
2nd 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			

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
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
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)
					240.0	HR
			In B&H, fund-raising in progress			
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 – 1st implementation phase	4 years	Implemented	1st part: May 2010 – Aug 2012 2nd 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

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
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
River Tourism Development						
Transboundary ecotourism development using the Sava river basin as a showcase	6 months	Implemented	Jul 2014 – Dec 2014	Zinke Environment Consulting for CEE, AT	~ 20.0	EC (EUSDR)
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 V. Planned *FASRB*-related projects

Projects directly linked to the main objectives of *FASRB* („A list“)

No.	Project title	Dura-tion	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 frame-work, proposed by *COWANDA* project
River Basin Management						
3	Examination of biodiversity and environ-mental 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 *STAWA*, financed within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’, is under implementation	1,490	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	Ready for imple-mentation 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 2nd 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	
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 1st DTP call	1,400	EU funds (e.g. DTP), GEF	Ready for imple-mentation as soon as funding is ensured

No.	Project title	Dura-tion	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
Information Management						
8	Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – 2nd and 3rd 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 imple-mentation as soon as funding is ensured

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

No.	Project title	Dura-tion	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 imple-mentation as soon as funding is ensured
3	Master Plan for development of eco-tourism in the Sava river basin	~ 1 year	*Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* available; Technical assistance for preparation of further steps (*Sava Ecotour*) finished; Application for the project *Wetlands Ecotourism in the Danube River Basin* submitted in response to the 1st DTP call	~ 500	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	
4	Establishment of an ‘eco-mark’ for the Sava river basin	6 months	*Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* 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 1st DTP call	~ 75 (Phase 1)	EU funds (e.g. DTP)	Ready for imple-mentation (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	Dura-tion	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 VI. International agreements relevant for the Sava River Basin

Multilateral agreements – review of Signatories & Parties of the multilateral treaties relevant for the Sava River Basin:

No	Treaty	In force	Slovenia		Croatia		B&H		Serbia	
			S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R
1	***Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat*** (*Ramsar Convention*, 1971)	●		●		●		●		●
2	***Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*** (*Espoo Convention*, 1991)	●		●		●		●		●
3	***Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*** (*SEA Protocol* - Kiev, 2003)	●		●		●	●			●
4	***Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*** (*UN/ECE Water Convention* - Helsinki, 1992)	●		●		●		●		●
5	***Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*** (London, 1999)	●	●			●		●		●
6	***Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*** (*Helsinki Convention*, 1992)	●		●		●		●		●
7	***Protocol on Civil Liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters*** (Kiev, 2003, in the framework of the *UN/ECE Water Conv. & Helsinki Conv. – Ind. Acc.*)	–					●			
8	***Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*** (*Aarhus Convention*, 1998)	●		●		●		●		●
9	***Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register*** (Kiev, 2003)	●		●		●	●		●	
10	***Danube River Protection Convention*** (Sofia, 1994)	●		●		●		●		●
11	***The Convention on the Danube Navigation Regime*** (*Belgrade Convention* – 1948)	●				●				●
12	***Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway*** (*CMNI*, 2001)	●				●				●
13	***European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance*** (*AGN*, 1996)	●				●		●		●

No	Treaty	In force	Slovenia		Croatia		B&H		Serbia	
			S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R
14	***European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways*** (*ADN*, 2000)	●				●				●
15	***Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** (Kranjska Gora, 2002)	●		●		●		●		●
16	***Protocol on the Navigation Regime to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** (Kranjska Gora, 2002)	●		●		●		●		●
17	***Protocol on Prevention of the Water Pollution caused by Navigation to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** (Beograd, 2009)	—	●			●		●		●
18	***Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** (Gradiška, 2010)	●		●		●		●		●
19	***Protocol on Sediment Management to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** (Brčko, 2015)	—	●			●		●		●

Notes: S – signed; R – ratified.

Bilateral agreements of importance for the Sava River Basin in the light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of *FASRB*:

● Bilateral agreements between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia on water management relations	Oct. 25, 1996		Mar. 19, 1998
Rulebook of the Permanent Croatian – Slovenian Commission for water management	Oct. 25, 1996		Mar. 19, 1998
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on cooperation on protection against natural and civil disasters	Sept. 22, 1997		Nov. 1, 1999

● Bilateral agreements between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on water management relations	July 11, 1996		Jan. 31, 1997
Protocol on establishment of navigation on the Sava River waterway and its tributaries between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Croatia	Oct. 16, 1998		Nov. 15, 1998
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on cooperation on protection against natural and civil disasters	June 1, 2001	June 1, 2001	
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on navigation on the navigable waterways and its marking and maintenance	Feb. 20, 2004		Nov. 6, 2009
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the financing and development of the Detailed Design and conducting administrative procedures for environmental impact assessment and obtaining location permits, approval and construction permits for the project "Rehabilitation and modernization of the Sava River waterway from Račinovci to Sisak"	December 1, 2010	December 1, 2010	
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the on rules and regulations of using water from public water supply systems cut by the state border	July 6, 2015		February 9, 2016

● Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on navigation on the inland waterways and its maintenance	October 13, 2009		July 30, 2010

● Bilateral agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement on Navigation on the Inland Waterways and Their Maintenance	May 4, 2012		Feb. 22, 2013

● Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on water management relations	Sep. 4, 2007		Apr. 12, 2008

● Bilateral agreement between the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro

Title	Signed	Provisional enforcement	Entered into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Montenegro on cooperation on protection against natural and civil disasters	Oct. 4, 2010		

ANNEX VII. Meetings with stakeholders organized or co-organized by ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
1.	Meeting on the implementation of the *Sava Ecotour* project	2 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
2.	16th *Ah* L EG Meeting	3 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
3.	1st Meeting of the Organizational Board of the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*	10 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
4.	The 3rd Meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin	19 – 20 Sep. 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC, City of Ljubljana, NGO Lutra
5.	10th *Ah* GIS EG Meeting	23 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
6.	Initial preparatory meeting for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin*	29 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
7.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin*	30 Sep. 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC
8.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin*	30 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
9.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin*	1 Oct. 2014	Sarajevo	ISRBC
10.	Preparatory meetings for implementation of the project *Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin*	2 – 3 Oct. 2014	Belgrade	ISRBC
11.	36th Session of the ISRBC	14 Oct. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
12.	28th PEG RBM Meeting	16 – 17 Oct. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
13.	Final workshop on the *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin*	11 Nov. 2014	Zagreb	WB, ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
14.	Hands-on training on the use of the hydrological model of the Sava river basin	12 – 13 Nov. 2014	Zagreb	WB, ISRBC
15.	9th Meeting with Captains of port master offices from the Sava river basin	25 – 26 Nov. 2014	Sremska Mitrovica	ISRBC
16.	25th PEG FP Meeting	27 – 28 Nov. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
17.	5th Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*	2 Dec. 2014	Zagreb	Gov. of Croatia, ISRBC
18.	4th Conference on regulation and multipurpose use of the Sava river	4 Dec. 2014	Zagreb	NGO „SLAP“, ISRBC and other org.
19.	10th *Ah* HM EG Meeting	9 Dec. 2014	Banja Luka	ISRBC
20.	Meeting with national experts from the registers of shipping	16 – 17 Dec. 2014	Slavonski Brod	ISRBC
21.	8th *Ah* FIN EG Meeting	17 Dec. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
22.	Meeting of the ICPDR and ISRBC Secretariats	22 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
23.	Meeting on final harmonization of the *Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*	23 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
24.	Kick-off meeting within the project *Towards practical guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava river basin as a showcase*	29 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
25.	Signing of the *SAVAPARKS Declaration* on the occasion of the World Wetlands Day	2 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC, NP Lonjsko Polje, HDZPP, EuroNatur
26.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the Sava GIS project	9 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
27.	Meeting with directors of the national meteorological and hydrological services from the Sava river basin countries	10 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
28.	19th PEG APC Meeting	17 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
29.	37th Session of the ISRBC	24 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
30.	First workshop within the project *Sava GIS establishment – the 1st implementation phase*	12 Mar. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
31.	11th *Ah* GIS EG Meeting	13 Mar. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
32.	26th PEG FP Meeting	19 Mar. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
33.	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
34.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the Sava GIS project	8 May 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
35.	Consultation workshop on the Sava Nexus Assessment	25 May 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC, UNECE
36.	Visit of a delegation from the Central Asian countries to the ISRBC	27 May – 2 Jun 2015	Zagreb, Bihać, Sisak, Lonj. polje	ISRBC, GIZ
37.	The 4th Meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin	29-30 May 2015	Bihać	ISRBC, NP Una
38.	Start of the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	29 May 2015	Zelenci (Kranj. Gora)	City of Kranjska Gora, ISRBC
39.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	30 May 2015	Ljubljana	City of Ljubljana, ISRBC
40.	Sava fair (within the project „Our beautiful Sava“)	30-31 May 2015	Zagreb	Coca-Cola HBC HR, MA and MMATI HR, ISRBC, other partners

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
41.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	1 Jun 2013	Sisak; NP „Lonjsko polje“, Krapje	Tourist Assoc. Sisak, NP „Lonjsko polje“, ISRBC
42.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	2 Jun 2013	Gradiška	Municipality of Gradiška, ISRBC
43.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	3 Jun 2013	Slavonski Brod	City of Slavon. Brod, ISRBC
44.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	4 Jun 2013	Odžak, Brčko	Odžak, Brčko District, ISRBC
45.	Event within the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	5 Jun 2013	Sremska Mitrovica	Municipality of Sr. Mitrovica, ISRBC
46.	End of the International Cycling Tour „Sava 2015“	6 Jun 2013	Belgrade	Rep. Water Direct., PWC Srbijavode, ISRBC
47.	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
48.	18th PEG NAV Meeting	15-16 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
49.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the Sava GIS project	16 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
50.	29th PEG RBM Meeting	17-18 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
51.	Workshop on stakeholders' participation in the 2nd Sava RBM planning cycle	18 Jun 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC, GWP CEE
52.	12th *Ah* GIS EG Meeting	1 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
53.	Kick-off meeting on the establishment of the Sava HIS	1 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
54.	Meeting of the „core“ working group for the implementation of the project *Towards practical guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava river basin as a showcase*	2-3 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
55.	Ministerial meeting on regional water cooperation in the Sava river basin	6 Jul 2015	Brčko	ISRBC
56.	38th Session of the ISRBC	6-7 Jul 2015	Brčko	ISRBC
57.	Meeting on the implementation of the *STAWA* project	9 Jul 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
58.	Workshop on the sediment monitoring on the Sava river	3-4 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
59.	27th PEG FP Meeting	9-10 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
60.	6th Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube Basin*	10-11 Sep. 2015	Vienna	DC, ICPDR, ISRBC
61.	2nd Sava GIS Workshop	21 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
62.	13th *Ah* GIS EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
63.	11th *Ah* HM EG Meeting	22 Sep. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
64.	20th PEG APC Meeting	6 Oct. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
65.	Presentation of the *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River*	9 Oct. 2015	Belgrade	Fac. for Transport and Traffic Eng. Belgrade, MCTI RS, ISRBC
66.	39th Session of the ISRBC	19-20 Oct. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
67.	10th Meeting of the Captains from the Portmaster Offices from the Sava river	28-29 Oct. 2015	Sisak	ISRBC, MMATI HR
68.	30th PEG RBM Meeting	5-6 Nov. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
69.	Workshop on Flood Risk Management measures and links with WFD	11-12 Nov. 2015	Zagreb	UNESCO, WMO, ICPDR, ISRBC
70.	5th Conference on regulation and multipurpose use of the Sava river	3-4 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	NGO „SLAP“, ISRBC and other org.
71.	Training on the use of Sava GIS	9 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
72.	Training on the use of Sava HIS	10 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
73.	40th Session of the ISRBC	14 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
74.	9th *Ah* FIN EG Meeting	17 Dec. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
75.	Presentation of Sava GIS and Sava HIS	21 Dec. 2015	Ljubljana	MOP SI, ISRBC
76.	Study tour to Croatia for members of the Sava Water Council from B&H and Serbia	17-19 Jan. 2016	Zagreb, Lonj-sko polje	NGO „Slap“, ISRBC
77.	28th PEG FP Meeting	26-27 Jan. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC
78.	Consultation Workshop „Sava Nexus Assessment – Lessons Learned and Further Steps“	28 Jan. 2016	Sarajevo	ISRBC, UNECE
79.	National Consultation Workshop „Sava Nexus Assessment – Lessons Learned and Further Steps“	29 Jan. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC, UNECE
80.	12th *Ah* HM EG Meeting	1 Feb. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
81.	Workshop in the framework of the *STAWA* project	10-12 Feb. 2016	Ljubljana	ISRBC
82.	41st Session of the ISRBC	17-18 Feb. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC
83.	1st meeting of the Sava Water Council	18-19 Feb. 2016	Belgrade	ISRBC
84.	Meeting with Directors of NHMSs from the Sava River Basin	23 Feb. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC
85.	Training on the Accident Emergency Warning System for officials from the Sava River Basin countries	16 Mar. 2016	Zagreb	ISRBC

ANNEX VIII. 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 14 and 15).

Figure 14. Posters announcing the events organized by ISRBC within the Sava Day 2015 celebration

Figure 15. 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 have been distributed.

ACRONYMS

AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
AIS	Automatic Identification System
APC	Accident Prevention and Control
APSFR	Areas of Potentially Significant Flood Risk
AT	Austria
BA or B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières, France
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
CEVNI	*European Code for Navigation*
CESNI	European Committee for drawing up standards in inland navigation
CO	Country Office
COWANDA	*Convention for Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube*
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
ERI	Electronic Reporting
ES	Spain
EU	European Union
EU*SAIR*	EU *Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region*
EU*SALP*	EU *Strategy for the Alpine Region*
EU*SDR*	EU *Strategy for the Danube Region* (EU *Danube Strategy*)
EU *WFD*	EU *Water Framework Directive*
FASRB	*Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*
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	Geographical 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	Hydrological and Meteorological Issues
HR	Republic of Croatia
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IFI	International Financial Institution
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 (Sava Commission)
JRC	Joint Research Center (of European Commission)
L	Legal Issues
LoR	Letter of Recommendation
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
ME	Montenegro
MMATI	Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
MoP	Meeting of the Parties
NAV	Navigation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
NL	The Netherlands
NP	National Park
NtS	Notices to Skippers
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Priority Area (of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*)
PEG	Permanent Expert Group (of ISRBC)
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
PIAC	Principal International Alert Center
PR	Public Relations
RBM	River Basin Management
RBMP	*River Basin Management Plan*
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
REC	Regional Environmental Center
RIS	River Information Services
RS	Republic of Serbia
SedNet	European Sediment Network
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SI	Republic of Slovenia
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNR	Special Nature Reserve
SWC	Sava Water Council
SWMI	Significant Water Management Issues
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
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
WATCAP	*Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin*
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkan Investment Framework
WMO	World Meteorological Organization