



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**on Work and Activities of the ISRBC**  
**for the Period April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015**

**June 2015**



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## Introduction

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

On this basis, the *Annual Report on Work and Activities of the ISRBC for the Year 2014* was prepared. The *Report* corresponds to the financial year 2014 of the ISRBC, covering the period as of April 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015. All the Work Programmes and Work Plans, mentioned throughout the *Annual Report*, also correspond to the financial year (FY) stated.

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

Two meetings on the ministerial level were organized by the ISRBC in this period. The first one, dedicated to regional cooperation on flood protection in the Sava River Basin (Belgrade, June 16, 2014, see Figure 1), was organized as a response to disastrous floods that hit the basin in May 2014. According to conclusions of the meeting, substantial results have already been achieved in this area of work. However, it is necessary to continue the processes with additional support provided by the countries, in order to reach the level of development that would ensure efficient impact in terms of the mitigation of flood risk and harmful consequences of floods in the future.



Figure 1. The ministerial meeting on regional cooperation on flood protection in the Sava River Basin (Belgrade, June 16, 2014)

The other meeting, i.e. the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Zagreb, December 2, 2014, see Figure 2), was organized with the primary aim to approve the first *Sava River Basin Management Plan*, however other current issues such as the flood protection in the basin, the rehabilitation of the Sava River waterway, as well as the status of ratification of protocols to the *FASRB*, were considered at the meeting, as well. By adopting the declaration, and the report on the *FASRB* implementation and the ISRBC work since the previous meeting, a strong support to the *FASRB* implementation and further strengthening of the regional water cooperation was given at the meeting.



Figure 2. The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Zagreb, December 2, 2014)

Four meetings of the ISRBC were organized in FY 2014: a meeting for preparation of the ministerial meeting on flood protection (Belgrade, June 9, 2014), as well as three sessions – 35<sup>th</sup> Session (Ljubljana, July 1, 2014), 36<sup>th</sup> Session (Zagreb, October 14, 2014) and 37<sup>th</sup> Session (Zagreb, February 24, 2015). In addition, 13 meetings of the ISRBC expert groups and 29 conferences, workshops and other meetings with stakeholders were held.

In FY 2014, the Chairmanship of the ISRBC was handed over by the Republic of Serbia (Mr. Miodrag Pješčić) to the Republic of Slovenia (Mr. Mitja Bricelj), after the 3-year term of office of the Chairman ended.

In addition to the approval of the *Sava RBM Plan*, and further progress in the preparation of the *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin* and the unification of rules relating to technical standards and safety of navigation, important activities and achievements in FY 2014 include further development of the integrated systems for the information and data exchange, forecasting and early warning, as well as the final harmonization of the *Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*, further strengthening of public participation and stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process, and fund-raising for the priority projects of the ISRBC.

An important outcome is the proposal on amendments to the *FASRB* and the *Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB*, which was developed by the ISRBC based on the declarations from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* and, in fall 2014, distributed to the Parties for consideration. The essence of the proposal is to introduce the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management, and thus further strengthen the ISRBC role and increase efficiency of the *FASRB* implementation.

Based on the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the ISRBC and Montenegro*, this country actively participated at the ministerial meeting on regional cooperation on flood protection, and was involved in other flood-related activities of ISRBC.

Detailed overview of the ISRBC activities is presented in the sections below. The annexes to the *Report*, provided for completeness of information, contain the lists of the ISRBC members and deputy members (Annex I), the active expert groups of the ISRBC, and their meetings in FY 2014 (Annex II), the *FASRB*-related projects, implemented, ongoing or launched during the reporting period (Annex III), the planned projects (Annex IV), as well as a brief overview of the public participation and stakeholder involvement activities (Annexes V and VI). The list of acronyms is attached as Annex VII to the *Report*.

## 1. Navigation

The activities of the ISRBC related to navigation were concentrated on the continuation of the activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway, establishment of the regular maintenance of the fairway on the Sava River and improvement of the regulatory framework for navigation.

### 1.1. Navigation safety

In FY 2014, the UNECE adopted the version 5 of the *European Code for Navigation (CEVNI)*, in which experts achieved a high level of harmonization of regulations between the countries and river commissions on European level. Based on the input from the countries, the ISRBC made significant contribution to the content of the new version of *CEVNI*. In addition, the ISRBC prepared the draft decision on amendments to *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin*, aiming to align the *Rules* with the new version of *CEVNI*. The decision is expected to be adopted in 2015, and its entering into force will be coordinated with the countries and other river commissions (especially, the Danube Commission).

At the same time, the ISRBC continued to develop a set of specific local rules and adopted the new chapter 12 of the *Navigation Rules – Rules for safety inspection*. Implementation of the requirements from the new chapter 12 will harmonize the inspection procedure on the Sava as much as possible and consequently increase navigation safety, especially on border parts of the waterway. Taking into account the new chapter 12 as the legal basis, the ISRBC continued activities on 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.

In accordance with the adopted policy, the 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. The Group finished its work in FY 2014 and presented to the European Commission a non-paper on the orientations for the Commission's initiative, which will be the basis for the EC work on its new legal document on this issue. The proposal for the new EC legal document is expected to be developed in the first half of 2015.

Following the new proposals on the marking of winter ports and shelters and latest changes in the data on winter shelters delivered by Serbia, the ISRBC adopted the amendments to *Rules for Definition of Winters Ports and Winter Shelters in the Sava River Basin* and *Rules for Waterway Marking in the Sava River Basin*.

The ISRBC finished the development of the *Indicator of River Kilometers* for the sector upstream of Sisak (up to the Slovenian-Croatian border), and continued to work on the first draft of the *Indicator* for the navigable sector of the Kupa River.

In cooperation with experts from the Parties, the ISRBC finished the development of the *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River*, and the *Manual* was printed on Croatian and Serbian languages. With the aim to promote the *Manual* and improve the image of inland navigation, the ISRBC started with holding public presentations of the *Manual* in the Sava countries. First presentation was held in Sisak, with participation of pupils from the High school for inland navigation (Figure 3), while other presentations are planned to be organized in FY 2015.



Figure 3. *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River* – public presentation (2014)

## 1.2. Technical standards

As for technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels, the ISRBC prepared the proposal of options for the development of technical rules for vessels in the Sava River Basin in accordance with Article 8 of the *Protocol on the Navigation Regime to the FASRB* and presented it on the meeting of the bodies responsible for implementation of the technical rules in the Sava countries. All participants supported the option that provides for a decision of the ISRBC, 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. Taking this opinion into account, the ISRBC started preparing the decision. The draft decision will be presented to PEG NAV in the beginning of FY 2015.

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

## 1.3. Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation

As an observer and a member of the International Advisory Board of the *COWANDA* project, the ISRBC participated in the Project focused on the drafting of the *International Convention for the Ship Waste Management in the Danube River Basin*. The *COWANDA* finished in FY 2014 and Project Consortium presented the draft *International Convention for the Ship Waste Management in the Danube River Basin*. The Project also identified next steps for development of the *Convention* and all participants in the Project and other stakeholders agreed that it is necessary to start the international contracting process of the *Convention* as soon as possible. The ISRBC emphasized the existing potential of the river commissions in the Danube River Basin to initiate and facilitate this process, and a possible role of the river commissions in future implementation of the *Convention*.

## 1.4. Waterway infrastructure

The Parties and the ISRBC continued their activities on the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River with the following outcomes:



- The preparation of the detailed design of the waterway for the section Brčko – Sisak was launched on May 16, 2013. During the inception phase, based on the analysis of the existing documentation and remarks from NGOs, an extension of the scope of work, budget and duration of the Project, was proposed. Republic of Croatia agreed with the consultant on the scope of additional work within the development of the detailed design (environmental concerns of the NGOs) and ensured financing for it. The contract on the development of the detailed design is currently under suspension due to administrative reasons. The ISRBC is a member of the Project Steering Committee.
- Implementation of projects *Environmental Impact Assessment Study* and *Preparatory Works, Detailed Design and Tender Documentation for Civil Works to Restore the River Sava to Class Va* for the sector Brčko – Belgrade, and the project *Demining of the Sava River banks in B&H*, started in 2012 and 2013, based on the agreement between B&H and EU on financing of these projects.
- On April 7, 2014, the EU and World Bank suspended the agreement for financing of the projects on the sector Brčko – Belgrade due to intention of Republika Srpska not to continue negotiation with the World Bank on financing of the works on the waterway. Immediately after suspension, the ISRBC sent letter to the EU Delegation in B&H and to European Coordinator for the Rhein-Main-Danube Corridor, with the information on a wide range of negative effects of the cancellation of the Project in B&H.
- On May 8, 2014, the EU and World Bank cancelled the agreement for financing of the projects on the sector Brčko – Belgrade, as there were no changes in the position of Republika Srpska regarding the future financing of the above mentioned works.
- The ISRBC organized a meeting with high representatives from the transport ministries (June 30, 2014). All countries reaffirmed their commitment to rehabilitation and development of the Sava River waterway on the whole navigable stretch (Belgrade – Sisak), and the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina will, taking into account the new situation regarding cancellation of the project financing in B&H, consider other possibilities for financing the projects for the waterway sector Brčko – Belgrade.
- After the meeting, the Secretariat sent letters to the B&H Council of Ministers and the EU, providing the information on the Project status.

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

The ISRBC continued participation in the work of the Steering Committee for the Priority Area 1a of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*, 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 the PA 1a, the *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 the project *NEWADA duo*). 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*. During a special event organized on the margins of the EU Transport Ministers' Council meeting on December 3, 2014, the majority of the Danube region transport ministers adopted the *Fairway Master Plan*.

## 2. Integrated water management

The activities of the ISRBC related to integrated water management were focused on finalization and/or further development of strategic plans (*Sava RBM Plan* and *Sava FRM Plan*), and the integrated systems (GIS and the monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems related to accidents and floods) for the Sava River Basin. Significant efforts were invested *inter alia* in the activities related to climate change impacts, sediment issues, development of hydrologic and hydraulic models, as well as in preparation of various projects and project proposals aiming to foster cooperation of the Parties in this field.

### 2.1. River basin management

The first joint *Sava RBM Plan*, prepared under coordination of the ISRBC, was approved at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Zagreb, December 2, 2014), when the Parties also committed themselves to making best efforts to implement the Programme of Measures (PoM), in order to contribute to meeting the common goal – achieving a good water status. The ISRBC was requested to provide all necessary assistance to the Parties in communication with relevant international institutions, in order to find out more opportunities and mechanisms for funding priority projects related to the implementation of the PoM. The approved *Plan*, with all supporting documents, is available at the micro-web site of the ISRBC: [www.savacommission.org/srbmp/](http://www.savacommission.org/srbmp/). The print versions of the *Plan* (Figure 4) will be available in Q1 of FY 2015.

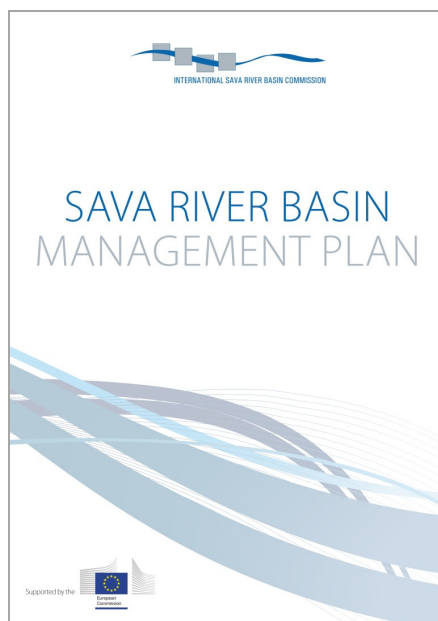


Figure 4. Cover page of the *Sava RBM Plan*

Bearing in mind the long period of preparation of the *Plan* to its official approval, the Parties have taken, through the ISRBC, significant actions in relation to the second planning cycle. First draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sava River Basin Analysis has been prepared and discussed by relevant expert groups. The activities leading to the upgrade of the first *Sava RBM Plan* will continue in FY 2015.

Other important activities performed in FY 2014 are described below.

Further progress toward the *Sediment Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*, as stipulated by the *Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*, has been achieved within the project *Towards the Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, launched by the ISRBC in 2012, in cooperation with, and with support of, the UNESCO Venice Office and SedNet. The report on *Estimation of Sediment Balance for the Sava River (BALSES)* has been finished and made available at the ISRBC web page ([http://www.savacommission.org/project\\_detail/16/1](http://www.savacommission.org/project_detail/16/1)). With financial support of Deltares (NL), a booklet providing an extended summary of the report was published in English and all official languages of the ISRBC in the beginning of FY 2014, to provide the basic information on the importance of the sustainable sediment management for the riverine environment. The booklet is also available at the ISRBC web site, under “Publications”. A project on sediment monitoring, also supported by the UNESCO Venice Office, was initiated in January 2015 aiming to propose the establishment of the sediment monitoring system for the Sava River. The project will be implemented by the core group of experts from the Sava countries until the end of 2015.

*Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin (WATCAP)*, being implemented by the World Bank for several years (2010-2015), is under finalization. The project aiming to assess impacts of climate change on the water sector and to propose options for adaptive management actions for the most important water sub-sectors, resulted in final drafts of the main report and the guidance notes on adaptation on climate change for navigation, hydropower, agriculture and flood protection, as well as the guidance note on economic evaluation of climate change impacts in the basin. Completion of the project was preceded by a dialogue with the main stakeholders, especially through a public consultation in the summer of 2014, performed through the ISRBC web site, and the final workshop held on November 11, 2014. In the wake of the workshop, training on use of the hydrologic model developed through the Project was held on November 12-13, with participation of experts from major stakeholders in the Sava countries (Figure 5). *WATCAP* is pending a formal endorsement of the World Bank, before delivering the project outputs to the ISRBC. It is expected that the final outputs will be publicly available through the ISRBC web-site in Q1 of FY 2015.



Figure 5. Participants of the training course on the Sava Hydrologic Model (Zagreb, November 12-13, 2014)

The project *Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Assessment in the Sava River Basin (Sava Nexus)* has been launched as a part of the UNECE *Water Convention's* Work Programme 2013-2015, aiming to assess the nexus in selected transboundary basins and, in the Sava Basin, to contribute to further integration of water policy with other policies and further dialogue with the key sectoral stakeholders. The *Sava Nexus* preparation is supported by the

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). Following the introductory workshop, organized jointly by UNECE and ISRBC (Zagreb, March 4-6, 2014), the draft assessment report has been developed by the Consultant (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), in close cooperation with local experts from all countries of the Basin. Prior to finalization, the draft *Sava Nexus* report will undergo the consultation process on the web-site and at a stakeholder workshop, in Q1 of FY 2015. Additional activities regarding the *Nexus* are being performed by the EC Joint Research Center (JRC), as a part of the ongoing *Danube Water Nexus* project, in which the Sava River Basin is a pilot basin. Preliminary results of the project were presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> PEG RBM meeting in October 2014, while upgraded results will be presented on the next PEG RBM meeting in June 2015.

As for the groundwater issues, an initial project idea was prepared and granted with a Letter of Recommendation in the Priority Area 4 (PA4) of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region* (EUSDR). 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), launched in 2010, has continued and been followed by the ISRBC. It will be finished in 2015.

Finally, fund-raising activities have been performed for six regional projects for the Sava River Basin (projects No.3-8 in Annex IV), all of them being, either included as milestones in the road map of the EUSDR PA4, or granted a letter of recommendation under the same priority area of the EUSDR. For implementation of these projects, primarily EU funds will be targeted as possible financial sources.

## **2.2. Accident prevention and control**

Three tests of the new Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), launched in 2013, were carried out in the reporting period. The first test was initiated on June 5, 2014, on a week day's night. Its main objective was to test the functionality of the system, 24/7 operability of PIACs and basic usage of the system. It showed that the PIAC in HR and BA reacted very fast (within 20 minutes), while PIAC in SI and RS reacted after the 3 hours required response time (in morning hours). The second test was initiated with the same objectives as the first one, on November 15, 2014, on a weekend afternoon. This time, PIACs in SI, HR and BA reacted very fast (within 30 minutes), while PIAC in RS reacted after the 3 hours required response time. The third test took place on February 24 and 25, 2015, during office hours and simulated the case when serious water pollution is observed and the source is unknown. The goal of this test was to check the functioning of the system and the cooperation of PIACs in handling an accident that occurs on a large international river. All PIACs participated actively in the test. The results of the tests have showed that the PIACs were able to perform their essential tasks within the updated system, while there are some weaknesses regarding the 24/7 preparedness.

In addition, funding has been sought for the project *Water Pollution Contingency Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*, previously granted with a Letter of Recommendation under the PA5 of the EU *Danube Strategy* (project No.9 in Annex IV). The main project objectives are to develop a common decision support system and efficient transnational early accident control system, to improve transnational cooperation among the institutions involved in water management and those involved in civil protection, as well as to integrate different sectors as potential accidental pollution sources (navigation, industry, road and rail transport). It is expected that the project proposal will be submitted to the next call for

project proposals within the Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020, to open in autumn 2015, tentatively.

### 2.3. Flood management

A joint *Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Report* for the Sava River Basin was finished in Q1 of 2014. This report represents a common effort of the Parties towards implementation of the EU *Flood Directive* in the Sava River Basin, as well as the way how the information on flood risk has been exchanged by the countries sharing the Basin. The dialogue and coordination of the activities on harmonization of the APSFR (Figure 6), shared by two or more Parties, shall continue in FY 2015.

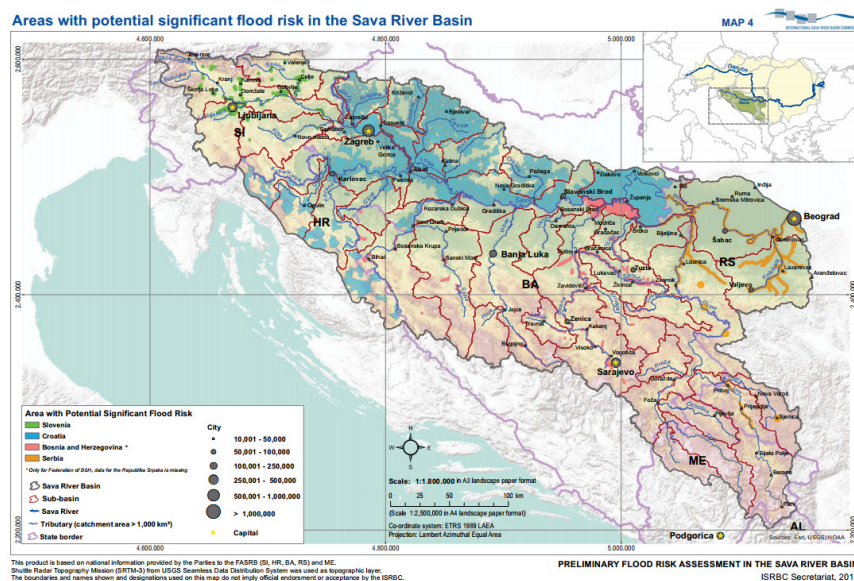


Figure 6: Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) in the Sava River Basin

The project *Improvement of Joint Flood Management Actions in the Sava River Basin*, which will directly support the achievement of objectives of the *FASRB* and of the *Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB*, was approved by the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) in June 2014. It comprises the two components:

- *Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Sava River Basin*, including a *PoM*, and
- Flood forecasting and warning system (*FFWS*) for the Sava River Basin.

Implementing arrangements for the Component 1 are yet to be defined with the World Bank, as the Project implementing body. Preparatory activities for implementation of Component 2 (*FFWS*) are under way. Meetings with representatives of relevant national institutions from all Sava countries (BA, RS and ME as direct beneficiaries, and SI and HR as “indirect” beneficiaries) were organized in the period September 29 – October 3, 2014, in order to reach an agreement on implementation issues. The ToR for technical assistance is under development. It is expected that the implementation will start in Q3 of FY 2015.

Significant efforts invested by the ISRBC in coordination of, and providing inputs to, various hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modelling activities, provided tangible results: hydrologic models for the whole basin, developed by USACE and through the *WATCAP* project, were handed over to responsible national institutions, with a short training course on the use of the model, as described in Chapter 2.1.

An additional accommodation of the functional use of the models for the purposes of flood mapping, supporting the flood forecasting system, and for analyses of alternatives within the future flood protection projects is expected through the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of cooperation with USACE, which started in the summer of 2014. A project proposal aiming to acquire a better terrain data for the Sava hydraulic model by using a high-precision LiDAR technology has been prepared and submitted to US authorities. Its approval and implementation is expected in FY 2015.

After the catastrophic floods of May 2014, a large number of reports were made by the competent authorities in charge of certain aspects of flood protection in the affected countries, as well as by some international organizations, working in this area. Given that most of the reports had a sectoral character, and the fact that the information in them spatially related to the individual countries, the ISRBC together with the ICPDR has recognized the obvious need for unified information for the entire affected area of all three countries (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia). The commissions agreed to cooperate on the development of a joint report that would address the aforementioned flooding in the Sava River Basin. The report was prepared by relevant expert groups of the two commissions (Figure 7). The print version of the joint report will be ready in mid-June 2015, after which it will be distributed to institutions in the Sava countries. The digital edition of the report will also be available on the web-sites of ISRBC and ICPDR.

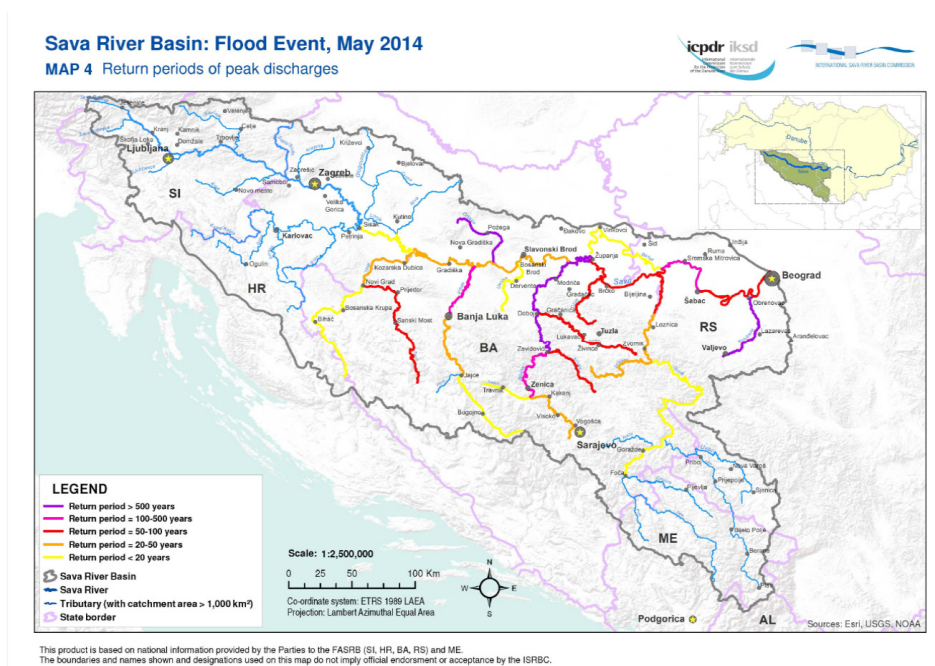


Figure 7: Joint ISRBC & ICPDR *Report on May 2014 flood* – Return periods of peak discharges

As indicated in the introduction to the *Report*, as a response to the disastrous May 2014 floods in the Basin, the ISRBC organized a meeting of the ministers in charge of water issues in all countries of the Sava River Basin (Belgrade, June 16, 2014), to discuss the present state and further steps of regional cooperation in the field. The ministers acknowledged the results achieved through the ISRBC so far, and supported further intensification of activities regarding the direct engagement of the countries, with determined short-term and long-term steps required for the implementation of priority activities in flood protection.

### 3. Cross-cutting and other issues

#### 3.1. Information management

According to the *Sava GIS Strategy*, the Sava GIS has been planned in three phases: establishment of core functionalities (Phase 1), implementation of advanced functionalities, such as mapping and reporting services (Phase 2), and development of dynamic tools and services (Phase 3).

Within preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, funded by EU, Sava GIS servers were purchased and the core RBM-related datasets were prepared. The new grant to ISRBC for development of Sava GIS was approved by the EU in Q4 of FY 2013, with the following main activities:

- Procurement of software (OS, RDBM and GIS), needed for the Sava Geoportal setup
- Set up of an IT equipment room in the premises of ISRBC
- Establishing of the core Sava GIS services:
  - o Geo-database modelling and setup of the Sava GIS physical data model
  - o Data harmonization
  - o Location and creation of required data services
  - o Establishing metadata and data flow.

The Project is currently being implemented and is expected to be finished in Q2 of FY 2015. By this, the Phase 1 of establishment of Sava GIS will be fully implemented. A follow-up project proposal (covering the Phases 2 and 3) has been included as a milestone in the road map of the PA4 of the EU *Danube Strategy* (project No.10 in Annex IV).

#### 3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues

In cooperation with relevant national institutions of the Parties (ministries for environment and/or water management, water agencies and the national hydro-meteorological services – NHMSs), the ISRBC has established a platform for the exchange and use of the hydrological and meteorological information and data, through:

- *Hydrological Yearbook* - 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, *Yearbooks* were developed for years 2006 - 2011 (<http://www.savacommission.org/publication>);
- Data portal on the ISRBC web-site, fed from the databases of the NHMSs, which displays data on the agreed hydrological parameters (water level and changes of the levels, discharge, water temperature) from the agreed gauging stations in the basin (<http://www.savacommission.org/hydro/>), while a similar system for the meteorological data is not yet available to wider public, pending for final agreement within the *Ad hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological issues.

A good basis for further strengthening of the data exchange platform is provided by the *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin*, developed by the ISRBC with support of the WMO, aiming to define the procedures, as well as a minimum level of exchange of the hydrological and meteorological data and information in the Basin. The document was signed on July 1, 2014, by all 6 national/entity hydro-meteorological services from the five basin countries, and by two water agencies – the Sava River Watershed Agency (BA) and the Agency for Environmental Protection (RS),

however it is open for signing by other institutions – data users and/or providers, from the Basin. The data exchange platform is planned to be further developed by establishing the Hydrological Information System for the Basin (Sava HIS), which is an activity to be implemented in FY 2015.

To further improve the foundation of the data exchange platform, it would be important to develop the *Hydrological Study* (project No.11 in Annex IV), based on the *Programme for Development of the Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin*, prepared through the ISRBC in 2013. The project idea on development of the *Hydrological Study* has previously been granted a Letter of Recommendation under the EUSDR PA4.

### **3.3. Other development issues**

Sustainable river tourism was identified at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties (Belgrade, June 1, 2009) as an area for future work of the ISRBC. Since then, a number of activities have been performed in this field, such as the preparation of:

- The first ever *Nautical and Tourist Guide for the Sava River*, developed and published in cooperation with the Forum of Regional Chambers of Commerce from the Parties,
- *Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin*, developed by the ISRBC in cooperation with the US Embassy to Croatia and REC CO Croatia (<http://www.savacommission.org/publication>), and
- Project proposals for the *Master Plan for the Development of Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin* and *Setup of Pontoon Network for Touristic Vessels along the Sava River* (projects No.1-2 on the “B list”, in Annex IV).

In FY 2014, the ISRBC took part in the project *Transboundary Ecotourism Development using Sava River Basin as a showcase (Sava ECOTOUR)*, granted by Technical Assistance Facility for the Danube Region. The project aimed to contribute to effective management of protected areas through development of harmonized sustainable ecotourism practices. Through a joint work of the consultant and the beneficiaries (nature parks/protected areas and Ramsar sites in the Sava River Basin, and the ISRBC), a comprehensive project concept has been developed, which represents a good basis for preparation of a project proposal to the targeted Danube Transnational Programme (project No.3 on the “B list”, in Annex IV).

Preparatory activities have also been initiated regarding the establishment of an ‘eco-label’ for the Sava River Basin (project No.4 on the “B list”, in Annex IV) and continued, regarding the development of bike lanes along the Sava River (project No.5 on the “B list”, in Annex IV).

These activities are expected to facilitate fund-raising for all projects in the field of sustainable river tourism, identified through the ISRBC (project No.1-5 on the “B list”, in Annex IV).



## 4. Cooperation, promotion activities and stakeholder involvement

### 4.1. Cooperation with international organizations and other relevant institutions

Cooperation of the 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 the *FASRB*.

Cooperation with the 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. By means of mutual participation at sessions, expert group meetings and other events of the commissions, coordination of the activities is ensured. In the case of ICPDR, this included the coordination of the data collection for the Sava River Basin, for the purposes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sava River Basin Analysis, or of the activities within the implementation of Sava GIS. In addition, a joint report on the May 2014 flood has been prepared by the two commissions, and the ICPDR supported the ISRBC activities on the establishment of Sava HIS, by allocating a part of the EC grant for this purpose. As for the Danube Commission, there was a coordinated approach to the development of the new version of *CEVNI*, and the new European framework for professional qualifications in inland navigation. Activities on the establishment of CESNI are coordinated with the Danube Commission, too.

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

Cooperation with the European Commission was further extended, and included the cooperation within the new grant contract for the finalization of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Sava GIS establishment, the ISRBC involvement in the activities related to implementation of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*, drafting of the new European legal framework for the professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation, the establishment of a European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation – CESNI, as well as the cooperation within the EC initiative on the development of a regionally integrated flood response strategy for BA and RS.

Cooperation with the UNESCO has been kept on a high level. 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. Within the preparation of the Sava Day 2014 celebration, a contest for scenario for a cartoon related to water and environment, has been organized by UNESCO Venice Office and ISRBC jointly. Based on the best scenarios, submitted by the scholars from the Sava River Basin, a cartoon has been made within the UNESCO initiative “H2ooh!”, and disseminated globally. Finally, joint activities on the preparation of a regional workshop on flood protection, planned to be held in fall 2015, have started.

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

Cooperation is being maintained with other navigation commissions (i.e. Mosel Commission and, especially, the CCNR), and other river and lake protection commissions (e.g. commissions for the protection of the rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder). There has also been a continued cooperation with regional organizations (OSCE, RCC, REC, GWP-Med, GWP CEE), international financial institutions (World Bank), specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum), and business sector (Coca-Cola). Finally, contacts with the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia have continued.

#### **4.2. Cooperation with national institutions**

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

- Further development of the integrated systems for the information and data exchange (Sava GIS, *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin*, Sava HIS), forecasting and early warning and the associated hydrologic models of the Sava 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);
- 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 the ISRBC within the process of implementation of the *Danube Strategy*.

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

#### **4.3. Promotion activities and stakeholder involvement**

The activities related to public participation and stakeholder involvement in the framework of the *FASRB* implementation, have been growing continuously. The information on the *FASRB*

implementation was communicated to stakeholders and wider public via:

- Official web-site of the ISRBC ([www.savacommission.org](http://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 the ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash*, issued twice per year as a bilingual publication (in English and one of the official languages of the ISRBC). In the reporting period, the issues No.13 and No.14 (Figure 8) have been published.
- Publications and reports, including *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River* (in Croatian and Serbian), *FASRB and Protocols to the FASRB* (new edition, in English), booklets *Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase – Estimation of Sediment Balance for the Sava River* (in English and all official languages of the ISRBC) and *Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin* (Figure 9), the *Hydrological Yearbook* for the year 2011, and a number of posters, leaflets and flyers, issued by the ISRBC and disseminated on workshops and meetings.
- Contributions to projects, books, bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/ institutions, e.g. book *The Sava River* published by Springer in early 2015 (Figure 10).
- Press-releases and media briefings, e.g. those related to the two ministerial meetings held in the reporting period, or to the Sava Day celebration.
- Consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, organized or co-organized by the ISRBC, as listed in Annex V.
- the Sava Day 2014 celebration (an overview of the activities given in Annex VI).



Figure 8. *Sava NewsFlash* No.13 (May 2014) and No.14 (November 2014)

Other activities in FY 2014 included:

- Permanent encouragement of governmental and/or non-governmental organizations, as well as other institutions, to become observers at the ISRBC;
- Production of a cartoon on sustainable water use (based on the ideas of the schools participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Parliament meeting), in cooperation with the UNESCO Venice Office, and its dissemination as an educative material for the youth awareness raising;

- Follow-up of preparation of the *Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the Sava Water Partnership*, with the aim to consider possibilities and elaborate options for broadening the multi-stakeholder platform in the Sava River Basin to include governmental, non-governmental, business and academic sectors;
- Preparation and implementation of the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*, supported by the U.S. Government, aiming to foster the awareness raising of young population in the Sava River Basin, and facilitate the establishment of the Sava Water Council, as an advisory body of the ISRBC, planned to be established by the Commission.

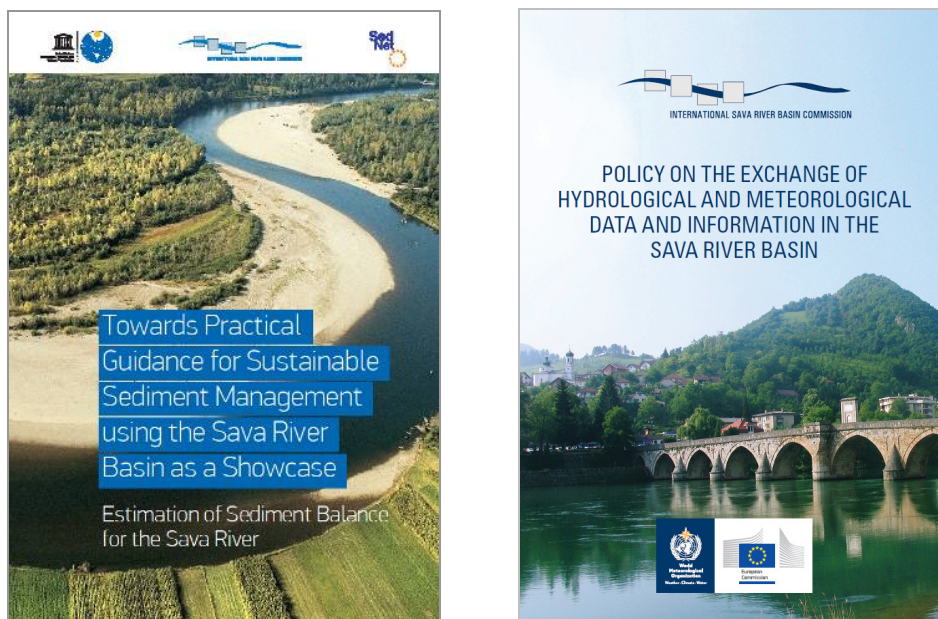


Figure 9. Booklets issued by the ISRBC in FY 2014

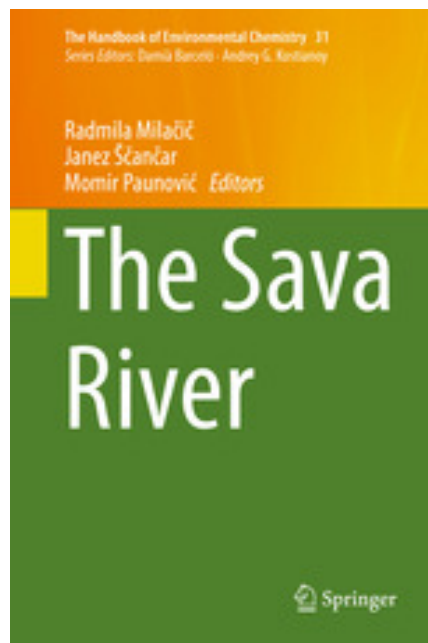


Figure 10. Book *The Sava River* (Springer, 2015)

## 5. Legal issues

### 5.1. The *FASRB* and protocols to the *FASRB*

During the reporting period, significant efforts were invested to launch the procedure for amendments of the *FASRB*, with the aim to ensure further progress in the *FASRB* implementation, by introducing the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management and amending the procedure for adoption of the *Sava RBM Plan* and *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*.

To this end, the ISRBC developed and officially delivered to the Parties the draft amendments to the *FASRB* and the *Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB*, for further consideration and launching corresponding internal procedures. Final harmonization of the amendments of the mentioned international agreements is expected in 2015-2016, depending on readiness of the Parties.

*Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB* was harmonized and initialed at the negotiation meeting held in January 2015. It is expected to be signed in June 2015, depending on completion of the national procedures in the Parties required for the signing. The main objective of the *Protocol* is to facilitate establishment of sustainable sediment management by addressing quality issues such as sediment pollution (including risk assessment), control of source and deposition of polluted sediment, and 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*.

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

The *Protocol on Flood Protection to the 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, was signed on June 1, 2010. 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 defence emergency situations. So far, the *Protocol* has been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011), Croatia (2012) and Serbia (2014).

The *Protocol on Prevention of Water Pollution caused by Navigation to the FASRB* was signed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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* has been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009) and Croatia (2010).

The *Protocol on Emergency Situations to the 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. The *Draft Protocol on Emergency Situations* was adopted by the ISRBC in 2009 and distributed to the Parties for final review. Final harmonization of the *Protocol* is expected, depending on readiness of the Parties.

The *Protocol on Transboundary Impacts to the 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, the *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. For further consideration of the issue, a task group has been established by the ISRBC.

## **5.2. Administration management and legal support**

Under this section of work, a permanent legal support was provided within the work of the ISRBC, its working groups and the Secretariat, including the organization of sessions of the ISRBC, organizational activities for the ministerial meeting on regional cooperation in the field of flood protection (organized soon after the disastrous May 2014 floods) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, as well as preparation of various types of written documents.

In order to foster an active participation of other governmental and/or non-governmental organizations in the ISRBC work, and thus include all relevant factors that could contribute to practical implementation of the *FASRB*, these organizations are permanently encouraged to become observers to the ISRBC. During the reporting period, Center for Environment (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was granted the observer status at the ISRBC.

## 6. Financial issues

### 6.1. Budget

At the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC (Podgorica, February 19, 2014), the decision on adoption of the *Budget of the ISRBC for the Financial Year 2014* (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015), in the total amount of 530,200.00 Euro, was passed. The adopted *Budget* consists of the regular annual contributions in the amount of 487,960.00 Euro (i.e. 121,990.00 Euro per country), of a transfer from the Reserve Fund in the amount of 22,240.00 Euro, and of a part of the UNESCO grant for implementation of the project *Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River*, the U.S. Government grant for implementation of the project *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin* and the EC grant for implementation of the project *Support to development of the Sava Geo Portal*, in the amount of 20,000.00 Euro.

The list of the Parties' annual contributions and other inflows into the General Fund, as well as the list of expenses in FY 2014, can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Received regular annual contributions and other inflows for FY 2014 (in Euro)

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Inflows for FY 2014</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	121,990.00 <sup>1</sup>
Croatia	121,990.00 <sup>2</sup>
Serbia	121,990.00 <sup>3</sup>
Slovenia	121,990.00 <sup>4</sup>
Total received amount of contributions	487,960.00
Transfer from the Reserve Fund	22,240.00 <sup>5</sup>
Miscellaneous	18,964.40 <sup>6</sup>
Total General Fund Inflow	529,164.40

*Note: <sup>1</sup> The contribution was paid on June 2, 2014. <sup>2</sup> The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on April 4 and April 11, 2014. <sup>3</sup> The contribution was paid in two parts, on June 23, 2014 and July 15, 2014. <sup>4</sup> The contribution was paid on December 10, 2014. <sup>5</sup> Transferred amount for covering unexpected expenditures. <sup>6</sup> A part of the EC, the UNECE and the SedNet-Deltares grant funds for implementation of projects.*

Table 2. Expenditures per basic intention in FY 2014 (in Euro)

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures<sup>1</sup></i>
Staff salaries and allowances	431.168,31
Current costs	31.855,48
Travel expenses	29.145,89
Operational costs	19.629,17
Equipment	146,49
Total expenditures	511.945,34 <sup>2</sup>

*Note: <sup>1</sup> The amount of expenditures on March 31, 2015. <sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Financial Rules of the ISRBC, the rest of the General Fund shall be allocated to the Reserve Fund.*

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

## 6.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

In FY 2014, the total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund was 75,917.11 Euro. The received funds are intended for implementation of the projects:

- *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin* (the U.S. Government grant),
- *Improvement of joint Flood Management actions in the Sava River Basin* (for now, financed from the Reserve Fund of the ISRBC),
- *Agreement on Contribution to ISRBC on Support of GWP CEE Danube Strategy Task Force*,
- *Sava Nexus Assessment* (the UNECE grant),
- *Final Workshop on WATCAP and Training on the use of the Sava Basin Hydrologic Model in HEC-HMS* (the COWI AS grant), and
- *Establishment of the Sediment Monitoring System for the Sava River* (the UNESCO grant).

The total expenditures of Special and Trust Fund during the FY 2014 were 75,607.36 Euro, the main part of this amount for implementation of the projects:

- *Strengthening Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement in the Sava River Basin*,
- *Improvement of joint Flood Management actions in the Sava River Basin*,
- *Support to Preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*,
- *Sava Nexus Assessment*,
- *Finalization and Dissemination of the Estimation of a Basin Wide Sediment Balance for the Sava*, and
- *Final Workshop on WATCAP and Training on the use of the Sava Basin Hydrologic Model in HEC-HMS*.

## 6.3. Other activities

During the FY 2014, the implementation of internal and external financial management continued. Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC in FY 2013 has been performed, and the ISRBC took note on the *Report on Audit* at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session.



## **ANNEXES**



**ANNEX I. List of the ISRBC members and deputy members**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name and surname</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>			
1.	Enisa Babić	Member to the ISRBC (temporary)	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.	Savo Gluvić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	WMC "SAVA" Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Republic of Croatia</b>			
3.	Igor Butorac	Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
4.	Dražen Kurečić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia
<b>Republic of Serbia</b>			
5.	Miodrag Pješčić	Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
6.	Vladan Zdravković	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>till June 26, 2014</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
7.	Leposava Sojić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of June 26, 2014</i>	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia
<b>Republic of Slovenia</b>			
8.	Mitja Bricelj	Chairman, Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
9.	Robert Kojc	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

## ANNEX II. List of the ISRBC expert groups and the overview of their meetings held in FY 2014

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

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

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

The following meetings of the expert groups were held in FY 2014:

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue
1.	24 <sup>th</sup> PEG FP Meeting	24 – 25 Apr. 2014	Ljubljana
2.	15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> L EG Meeting	12 May 2014	Zagreb
3.	18 <sup>th</sup> PEG APC Meeting	13 May 2014	Banja Luka
4.	17 <sup>th</sup> PEG NAV Meeting	14 – 15 May 2014	Zagreb
5.	16 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> L EG Meeting	3 Sep. 2014	Zagreb
6.	10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> GIS EG Meeting	23 Sep. 2014	Zagreb
7.	28 <sup>th</sup> PEG RBM Meeting	16 – 17 Oct. 2014	Zagreb
8.	25 <sup>th</sup> PEG FP Meeting	27 – 28 Nov. 2014	Zagreb
9.	10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> HM EG Meeting	9 Dec. 2014	Banja Luka
10.	8 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> FIN EG Meeting	17 Dec. 2014	Zagreb
11.	19 <sup>th</sup> PEG APC Meeting	17 Feb. 2015	Zagreb
12.	11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ah</i> GIS EG Meeting	13 Mar. 2015	Zagreb
13.	26 <sup>th</sup> PEG FP Meeting	19 Mar. 2015	Zagreb

**ANNEX III. List of the FASRB-related projects implemented, ongoing or launched in FY 2014**

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
<b>River Basin Management</b>						
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
Water – food – energy – ecosystems nexus assessment for the Sava river basin	15 months	Ongoing	Started in Jan 2014	UNECE	~ 50.0	UNECE
	~ 2 years	Ongoing	Started in Jan 2014 (as a part of the Danube Water Nexus)	EC Joint Res. Centre	~ 50.0	EC
Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin	1 year	Ongoing	Started in Mar 2015	Institute for Biological Research „Siniša Stanković“, Belgrade, RS	~ 35.0	EC (EUSDR)
<b>Flood Management</b>						
Improvement of joint flood management actions in the Sava river basin	30 months	Ongoing	Preparatory activities in progress (started in Sep 2014)	Consultant to be selected	2,000.0	WBIF
<b>Navigation Development</b>						
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)

Project title	Duration	Status	Remark on the status / Implementation period	Lead partner(s) / Consultant	Budget (k€)	Funding source
Implementation of RIS on the Sava river	3 years	Ongoing	In Serbia, implemented	Plovput, RS	~ 1,100.0	EC
			In Croatia, tender procedure in progress		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
<b>Information Management</b>						
Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – 1 <sup>st</sup> implementation phase	~ 2 years	Ongoing	1 <sup>st</sup> part: May 2010 – Aug. 2012 (within the EC grant for the <i>Sava RBM Plan</i> preparation); 2 <sup>nd</sup> part (new EC grant contract): started in Feb 2014	IN2 Ltd., Zagreb & IGEA Ltd., Varaždin, HR	168.0	EC
					22.0	ISRBC
<b>Hydrological and Meteorological Issues</b>						
Enhancing hydrological data management and exchange procedures	12 months	Implemented	Mar 2013 – Apr 2014	WMO	~ 50.0	EC (IPA)
Rehabilitation and modernization of 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
Establishment of the Sava HIS	7 months	Ongoing	Started in Mar 2015	Consultant to be selected	20.0	EC / ICPDR
<b>Climate Change Issues</b>						
Water and climate adaptation plan for the Sava river basin	~ 2 years	Ongoing	Started in June 2009; Finalization expected in April 2015	World Bank	~ 240.0 (~ 300 k\$)	World Bank

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remark on the status / Implementation period</b>	<b>Lead partner(s) / Consultant</b>	<b>Budget (k€)</b>	<b>Funding source</b>
<b>River Tourism Development</b>						
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)
<b>Public Participation and Stakeholder Involvement</b>						
Enhancement of the stakeholder involvement in the management of the Sava river basin – Towards the establishment of the Sava Water Partnership	9 months	Ongoing	Started in Nov 2010; Delay in implementation; Finalization expected in 2015	GWP-Med	46.5	UNESCO, EC, GWP-Med
Strengthening public participation and stakeholder involvement in the Sava river basin	13 months	Ongoing	Started in Dec 2014	ISRBC	47.5	US Government, USAID

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

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
<b>Navigation Development</b>						
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 establishment of a new legal and financial framework, proposed by <i>COWANDA</i> project
<b>River Basin Management</b>						
3	Examination of biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin	2 years	Project proposal available; Granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4; A „quick start“ project application <i>STAWA</i> selected for financing within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’	1,490	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme), GEF	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured
4	Towards sustainable sediment management in the Sava River Basin	~ 2.5 years	Project idea granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA4	~ 1,500	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme), 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. SEE Programme), GEF	
6	Implementation of the Sava RBM Plan	~ 2 years	Project idea included as Milestone No.6 in Road Map of Action 2 („Strengthening cooperation on the sub-basin level“) in the EUSDR PA4	/	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme), GEF	2015
7	Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis (within the 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle of RBM planning)	~ 2 years	Project idea included as Milestone No.7 in Road Map of Action 2 in the EUSDR PA4	/	EU funds	Activities started within the regular work of PEG RBM



No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
8	Preparation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	
<b>Accident Prevention and Control</b>						
9	Water pollution contingency management plan for the Sava river basin	2.5 years	Project proposal available; Granted a LoR in the EUSDR PA5; A „quick start“ project application <i>COMAS</i> not selected for financing within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’; New application being prepared for the Danube TCP call	1,400	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme), GEF	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured
<b>Information Management</b>						
10	Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> implementation phases	~ 3 years (2 <sup>nd</sup> phase)	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	
<b>Hydrological and Meteorological Issues</b>						
11	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. SEE Programme)	Ready for implementation as soon as funding is ensured

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

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
<b>River Tourism Development</b>						
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. SEE Programme)	
2	Setup of pontoon network for touristic vessels along the Sava river	~ 1 year	Project proposal available	~ 500	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme)	Ready for implementation 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 ( <i>Sava Ecotour</i> ) in progress	~ 500	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme)	
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. SEE Programme)	
5	Development of bike lanes along the Sava river	/	Project proposal for Phase 1 (development of the initial concept) available; A „quick start“ project application <i>Sava-MultiNET</i> not selected for financing within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’ (EUSDR PA3)	~ 75 (Phase 1)	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme)	Ready for implementation (Phase 1) as soon as funding is ensured
<b>Development of Small and Medium Enterprises</b>						
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	
9	Development of small shipyards and small ports/marinas in the Sava river basin	/	/	/	WBIF	

No.	Project title	Duration	Available documentation / Status	Budget (k€)	Possible funding source	Planned start of implementation
<b>Spatial Development</b>						
10	Integrated spatial development concept for the Sava river basin	/	Project idea available; A „quick start“ project application <i>Sava-PLATFORM</i> not selected for financing within the ‘START - Danube Region Project Fund’ (EUSDR PA5)	/	EU funds (e.g. SEE Programme)	

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

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
1.	Workshop on the Hydro-meteorological data exchange in the Sava River Basin	15 – 16 Apr. 2014	Banja Luka	WMO, ISRBC
2.	Strategic meeting of the ISRBC	9 June 2014	Belgrade	ISRBC
3.	Ministerial meeting on the regional cooperation on the flood management in the Sava River Basin	16 June 2014	Belgrade	ISRBC
4.	Meeting with representatives of the Parties from the ministries of transport	30 June 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC
5.	35 <sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC	1 July 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC
6.	Signing of the <i>Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin</i>	1 July 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC
7.	Meeting on the implementation of the <i>Sava Ecotour</i> project	2 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
8.	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Organizational Board of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the <i>FASRB</i>	10 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
9.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin	19 – 20 Sep. 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC, City of Ljubljana, NGO Lutra
10.	Initial preparatory meeting for implementation of the project <i>Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin</i>	29 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
11.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project <i>Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin</i>	30 Sep. 2014	Ljubljana	ISRBC
12.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project <i>Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin</i>	30 Sep. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
13.	Preparatory meeting for implementation of the project <i>Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin</i>	1 Oct. 2014	Sarajevo	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
14.	Preparatory meetings for implementation of the project <i>Improvement of Joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River Basin</i>	2 – 3 Oct. 2014	Belgrade	ISRBC
15.	36 <sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC	14 Oct. 2014	Zagreb	ISRBC
16.	Final workshop on the <i>Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin</i>	11 Nov. 2014	Zagreb	WB, ISRBC
17.	Hands-on training on the use of the Hydrological Model of the Sava River Basin	12 – 13 Nov. 2014	Zagreb	WB, ISRBC
18.	9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting with Captains of Port Master Offices from the Sava River Basin	25 – 26 Nov. 2014	Sremska Mitrovica	ISRBC
19.	5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the <i>FASRB</i>	2 Dec. 2014	Zagreb	Gov. of Croatia, ISRBC
20.	4 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Regulation and Multipurpose Use of the Sava River	4 Dec. 2014	Zagreb	NGO „SLAP“, ISRBC and other org.
21.	Meeting with national experts from the Registers of Shipping	16 – 17 Dec. 2014	Slavonski Brod	ISRBC
22.	Meeting of the ICPDR and ISRBC Secretariats	22 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
23.	Meeting on final harmonization of the <i>Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB</i>	23 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
24.	Kick-off meeting within the project <i>Towards practical guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava river basin as a showcase</i>	29 Jan. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
25.	Signing of the <i>SAVAPARKS Declaration</i> 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 NHMSs of the Sava River Basin countries	10 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

No.	Meeting / event	Date	Venue	Organizer
28.	37 <sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC	24 Feb. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC
29.	First workshop within the project <i>Sava GIS establishment – the 1<sup>st</sup> implementation phase</i>	12 Mar. 2015	Zagreb	ISRBC

## ANNEX VI. Overview of the activities performed within the Sava Day 2014 celebration

As every year, the Sava Day 2014 celebration was planned to include three types of events:

- Events organized by the Parties themselves, mostly by continuing national projects that have been implemented for years (e.g. social responsibility projects of the *Coca Cola* company),
- National or international events, organized by other institutions / organizations during May and June 2014, that would be attended by the ISRBC and used for the promotion of the Sava Day and the key messages associated with its celebration, and
- Events directly organized by the ISRBC.

The events from the third group, i.e. the ISRBC events were planned to include:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin (Ljubljana, May 30-31, 2014),
- International Cycling Tour from the source to the mouth of the Sava River (Kranjska Gora, May 30 – Belgrade, June 7, 2014), and
- International Rowing Regatta along the Sava River (Radovljica, June 15 – Belgrade, July 5, 2014).

However, due to disastrous floods that happened in the second half of May 2014 in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the ISRBC decided to cancel the Cycling Tour and the Rowing Regatta, and to postpone the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Parliament meeting. Instead of organizing the first two events, the ISRBC provided a donation to the flood affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, by the payment through humanitarian organizations.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Youth Parliament was held on September 19-20, 2014, at the Biotechnical Educational Centre Ljubljana (Figure 11). The event was organized by ISRBC and LUTRA, Institute for Natural Heritage Conservation (Ljubljana), and sponsored by UNDP B&H, the Coca-Cola HBC companies for Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia, as well as the Municipality of Ljubljana. About 60 scholars and teachers from 8 secondary schools from the Parties were brought together at the event, with the 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 schools were selected based on the best scenarios for a cartoon dealing with sustainable water use in the Sava River Basin, which had been produced for the competition entitled “Water in the Sava River Basin – Development and Protection”. The competition was organized by the ISRBC, within the „H2Ooooh!“ project sponsored by the UNESCO Venice Office. The programme included presentations of the cartoon scenarios by the participants, a hiking tour „Recognize the Ljubljanica River“, a debate on water-related development and protection (in English), and voting of the Youth Parliament bodies according to the Statute. At the end, a boat trip along the Ljubljanica River was organized for the participants.

Based on the above mentioned scenarios, the UNESCO Venice Office has produced the cartoon “Save the River” (Figure 12). The cartoon was presented, for the first time, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*. It is also available at the official web-sites of the ISRBC ([www.savacommission.org](http://www.savacommission.org)) and of the UNESCO Venice Office. In addition to global dissemination of the cartoon through the UNESCO channels, the cartoon sub-titles have been prepared in all languages of the Parties, to be used for dissemination within the Basin.



Figure 11. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Youth Parliament (Ljubljana, 2014)



Figure 12. Shots of the cartoon “Save the River”

The information on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Parliament meeting was disseminated through a number of media and web portals in the Parties. Currently, preparatory activities for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parliament are going on.

As for the national projects implemented by the countries, their scope was largely affected by the May 2014 flood, so that most of the activities were cancelled, and the focus of the projects was shifted to undertaking actions and providing humanitarian aid to the flood affected areas in the three countries of the Sava River Basin.



**ANNEX VII. List of acronyms**

AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
APC	Accident Prevention and Control
APSFR	Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk
BA, B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
<i>CEVNI</i>	<i>European Code for Navigation</i>
CO	Country Office
<i>COWANDA</i>	The <i>WANDA</i> follow-up project
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EG	Expert Group (of the ISRBC)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
<i>Espoo Convention</i>	<i>UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</i>
EU	European Union
<i>EUSDR</i>	<i>EU Strategy for the Danube Region</i>
<i>FASRB</i>	<i>Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin</i>
FP	Flood Prevention
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FY	Financial Year of the ISRBC
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP CEE	Regional Partnership of the GWP for Central and Eastern Europe
GWP-Med	Mediterranean Regional Partnership of the GWP
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
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

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ISI	International Sediment Initiative
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
NAV	Navigation
<i>NEWADA</i>	<i>Network of Danube Waterway Administrations</i>
<i>NEWADA duo</i>	The <i>NEWADA</i> follow-up project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Priority Area (of the EU <i>Strategy for the Danube Region</i> )
PEG	Permanent Expert Group (of the ISRBC)
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
PIAC	Principal International Alert Center
PoM	Programme of Measures
PR	Public Relations
Q	Quarter of a year
RBM	River Basin Management
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
REC	Regional Environmental Center
RIS	River Information Service
RS	Republic of Serbia
SedNet	European Sediment Network
SEE	South East Europe
SI	Republic of Slovenia
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
US	United States (of America)
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
<i>WANDA</i>	<i>Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube</i>
<i>WATCAP</i>	<i>Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin</i>
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
WMO	World Meteorological Organization