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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**on Work and Activities of the ISRBC**  
**for the Period April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013**

**April 2013**



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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 2012* was prepared. The *Report* corresponds to the financial year 2012 of the ISRBC, covering the period as of April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013. 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. To this end, four sessions of the ISRBC were held in FY 2012: 28<sup>th</sup> Session (Zagreb, April 10-11, 2012), 29<sup>th</sup> Session (Zagreb, July 10, 2012), 30<sup>th</sup> Session (Zagreb, November 7-8, 2012) and 31<sup>st</sup> Session (Belgrade, February 20, 2013), see Figure 1. Additionally, 23 meetings of the expert groups and other bodies of the ISRBC, as well as 15 conferences, consultation workshops and other meetings with stakeholders, were held during this period.



Figure 1. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the ISRBC (Belgrade, February 20, 2013).

The ISRBC work has been focused on the following activities:

- finalization of the planning phase (i.e. studies and detailed design) for rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway;
- further development and/or finalization of the strategic plans for the Sava River Basin (finalization of the *Draft Sava River Basin Management Plan*, preparation of the *Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan*);
- development/upgrade of integrated systems for the Basin (GIS, RIS, the monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems related to accidents and floods, and a platform for the exchange of meteorological and hydrological information and data);
- development of various kinds of “sustainable” river tourism in the Basin (i.e. nautical, eco-, recreational tourism, etc.);

- preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities, including the streamlining of the projects with the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*;
- financial and administration management, as well as development of internal regulations of the ISRBC;
- consideration of possibilities and elaboration of options for broadening of the multi-stakeholder platform to include the governmental, non-governmental, business and academic sectors in the *FASRB* implementation;
- promotion activities, including the organization of the Sava Day 2012, issuing of the official bulletin of the ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash* and specialized publications, updating of the web-site, and development of the promotion material of the ISRBC.

In addition to the progress achieved in the main fields of work, the main accomplishments of the ISRBC in FY 2012 include:

- further integration of the environmental protection into the economic activities, such as the navigation and tourism development;
- integration of “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches through further strengthening of the stakeholder involvement in the *FASRB* implementation process;
- improved visibility of the *FASRB* implementation process and the ISRBC as the coordinator of the process, in the Parties and elsewhere.

Further efforts have been made to ensure funding for regional, *FASRB*-related projects, with a special focus on the external financial sources. As a result, the budget share of the externally funded projects has continued to increase and reached the level of 84% (the other 16% being ensured from contributions of the Parties). It is likely that percentage of the externally funded projects will further increase in future, given the facts that 11 priority projects of the ISRBC have already been granted a label or letter of recommendation of the EU *Strategy for the Danube Region*, and that the other planned projects are also expected to lean toward the external financial sources.

Based on the *Declaration* from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, possibilities to introduce the legally binding character of the ISRBC decisions to certain fields of water management have been considered initially. Given the mutually expressed interest of the ISRBC and Montenegro to enhance further cooperation, contacts related to possibilities for Montenegro to become a Party to the *FASRB* in due time, have been continued.

Detailed review of the ISRBC activities is presented in the sections below. The annexes are provided to the *Report* for completeness of information. The list of the ISRBC members and deputy members is given in Annex I, and the list of the active expert groups of the ISRBC, in Annex II to the *Report*. The *FASRB*-related projects, implemented or launched during the reporting period, are listed in Annex III. A brief overview of the public participation and stakeholder involvement activities is provided in Annexes IV and V. The list of acronyms is attached as Annex VI to the *Report*.

## 1. Navigation

Taking into account the *Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2012*, the main focus of the ISRBC work in the field of navigation was on the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River waterway and improvement of the regulatory framework, especially related to waterway marking and RIS.

### 1.1. Navigation safety

In FY 2012, the ISRBC activities focused on participation in the process of further upgrade of the navigation rules on European level, further elaboration of the harmonized rules for safety inspection in the framework of Decision 30/07 on *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin* (Figure 2), as well as modernization and harmonization of the rules for qualification of boatmasters and crew on European level and the upgrade of Decision 32/07 on the *Rules on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Licenses in the Sava River Basin*.

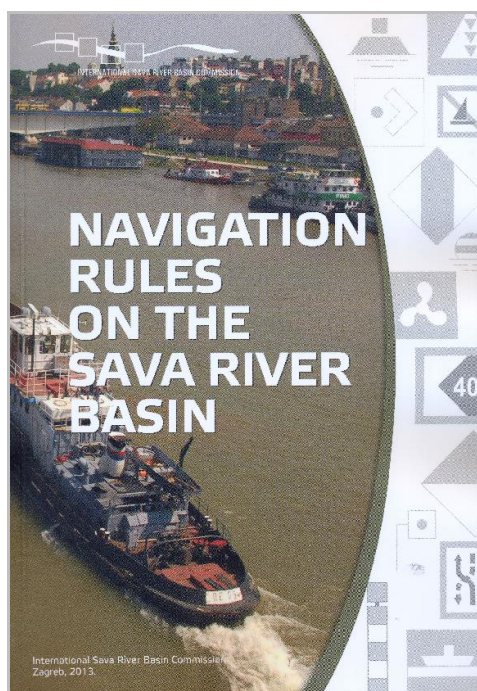


Figure 2. Consolidated text of the *Navigation Rules in the Sava River Basin* (2013).

Active participation in the work of the Danube Commission Technical Working Group involved follow-up to modification of navigation rules at European level. Resolution No. 59 of the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport was amended based on the proposal developed by the ISRBC. In line with that outcome, Decision 02/13 on Amendments to the Decision 31/07 on the *Rules for Waterway Marking in the Sava River Basin* was adopted by the ISRBC.

Preparation of a web application for safety inspection was commenced, with the aim to enable storage and usage of the inspection data for the whole Sava River in a harmonized way. A need for unification of reports on realization of the *Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries* was recognized, too. Based on remarks and proposals received from competent authorities of the Parties on the first draft, a new draft of the blue print for the *Report on Realization of the Marking Plan* was developed.

Other achievements in FY 2012 include the development of a concept for production of the paper navigational charts of the Sava River, drafting of the *Indicator of River Kilometers* for the sector upstream of Sisak and the *Manual for Navigation on the Sava River*, initial steps for integration of the *Indicator of River Kilometers* and *Album of Bridges* into the web application for development of the *Marking Plan*, and publishing of the *Rules on Minimum Manning Requirements*, *Rules for Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of the Boatmaster Licenses* and *Rules for Waterway Marking* (reprints), *Manual for Radio Communication* and *Rules for Winter Ports and Winter Shelters* (Figure 3).

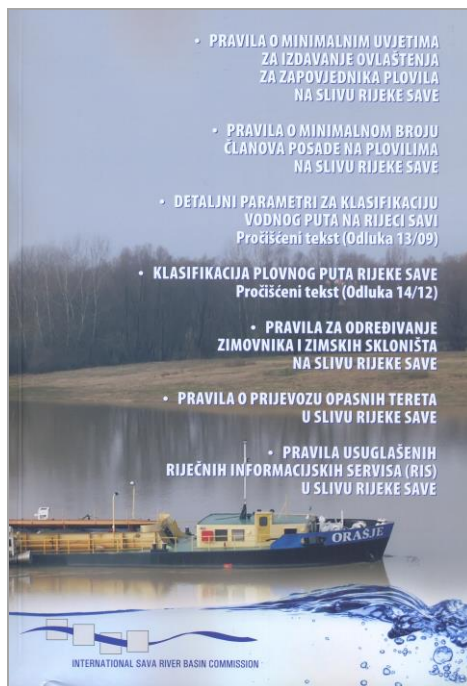


Figure 3. Rules related to safety and technical standards of navigation (2013).

## 1.2. Technical standards

As for the technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels, the development of the *Technical Rules for Vessels in the Sava River Basin* has continued. The *Rules* are being developed in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure. Additionally, the *Rules for Transport of Dangerous Substances in the Sava River Basin* have been printed (Figure 3).

## 1.3. Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation

Following the active participation in the finished project *Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube* (WANDA), which provided a framework for a harmonized waste management system with a proposal for the financing model, the ISRBC continued its active role in the follow-up project *Convention for Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube* (Co-WANDA).

## 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:



- Croatia and Slovenia agreed to carry on with the preparatory activities for the establishment of navigation upstream from Sisak, and, in this respect, to develop an action plan for extension of the Sava River waterway from Sisak to Brežice.
- The contract for the preparation of the detailed design of the waterway for the section Brčko-Sisak is ready for signature and the activities are expected to start by the end of April 2013. In addition, Federation of B&H has obtained the urban design ToR, as well as the environmental permit; in the Brčko District the same procedure is almost completed, while in the Republic of Srpska the process is under way.
- With regard to the waterway demining in B&H, the tender was prepared in July of 2012 and submitted to the World Bank for review.
- As for the waterway section Brčko-Belgrade, the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study started in December 2012. The application procedure for the preparation of preliminary and detailed design of the waterway began in the last year. Technical bids were evaluated and sent to the World Bank for verification.
- Decision 14/12 on Amendments to the Decision 19/08 on *Classification of the Sava River Waterway* was adopted by the ISRBC, and it will serve as a basis for the detailed design, financing of works and further development of navigation upstream from Sisak up to Slovenia.

These activities are being monitored and coordinated by the Committee, established by the ISRBC in 2011. To bring the navigation project fully in line with the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, a new *Methodology of Work of the Committee* was adopted in 2012 (Decision 12/12). According to the *Methodology*, the Committee members include representatives of the competent ministries of the Parties, both from the water management / nature conservation / environmental protection and navigation sectors, as well as representatives of international organizations (ICPDR, Danube Commission) and stakeholders (NGO and economic / navigation sectors), thus ensuring a well balanced representation of the sectors in the monitoring and coordination process.

In the framework of the RIS implementation activities, the focus was on the development of the *Rules for a Harmonized RIS in the Sava River Basin*, preparation of the *Regulation on International Data Exchange*, as well as on *production of paper navigational charts*, *development of standards for notices to skippers* and *development of standards for electronic ship reporting*. In that line, Decision 15/12 on adoption of the *Rules on Harmonized RIS in the Sava River Basin*, and Decision 16/12 on production and update of the Inland Electronic Navigational Charts for the Sava River Basin, were passed by the ISRBC.

There has also been an active participation of the ISRBC in the project *NEWADA DUO*, which is the follow-up to the former *NEWADA* project.

As a part of the efforts to create a positive image of inland navigation as a reliable, safe and environmentally friendly way of transport and promote the transport possibilities on the Sava River, the International Conference “Sava river – A transport corridor and tourist destination” was recently organized by the ISRBC (Belgrade, 6 March 2013).

## 2. Integrated water management

In the reporting period, the activities of the ISRBC in this field were focused on further development of strategic plans (*Sava RBM Plan* and *Flood Risk Management Plan*), and the integrated systems (GIS and the monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems related to accidents and floods) for the Sava River Basin.

### 2.1. River basin management

Preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, in line with the EU *Water Framework Directive* (EU *WFD*) and under the coordinating role of the ISRBC, certainly presents a key action in this field. The process has been supported by the EC, through direct financing of the technical assistance for the *Plan* preparation (ended in November 2011), and a grant to the ISRBC for an overall project management and facilitation (ended in August 2012). Following a number of public participation and stakeholder involvement activities, including a 4-month web-based consultation process (December 2011 – April 2012), the *Draft Sava RBM Plan*, accompanied with 13 annexes, 22 maps and 10 background documents (providing details on specific issues or the methodologies used), was prepared in English, all official languages of the ISRBC and Montenegrin (Figure 4). At the moment, the document is undergoing the national procedures preceding the official adoption of the *Plan* by the Parties, as stipulated by the *FASRB*.



Figure 4. *Draft Sava RBM Plan*.

In addition to the preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, several other RBM-related issues have been dealt with.

The initial activities related to sediment management, are being performed within the project *Towards the Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, launched by the ISRBC in cooperation with, and with support of, the UNESCO Venice Office and SedNet. The main objective of the project is to develop and validate a practical guidance to achieve a *Sediment Management Plan* on the river basin scale. The Sava River Basin is a showcase as it is expected that the project experience will inspire other river basins (globally) to also apply the practical guidance as developed in this project.

Furthermore, the project will support the implementation of related European policies, such as the *WFD* and the *Flood Directive*.

The two main project activities include the development and execution of a practical training course on sustainable sediment management, fully in line with the *Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*, and the application of the guidance in the Sava practice. So far, the first part of the training course, dealing with the sediment balance, the sediment monitoring and the evaluation of sediment quality and quantity, has been organized (Zagreb, 15-18 October 2012), and a corresponding draft guidance has been developed. The draft guidance will be a basis for development of the *Sediment Management Plan* for the Sava River Basin as stipulated by the *Draft Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*. The next phase of the project, aimed at the practical application of the guidance by elaborating the balance, monitoring, and quality and quantity in the Sava River Basin, is just being launched.

The climate change issues are considered in the ongoing project *Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin (WATCAP)*, financed and implemented by the World Bank, which aims to assess the impact of climate change on the water sector and propose options for adaptive management actions in water sub-sectors, including navigation, hydropower generation, agricultural water use, flood protection, as well as to undertake an economic analysis of the projects that the water management sub-sector studies are based on. The project is expected to be finalized in the second half of 2013.

In 2012, there was also collaboration with relevant external projects – *Protection and sustainable use of the Dinaric karst transboundary aquifer system (DIKTAS)* and *Successful Public Participation in the Water Management in the Sava River Basin*. Finally, six regional projects for the Sava River Basin (listed in Annex III) have been, either included as milestones in the road map of the Priority Area 4 (PA4) of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*, or granted a letter of recommendation under the PA4 of the *Danube Strategy*. For implementation of these projects, primarily EU funds will be targeted as possible financial sources.

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

The ISRBC activities, performed during FY 2012, were mainly directed to participation in development of the new version of the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), which was launched on March 1, 2013. The aim of upgrading the previous system was to build on the successful functions of the system in use and enhance it with modern web tools.

Possibilities for unification of different systems for accident prevention and control (e.g. AEWS, CECIS (EU), UNECE system) were considered on the expert level. According to the conclusion, the AEWS system has been the most suitable to be used in case of emergency situations of water pollution, but the harmonization process should be monitored in future if it would start.

In addition, a proposal of the project *Pollution Contingency Management on Transboundary Waters* has been developed. 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). The project proposal has been granted a letter of recommendation under the PA5 of the *EU Danube Strategy*.

### 2.3. Flood management

The preparatory activities for the development of the *Flood Risk Management Plan (FRM Plan)* for the Sava River Basin, in line with the EU *Flood Directive*, as foreseen by the *Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB*, were intensified in 2012.

A number of activities are being performed through the ongoing pilot project *Building the Link between Flood Risk Management Planning and Climate Change Assessment in the Sava River Basin*, financed within the UNECE framework. These activities include the preparation of the *Program for Development of the Sava FRM Plan*, an initial flood vulnerability assessment and the assessment of potential climate change impact on flood management in the Basin.

The draft *Program* has been discussed with relevant stakeholders from the Sava River Basin at a consultation workshop organized within the project (Zagreb, 3-4 December 2012). According to the *Protocol on Flood Protection to the FASRB*, the *Program* must be prepared 6 months after the entry of the *Protocol* into force. However, the intention is to reach a common understanding of the actions and their timeframe, even before final ratification of the *Protocol*. Therefore, this issue will be considered at the final workshop within the UNECE pilot project, scheduled for May 2013, tentatively.

Baseline studies on the ongoing and completed activities on FRM planning in the Sava River Basin, as well as on the legislation, strategies and plans related to FRM and climate change, have been finished. An initial flood vulnerability assessment for the Sava River Basin is also in the final phase of preparation. The other project components (i.e. elaboration of various existing climate change scenarios for the region, their expected impacts on water cycle and more specifically on frequency and magnitude of extreme flood events, elaboration of adaptation measures), are in progress.

As the Parties have started with the preparation of preliminary flood risk assessment for the Sava River Basin, there is a regular information exchange, in the framework of the ISRBC, on the related activities of the Parties.

The hydraulic model of the Sava River, initially developed in cooperation with the USACE, was further upgraded by the ISRBC itself, resulting in a significantly enhanced unsteady flow model. The ISRBC also assisted to the *WATCAP* project and the UNECE pilot project by providing inputs for the hydrologic models being developed within these two projects. It is expected that all modelling results will also be submitted to the ISRBC and contribute to further enhancement of the models.

The already developed versions of the models will soon be delivered to nominated institutions of the Parties, for updating of the information as it becomes available, and for their use for the purposes of flood mapping, supporting the flood forecasting system, and for analyses of alternatives within the future flood protection projects. As these models can be regarded as preliminary, an additional effort is required to accommodate their functional use to the above mentioned purposes. Additional hydrologic and better geometry data are required from the Parties for calibration and verification of the models. Steps toward the continuation of cooperation with the USACE have already been taken. Having in mind a variety of ongoing modelling activities at the national level, a common understanding on the actions needed at the basin level deems necessary to achieve the best results.

The ISRBC has also been involved in two newly launched projects of the WMO – *Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey* and *Development and Implementation of a Regional Flash Flood Guidance System for the SEE Region*. Both projects are potentially beneficial from the perspective of the ongoing activities of the Parties in the framework of the ISRBC. Finally, two project proposals related to flood management (as shown in Annex III) have been granted a letter of recommendation under the EU *Danube Strategy*.

### 3. Cross-cutting and other issues

#### 3.1. Information management

According to the *Sava GIS Strategy*, adopted by the ISRBC in 2008, development of the Sava GIS has been planned in three phases: setup of the core functionalities (Phase 1), development and implementation of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services (Phase 2), and development and implementation of the advanced dynamic tools and services (Phase 3).

The Phase 1 is currently in progress. Within the implementation of the EU grant to the ISRBC, entitled *Support to the ISRBC in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*, the following has been achieved:

- Hardware for the Sava GIS (data and application servers) purchased;
- GIS data sets used for the Sava River Basin Analysis and the *Sava RBM Plan* purposes refined, and the maps (Figure 5) prepared in English and all official languages;
- Based on the data collected, additional products and common datasets in the form of a *file geodatabase*, created. This geodatabase will serve as a basic data input for the future central Geodatabase of Sava GIS.

This phase should be functional in early 2014, with support of the EU, if it is approved as expected, while the follow-up project (covering the Phases 2 and 3) has been included as a milestone in the road map of the Priority Area 4 of the EU *Danube Strategy*.

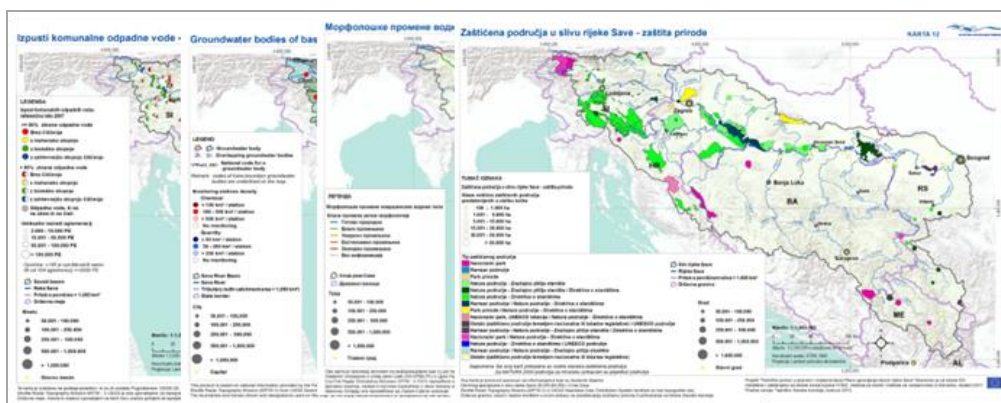


Figure 5. *Sava RBM Plan* maps.

#### 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 through:

- Development of annual summary of the water regime at relevant gauging stations in the Sava River Basin. The data on water levels, daily discharges, water temperatures, suspended sediment discharge and precipitations are sent by the NHMSs from the Parties and Montenegro, and then included into a *Hydrological Yearbook*. In addition to the 2006, 2007 and 2008 issues of the *Yearbook*, already available on the ISRBC web-site (<http://www.savacommission.org/publication>), the 2009 and 2010 issues are under preparation and will be completed after delivery of all data by the NHMSs;

- Establishment of permanent links with the databases of the NHMSs. Data on the agreed hydrological parameters (water level and changes of the levels, discharge, water temperature) and meteorological parameters (precipitation, air temperature, min. and max. daily temperature, snow height) from the agreed gauging stations in the Basin are automatically uploaded and continuously displayed on the ISRBC web-site (<http://www.savacommission.org/hydro/>, <http://www.savacommission.org/meteo/7/>).

In addition, the *Programme for Development of the Hydrological Study for the Sava River Basin* has been prepared, while the project idea on development of the *Hydrological Study* has been granted a letter of recommendation under the PA4 of the EU *Danube Strategy*. A proposal of the project *Sustainable Operational Flood Forecasting in Real-Time and Water Resources Management* has been developed in cooperation with the NHMSs and the water agencies from the Parties and Montenegro, under the coordination of the ISRBC. The main objective of the project is to harmonize data and methods aimed at forecasting and managing flood and drought risk. The project has also been granted a letter of recommendation under the EU *Danube Strategy* (PA5). Fund-raising activities for the above mentioned projects will primarily be oriented toward the EU funds.

### 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. A number of activities have been performed in this field during the reporting period.

As a follow-up to 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, a project proposal for development of the *Master Plan for the Development of Nautical Tourism in the Sava River Basin* has been developed and funding opportunities for development of the *Master Plan* are being investigated.

The project *Promoting Eco-tourism Development in the Sava River Basin* has been implemented by the ISRBC in cooperation with the US Embassy to Croatia and REC Croatia. An outline of the *Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* (Figure 6), developed within the project, is planned to serve as an expert contribution to decision makers and an input in the national strategic planning of eco-tourism development. The project has demonstrated a good combination of the “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches by involving, from the very beginning, a variety of stakeholders from governmental, civil, business and academic sectors, as well as local communities, and bringing them together at two regional events organized within the project (see Annex IV). The project is considered as a good basis for future steps, which are planned to include the preparation of a *Master Plan for Eco-tourism Development in the Sava River Basin*, establishment of a forum of eco-tourism stakeholders from all societal sectors, as well as the implementation of concrete, “quick-win” projects in this field.

Given the interest for development of bicycle lanes along the Sava River, clearly expressed during the last years by cities and local communities along the River, preparatory activities for a project on this topic have been launched in close coordination with biking associations as direct end-users, which is another example of the combination of the “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches. In order to promote the project, the Sava 2013 Cycling Tour, from the Sava source to its mouth, is planned to be organized within the Sava Day 2013 celebration.

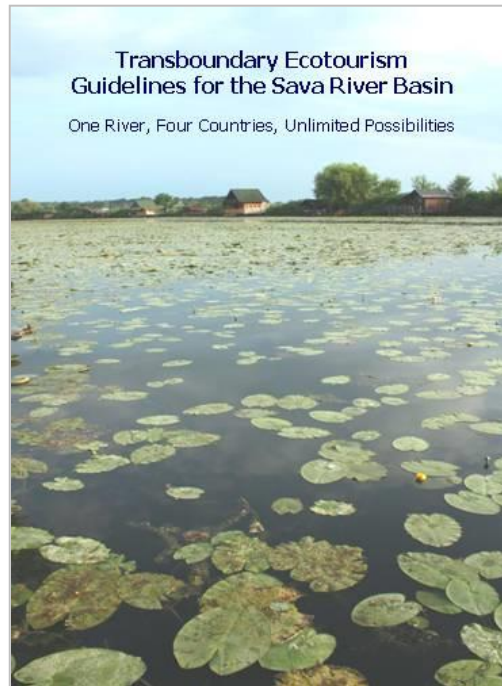


Figure 6. *Transboundary Eco-tourism Guidelines for the Sava River Basin* (2012).

The achievements and plans in the field of river tourism were presented and discussed with a broad group of stakeholders at the International Conference “Sava river – A transport corridor and tourist destination”, recently organized by the ISRBC (Belgrade, 6 March 2013).

In addition to tourism development, efforts are being made to ensure implementation of a project aiming to foster contribution of small and medium enterprises to the *FASRB* implementation (e.g. in navigation, river tourism, hydropower generation, fish farming and food production, waste water and manure treatment), but also to use the potential for mobilizing a broad group of stakeholders from the governmental, business and academic sectors from the Basin, through this project. At present, funding opportunities for implementation of the project are being explored.



## 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*.

The 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, the coordination of the activities is ensured. The process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, coordinated jointly by the ICPDR, DC and ISRBC, together with the European Commission, continued by organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement* (Budapest, 17-18 September 2012). Involvement of the ICPDR and DC in the work of the Committee for monitoring and coordination of the Sava navigation project is an additional component of the cooperation with the two commissions.

Cooperation with the UNECE has been further intensified. In addition to participation of the ISRBC in the framework of the UNECE working groups, the ISRBC participated at major UNECE events, such as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the UNECE *Water Convention* (September 2012) and the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *Water Convention* (November 2012), including the participation in the panel of the side event „Managing transboundary waters together – River, lake and aquifer commissions worldwide“. There is also a permanent cooperation within the ongoing project *Building the Link between Flood Risk Management Planning and Climate Change Assessment in the Sava River Basin*, which is being implemented within the UNECE framework.

Cooperation of the ISRBC with the European Commission was further strengthened through an intensive communication during the preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*, financially supported by the EC, and the ISRBC involvement in the activities related to 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*. Finally, the ISRBC actively participated in the drafting of the new European legal framework for the professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation.

Cooperation with the 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. The cultural-musical project of the UNESCO Venice Office promoting the music from the Sava region, entitled *Sava Suite*, continued by a concert that was organized by the ISRBC in the framework of the Sava Day 2012 celebration (see Annex V). Additionally, the project *Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*, financially supported by the UNESCO Venice Office, was launched in 2012, and is currently under implementation.

Cooperation with the US government's institutions has been further developed. In addition to joint efforts to ensure a follow-up to development of the preliminary hydrologic and hydraulic

models of the Sava River (Basin), the project *Promoting Eco-tourism Development in the Sava River Basin* has been implemented with support of the US Embassy to Croatia.

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, SEETO, GWP-Med, GWP CEE), international financial institutions (World Bank), specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum), and business sector (Coca-Cola). Finally, contacts have been continued with the EC Delegation to Croatia and the Diplomatic Corps in the Republic of Croatia.

#### **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:

- development of the *Sava RBM Plan* (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, 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 been maintained, as well, by organizing the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (Brčko, 26-27 September 2012).

#### **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.9 and No.10 (Figure 7) have been published.
- Publications and reports, including the *Hydrological Yearbook* for the years 2007 and 2008, the photo book *Sava – The Lifeline* (Figure 8), 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, such as the November 2012 issue of the *SedNet E-news*.
- Press-releases and media briefings, e.g. those related to the Sava Day celebration and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the *FASRB*.
- Consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, organized or co-organized by the ISRBC, as listed in Annex IV.
- the Sava Day 2012 celebration (detailed overview of the activities given in Annex V).



Figure 7. *Sava NewsFlash* No.10 (November 2012).

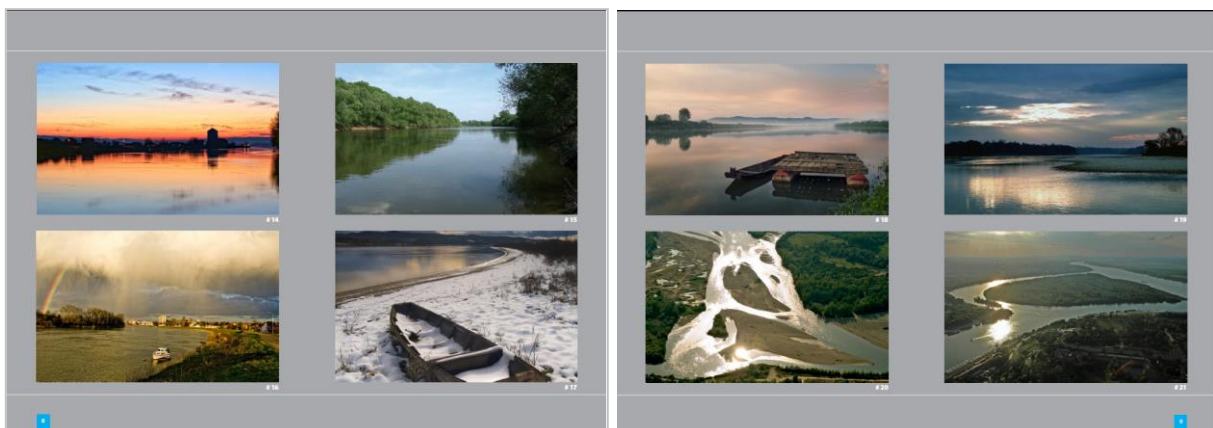


Figure 8. Photo book *Sava – The Lifeline* (2012).

Other activities in 2012 included:

- permanent encouragement of governmental and/or non-governmental organizations, as well as other institutions, to become observers at the ISRBC;
- continuation of the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, led jointly by the ISRBC, ICPDR and Danube Commission;
- preparation of the *Stakeholder Analysis* and 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.

## 5. Legal issues

### 5.1. Protocols to the *FASRB*

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

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* was ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009) and the Republic of Croatia (2010).

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 in 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) and the Republic of Croatia (2012).

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 Sediment Management to the FASRB* aims at facilitating the establishment of sustainable sediment management in the basin, by addressing the quality issues (related to sediment contamination, including risk-assessment, control of source and deposition of contaminated sediment) and the quantity issues (such as dredging, erosion and torrent control, sedimentation, effects of damming, and morphological changes). The *Draft Protocol on Sediment Management* was adopted by the ISRBC and delivered to the Parties for final harmonization in 2010. The final harmonization meeting is planned to be organized as soon as possible, once the required national procedures for finalization of negotiations are completed.

The *Protocol on Transboundary Impacts to the FASRB* should regulate the issues concerning 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. Given that all the Parties have meanwhile ratified the *Espoo Convention* on which the *Protocol* mostly leans, the actual benefit of the *Protocol* has been reconsidered. Following the expert consultations, it was concluded that the *Protocol* in its present form is no longer indispensable as an added value to the already existing mechanisms, so a new approach should be defined to address the issues of transboundary impact.

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

A permanent legal support was provided within the work of the ISRBC, its working groups and the Secretariat, involving the organization of sessions of the ISRBC, preparatory activities for the 4<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, GWP CEE was granted the observer status at the ISRBC, while such a status of the WWF International, Danube-Carpathian Programme, was extended.

It should also be noted that the ISRBC has again initiated and intensified talks with Montenegro concerning the accession to the *FASRB* and/or transitional opportunities (through a memorandum of understanding) on the way to a full membership of this country in the ISRBC.

## 6. Financial issues

### 6.1. Budget

At the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISRBC (Zagreb, April 11, 2012), the decision on adoption of the *Budget of the ISRBC for the financial year 2012* (April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013), 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 39,040.00 Euro, and of a part of the UNECE grant for implementation of the project *Building the Link between Flood Risk Management Planning and Climate Change Assessment in the Sava River Basin*, in the amount of 3,200.00 Euro.

The list of the Parties' annual contributions and the other inflows into the General Fund, as well as the list of expenses in the financial year 2012, can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Received regular annual contributions and other inflows for FY 2012 (in Euro).

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Inflows for FY 2012</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	39,040.00 <sup>5</sup>
Miscellaneous	16,145.66 <sup>6</sup>
Total General Fund Inflow	543,145.66

*Note: <sup>1</sup> The contribution was paid on June 29, 2012. <sup>2</sup> The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on June 15 and August 30, 2012. <sup>3</sup> The contribution was paid in two parts, on June 29 and October 23, 2012. <sup>4</sup> The contribution was paid in three parts, on October 22 and December 6, 2012, and January 25, 2013. <sup>5</sup> Transferred amount for covering unexpected expenditures. <sup>6</sup> A part of the EC, the UNESCO and the UNECE grant funds for implementation of the projects.*

Table 2. Expenditures per basic intention in FY 2012 (in Euro).

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures<sup>1</sup></i>
Staff salaries and allowances	429.343,01
Current costs	34.918,46
Travel expenses	26.848,53
Operational costs	24.145,88
Equipment	3.320,59
Total expenditures	518.576,47 <sup>2</sup>

*Note: <sup>1</sup> The amount of expenditures on March 31, 2013. <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 98% realization of the planned amount.

## 6.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

In the financial year 2012, the total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund was 71,985.71 Euro, consisting of:

- the amount of 7,916.19 Euro – the EC grant (final payment) for implementation of the project *Support to the ISRBC in the Preparation and Implementation of the Sava RBM Plan* and the bank interest,
- the amount of 24,063.94 Euro (30,000.00 USD) – the UNECE grant (third payment) for implementation of the project *Building the Link between Flood Risk Management Planning and Climate Change Assessment in the Sava River Basin* and bank interest,
- the amount of 40,000.24 Euro – the UNESCO grant for implementation of the project *Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase* and bank interest, and
- the amount of 5.34 Euro – the bank interest of B&H Fund.

The total expenditures of Special and Trust Fund in the financial year 2012 were 118,787.08 Euro, the main part of this amount for implementation of the projects *Building the Link between Flood Risk Management Planning and Climate Change Assessment in the Sava River Basin*, *Support to the ISRBC in the Preparation and Implementation of the Sava RBM Plan* and *Towards Practical Guidance for Sustainable Sediment Management using the Sava River Basin as a Showcase*.

## 6.3. Other activities

During the financial year 2012, development of internal and external financial management continued. Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC in FY 2011 has been performed, and the ISRBC took note on the *Report on Audit* at the 30<sup>th</sup> Session. In addition, adjustments of the *Financial Rules* were adopted by the ISRBC.



## **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.	Kemal Karkin	Member to the ISRBC, <i>till November 6, 2012</i>	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.	Enisa Babić	Temporary Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of November 6, 2012</i>	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
3.	Savo Gluvić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	WMC "SAVA" Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Republic of Croatia</b>			
4.	Nikola Mendrila	Member to the ISRBC, <i>till February 6, 2013</i>	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
5.	Igor Butorac	Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of February 6, 2013</i>	Ministry of the Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
6.	Ružica Drmić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>till September 13, 2012</i>	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia
7.	Dražen Kurečić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of September 13, 2012</i>	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia
<b>Republic of Serbia</b>			
8.	Aleksandar Prodanović	Chairman, Member to the ISRBC, <i>till November 2, 2012</i>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
9.	Dragana Milovanović	Chairwoman, Member to the ISRBC, <i>from November 2, 2012, to January 24, 2013</i>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
10.	Miodrag Pješčić	Chairman, Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of January 24, 2013</i>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate

11.	Miladin Avramov	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>till November 2, 2012</i>	Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
12.	Vladan Zdravković	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of November 2, 2012</i>	Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
<b>Republic of Slovenia</b>			
13.	Mitja Bricelj	Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of the Republic of Slovenia
14.	Aleksander Čičerov	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>till March 13, 2013</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
15.	Robert Kojc	Deputy Member to the ISRBC, <i>as of March 13, 2013</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

## **ANNEX II. List of the ISRBC expert groups**

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

- 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;
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for RIS;
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS;
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues;
- *Ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group;
- *Ad-hoc* Financial Expert Group.

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.

### ANNEX III. List of the *FASRB*-related projects, implemented or launched in FY 2012

In the reporting period, the following *FASRB*-related projects have been **implemented or launched**:

- River basin management
  - *Preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan* (implemented);
  - *Enhancement of the stakeholder involvement in the management of the Sava river basin – Towards the establishment of the Sava Water Partnership* (ongoing);
  - *Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase* (ongoing);
- Flood management
  - *Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava river basin* (ongoing);
- Navigation development
  - *Implementation of RIS on the Sava river* (ongoing in RS);
  - *EIA study for the rehabilitation of the Sava river waterway on the section Belgrade – Brčko* (ongoing);
- Information management
  - *Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS* (first implementation phase ongoing);
- Hydrological and meteorological issues
  - *Web application for the exchange of hydro-meteorological information in the basin* (implemented);
  - *Preparation of the Detailed programme for development of the hydrological study for the Sava river basin* (ongoing);
- Climate change issues
  - *Water and climate adaptation plan for the Sava river basin* (ongoing);
- Tourism development
  - *Promoting eco-tourism development in the Sava river basin* (ongoing).

As for the **planned** *FASRB*-related projects, funding has been ensured for:

- *Detailed design of the Sava river waterway on the section Brčko – Sisak*;
- *Detailed design of the Sava river waterway on the section Belgrade – Brčko*,

while proposals / ideas of the following projects have been supported in the framework of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region* (EU SDR):

- River basin management
  - *Examination of biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava river basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the Priority Area 4 of the EU SDR, “Restoration and maintenance of water quality”);
  - *Towards sustainable sediment management in the Sava river basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA4);
  - *Protection and sustainable use of water resources from alluvial aquifers in the Sava river basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA4);

- *Implementation of the Sava RBM Plan* (included as a milestone in the Road Map of the EU SDR PA4);
- *Update of the Sava River Basin Analysis* (included as a milestone in the Road Map of the EU SDR PA4);
- *Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sava RBM Plan* (included as a milestone in the Road Map of the EU SDR PA4);
- Flood management
  - *Development of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava river basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA5, “Management of environmental risks”);
  - *Sustainable Operational Flood Forecasting in Real-Time and Water Resources Management* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA5);
- Accident prevention and control
  - *Water pollution contingency management plan for the Sava river basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA5);
- Information management
  - *Establishment and completion of the Sava GIS – second and third implementation phases* (included as a milestone in the Road Map of the EU SDR PA4);
- Hydrological and meteorological issues
  - *Hydrological study for the Sava River Basin* (granted a letter of recommendation in the EU SDR PA4).

## ANNEX IV. List of the meetings with stakeholders, organized or co-organized by the ISRBC

In the reporting period, the following workshops, public presentations, meetings and other events with stakeholders were organized or co-organized by the ISRBC:

- Meeting with the PR contacts of the Parties on the Sava Day 2012 celebration (Zagreb, 5 Apr. 2012);
- Visit of the Skadar Lake Commission to the ISRBC Secretariat (Zagreb, 23-24 Apr. 2012);
- Meetings with the core expert group of the project *Promoting eco-tourism development in the Sava river basin* (Zagreb, 11 May and 12 Oct. 2012);
- Meeting on further preparation and fund raising for the project *Fostering contribution of the SME sector to sustainable development of the Sava River Basin* (SAVA-SME) (Zagreb, 15 May 2012);
- Preparatory Meeting for the 29<sup>th</sup> ISRBC Session, on the issues associated with the adoption of the *Sava RBM Plan* (Zagreb, 29 May 2012);
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Committee for monitoring and coordination of the project *Rehabilitation and Development of Transport and Navigation on the Sava River Waterway* (Zagreb, 5 June 2012; Sarajevo, 19 June 2012; Zagreb, 22 Feb. 2013);
- Youth Parliament “Youth today for the Sava tomorrow” (Lonjsko polje, 1-2 June 2012);
- Meetings on the hydrological modelling of the Sava river basin within the *WATCAP* project (Zagreb, 5 June 2012 and 17 Jan. 2013);
- Regional Workshop within the project *Promoting Eco-tourism Development in the Sava River Basin* (Slavonski Brod, 20-21 June 2012);
- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube Basin* (Budapest, 17-18 Sep. 2012);
- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting with captains of port master offices from the Sava River Basin (Brčko, 26-27 Sep. 2012);
- Training Course (Part I) on sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase (Zagreb, 15-18 Oct. 2012);
- Meeting on next steps within the project *Towards practical guidance for sustainable sediment management using the Sava river basin as a showcase* (Zagreb, 21 Nov. 2012);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultation Workshop on preparation of the *Program for Development of the Sava FRM Plan* (Zagreb, 3-4 Dec. 2012);
- Meeting on possibilities of initiating the groundwater project for the alluvial part of the Sava River Basin (Trebinje, 5 Dec. 2012);
- Visit of the Mongolian delegation from the Baikal lake basin to the ISRBC Secretariat (Zagreb, 5-7 Dec. 2012);
- Regional Conference within the project *Promoting eco-tourism development in the Sava river basin* (Ivanić Grad, 13-14 Dec. 2012);
- Meeting with the directors of the national meteorological and hydrological services of the Sava river basin countries and the WMO representative (Zagreb, 18 Dec. 2012);



- Meeting with representatives of biking associations from the Sava river basin (Zagreb, 15 Jan 2013);
- Expert meeting for preparation of the draft guidance on sustainable sediment management in the Sava river basin (Zagreb, 17-18 Jan. 2013);
- Meetings of the Organizational Board of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Sarajevo, 13 Feb. and 28 Mar. 2013);
- International Conference „Sava river – A transport corridor and tourist destination“ (Belgrade, 6 Mar. 2013);
- Meeting with representatives of B&H and Croatia on marking of the Sava river waterway – section from rkm 211 to Oprisavci (Sarajevo, 21 Mar. 2013).

## ANNEX V. Overview of the activities performed within the Sava Day 2012 celebration

The main event, organized by the ISRBC within the Sava Day 2012 celebration, was the first Youth Parliament of the Sava River Basin (Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, 1-2 June 2012), entitled „Youth today for the Sava tomorrow“. About 50 scholars and teachers from 8 secondary schools from the Parties were brought together at the event. The main objective of the Youth Parliament was to raise awareness of the young population on the possibilities of water use and the importance of the water and aquatic ecosystem protection in the Sava River Basin. A declaration of the Youth Parliament, showing their vision of sustainable development of the Sava River Basin, was developed and adopted during the event. The *Declaration* was, later on, presented by representatives of the Youth Parliament at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the ISRBC. The ISRBC strongly supported the *Declaration* and the idea of making the Youth Parliament a traditional event, to be organized every year. Given this fact, as well as a good media coverage of the 2012 event in all the Parties, the 2013 event is being organized. The outcomes of the Youth Parliament 2012 and 2013 are planned to be presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (Sarajevo, 31 May 2013).

In addition to the Youth Parliament, a number of other events were organized within the Sava Day 2012 celebration that took place in the period 22 May – 6 July 2012:

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project *Program of Environmental Protection and Tourism Development in the Vrbas River Basin*, implemented by the Embassy of Japan to B&H, UNDP B&H and Coca-Cola B&H with support of the municipalities, was launched with a 5-day ecological rafting regatta along the whole Vrbas River, accompanied with various events in five cities along the River (Bugojno, Donji Vakuf, Jajce, Banja Luka, Laktaši), organized in cooperation with local NGOs and promotion agencies. All the events were covered by media.
- In Croatia, the implementation of the project *Our Beautiful Sava*, financed by Coca-Cola HBC Croatia, has continued. Number of the project partners further increased to 45 organizations and institutions (including the Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of maritime affairs, transport and infrastructure, Coca-Cola HBC Croatia, and the 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 15000 people. Two events of the ISRBC – the Youth Parliament 2012 (Lonjsko Polje, 1-2 June 2012) and the Regional workshop on eco-tourism development in the Sava River Basin (Slavonski Brod, 20-21 June 2012), can also be considered as a part of the project in 2012, given the support of the Coca-Cola HBC Croatia and other project partners to the realization of those events. In addition to media coverage, the information on the events has also been disseminated through the project web-site, which was made available via “facebook” network, as well.
- In Serbia, the celebration included a broad range of activities, performed in five cities on the Kolubara and Sava Rivers (Valjevo, Obrenovac, Šabac, Beograd, Sremska Mitrovica), marking also the beginning of the Danube Day 2012 celebration in Serbia. The events, organized by the Directorate for water of the Ministry of agriculture, trade, forestry and water management in cooperation with local NGOs and civil sector, included the cleaning of the river banks, competitions in fishing, rowing and fish soup preparation, exhibitions of artistic work of scholars of primary and secondary schools and a series of educative workshops. 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 2012, the project was implemented through the contest “A newspaper for my river”, realized under the umbrella of the Ministry of agriculture and environment, with the aim to raise awareness of the young population on the importance of water protection.

The ISRBC was represented at most of the above mentioned events.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the Sava Day 2012 and its key messages, were promoted at five international and regional events, that were organized, coorganized, sponsored or actively participated by the ISRBC:

- Regional Water Conference “Rights and obligations of the authorities, local community and citizens“ (Brčko, 22 May 2012);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Rural Tourism (Osijek, 23-26 May 2012);
- International Conference „Challenges of Economic Development – Innovation in the Sava River Basin“ (Ljubljana, 24-25 May 2012);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference „Geosciences and Environment“ (Belgrade, 27-29 May 2012);
- Regional Workshop on Eco-tourism Development in the Sava River Basin (Slavonski Brod, 20-21 June 2012).

At the Ljubljana Conference, the ISRBC was the sponsor of the cultural program by organizing a concert of the music from the Sava region, performed by „The river’s dream band“, and an exhibition of photos from the Basin, „Sava River – Nature, people and culture“.

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

**ANNEX VI. List of acronyms**

AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
<i>Co-WANDA</i>	<i>Convention for Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube</i>
DC	Danube Commission
<i>DIKTAS</i>	<i>Protection and sustainable use of the Dinaric karst transboundary aquifer system</i>
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>Espoo Convention</i>	<i>UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</i>
EU	European Union
EU <i>SDR</i>	<i>EU Strategy for the Danube Region</i>
<i>FASRB</i>	<i>Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin</i>
FRM	Flood Risk Management
FY	Financial Year of the ISRBC
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
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
<i>NEWADA</i>	<i>Network of Danube Waterway Administrations</i>
<i>NEWADA DUO</i>	<i>The NEWADA follow-up project</i>
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Priority Area (of the <i>EU Strategy for the Danube Region</i> )
PIAC	Principal International Alert Center
PIANC	Permanent Congress of the International Navigation Association
PR	Public Relations

RBM	River Basin Management
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
REC	Regional Environmental Center
RIS	River Information Service
SedNet	European Sediment Network
SEE	South East Europe
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
WANDA	<i>Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube</i>
WATCAP	<i>Water and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Sava River Basin</i>
WFD	EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature