Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin and its implementation

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Overview

• Introduction on the Sava river basin
• Establishment of cooperation in the Sava River Basin
• Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)
• International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)
• Conclusions
• Contact information
Sava River Basin

- **Area:** 97 713 km² (the second largest Danube sub-basin; share: 12%)
- **Average flow** at the mouth: 1722 m³/s
  (the largest Danube tributary; contribution: 25%)
- **River length:** 940 km (594 km of which is the waterway)
- **Population:** approx. 8.5 million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Share of the basin (%)</th>
<th>Share of the territory (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>49.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>52.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sava river basin

• **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - Natural beauty
  - High landscape diversity
  - High biological diversity (natural wetlands, parks, protected areas)
  - Large retention areas
  - High potential for transport of cargo and passengers
  - High potential for tourism and recreation
Establishment of cooperation

- **Decay of Yugoslavia - a challenge to WRM in the SRB**
  - Sava river used to be the biggest *national river* of the former SFRY
  - Activities related to WRM in the SRB were regulated by *national regulation, plans and programs*
  - Appropriate institutional framework for implementation of water policy in the SRB existed *until decay of the SFRY*
  - Upon establishment of independent countries in the basin, Sava river became an *international river*
  - **New, international framework required** for exploitation, protection and control of the Sava river, i.e. for *the TWRM*
  - Consequences of the war in 1990’s - an *obstacle* for the establishment of the framework
Establishment of cooperation

- From different priorities to Integrated TWRM approach
  - Rehabilitation and development of navigation
  - Flood protection
  - Utilization of potentials for tourism development
  - Utilization of potentials for energy production
  - Maintenance of water quality and quantity
Establishment of cooperation

- **The Sava River Initiative**
  - Launch of the Initiative: June 2001
  - Signing the Letter of Intent on Coop. in the SRB: Nov. 29, 2001
  - Signing the FASRB: Kranjska Gora, Dec. 3, 2002
  - Ratification of the FASRB: December 29, 2004
  - Est. of the I SRBC: Zagreb, June 27-29, 2005
  - Est. of the I SRBC Secretariat: Zagreb, January 9, 2006
FASRB

• **Key objective:**

   Transboundary cooperation for **sustainable development** of the region

• **Particular objectives:**

   - To establish an **international regime of navigation**
   - To establish **sustainable water management**
   - To **prevent/limit hazards** (floods, droughts, ice and accidents) and **reduce/eliminate** their negative **consequences**
FASRB

- Principles of transboundary cooperation
  - Cooperation on the basis of **sovereign equality**, **territorial integrity**, **mutual benefit** and **good faith** in order to achieve the goals of the FASRB
  - Cooperation in accordance with the **EU WFD**
  - Regular **exchange of information** within the basin (on the water regime, navigation regime, legislation, organizational structures, administrative & technical practices)
  - Cooperation with **international organizations** (ICPDR, DC, UNECE, EU)
• **Principles of transboundary cooperation (cont.)**
  
  - **Reasonable and equitable use** of water
  - Securing **integrity** of the water regime in the basin
  - Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities of the Parties
  - **Prevention of causing significant harm** to other Party(-ies), when using water of the Sava River Basin

  **Principles are completely in line with UNECE Water Convention!**
ISRBC

• **General info**
  
  - Composed of 8 **representatives** of the 4 countries
  - Given the international **legal capacity**, for:
    - Making **decisions** in the field of **Navigation**
    - Providing **recommendations** in all other fields, i.e. **Water Protection and Hazard Management**
  - **Decisions and recommendations** are adopted by unanimous vote
  - **Languages** of the ISRBC:
    - **Official** (3 official languages of B&H, Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian)
    - **Working** (English)
ISRBC

- Coordinates the FASRB implementation

Fields of work of the ISRBC

- Issues of sustainability:
  - Improvement of water quality
  - Protection of aquatic ecosystem
  - Protection against the harmful effects of water (due to floods, ice, droughts, accidents)

- Development activities:
  - Different kinds of water use (navigation, hydropower generation, water supply, sewerage and drainage, fishery, tourism and recreation)

- Broadest scope of work among European river / lake commissions
• **Coordination of:**
  - Development of joint / integrated **plans** for the SRB
    • e.g. River Basin Management Plan, Flood Risk Management Plan
  - Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB
    • e.g. GIS, RIS, Meteorological and Hydrological Data Exchange System,
      Flood Forecasting and Warning System, Emergency Warning System
  - Preparation of **development programs** for the SRB related to
    • e.g. Navigation, (nautical) tourism
  - Creation of additional **protocols to the FASRB** related to
    • Navigation regime,
    • Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation
    • Flood protection
    • Emergency situations
    • Sediment management
    • Transboundary impacts

• **Cooperation / stakeholder involvement / public participation**

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Conclusions

- **Key features of the approach**
  - **Cohesive**, providing conditions for:
    - **Cooperation** of the Parties
    - Implementation of **joint, basin-wide projects**
    - **Harmonization** of national regulation, methodologies, procedures …
  - **Integrated** (whole basin, sustainability, development)
  - **Transparent** (public participation)
  - **Aligned with UNECE and EU regulation** (UNECE Water Convention, EU Directives, …)
  - **Pragmatic and practical** (offering, to the Parties, “products” such as joint plans, development programs, protocols, harmonized regulation, integrated systems)
  - **Political commitment** and **support** at high political level (Joint Statement, MoU) is crucial for launching the projects
Contact information

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