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ANNUAL REPORT
on Work and Activities of the ISRBC
for the Period April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010

April 2010

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I 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 2009* was prepared. The *Report* corresponds to the financial year 2009 of the ISRBC, covering the period as of April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010. All the Work Programmes and Work Plans, mentioned throughout the *Annual Report*, also correspond to the financial year stated.

The reporting period witnessed a further intensification of the ISRBC activities, providing a new progress towards the achievement of the principal goals of the *FASRB*, namely:

- establishment of the international regime of navigation on the Sava river and its navigable tributaries,
- establishment of sustainable water management in the Sava river basin, and
- prevention/limitation of hazards such as floods, droughts, ice and accidents, and reduction/elimination of their negative consequences.

These achievements will be presented in details under following chapters of the *Report*.

II Activities of the ISRBC

During the reporting period, the ISRBC organized the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, and held three sessions – 12th Special Session, 13th Special Session and 19th Session.

The 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*

The 2nd Meeting of the Parties (convened at Belgrade, on June 1, 2009) was attended by high officials of the four countries, as well as representatives of international institutions and organizations.



Figure 1. The 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* (Belgrade, June 1, 2009)

The following documents were prepared by the ISRBC for the 2nd Meeting of the Parties and, hereof, passed:

- *Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the Sava Commission for the period April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009*, which outlined the progress of the ISRBC and the Parties in implementation of the *FASRB*, and also reflected the information provided for in the *First Country Reports on implementation of the FASRB*, and
- *Declaration*, which set out the guidelines for further implementation of the *FASRB* and actuated a number of concrete activities for efficient implementation of the latter.

Additionally, the *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB* was signed at the Meeting.

High representation of international institutions and organizations, such as the European Commission (EC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Danube Commission (DC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), as well as their clear messages given at the Meeting, proved that 2009 was a year of fruitful cooperation of the ISRBC with these institutions and organizations, and of strengthening of the ISRBC role in the international community.

Sessions of the ISRBC

The work under the three sessions involved reconsideration of issues covering all fields of work stipulated under the *FASRB*, as well as the adoption of corresponding conclusions and decisions related to the following principal activities of the ISRBC:

- Further development of strategic plans for the Sava river basin, such as the *Sava RBM Plan* and the *Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan*, and the integrated systems for the basin, namely the Sava GIS and the monitoring, forecasting and early warning system related to accidents and floods;
- Continuation of activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river waterway, accompanied with preparation of documents related to safety and technical issues of navigation;
- Preparation of projects and seeking funding opportunities;
- Further development of protocols to the *FASRB*;
- Financial and administration management, as well as development of internal regulations of the ISRBC;
- Cooperation and public participation, including the organization of the Sava Day 2009 and development of the Plan of activities for the Sava Day 2010, publication of the official bulletin of the ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash*, and two specialized publications, *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* and *Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin*, as well as a continuous update of the web-site and development of the promotion material of the ISRBC.



Figure 2. The 19th Session of the ISRBC (Zagreb, January 26-27, 2010)

Bearing in mind the guidelines given by the *Declaration from the 2nd Meeting of the Parties*, the ISRBC agreed upon further activities in the *FASRB* implementation, and started with preparation of a strategic meeting with high level representatives of the Parties, on fostering the *FASRB* implementation in the fields of water management and environment.

Considerable efforts have been made toward further development or finalization of protocols to the *FASRB*. The *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the*

FASRB was signed at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties. The *Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB* was harmonized by the Parties and initialled, and its signing is planned to take place within the Sava Day 2010 celebration. The *Draft Protocol on emergency situations to the FASRB* is still undergoing national procedures that precede final harmonization of the text, while the *Draft Protocol on sediment management to the FASRB* was finalized on the ISRBC level and distributed to the Parties for undertaking the national procedures.

A special attention was given to the process of implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, coordinated jointly by the ICPDR, DC and ISRBC, together with the EC. This year's meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement* was hosted by the ISRBC.

During the reporting period, the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation ceased to work, handing over the remaining tasks to the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues, while the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for RIS was established. The list of active expert groups of the ISRBC is given in Annex II to the *Report*.

Detailed review of activities of the ISRBC is presented in sections below, and brief overview of the sessions of the ISRBC is given in Annex III to the *Report*. The list of acronyms is attached as Annex IV.

1. Integrated water management

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

1.1. River basin management

Development 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 activity in this field. Accordingly, a substantial effort was made to finalize the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report*, which was recognized at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*.

The *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* provides the characterization and assessment of water resources in the Sava river basin in accordance with Article 5 of the EU *WFD*. Additionally, the *Report* deals with water quantity and integration issues, through additional consideration of significant issues such as flood management and navigation development in the basin, and also provides a number of GIS maps, based on data provided by the Parties and/or compiled from data collected from other sources (e.g. EEA, NASA, JRC, etc.).

Following the major contribution of the ISRBC's Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management (PEG RBM) and the Secretariat to development of the *Report*, as well as contributions of other expert groups in accordance with their fields of expertise, the *Report* was accepted by the ISRBC in September 2009, as a good basis for further activities on development of the *Sava RBM Plan*. The integral version of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* (Figure 3), as well as the *Sava River Basin Overview Map* (Figure 4), is available on the ISRBC's web-site.

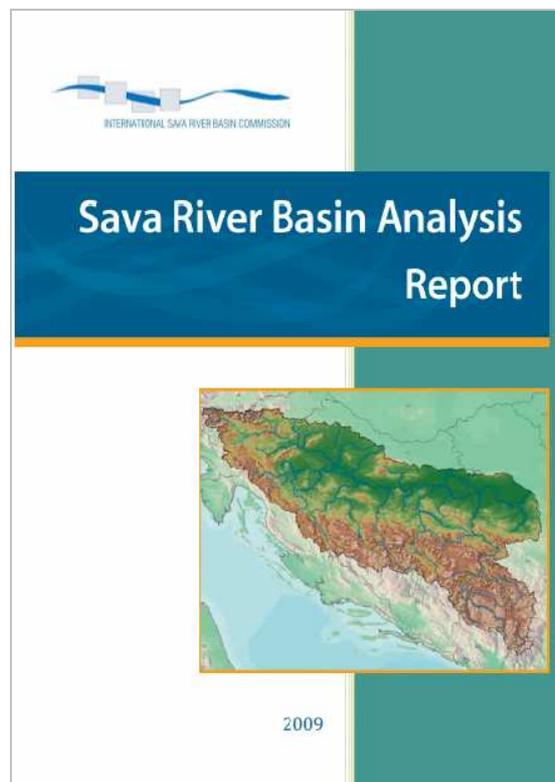


Figure 3. The *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* (www.savacommission.org/publication)

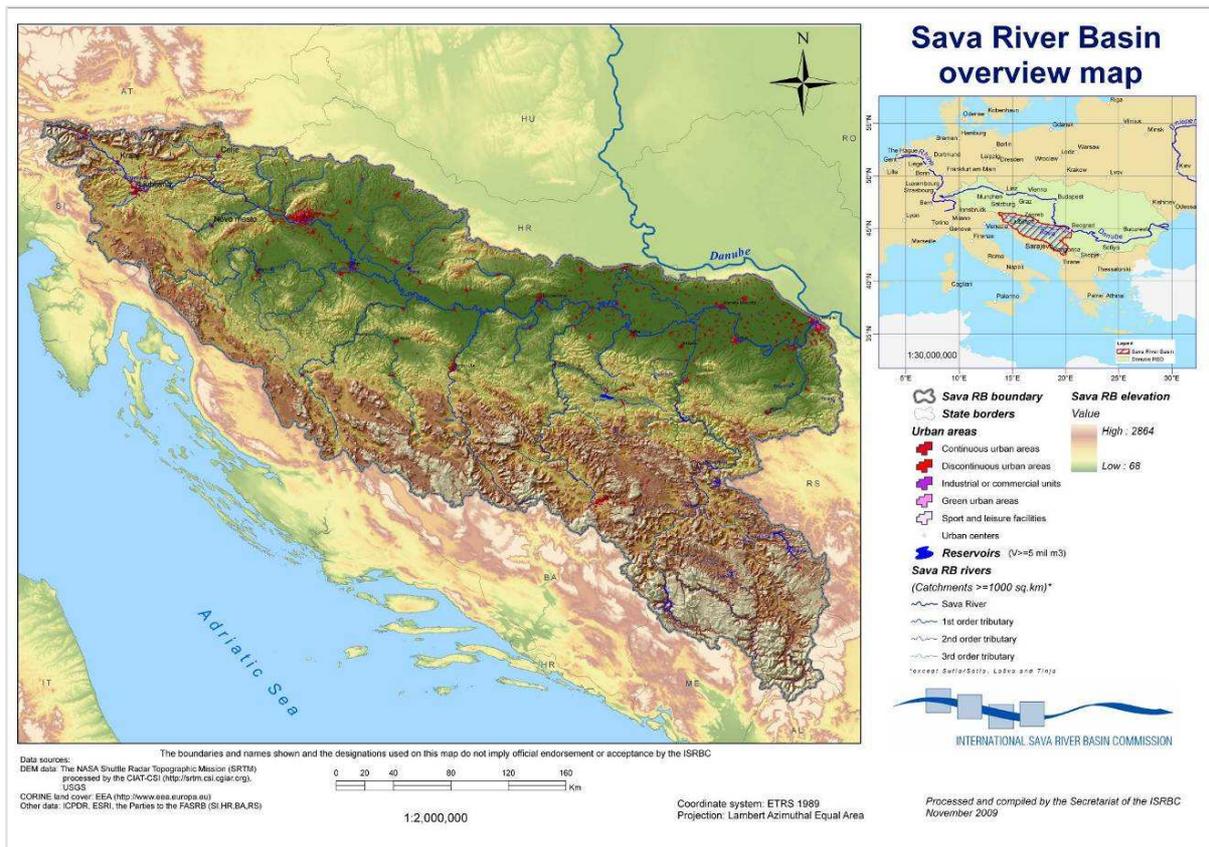


Figure 4. The Sava River Basin Overview Map (www.savacommission.org/publication)

The commitment of the Parties to respect the EU *WFD*, although not all of them are legally bound to do so, as well as good cooperation of the Parties in development of the Sava River Basin Analysis, have granted a positive perception of the European Commission, which resulted in a decision of the EC to provide support for remaining steps in developing the first *Sava RBM Plan* by the end of 2011.

As the EC-funded project commenced in November 2009, the initial steps have been made in the reporting period, including the preparation of the *Road map for development of the Sava RBM Plan*, as well as initial activities on the Sava GIS establishment. More information on the project is provided in Chapter 1.4.

Additional activities in the field of river basin management include:

- drafting of two protocols to the *FASRB*, dealing with sediment management issues and transboundary impacts (more information is given in Chapter 5.1), and
- preparation of projects aimed to contribute to the *RBM Plan* or to complement it, dealing with sediment management, groundwater management and climate change adaptation (some of these activities are described in Chapter 1.4).

1.2. Accident prevention and control

The ISRBC activities in this field during FY 2009 were mainly directed to participation in testing of the Accident Emergency Warning System (AEWS), the existing system of the ICPDR, and to improvement of functioning of the system in the Parties to the *FASRB*. The operative structure and capacities within relevant organizations and institutions were reviewed. Two tests of the AEWS were performed in FY 2009 – an announced test, initiated

by the ISRBC (December 3, 2009), and an unannounced test, initiated by the ICPDR (March 3, 2010). All Principal International Alert Centers (PIACs) in the Sava river basin participated in the tests successfully. Following the analysis of results of the tests, performed under framework of the Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control (PEG APC), a training course for operational staff of the PIACs was organized in cooperation with the ICPDR to increase the capacity of the PIAC's staff in the Parties. In addition, the meetings were held in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia in order to discuss possibilities on how to make the PIACs non-stop operational in these countries.

Additionally, two projects' proposals were prepared during the year – *Biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin*, and *Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin*. More information on these projects is given in Chapter 1.4.

1.3. Flood management

The work on the *Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB* was finalized during the reporting period. Following the final harmonization of the text, the *Protocol* was initialled by the Parties in January 2010, and is expected to be signed in June 2010. Nonetheless, the continuation of already started joint actions in the field of flood management, even before formal ratification of the *Protocol*, was encouraged at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties. More information on the *Protocol* is given in Chapter 5.1.

Within the activities on preparation of the flood hazard and flood risk maps, the cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been continued and intensified. The accomplishments in FY 2009 include an initial geo-referenced HEC-RAS model of the Sava river, prepared by the USACE, and a hydraulic model of the Sava river, prepared by the Secretariat, based on topographic and hydrologic data collected from the Parties. Basic information on this project is given in Chapter 1.4.

For the purpose of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report*, an annex to this *Report* was prepared, providing a summary report on flood management on the basin-wide level and the three national reports on flood management, submitted by RS, HR and BA.

Flood action plans for major sub-basins of the Danube basin were developed in accordance with the *Flood Action Programme for the Danube River Basin* of the ICPDR. The ISRBC accepted the role of the coordinating body for preparation of a common *Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin (Sava FAP)*. The *Sava FAP* was derived from the action plans prepared by the Sava countries individually, while compilation of the *Sava FAP* was coordinated by the Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention (PEG FP) of the ISRBC. In addition to the information provided in the Annex II of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report*, the first program of measures for each country to achieve the defined targets for flood management in its part of the Sava river basin until 2015 has been provided, as well. The *Sava FAP*, submitted to the ICPDR in 2009 (Figure 5), represents an example of good cooperative practice between the two river commissions, in line with the existing Memorandum of Understanding.

Finally, the project proposal *Building the link between Flood Risk Management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin* has been prepared and submitted to the UNECE. The proposal has been chosen as one of the three pilot projects in the UNECE

region, and its formal approval is expected in June 2010. More on this project is given in the next chapter.

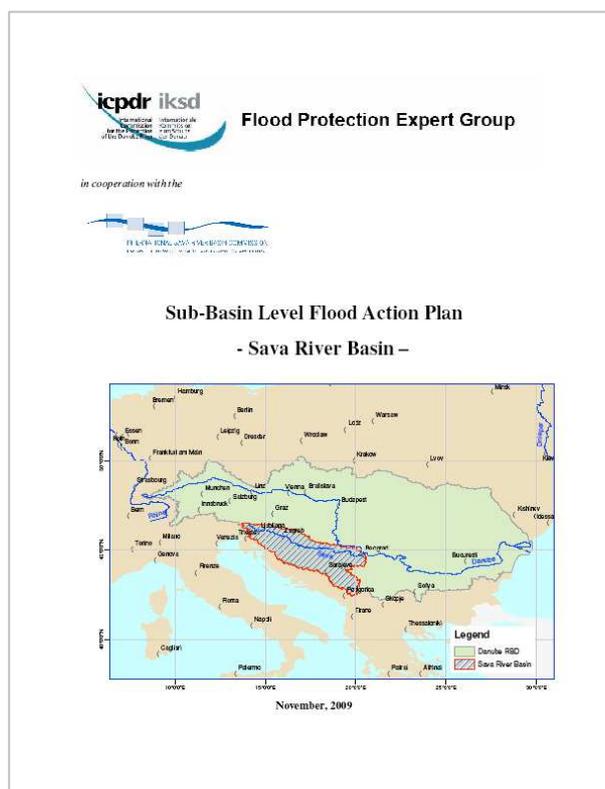


Figure 5. The Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin

1.4. Projects and studies

The following projects of the ISRBC in the field of water management were dealt with during the reporting period:

1. Preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

The main objective of the project is to facilitate approximation to the EU environmental *aquis* in the field of water management through identification of priority objectives common for the countries of the Sava river basin, including Montenegro.

The project consists of two components: the first component, *Technical assistance in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*, is managed by DG Environment of the European Commission and implemented by the Consortium from the Slovak Republic, while the ISRBC, through its Secretariat and PEG RBM, provides facilitation and review of the project implementation to a certain degree. This project component aims to:

- provide support and assistance to the ISRBC and the Beneficiaries in preparing and starting to implement an integrated RBM plan;
- develop necessary capacities and information base to prepare an integrated RBM plan for the Sava river basin;
- facilitate coordination of the water-related support projects in the Sava river basin.

The second component, *Support to the ISRBC in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*, represents a direct grant of the EC to the ISRBC, with the primary aim to supplement the actions and activities of the first component, by focusing on:

- data collection and knowledge building;

- coordination of the integrated *Sava RBM Plan*;
- Sava GIS core establishment;
- public participation and dissemination, and
- development of the *Sava RBM Plan* follow-up strategy.

The project was launched in November 2009 and will be implemented in 2010 and 2011. The total project budget amounts at 1,341,000 EUR (1st component: 1,000,000 EUR; 2nd component: 341,000 EUR, of which 300,000 EUR is the EC contribution and 41,000 EUR is the 'in kind' contribution of the ISRBC).

2. *Hydromorphology part of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report*

The final version of the project outputs, submitted to the ISRBC in May 2009, provides the *Report on hydromorphology in the Sava River Basin*, and the corresponding GIS database. The *Report* has been a valuable input for the Sava River Basin Analysis and will present, together with the GIS database, a contribution to the future *Sava RBM Plan*.

3. *Hydrology Report for the Sava River Basin Analysis*

This project has been prepared to contribute to the part of the Sava River Basin Analysis dealing with water quantity. Furthermore, the project provided a comprehensive status quo analysis of hydrology in the basin, accompanied with a number of GIS maps, and suggested directions for further steps in the field. The final report has been submitted to the ISRBC in May 2009.

The project analyzed all relevant hydrologic studies performed in the basin and offered an interpretation of their findings. Based on the analyses, the project urged preparation of a new *Hydrological study for the Sava River Basin*, which was supported by the relevant expert groups of the ISRBC (Ah HM EG, PEG FP and PEG RBM), and, subsequently, by the 2nd Meeting of the Parties. In FY 2010, the ISRBC will continue its efforts in preparatory activities and investigate funding possibilities to implement the *Study*.

4. *Joint Sava Survey*

The project proposal titled *Biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin* (BIOSED) was developed by relevant institutions from the Parties, upon initiative of the ISRBC. The focus of the project is the integration of the EU directives, such as the EU *WFD*, *Habitat Directive*, *Bathing Directive*, with the *FASRB*. The project aims to provide a number of contributions to the *Sava RBM Plan* and the management of natural assets and protected areas (e.g. a comparable dataset on environmental status of the Sava river and its selected tributaries, evaluation of the ecological status of the basin, the sampling procedures and methodological approaches for analysis of water, sediment and biota, harmonized on transboundary scale, a system for efficient data exchange, know-how transfer within the basin). The project proposal was submitted to the Transnational Cooperation Programme for South-Eastern Europe (TCP SEE), but did not pass the eligibility criterion. In future, primarily EU funds will be targeted as possible financial sources.

5. *International Contingency Plan for the Sava River Basin*

The project proposal titled *Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin* (WACOSS) was developed in the framework of PEG APC of the ISRBC. The project is dealing with the water pollution contingency management, aiming to connect the institutions involved in water management and those involved in the emergency preparedness and response management. The project is aimed at provision of measures in the case of accidental spills of substances which might affect the use of water for different

purposes (drinking water, breeding waters, irrigation, industry, navigation etc.), as well as the quality of rivers and aquatic eco-system, especially the areas of special importance. For the purpose of efficient and effective management, the modeling and information exchange platform will be developed by which all responsible authorities and institutions will be alerted on the eventual spill of harmful substances, follow the development of the situation and co-ordinate a concerted response to it. The project proposal has been submitted to the 2nd call of the TCP SEE. According to the proposal, the project duration is planned to be 2 years and the budget, to amount at 1.3 million EUR.

6. *Joint flood mapping study for the Sava River*

The study is being conducted jointly by ISRBC and USACE. In addition to the initially agreed preparation of the Terms of Reference for a joint flood mapping study for the Sava river, the USACE agreed to prepare:

- georeferenced HEC-RAS model of the Sava river;
 - guidance and geospatial products supporting flood hazard and risk mapping;
 - geospatial database model for hydraulic structure surveying and inventorying,
- as well as to conduct product transfer and technical training for the experts from the Sava countries in September 2010. It is envisaged to perform and finish this cooperative effort, and to prepare a plan on how to proceed thereafter, in the first half of FY 2010.

7. *Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin*

Following the adoption of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change at the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)* in November 2009, the Parties decided to foster implementation of the Guidance through a programme of pilot projects and a platform for exchanging experience with regard to adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context.

The Sava river basin was nominated by the ISRBC and was accepted as one of the three pilot project on climate change adaptation, the only one from Europe. The project aims to support further expansion and strengthening of collaboration in the Sava river basin, to address transboundary management of floods, specifically taking into account the impacts of climate change on flood risk management. This project should complement and support the ongoing joint activities of the Parties on both Sava and Danube basin level, thus providing a basis for preparation of a joint *Flood Risk Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*.

The project implementation is planned from June 2010 to December 2012. The project costs, estimated at 180,000 USD, will be covered through the UNECE framework.

8. *Sediment balance for the Sava river*

The project is expected to contribute to development of the *Sediment Management Plan for the Sava River Basin*, as foreseen in the draft *Protocol on Sediment Management to the FASRB*. The project proposal has been submitted to UNESCO for possible financing within the International Hydrological Programme VII. The project aims to review the existing sediment data in the basin, evaluate the sediment balance for the Sava River, propose development of an effective sediment monitoring system on the basin-wide level, support sustainable transboundary sediment management in the basin, and upgrade scientific relations in the Sava and Danube river basins, through establishment of a scientific and stakeholder cooperation. The expected period of implementation is 2 years (starting in fall 2010) and the budget is 79,000 EUR.

9. *Stakeholder analysis and involvement plan for the Sava river basin*

The project is planned to be executed in the framework of preparation of the *Sava RBM Plan*. It aims to study a feasibility of establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform in the basin, to identify key stakeholders in the basin, and to provide a strategy for the most efficient involvement of the stakeholders in the *FASRB* implementation. The project will be executed in cooperation with the GWP-Med and UNESCO. The implementation period is 8 months (starting in the second half of 2010) and the budget is 37,400 EUR.

In addition to the projects of the ISRBC outlined above, there was also collaboration with relevant external projects – WATCAP, DIKTAS and RISKBASE.

1. *Water and climate adaptation plan for the Sava river basin (WATCAP)*

The project, initiated by the ISRBC and the World Bank, is financed and executed by the Bank. The project aims to assess possible impacts of climate change and, based on the assessment results, to provide guidelines for different water sub-sectors (i.e. navigation, hydropower, irrigation, water supply, flood protection, groundwater, environmental protection), in order to advance water and climate change adaptation in the Sava river basin, including potential climate change adaptation investments. The project commenced in June 2009. The estimated duration is 2 years and the budget is 300,000 USD.

2. *Protection and sustainable use of the Dinaric karst transboundary aquifer system (DIKTAS)*

The project is the first ever attempted globally to introduce sustainable integrated management principles in a transboundary karstic freshwater aquifer of the magnitude of the Dinaric karst aquifer system (one of the world's largest karst aquifer systems). The project objectives are to facilitate the equitable and sustainable use and management of the transboundary water resources of the Dinaric karst aquifer system, and to protect from natural and man-made hazards, including climate change, the unique groundwater dependent ecosystems of the Dinaric karst region. The project will be implemented by the UNDP-GEF and executed by UNESCO IHP. The expected period of implementation is June 2010 – June 2014, and the project budget is 5,860,000 USD.

3. *Coordination action on risk based management of river basins (RISKBASE)*

The project, realized within the 6th Framework Program of EU (EU FP6), provided review and synthesis of European knowledge in relation to integrated risk-assessment based management of the (ground)water-sediment-soil system at the river basin scale. Duration of the project was 3 years (Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009). The main aims of the project were to deliver guiding principles to integrated, risk-based management of European river basins, and recommendations for implementation of this approach in policies and management. To this end, a number of European river basins have been considered, including the Sava river basin, based on contribution of the ISRBC.

2. Navigation

Work of the ISRBC in the field of navigation focused mainly on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river waterway, which is an absolute priority in this field.

At the same time, the follow up of implementation of the decisions on basic regulation in the field of navigation, as well as further development of the technical rules and rules for transport of dangerous goods, was continued with the aim to upgrade the decisions in force and to add new regulations to the regulatory system, in order to improve navigation safety and environmental protection.

2.1. Navigation safety

In the reporting period, the ISRBC activities focused on unification of the navigation rules on European level, and an upgrade of the *Navigation rules in the Sava River Basin*, that have been adopted by Decision No. 30/07 of the ISRBC.

The process of unification of the navigation rules on European level, lead by representatives of the UNECE, Danube Commission, Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, Mosel Commission and the ISRBC, as well as the Austrian Government, has been finalized and resulted in a new text of the *European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)*, adopted by UNECE in November 2009. It is worth of noticing that some of the specific requirements from the *Navigation rules in the Sava River Basin* (e.g. boatmaster, navigation in the conditions of a reduced visibility) have been introduced into the new text of *CEVNI*, and, generally, an active participation of the ISRBC in the process is a very positive sign for future cooperation with other river commissions and UNECE.

In parallel to this process, a proposal on amendments of the *Navigation rules in the Sava River Basin* (i.e. amendments to the Decision No. 30/07 of the ISRBC) has been prepared by the Permanent Expert Group for Navigation (PEG NAV), focusing on the issues such as harmonization of definitions, boatmaster appointment and duties, navigation in the conditions of a reduced visibility, radiotelephony in navigation, and the rules of the “road”. A chapter on special rules for the sectors “Belgrade” and “Upper Sava” has also been added to the proposed document, as a result of the joint work and excellent cooperation with the Port Master Offices in Belgrade and Sisak. Adoption of the amendments by the ISRBC and the entering into force of the decision is expected during 2010.

In addition, the following activities have been performed in the reporting period:

- *Manual for radiotelephony service in the Sava River Basin* and *Rules for definition of winter ports and winter shelters in the Sava River Basin* have been drafted.
- *Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC)* for the fairway of the Sava River from Belgrade to Sisak have been collected and made available of the ISRBC web-site.
- Development of the *Manual for the boatmaster in the Sava River Basin* and *Album of bridges in the Sava River Basin* has started.

It should be emphasized that the *Album of bridges* will be the first such publication for the Sava river basin ever.

2.2. Technical standards

As for the technical requirements for the inland waterway vessels, a draft of the *Technical Rules for the Vessels in the Sava River Basin* has been developed by the Secretariat and provisionally adopted by PEG NAV. Prior to consideration of the *Rules* by the ISRBC for adoption, the document will undergo translation into one of the official languages of the ISRBC and an additional consultation with the relevant national institutions.

A draft of the *Rules for the Transport of the Dangerous Goods in the Sava River Basin* has been finalized in the framework of PEG NAV. A direct application of the annexes of the *European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways* (ADN) is proposed by the *Rules*, whose adoption by the ISRBC is expected in 2010.

Adoption of these rules is especially important because of a high average age of the Sava fleet and recent development of transport of dangerous goods on the Sava River, as the rules are expected to significantly contribute to improvement of navigation safety and environmental protection.

2.3. Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation

In this field, the *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB* was signed by the Parties in FY 2009 (see details in Chapter 5.1).

The ISRBC is involved in the project *Waste management for inland navigation on the Danube* (WANDA), which is expected to provide a harmonized waste management system, accompanied with a coordinated joint action plan, including follow up activities and possible funding sources for the implementation. Through participation in the project, the ISRBC will be able to make use of the project's results (especially, the financing model) for further activities. More information on the project is given in Chapter 2.5.

2.4. Waterway infrastructure

In accordance with the *Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2009*, the *Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2010* has been developed and adopted by Decision 05/10 of the ISRBC. Additionally, the report on realization of the *Marking Plan for the Sava River and its Navigable Tributaries for Year 2008* has been prepared.

In the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia have fully established the marking system on the Sava River (rkm 0 – rkm 594) and Kupa River (rkm 0 – rkm 5). This is a very important result of the efforts and cooperation between the Parties and the ISRBC, as the complete marking system has been restored after 20 years. The marking system significantly improves the navigation safety and it is the first step towards further modernization and improvement of navigation.

Regular maintenance of the fairway has not started yet, however the Parties are planning to start with this activity in 2011. In 2009, Croatia performed urgent works on regulation of the most critical sector near Šamac, and these works resulted in slight improvements of depths and an overall navigability.

Regarding the rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava River, after completion of the *Feasibility Study*, the ISRBC and the Parties continued their efforts on development of the detailed design and other documentation (for details, see Chapter 2.5) and adopted two decisions for performing further activities:

- Decision No. 21/09 (on classes of the future waterway to be used as a basis for detailed design, financing of works, navigation upstream from Sisak to Slovenia);
- Decision No. 01/10 (providing an “action plan” and timeframe for development of the waterway).

In the framework of the RIS implementation activities, the ISRBC adopted Decision No. 12/09 on development of the project *Detailed Technical Specification and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River*. The project started on September 15, 2009 (for details, see Chapter 2.5).

It should also be mentioned that, partly as a result of all above mentioned activities (marking, maintenance, studies and plans), there is a development in traffic and opening of new cargo flows on the Sava River, such as:

- opening of transport of oil products from Brod/Bosanski Brod (10 – 15 000 t in winter 2009/2010 and regular transport in 2010 of minimum 2000 t per month);
- the first cruise vessel navigating up to Županja;
- new developments in Serbian ports (contract on cooperation between the ports of Sremska Mitrovica and Rijeka, development plans for the port of Šabac).

2.5. Projects and studies

The following projects of the ISRBC in the field of navigation were dealt with during the reporting period:

1. *Rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river*

Upon completion of the *Feasibility Study*, the ISRBC and the Parties continued their efforts on development of the detailed design and other documentation.

The project, including development of the detailed design and other documentation for the waterway from Brčko to Belgrade and the mine clearance in the areas of the future construction works, has been nominated by B&H for IPA funding. The project fiche has been completed and submitted to the European Commission and signing of the financial agreement with the EC is expected in 2010. Consultations of B&H with the World Bank on financing of the works on rehabilitation of the waterway have continued. A preliminary discussion between B&H and Serbia related to development of the detailed design for the waterway on the section from Brčko to Belgrade, has started.

In the framework of Croatian IPA, the first phase of the *Project for the Detailed Design for the Waterway from Brčko to Sisak*, which is revision of the existing documentation, started in September 2009. In addition to participation of the ISRBC in the work of the project Steering Committee, there have been additional two meetings between the ISRBC and the consultant. The ISRBC also organized a meeting with representatives of B&H and Croatia regarding the demining for the purpose of development of the detailed design.

The future activities on detailed design and development of the waterway have been agreed upon by the ISRBC by adopting Decisions No. 21/09 and No. 01/10 (in force since August 7, 2009, and February 27, 2010, respectively). Based on the decisions, Croatia and Slovenia have continued consultations regarding the navigation upstream Sisak.

2. *Detailed Design and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River*

Following the agreement of B&H, Croatia and Serbia to finance the project, and acceptance of the project proposal by ISRBC, the project commenced on September 15, 2009. Two meetings of the Project Steering Committee have been held, whereof the reports have been presented by the consultant.

The expected project outcomes include:

- a detailed design of the RIS system;
- assessment of conformity of the proposed RIS system with EU RIS Directive and RIS systems in the Danube riparian countries and in the Rhine countries;
- technical specifications, cost estimates and tender documentation;
- prototype of the services according to EU RIS Directive, including the AIS based tracking and tracing, and interconnection with existing RIS systems on the Serbian and Croatian Danube.

3. *Master plan for development of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin*

For development of nautical tourism in the Sava river basin, representatives of competent authorities of the Parties have been nominated by the ISRBC. At the first meeting with the nominated representatives (Zagreb, March 31, 2010), the project fiche, previously prepared by the ISRBC, were supported at the meeting, and two funds, the EU IPA SEE and „Slovenian development aid“, were identified as best possible options for financing.

The project has also been presented to representatives of the Chambers of Commerce from the Parties and a preliminary consultation on cooperation on this project has started.

The main results of the project are expected to be:

- common methodology for sustainable development of nautical tourism (management, marketing);
- legal framework for development of nautical tourism on regional and national levels;
- feasibility study;
- action plan for the development, in order to provide guidelines to authorities of the Parties to define the short-term, mid-term and long-term policy on development of nautical tourism, to set priorities concerning investments, and to facilitate access to international financial institutions, and thus to speed up the process of development.

4. *Atlas of nautical tourism in the Sava River Basin*

Consultation with representatives of the Chambers of Commerce from the Sava River Basin (ERUSRS Forum) on the project fiche and modes of cooperation has been finished. The project was presented to the ISRBC and decision on its involvement in the project implementation is expected in 2010.

In addition to the projects of the ISRBC outlined above, there was also collaboration with relevant external projects – PLATINA, WANDA, NEWADA and NELI.

1. *Platform for the implementation of NAIADES (PLATINA)*

The project, launched in July 2008, is funded by DG TREN under the EU FP7. The project comprises five work packages dealing with markets, fleet, jobs & skills, image and infrastructure. The ISRBC is participating in the Project Steering Committee (as well as the Danube Commission and the ICPDR) and is cooperating with the work package dealing with infrastructure, which is a follow up 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*. One of the main outcomes is the

Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning, which is presented and discussed at meetings on implementation of the *Joint Statement*.

2. *Waste management for inland navigation on the Danube (WANDA)*

The project was officially approved within the 1st call of the SEE TCP, and started in July 2009. The objective of the project is to provide a harmonized waste management system, accompanied with a coordinated joint action plan, including follow up activities and possible funding sources for the implementation. The ISRBC is an observer to the project (as well as the DC and the ICPDR), and is represented in the Project Advisory Board. Through participation in the project, the ISRBC will be able to make use of the project's results (especially, the financing model) for further activities.

3. *Network of Danube Waterway Administrations (NEWADA)*

The project was officially approved within the 1st call of the SEE TCP, and started in June 2009 (duration: 3 years), aiming to strengthen cooperation among the waterway authorities in the Danube area, as well as to improve the framework conditions for a safe and environmentally friendly inland navigation. The ISRBC is an observer to the project (as well as the DC and the ICPDR), and is represented in the Project Advisory Council.

4. *Cooperation-network for logistics and nautical education focusing on inland waterway transport in the Danube corridor supported by innovative solutions (NELI)*

The project was officially approved within the 1st call of the SEE TCP, and started in April 2009 (duration: 3 years), aiming to create the framework conditions for a transnational cooperation among the Danube riparian countries leading to technological innovations and implementation of common policies and concrete action plans in the IWT sector. The ISRBC is an observer to the project (as well as the Danube Commission).

3. Cross-cutting issues

3.1. Information management

In accordance with the *Geographic Information System Strategy for the Sava River Basin (Sava GIS Strategy)*, which was finalized and adopted by the ISRBC in 2008, the project *Preparation of implementing documents for establishment of the Sava GIS* has been developed in the reporting period. The project has provided a number of outcomes, including the standards to be used for the Sava GIS, list of the Sava GIS themes, data sets and objects, Sava GIS geodata model and architecture, proposal for the Sava CMS, *Action plan for the Sava GIS*, and the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Sava GIS.

According to the deliverables of the Project, the establishment of the Sava GIS should be performed in three phases:

- Phase 1 – setup of the core Sava GIS functionalities (Sava GeoPortal, tools, services and products) by the end of 2012;
- Phase 2 – development and implementation of the advanced tools, mapping and reporting services, 2013 – 2015;
- Phase 3 – development and implementation of the dynamic tools and services, from 2015.

Deadlines for finalization of each of the proposed phases should be confirmed by ISRBC. The Phase 1 will partly be performed within the implementation of the EC grant *Support to the ISRBC in preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*, which started in November 2009. Preparation of tender documentation for the planned activities is in progress and procurement procedures are expected to be launched in the first quarter of FY 2010.

3.2. Hydrological and meteorological issues

The activities relating to hydro-meteorological issues are mostly performed in the framework of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues (*Ad-hoc* HM EG), which provides a permanent link of the ISRBC to the national hydro-meteorological services of the Parties.

One of the activities in the reporting period was preparation of a new proposal of the project *Development and upgrade of hydro-meteorological information and forecasting system for the Sava River Basin*. The log-frame matrix for the new project proposal has been prepared and funding possibilities have been investigated. The new project proposal will be developed according to the funds available (World Bank, World Meteorological Organization, EU funding programmes, e.g. TCP SEE).

An effort was made to develop *The 2006 Hydrological Yearbook of the Sava River Basin*. Upon initiative of the national hydro-meteorological services, the templates were prepared and data were collected by the ISRBC for the first joint hydrological yearbook for the Sava river basin ever since 1986. The *Hydrological Yearbook* will be issued in 2010. In addition, it is planned to issue the yearbooks for 2007 and 2008 during the year 2010, too.

The Terms of Reference for *Determination of navigable water levels on the Sava river and its tributaries* was developed, as well.

4. Cooperation and public participation

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 performed primarily by means of mutual participation at sessions and expert group meetings of the commissions, as well as other events organized by any of them. This way, the ISRBC activities related to the *RBM Plan* development, the GIS establishment and the AEWS implementation, are coordinated with those of the ICPDR. In a similar manner, the cooperation with the Danube Commission is achieved, providing a basis for development of the ISRBC documents related to navigation, harmonized with the corresponding regulations of the Danube Commission.

Additionally, the cooperation with the ICPDR in FY 2009 resulted in a very important product, namely the *Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin*, prepared by the ISRBC within the action performed on the Danube level under coordination of the ICPDR. This contribution of the ISRBC was acknowledged at the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR (December 2009).

The cooperation between the ISRBC and the ICPDR was also addressed at the Ministerial Meeting of the ICPDR (February 2010), where only ISRBC and the Black Sea Commission, among all international organizations participating at the meeting, were given an opportunity to deliver their individual statements.

An important factor in cooperation with the ICPDR and Danube Commission is 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 European Commission. Within the process, the 2nd Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement* was hosted by the ISRBC (Zagreb, March 9-10, 2010). In addition to the status quo analysis of the infrastructure navigation projects in the Danube basin, a draft *Manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning*, which is being developed within the PLATINA project, and the *Joint Statement* system for information exchange, were presented and discussed at the meeting. Within the PLATINA project, a workshop on integrated planning of inland waterway transport projects was organized jointly with the ICPDR, and hosted by the ISRBC (Zagreb, June 9-10, 2009).

The process of implementation of the *Joint Statement* has been very well recognized on European level. It is worth of noticing that the process, as well as the three river commissions, were mentioned in the preamble of the *European Parliament resolution of January 21, 2010, on a EU Strategy for the Danube Region*.

The cooperation with the UNECE has been further intensified in FY 2009. In addition to active participation of the ISRBC in the framework of the UNECE working groups (i.e. Integrated Water Resources Management, Inland Water Transport, Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation), the ISRBC had an active role at the major event, the 5th Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE *Water Convention* (November 2009), participating in the panels of the two, out of the four, side events (“Managing transboundary rivers” and “Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process”).

The major contribution of the ISRBC was made within preparation of the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region*. This contribution of the ISRBC was acknowledged at the 5th Meeting of the Parties, upon adoption of the *Second Assessment*.

Additionally, the cooperation with the UNECE in FY 2009 resulted in an approved Sava pilot project *Building the link between Flood Risk Management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava River Basin*, to be implemented within the UNECE framework (see Chapter 1.4 of this *Report*).

Cooperation of the ISRBC with the European Commission was, in addition to participation of the ISRBC representatives in the working groups of DG TREN and DG ENV, additionally strengthened through joint activities on preparation and launch of the project *Preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*, that will support further activities of the ISRBC on preparation of the first *Sava RBM Plan* by the end of 2011.

Additionally, the ISRBC got involved into the process of elaboration of the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*, which should be finalized during 2010, in order to ensure implementation of the future ISRBC projects in the framework of the *Danube Strategy*.

Cooperation is being maintained with other navigation commissions (i.e. the Mosel Commission and, especially, the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine), and other river and lake protection commissions (e.g. commissions for the protection of the rivers Rhine, Elbe, and Oder). The annual informal meeting of the heads of secretariats of European river commissions, in 2009, was hosted by the ISRBC. There has also been a continued cooperation with UNESCO, regional organizations (OSCE, RCC, SEETO, GWP-Med), international financial institutions (World Bank, EBRD, EIB), specialized organizations, associations and groups (WMO, GIS Forum, PIANC), 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);
- operation of PIACs in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia (ministries of the Parties responsible for water management and environment);
- rehabilitation and development of the transport on the Sava river (ministries of the Parties responsible for inland waterway transport);
- development of nautical tourism in the Sava river basin (nominated representatives of the Parties);
- preparation of the projects relevant for the Sava river basin (all involved ministries);
- preparatory activities in the organization of the Sava Day 2009 and other PR activities in the framework of the *FASRB* implementation (ministries, nominated representatives of the Parties).

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, 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 4th meeting (Ljubljana, October 1-2, 2009).

4.3. Public participation and stakeholders involvement

Being aware of the importance of public participation and stakeholders' involvement within framework of activities of the ISRBC and implementation of the *FASRB*, the cooperation with relevant institutions, NGOs and local actors from the Sava river basin continued throughout the reporting period.

In order to reflect the transparency of the *FASRB* implementation, stakeholders' participation has been especially enabled for the following:

- monitoring of the *FASRB* implementation with special emphasis on the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*;
- sessions of the ISRBC;
- Sava Day celebration;
- development of protocols to the *FASRB*;
- realization of projects.

The information on the *FASRB* implementation was continuously communicated to stakeholders and wider public via:

- the official website of the ISRBC, where information on the activities, projects and documents is made available to wider public and continuously upgraded with the most recent facts and news. There were roughly 12,000 visits to the website during the reporting period (Figure 6), the top visiting countries being the Parties to the *FASRB*, USA, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, France, Netherlands, UK, Switzerland, etc.;
- the official bulletin of the ISRBC, the *Sava NewsFlash* (Figure 7), issued twice per year as a bilingual publication (in English and one of the official languages of the ISRBC);
- reports and specialized publications, such as the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* (Figure 3) and *Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin* (Figure 8);
- posters, leaflets and flyers, issued by the ISRBC and disseminated on workshops and meetings;
- contributions to bulletins and web-sites of other organizations/institutions, etc.



Figure 6. Visits to the website of the ISRBC

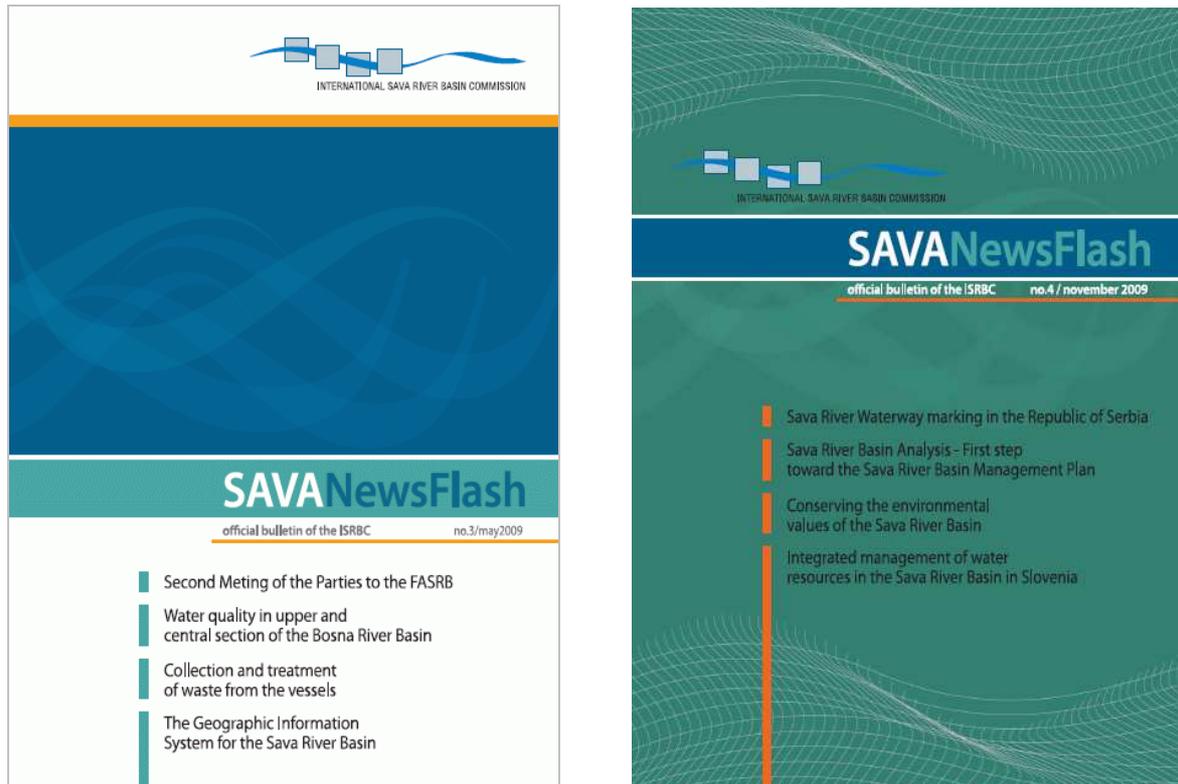


Figure 7. SAVANewsFlash No.3 (May 2009) and No.4 (November 2009)

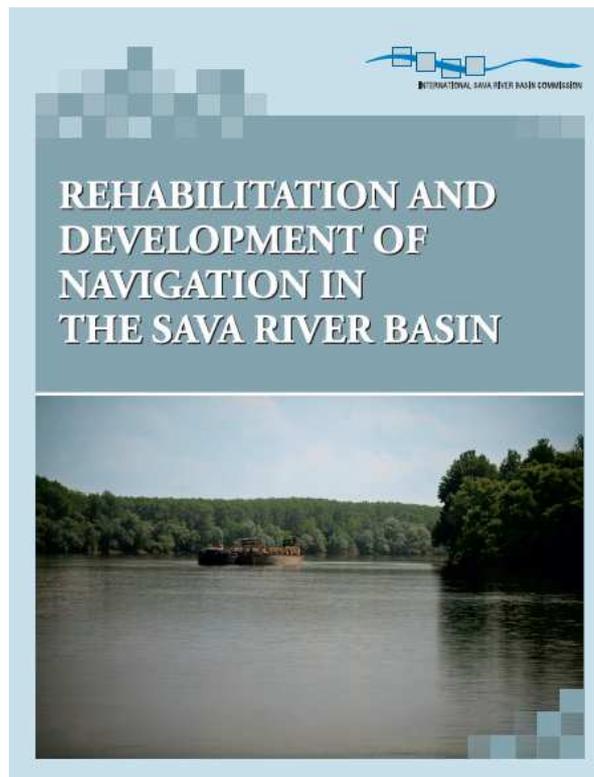


Figure 8. Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin

In addition, in order to ensure the most efficient public outreach, the information and key messages relating to the work and activities of the ISRBC and the Parties to the *FASRB* were also communicated by means of public relations’ activities – press releases, press conferences

and media briefings – by which the national and regional media, as well as wider public, were regularly up-dated on important topics originating from implementation of the *FASRB*.

Stakeholders' involvement under 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*, has continued under umbrella of the three commissions – Danube Commission, ICPDR and ISRBC. The dialogue between the stakeholders involved keeps strengthening the cross-sectoral communication and transboundary cooperation, exchange of information on bottlenecks at national and regional level, as well as on good practices and experiences in the field of inland navigation and environmental protection. The interdisciplinary dialogue established under this process has proven as a good practice of stakeholders' involvement in the region and raised the process itself to a higher extent.

The ISRBC organized or co-organized a number of consultation workshops, public presentations and other meetings with stakeholders, including:

- Workshop on Integrated transboundary water resources management (Sarajevo, May 18-20, 2009; organized by UNECE and RCC, in cooperation with GWP-Med and the ISRBC);
- Workshop on Integrated planning of inland waterway transport projects (Zagreb, June 9-10, 2009; organized within the PLATINA project, jointly with the ICPDR; hosted by the ISRBC);
- Meetings with local communities within the Sava Day 2009 celebration (June 1-29, 2009; organized by the cities along the Sava river);
- Annual informal meeting of the heads of secretariats of European river commissions (Zagreb, August 24-25, 2009; hosted by the ISRBC);
- Annual meeting with captains of port master offices from the Sava river basin (Ljubljana, October 1-2, 2009);
- 2nd Meeting on implementation of the *Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin* (Zagreb, March 9-10, 2010; organized jointly with the ICPDR, hosted by the ISRBC);
- Round table on the Sava GIS (Zagreb, March 24, 2010);
- Meeting with representatives of the Parties on development of nautical tourism in the Sava river basin (Zagreb, March 31, 2010).

As important highlights in terms of promotion and outreach activities of the ISRBC, the following should be underlined:

- The project *Our Beautiful Sava*, realized under the Sava Day 2009 by joint efforts of ISRBC, *Coca-Cola HBC* Croatia, Croatian Ministry of regional development, forestry and water management, Croatian Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure and with the support of the *Coca-Cola Adria* for the Alps and Adriatic region, won the European Excellence Award for the best campaign in the field of communications in South-East Europe in competition of over 1,250 applications received for year 2009.
- The ISRBC's website was voted into the top 10 websites under the category "Governmental organizations and state institutions", within the "VIDI WEB TOP 100" Awards in the Republic of Croatia. Such election implies that the ISRBC's website meets all technical standards with regard to performance, design, as well as to the content quality and availability, meaning that the website users are enabled to retrieve all relevant information in a visually very attractive manner.

Only with full and active involvement of respective stakeholders, the ISRBC can ensure the integrated water resources management of the Sava river basin.

5. Legal issues

5.1. Protocols to the *FASRB*

A further development of five protocols to the *FASRB* took place during the reporting period:

1. *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation;*
2. *Protocol on flood protection;*
3. *Protocol on emergency situations;*
4. *Protocol on sediment management,*
5. *Protocol on transboundary impacts.*

Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB 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. The *Protocol* was signed during the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB*, on June 1, 2009. So far, it has been ratified by Bosnia & Herzegovina (November 11, 2009), and by Republic of Croatia (February 5, 2010).

Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB has been recognized on a wider level – an interest of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) was shown to use it as an example of good practice. Additionally, the *Protocol* is used as a basis for work within a project of a Danube-wide significance, the WANDA project.

Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB is the basic document defining the cooperation of the Parties in the field of flood management. By this *Protocol*, the four Parties to the *FASRB* commit themselves to develop a *Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP)*, which will define 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 cooperation of the Parties in flood defense emergency situations. The text of the *Protocol on flood protection* was harmonized on January 21-22, 2010, and subsequently initialled. Signing of the *Protocol* is planned to take place in June 2010, within the Sava Day celebration.

The main objectives of the *Protocol on emergency situations to the FASRB* are to prevent and limit hazards, and to reduce or eliminate adverse consequences of accidents and natural disasters on water, water regime and aquatic eco-system. The implementation of the *Protocol* is closely connected with the establishment of the contingency system, and is expected to ensure prevention, preparedness, response and mutual assistance in case of emergency situations. The draft *Protocol on emergency situations* was adopted by the ISRBC in March 2009 and distributed to the Parties for final review. Final harmonization of the text is expected in 2010.

The main objective of the *Protocol on sediment management to the FASRB* is to facilitate the 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 draft *Protocol on sediment management* was adopted by the ISRBC in March 2010 and sent to the Parties for review. Final harmonization of the text is expected in 2010.

The draft *Protocol on sediment management* can be considered as an advanced document on European scale – an interest to use it as an example of good practice has been shown by the ICPR, as well as by SedNet, the European network of stakeholders dealing with sediment management issues.

The draft *Protocol on transboundary impacts* was developed by an interdisciplinary expert group consisted of the *Ad-hoc* L-EG as a core, and representatives of other groups (PEG APC, PEG RBM and PEG FP). Keeping in mind that Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified and became the Party of the *Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)* during the reporting period, the *Ad-hoc* L-EG, jointly with representatives of other EGs, reviewed the provisions of the *Protocol* and drafted a new text of the *Protocol*, since the most recent development has changed the position in the Sava river basin by means of obligations of the Parties to the *FASRB* related to transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment. At the time of drafting this *Report*, the draft *Protocol on transboundary impacts to the FASRB* was harmonized and agreed at the interdisciplinary expert group level and delivered to other respective expert groups of the ISRBC for final reconsideration and shall, subsequently, be delivered to the ISRBC for verification and further procedure.

5.2. Administration management and legal support

Under this section of work, the permanent legal support was provided within the work of the ISRBC and the Secretariat, involving organization of sessions of the ISRBC, 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the *FASRB* and preparation of various kinds of written documents and work of the *Ad-hoc* Legal Expert Group of the ISRBC (*Ad-hoc* L-EG).

During the reporting period, the emphasis, in context of legal affairs, was also given to drafting and preparation of respective protocols to the *FASRB*, together with other expert groups of the ISRBC.

The ISRBC permanently encourages other governmental and/or non-governmental organizations to become observers to the ISRBC in order to strengthen public participation in that area, and to include all relevant factors that could contribute to practical implementation of the *FASRB*.

It is important to highlight that the Republic of Macedonia has been granted the permanent observer status at the ISRBC in 2009 as the first state among different kinds of stakeholders. This reflects that the ISRBC is the organization having a broader significance on the regional level. Granting the observer status to the Republic of Macedonia would certainly contribute to the *FASRB* implementation in the areas of the ISRBC's competences and additionally strengthen the regional cooperation.

Besides, two non-governmental organizations (on regional and national level) were granted and/or extended the observer status at the ISRBC, namely the NGO "Green action" (seated in Croatia) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, seated in Vienna).

A considerable attention was given to legal analysis of the agreements in light of Article 29 paragraph 3 of the *FASRB*, which stipulated an obligation of the Parties to the *FASRB* to avoid any contradiction of their bilateral agreements with basic principles of the *FASRB*. To this end, the *Ad-hoc* L-EG analyzed a group of agreements in-force, which cover mutual cooperation and procedures of assistance on bilateral level between the Parties with regard to

water management, navigation issues and natural disasters, and found no contradictions with the said *FASRB*.

In order to improve the efficiency of internal ISRBC organization, several ISRBC internal rules were upgraded and amended during the reporting period - the *Rules of Procedure of the Sava Commission* and the *Criteria for the Performance Evaluation of the Secretariat Staff Members*.

6. Financial issues

6.1. Budget

At the 12th Regular Session of the ISRBC, held in Zagreb on May 6-7, 2009, the decision on adoption of the Budget of the ISRBC for the financial year 2009 (April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010), in amount of 515,960.00 Euro (i.e. 128,990.00 Euro per country), was passed.

The inflow of annual contributions of the Parties, and the realization of the Budget for the financial year 2009, are described in the tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1. Contributions received in the financial year 2009 (in Euro)

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Contribution received for FY 2009</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	128,990.00 ¹
Croatia	128,990.00 ²
Serbia	128,990.00 ³
Slovenia	128,990.00 ⁴
Total received amount of contributions	515,960.00
Transfer from Reserve Fund	82,313.75 ⁵
Miscellaneous	6,212.39
Total General Fund Inflow	604,486.14

Note: ¹ The contribution was paid on June 8, 2009. ² The contribution was paid in two equal parts, on May 11 and June 30, 2009. ³ The contribution was paid on September 21, 2009. ⁴ The contribution was paid on November 27, 2009. ⁵ Transferred amount for covering unexpected expenditures, as well as the outstanding obligation incurred in the prior financial year.

Table 2. Expenditures by basic intention of the financial year 2009 (in Euro)

<i>Budget Chapter</i>	<i>Expenditures¹</i>
Staff salaries and allowances	431,444.69
Current costs	39,721.30
Travel expenses	25,171.07
Operational costs	57,255.43
Equipment	20,592.10
Total expenditures	574,184.59 ²

Note: ¹ Estimated amount of expenditures on March 31, 2010. ² 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 95% realization of the planned amount.

6.2. Financing projects and studies within special funds

The total received amount in the Special and Trust Fund is 275,852.21 Euro, and the main part of this consists of:

- the amount of 135,030.00 Euro, paid by the European Commission for implementation of the project *Support to the ISRBC in the preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan* (EC grant to the ISRBC);
- the amount of 4,372.47 Euro (i.e. 6,436.42 USD), the UNECE final payment of grant for *Preparation of the Sava River Basin Analysis Report – Hydromorphology part*, and
- the amount of 133,333.33 Euro, paid by the Republic of Croatia for preparation of the *Study on RIS implementation in the Sava River Basin*.

The opening balance of the Special and Trust Fund amounts at 235,924.57 Euro.

The total expenditures of Special and Trust Funds in the financial year 2009 were 275,843.07 Euro, the most of this for the *Preparation of the implementing documents for establishment of the Sava GIS* and the *Support to the ISRBC in the preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*.

6.3. Other activities

During the financial year 2009, the development of internal and external financial management continued. Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC in FY 2008 has been performed, and the ISRBC took note on the *Report on Audit* at the 13th Special Session of the ISRBC. Adjustments of the *Financial Rules of the ISRBC* were adopted by the ISRBC. Collecting data on resource mobilization possibilities was agreed by the *Ad-hoc* FIN EG.

ANNEX I

List of the ISRBC members and deputy members

No.	Name and Surname	Function	Institution
Bosnia and Herzegovina			
1.	Kemal Karkin	Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.	Savo Gluvić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	WMC "SAVA" Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Republic of Croatia			
3.	Branko Bačić	Chairman, Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia
4.	Ružica Drmić	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia
Republic of Serbia			
5.	Aleksandar Prodanović	Deputy Chairman, Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Water Directorate
6.	Miladin Avramov	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia
Republic of Slovenia			
7.	Mitja Bricelj	Member to the ISRBC	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia
8.	Aleksander Čičerov	Deputy Member to the ISRBC	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 whole 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* Legal Expert Group (*Ad-hoc* L-EG);
- *Ad-hoc* Financial Expert Group (*Ad hoc* FIN EG);
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for GIS (*Ad-hoc* GIS EG);
- *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues (*Ad-hoc* HM EG).

The *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for RIS started to work in the financial year 2009, while the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation (*Ad-hoc* HIN EG) ceased to work during this year.

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

Sessions of the ISRBC

As of April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010, the Sava Commission held three sessions – 12th Special Session (May 6-7, 2009), 13th Special Session (September 22-23, 2009) and 19th Session – as the regular session (January 26-27, 2010).

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

- Compilation and analysis of the *First country reports on implementation of the FASRB*, in accordance with the *Methodology of Permanent Monitoring of Implementation of the FASRB*.
- 2nd Meeting of the Parties (MoP) to the *FASRB*, held on June 1st 2009, in Belgrade
 - o Organization of the 2nd MoP;
 - o Development and adoption of the documents at the 2nd MoP:
 - *Report on Implementation of the FASRB and Work of the Sava Commission for the period April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2009*,
 - *Declaration*,
 - o Signing of the *Protocol on prevention of water pollution caused by navigation to the FASRB*.
- Preparation and adoption of the *Annual Report on work and activities of the ISRBC for Financial Year 2008*.
- Annual work plan and work programs
 - o Preparation, adoption and follow-up of realization of the *Work Plan of the ISRBC for FY 2009*;
 - o Approval of the annual programs of work of the expert groups for FY 2009.
- Water management issues
 - o Preparation of the *Sava River Basin Analysis Report*, including the preparation of the *Hydrology Report for the Sava River Basin Analysis* and the *Hydromorphology Part of the SRBA Report*.
 - o Development and launch of the project *Preparation and implementation of the Sava RBM Plan*;
 - o Drafting the Table of Contents for *Program for Development of the Sava River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan*;
 - o Preparation of the *Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin* (as a support to the ICPDR activity on the Danube river basin level);
 - o Testing and improvement of the Accident Emergency Warning System;
 - o Preparation of projects (and seeking funding opportunities)
 - *Water pollution contingency management system for the Sava river basin*;
 - *Building the link between flood risk management planning and climate change assessment in the Sava river basin*;
 - *Flood mapping study for the Sava river*;
 - *Sediment balance for the Sava river*;
 - *Stakeholder analysis and involvement plan for the Sava river basin*;
 - o Other related issues.

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- Navigation issues
 - o Continuation of activities on rehabilitation and development of navigation on the Sava river waterway:
 - Follow-up of the activities of the Parties on preparation/execution of the detailed design of the Sava river waterway;
 - Development and implementation of the project *Detailed Design and Prototype Installation for the River Information Services on the Sava River*;
 - o Preparatory activities for the project *Master plan for development of nautical tourism in the Sava river basin*;
 - o Drafting a number of documents related to navigation safety and technical issues of navigation.

 - Cross-cutting issues
 - o Implementation of the project *Preparation of implementing documents for the Sava GIS*;
 - o Preparation of projects (and seeking funding opportunities):
 - *Hydrological study for the Sava river basin*;
 - *Development and upgrading of hydrological and meteorological information & flood forecasting/warning system in the Sava river basin* (in cooperation with the NHMSs of the Sava countries).

 - Establishment of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for River Information Services – RIS (*Ad-hoc* RIS EG).

 - Termination of work of the *Ad-hoc* Expert Group for Hydrological Issues related to Navigation.

 - Follow-up of work of the expert groups of the ISRBC (listed in Annex 2).

 - Work on draft protocols to the *FASRB*
 - o Development of the *Draft Protocol on flood protection to the FASRB* and running negotiations on final harmonization of the text of the protocol;
 - o Finalization of the *Draft Protocol on sediment management to the FASRB*,
 - o Development of the *Draft Protocol on transboundary impacts to the FASRB*.

 - Cooperation and public participation
 - o Follow-up of the implementation of the *Joint Statement on guiding principles for development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin*, guided jointly with the ICPDR and the Danube Commission;
 - o Possibilities for stakeholders involvement in the *FASRB* implementation;
 - o Cooperation with different national institutions, regional and international organizations;
 - o Organizations of meetings and workshops;
 - o Organization of the Sava Day 2009 and development of Plan of activities for the Sava Day 2010;
 - o Publication of the official bulletin of the ISRBC, *Sava NewsFlash*, and two specialized publications: *Sava River Basin Analysis Report* and *Rehabilitation and Development of Navigation in the Sava River Basin*;
 - o Continuous up-date of the ISRBC's website;
 - o Activities of public relations.

- Legal issues
 - o Amendments of the *Criteria for the Performance Evaluation of the Secretariat Staff Members*;
 - o Amendments of the *Rules of Procedure of the Sava Commission*;
 - o Granting the *ad hoc* observer status to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF);
 - o Extension of the *ad hoc* observer status to the NGO “Green Action” from the Republic of Croatia;
 - o Granting the permanent observer status to the Republic of Macedonia;
 - o Development of internal regulations of the ISRBC.

- Financial issues
 - o Adoption of the budget for FY 2009;
 - o Adoption of the reports on realization of the budget for FY 2008;
 - o Audit of the financial management of the ISRBC, and adoption of the auditors’ report for FY 2008;
 - o Amendments of the *Financial Rules of the Sava Commission*;
 - o Development of internal financial regulations of the ISRBC.

ANNEX IV

List of acronyms

ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
AEWS	Accident Emergency Warning System
<i>Ad-hoc</i> FIN EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Financial Issues
<i>Ad-hoc</i> GIS EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for GIS
<i>Ad-hoc</i> HIN EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Hydrological Issues in Navigation
<i>Ad-hoc</i> HM EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Hydrological and Meteorological Issues
<i>Ad-hoc</i> L-EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for Legal Issues
<i>Ad-hoc</i> RIS EG	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Expert Group for River Information Services
APC	Accident Prevention and Control
B&H / BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BIOSED	Biodiversity and environmental status of sediment, water and biota in the Sava River Basin
CCNR	Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine
CEVNI	European Code for Inland Waterways
DC	Danube Commission
DG ENV	Directorate General of the EC for Environment
DG TREN	Directorate General of the EC for Transport
DIKTAS	Protection and sustainable use of the Dinaric karst transboundary aquifer system
EEA	European Environment Agency
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EIB	European Investment Bank
ERUSRS Forum	Chambers of Commerce from the Sava River Basin
Espoo Convention	Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context
EU	European Union
EU FP6	6 th Framework Program of EU
EU WFD	EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)
FASRB	Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin
FP	Flood Prevention
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
FY	Financial Year of the ISRBC

GIS	Geographic Information System
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-Med	Mediterranean Regional Partnership of the GWP
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System
HR	Croatia
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICPR	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine
IPA	EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
IWT	Inland Waterway Transport
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MED EU WI/ WFD JP	Mediterranean EU Water Initiative/WFD Joint Process
MoP	Meeting of the Parties
NELI	Cooperation-network for logistics and nautical education focusing on inland waterway transport in the Danube corridor supported by innovative solutions
NEWADA	Network of Danube Waterway Administrations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHMS	National Hydro-Meteorological Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PEG APC	Permanent Expert Group for Accident Prevention and Control
PEG FP	Permanent Expert Group for Flood Prevention
PEG NAV	Permanent Expert Group for Navigation
PEG RBM	Permanent Expert Group for River Basin Management
PIAC	Principal International Alert Center
PIANC	Permanent Congress of the International Navigation Association
PLATINA	Platform for the implementation of NAIADES
RBM	River Basin Management
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RIS	River Information Service
RISKBASE	Coordination action on risk based management of river basins
RS	Republic of Serbia
Sava CMS	Content Management System for the Sava River
Sava FAP	Flood Action Plan for the Sava River Basin
Sava GIS Strategy	Geographic Information System Strategy for the Sava River

	Basin
SedNet	European Sediment Network
SEETO	South East Europe Transport Observatory
SRB	Sava River Basin
TCP SEE	Transnational Cooperation Programme for South-Eastern Europe
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO IHP	UNESCO International Hydrological Programme
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
WACOSS	Water Pollution Contingency Management System for the Sava River Basin
WANDA	Waste Management for Inland Navigation on the Danube
WATCAP	Water and climate adaptation plan for the Sava River Basin
Water Convention	UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature