
Stakeholder Forum for the Development of Environmental Impact Assessment Study and Design for the Action: Improvement of the Navigability Conditions of the Sava River from rkm 300 to rkm 329 (Project Jaruge - Novi Grad)

REPORT OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE Stakeholder Forum for the Development of Environmental Impact Assessment Study and Design for the Action: Improvement of the Navigability Conditions of the Sava River from rkm 300 to rkm 329

ZAGREB, MAY 22, 2019.

I. ATTENDANCE

List of participants is annexed to this report.

II. CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Dragan Zeljko, Secretary of ISRBC chaired the meeting.

III. AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome and opening remarks

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

2. Project Jaruge-Novigrad and Stakeholders Forum

2.1 General info on the Project

2.2 Establishment and Methodology of work of the Forum

3. Status of the Project development

3.1 Current status of the EIA study and the design documentation

3.2 Presentation of the variants of the fairway design

3.3 Discussion

4. Conclusions and recommendations

IV. MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Ad. 1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Dragan Zeljko welcomed the participants and thanked for their attendance.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted without any remark. All attendees briefly introduced themselves

Ad. 2. Project Jaruge-Novi Grad and Stakeholders Forum

2.1 General info on the Project

Mr. Tomislav Štrus presented the basic information on the Project Jaruge-Novi Grad with a particular emphasis on the following:

- beneficiary – Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Republic of Croatia,
- cofinancing through EU funding instrument Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Contract Value 650,000.00 EUR,
- duration: January 2018 - December 2020,
- major expected results: conceptual design, environmental impact assessment study, preliminary and detailed design, location and building permits.

2.2 Establishment and Methodology of work of the Forum

Mr. Željko Milković gave a presentation on the work of the Sava Commission and basic information on the establishment of the Forum, and emphasized the following:

- Forum was established by the Sava Commission`s Decision no. 7/19 with the list of Forum members and methodology of work of the Forum as constituent parts of the Decision,
- Membership was determined through a public invitation and direct contact with potential stakeholders (membership approved to anyone who expressed interest),
- Membership of the Forum consists of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, professional associations, state, regional and local authorities in the field of environmental protection, inland waterway transport and water management,
- Main tasks of the Forum are to project information exchange, formulation of comments, answers and recommendations for consultants, development of proposals for improvements in the framework of the Project and encouragement to implementation of the "Joint Statement on the Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin".

Ad 3. Status of the Project development

3.1 Current status of the EIA study and design documentation

Mr. Marijan Babić and Mr. Miroslav Ištuk presented the current status of activities under the Project to the attendees, as follows:

- consultant team was built in December 2018,

- kick-off meeting held on February 4, 2019,
- all existing documentation related to the Project was analyzed,
- proposal for variant solutions for the improvement of navigation advancement was made on the basis of the analysis of the state of art, hydrological analysis and hydrological model of the current status, as well as multi-criteria analysis.

3.2 Presentation of the variants of the fairway design

Consultants' representatives presented variant solutions for the navigation improvement. Three variant solutions are proposed for rkm shares. 320-329 and rkm. 310-312,2 and this:

1. deepening the river bed of the waterway,
2. construction of the groynes on the section considered,
3. combination of river bed deepening and construction of the groynes on the section

Following the multi-criteria analysis that included strategic criteria (meeting the objectives of the Project), economic criteria (investment and maintenance costs) and ecological criteria (environmental impacts assessment and effects of the groins on the water surface), the optimum solution was proposed as a variant solution 3: combination of river bed deepening and construction of the groynes on the section.

3.3 Discussion

During the discussion the following facts were emphasized:

- Mr. Tarik Kupusović expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of the Forum and his hopes that it would set the example of good practice for all future projects of a similar nature. He also stressed the need for the development of the dynamics of the planned interventions, and the expectations and risk assessment for the planned interventions as well. He also expected that the Forum would be included in all future multi-criteria analysis of the proposed solutions.
- Mrs. Marija Nikolić informed the participants that the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology of Republika of Srpska was familiar with the Project and that they had already received documentation in accordance with the ESPO Convention and that they expressed in the subsequent letter number 15.04-052-6919/18 from October 23, 2018 their interest in participating in the process of determining the content of the environmental impact assessment study of the interventions concerned and submitted through the state body of BiH their opinion on the content of the study to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy of the Republic of Croatia. She also considered the Forum a good way for continuation of cooperation.
- Mr. Tibor Mikuška also welcomed the founding of the Forum and emphasized that the proposed variant solutions deal with the problem solely from the point of view of navigability, and that the demands of all other stakeholders (e.g. nature protection, forestry, agriculture) were not considered at all. As far as the nature protection requirements are concerned, apart from the Platinum manual on Good Practices in Sustainable Waterway Planning, Sava White Book and the Sava Parks Guiding Principles on nature protection, water courses restoration and sustainable regional development, which can additionally help during the preparation of the documentation and asked the Sava Commission to deliver these publications to the members of the Forum. He also stressed the need to comply with the EU Water Framework Directive, with "no deterioration principle" in particular. All the same, he expressed the opinion that it should be considered a variant solution for keeping the existing waterway conditions (variant "do nothing"), as well as transferring the cargo traffic to the railways and the existing highways (multi-modal transport) in the period of low water levels in order to obtain a proper analysis of benefits and costs considering the existing and planned traffic of goods, and estimated project costs of about EUR 8 million. He also proposed the development of a variant solution for maintenance of waterway

class III on the sectors concerned. Moreover, he suggested involvement of representatives of the Croatian Waters in the work of the Forum as well.

- Mr. Zeljko clarified that the White Book and Guidelines were not official documents of the Sava Commission and asked Mr. Mikušku to submit to the Secretariat a link to the websites where publications are located. Afterwards, the Secretariat will deliver them with the Platinum Manual to the members of the Forum. Mr. Zeljko also noted that one of the main goals of the Framework Agreement were rehabilitation and improvement of the Sava waterway, which is an international waterway and as such, must be restored in line with criteria for the waterway class IVa. Regarding the participation of the Croatian Waters, Mr. Zeljko emphasized that representatives of the competent ministry took part in the work of the Forum, but he also believed that the active participation of the representatives of the Croatian Waters would be desirable, which was possible according to the methodology of work of the Forum.
- Mr. Boris Mesarić expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation of the Sava Commission and the chambers of commerce from the Sava River Basin and stressed the need for a more urgent rehabilitation of the waterway not only in this sector, as this will have a very positive impact on the economy overall. He also expressed the view that the variant solution of retaining the existing state of the waterway could not meet the needs of the Sava River Basin development and that it was necessary to restore the waterway with the utmost respect of all principles and needs for environmental protection.
- Mr. Dario Bušić agreed with Mr. Mesarić's opinion and stressed that within the framework of EU transport policy, the EU gave the advantage to the inland navigation as the most ecologically acceptable mode of transport.
- Mrs. Dunja Delić expressed the view that according to existing regulations, the investor should offer elements of environmental impact assessment for each variant solution and proposed that in future non-governmental organizations should be involved in even earlier stage of the project documentation preparation, i.e. they should be consulted when determining the content of the environmental impact assessment study.
- Mrs. Duška Kunštek emphasized that the variant solution of keeping the existing waterway conditions was not acceptable alternative considering the need for the development, international obligations of the Republic of Croatia and the fact that no EU regulations in the field of water or environmental protection excluded development needs. Bearing in mind the need for environmental protection, she proposed to further analysis of all proposed variant solutions from the point of view of the need for environmental protection.

Ad. 4 Conclusions and recommendations

After the discussion, following conclusions were adopted:

- All participants supported the establishment of the Forum of stakeholders and found it as the improvement of the current practice in the implementation of projects in the field of inland navigation and considered that similar practices should be continued in all future projects.
- Considering all available data and analyses, a consultant's proposal for the variant solution 3 - combination of deepening of the channel and construction of groynes on the section concerned was found the most acceptable for all participants and as such got the support, provided that

regarding further activities, all other variant solution should include environmental impact assessment which should be presented to the Stakeholders Forum.

- In further hydraulic analyzes, using the 2-D model on the relevant sections, the consultant will thoroughly elaborate in the appropriate variant solution the number and spatial placement of the groynes.

Approximate date for the next meeting of the Stakeholders Forum is September 2019.

Annexes:

- 1. List of participants**
- 2. List of documents and presentation**

Annex 1: List of participants

1ST MEETING OF THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY AND DESIGN FOR THE ACTION: IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGABILITY CONDITIONS OF THE SAVA RIVER FROM RKM 300 TO RKM 329

ZAGREB, MAY 22, 2019.

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1ST MEETING OF THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY AND DESIGN FOR THE ACTION: IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGABILITY CONDITIONS OF THE SAVA RIVER FROM RKM 300 TO RKM 329

ZAGREB, MAY 22, 2019.

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Annex 2: List of documents (D) and presentations (P)

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<i>LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS</i>			
Agenda item	Naslov	Language	Type
1	AD.1.2_Draft_Agenda	eng	D
2	AD.2.1_ Izrada Studije o utjecaju na okoliš i Projektne dokumentacije za dionicu rijeke Save od rkm 329 to 315 i rkm 312 to 300	hrv	P
	AD.2.2_ Projekt Jaruge-Novigrad - Forum dionika	hrv	
3	AD.3.2_ Izrada projektne dokumentacije za rehabilitaciju plovnog puta rijeke Save za dionicu od rkm 329 do rkm 315 i rkm 312 + 200 do rkm 300	hrv	P
	AD.3.2_Projekt poboljšanja uvjeta plovnosti - konceptijsko rješenje	hrv	D

All documents and presentation are available on the web site of the Sava Commission:
http://www.savacommission.org/index.php?filterId=1&idevent=409&l=hr&page=event_detail&subFilterId=32