

Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the *Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)*

June 7th, 2018 in Bled (Slovenia)

The World Bank Statement

In June 2017, the ISRBC member states accepted a **Joint Statement on the Joint Plan of Actions for the Sava River Basin** as a catalyst for cooperation in the region. The aim of the JPA SRB is to develop a framework that would enable close links between the overall improvement of environmental and socio-economic status of the SRB region that would go hand in hand with the implementation of measures of broader interest for all the countries sharing the basin.

Since June 2017, the **World Bank has been engaged to develop proposal for integrated river development program for the Sava River Basin** that will support the regional cooperation among the Sava River Basin countries to accelerate economic integration and social development. Intense consultation process included **number of meetings with institutions and individuals** in four countries and resulted with outline of **Sava - Drina River Corridor Integrated Development Project**.

Approach of proposed Program is to strengthen capabilities and economic development of the riparian countries, by jointly selecting priorities for support in technical assistance, dialogue, institutional strengthening, and investment with focus on the accession process non EU members and compliance agenda of new members.

The long-term objective of the Sava-Drina River Corridor Integrated Development Project is to **foster regional integration and unlock productive investments**. It would support integrated management of the international Sava and Drina rivers and its floodplains, by improving flood protection, enhancing Sava waterway, managing environmental assets and promoting transboundary collaboration and economic development.

Component 1: Integrated Development of the Sava River Corridor through a multipurpose investment to improve connectivity, trade and services along of the Sava River waterway, mitigate risks of flooding and to revitalize environmental assets;

Component 2: Integrated development in the Drina river corridor by enhancing management and storage capacity of the Drina cascade of reservoirs to reduce risk of flood and droughts, to maximize hydropower output. At same time it would protect and develop environmental assets of global value and implement adaptation to climate change measures;

Component 3: Enabling regional economic integration, institutional support and project management. Focused on strengthening the nexus between water services, environmental protection, flood risk reduction and connectivity to enhance economic integration, trade and tourism development.

More than 50 projects identified, estimated amount EUR 170 million.

International Sava River Basin Commission should play important role in coordination and implementation of proposed actions. Experience that ISRBC gathered in last 13 years on coordination activities among riparian countries should be used to further strength cooperation and start implementing priorities identified by strategic documents (Sava RBMP, Sava FRMP, etc.) and Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.