Transboundary Water Cooperation for Sustainable Development
- The Case of the Sava River Basin -

“Europe-INBO 2015” Conference
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Secretary, ISRBC
Background to cooperation

• Challenges
  – **Use of water resources**: development and protection
  – **Management of water resources**: national → transboundary

• Legal and institutional framework
  – **Framework Agreement** on the Sava River Basin (2002)
  – **ISRBC** (2005)
    • 2 EU member states
    • 2 non-EU member states
    • 1 non-EU member state cooperating on technical level
Scope of cooperation

- **Management plans**
  (river basin, sediment, flood risk, climate change adaptation)

- **Integrated systems**
  (information, forecasting, warning)

- **Economic activities**
  (navigation, river tourism)

- **Harmonization of regulation**
  (national → EU)

- **Protocols** to the FASRB

Projects

- **Agreed** by all countries

- **Direct** benefits
  - Preparation and/or implementation of projects
  - Raising funds from external sources (~90%)

- **Indirect** benefits
  - Facilitation of fund-raising for the countries
  - Lower costs for the countries in case of joint ventures

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Mechanism

- **Inter-sectoral coordination** – an important task of ISRBC

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<th>Activity / Field of work</th>
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P – Water and aquatic ecosystem protection  
F – Flood management  
N – Navigation  
H – Hydropower  
A – Agriculture  
T – Tourism  
C – Climate change
Public participation

Quantity of information

Size of target group

ISRBC meetings (MoPs, Sessions, EG meetings)

Active involvement

Consultation

Information

ISRBC web-site

Awareness raising

Sava Water Council

Ad hoc task (sectoral) groups

Capacity building

Sava Water Partnership & co.

Sava Day celebration

Resp. national bodies, observers

Public concerned (specific stakeholder groups)

Wide public

Trainings, courses, CB workshops

Consultation

Publications

Key messages

Specific areas of work

All areas of work

Commitment of the Parties

- Sessions of the ISRBC
- Meetings of the Parties
- Other high-level meetings
Approach

- **Integrated** (whole basin, scope of work, all societal sectors, ‘top-down’ + ‘bottom up’)
- **Aligned** with the UNECE conventions and EU regulation / strategies
- **Complementary** with the processes on the Danube level
- **Pragmatic** and **practical**
- **Educative** (capacity building, awareness raising)
Challenges

- **Differences between the countries** (incl. fund-raising)

- **Broad scope of work**
  - Resolving conflicts of interests of different users of water (within a country / between countries / climate change)
  - **Twofold legal capacity** of the ISRBC (Decisions vs. Recommendations)
  - Need for **many focal points** and **good inter-sectoral coordination and communication** within a Party
  - Need for **additional protocols** to regulate specific issues of FASRB

- Continuous **commitment** and **support at high political level**

- Number of **official languages** of the ISRBC
Benefits

- Improved **cooperation** / Increased **level of mutual trust** among the countries
- Implementation of **projects of common interest**
- Harmonization of **regulation, methodologies** and **procedures**
- Enhancement of **cross-sectoral cooperation on national level**
Conclusions

- **FASRB & ISRBC:** a good framework for integrated TWRM
  - By scope
  - By approach to transboundary cooperation (principles, mechanism)

- **Broad scope of work:** an opportunity for all Parties to meet their interests

- **The process is:**
  - Demanding (resources and permanent joint efforts of the Parties), yet it provides considerable benefits
  - A good basis for the progress towards the achievement of the key objective – sustainable development of the Sava river basin
Contact information

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