



# **Sub-regional approach and its potential for the EUSDR implementation**

**- Case of the Sava river basin -**

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# Sava river basin



## Sava river basin

- **Area:** 97 713 km<sup>2</sup> (the second largest Danube sub-basin; share: 12%)
- **Average flow** at the mouth: 1722 m<sup>3</sup>/s  
(the largest Danube tributary; contribution: 25%)
- **River length:** 940 km (594 km of which is the waterway)
- **Population:** approx. 8.5 million

Country	Share of the basin (%)	Share of the territory (%)
Albania	0.2	0.6
Bosnia & Herzegovina	39.2	75.8
Croatia	26.0	45.2
Montenegro	7.1	49.6
Serbia	15.5	17.4
Slovenia	12.0	52.8

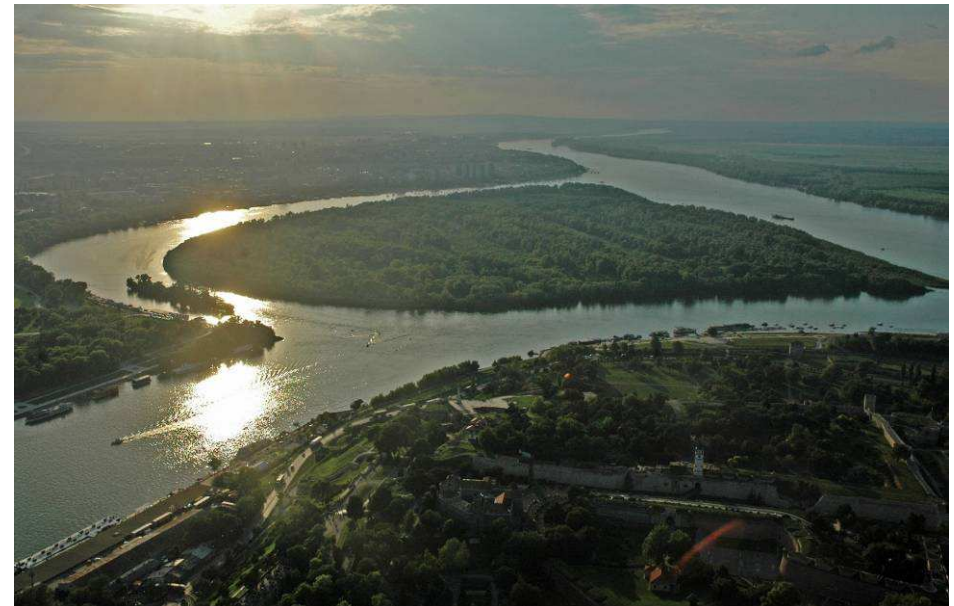
# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - Natural beauty



# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - High landscape diversity



# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - High biological diversity (natural wetlands, parks, protected areas)



# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - Large retention areas



# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - High potential for transport of cargo and passengers



# Sava river basin

- **High environmental and socio-economic value**
  - High potential for tourism and recreation



# FASRB

- **A balanced approach needed** to use the potential and preserve the values simultaneously
- **A new, international framework needed for (T)WRM** (upon decay of Yugoslavia, the Sava river turned from the biggest **national river** of the former country into an **international river**)
- **Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (FASRB)**
  - **Signed** in 2002, **ratified** in 2004
  - **The first development-oriented multilateral agreement in the region** signed after the Agreement on Succession
  - **Implemented by** the ISRBC (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia)
  - **Contacts with Montenegro** on their possible approach to FASRB

# FASRB

- **Key objective:**

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

- **Particular objectives – to establish:**

- International regime of **navigation**
- Sustainable **water management**
- Sustainable **management of hazards**  
(floods, droughts, accidents, etc.)

- Provides the ISRBC with **the broadest scope of work** among European basin organizations (i.e. river/lake commissions)

# ISRBC

- **Coordination of:**

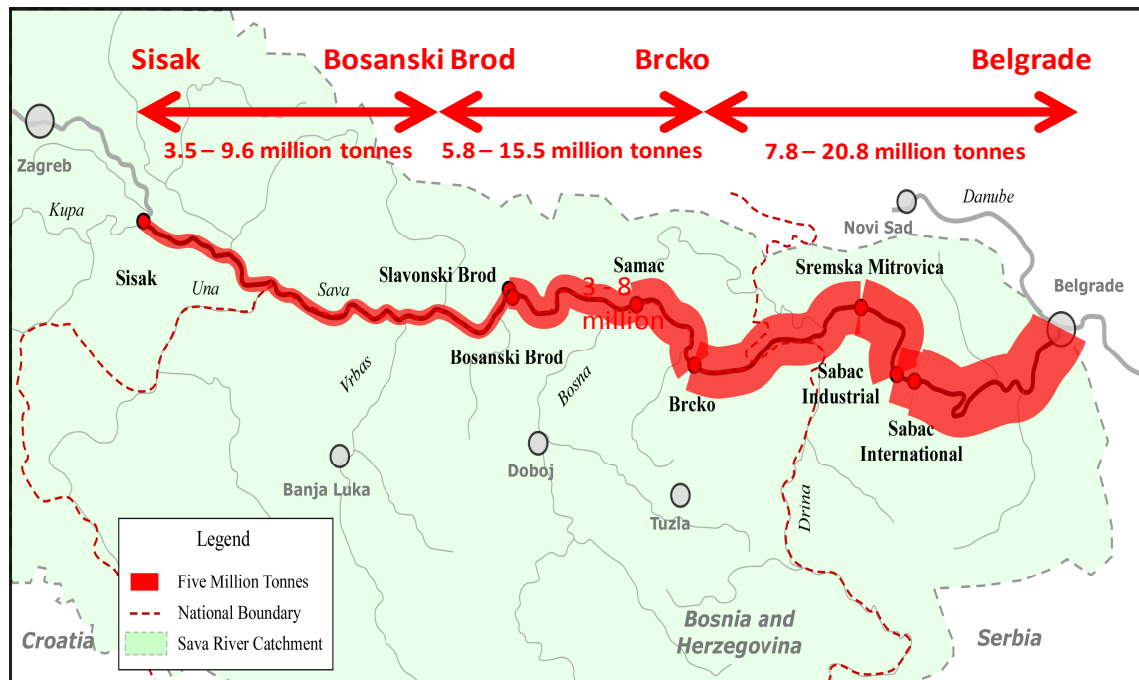
- Development of **joint / integrated plans** for the SRB
  - River Basin Management Plan (according to EU WFD)
  - Flood Risk Management Plan (according to EU Flood Directive)
- Establishment of **integrated systems** for the SRB
  - GIS (according to EU INSPIRE Directive and WISE)
  - RIS (according to EU RIS Directive)
  - Meteorological and Hydrological Data Exchange System
  - Flood Forecasting and Warning System
  - Accident Emergency Warning System (use of the ICDPR's system)
- Preparation of **development programs** for the SRB
  - Navigation
  - River tourism
  - Other water uses

# ISRBC

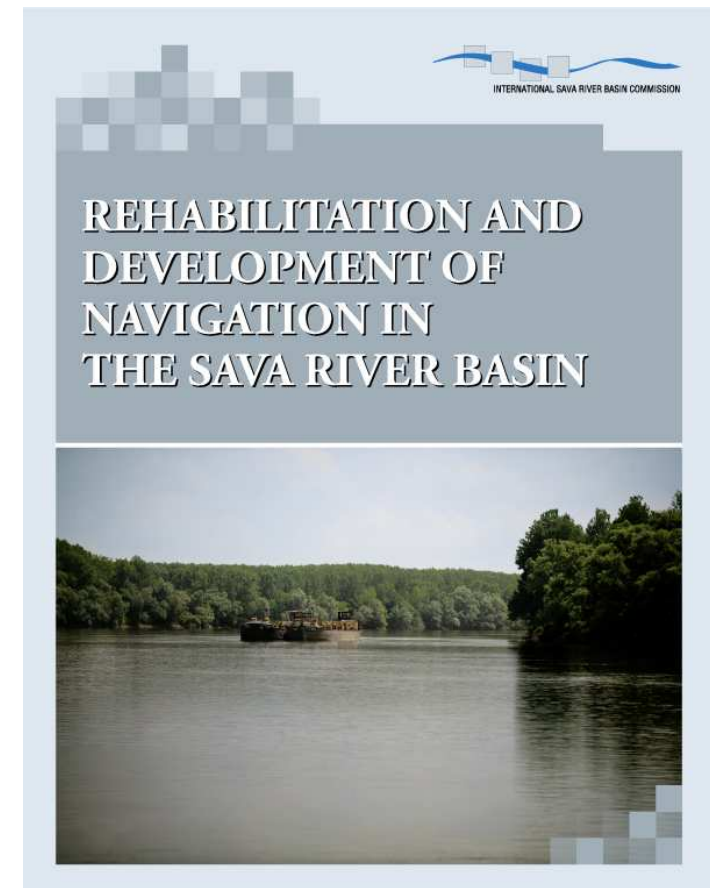
- **Coordination of (cont.):**
  - Harmonization of **regulation** (national → EU)
  - Creation of additional **protocols to the FASRB**
    - Navigation regime
    - Prevention of water pollution caused by navigation
    - Flood protection
    - Emergency situations
    - Sediment management
    - Transboundary impacts
  
- **Cooperation / stakeholder involvement / public participation**

# Inter-sectoral approach

- **Rehabilitation of the waterway infrastructure**
  - **Planning phase** under finalization (studies, design)
  - **Waterway marking system** restoration

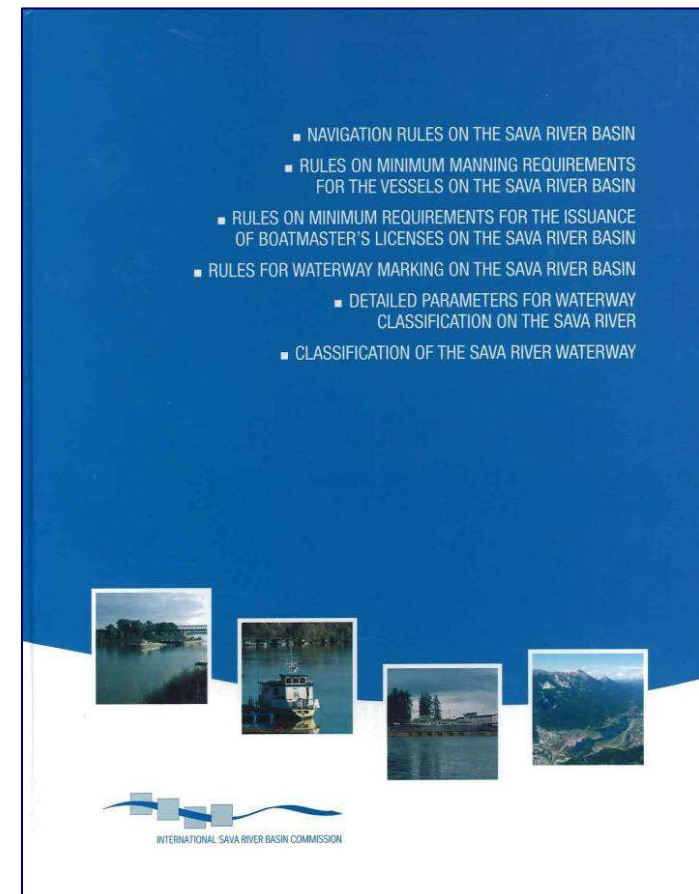


8th Vienna Economic Forum, Vienna, 21 Nov 2011




## Inter-sectoral approach

- **Improvement of navigation safety and technical standards**  
(reduction of the risk of water pollution due to navigation)
  - **Rules** harmonized with the EU and UNECE regulation
  - Protocol on **prevention of water pollution caused by navigation** to the FASRB
  - Development of **RIS**



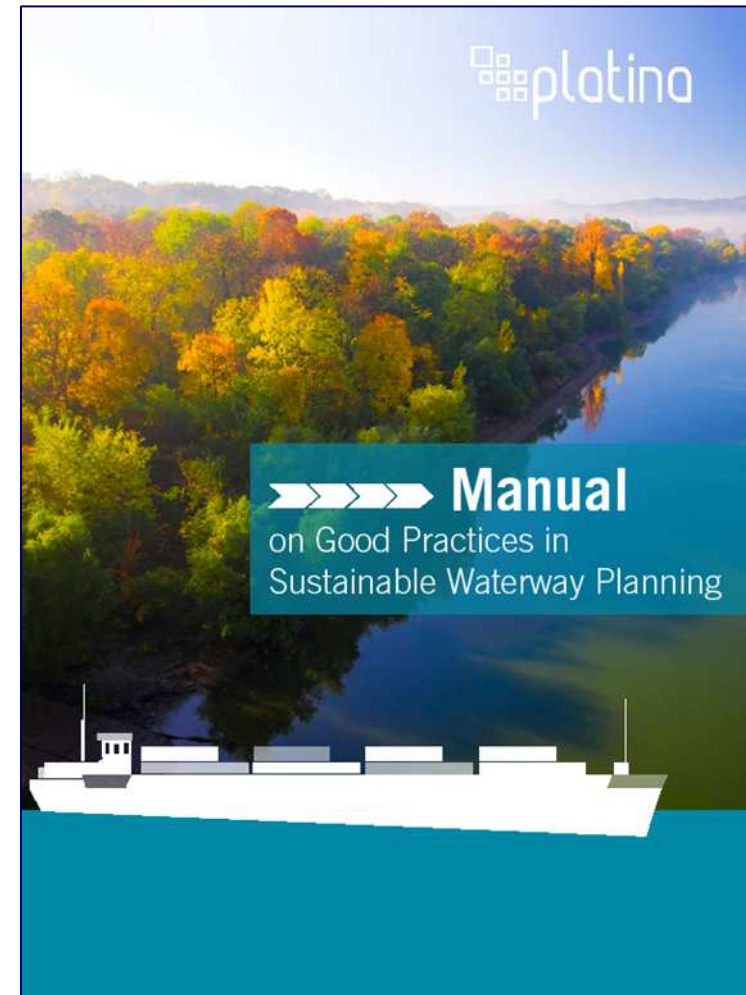
- NAVIGATION RULES ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
- RULES ON MINIMUM MANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VESSELS ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
- RULES ON MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOATMASTER'S LICENSES ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
- RULES FOR WATERWAY MARKING ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN
  - DETAILED PARAMETERS FOR WATERWAY CLASSIFICATION ON THE SAVA RIVER
- CLASSIFICATION OF THE SAVA RIVER WATERWAY



INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

# Inter-sectoral approach

- **Integration with environmental protection**
  - Involvement in processes / projects on **Danube and EU level**
  - Involvement in the **ISRBC** activities
    - Sava **RBM Plan**
    - **Climate** Adaptation Plan
    - **Sediment** Management Plan



# Inter-sectoral approach

- **Integration with other economic activities**

- Development of **tourism**
- Development of **SME sector**
  - River tourism
  - Food production and fish farming
  - Small hydropower plants
  - Small and medium shipyards
  - Waste water and manure treatment



# Commitment of the Parties

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



8th Vienna Economic Forum, Vienna, 21 Nov 2011



**SAVA RIVER BASIN** – Treasure for a Common Prosperity  
**SLIV RIJEKE SAVE** – Potencijal za zajednički razvoj  
**SAVSKI BAZEN** – Potencijal za skupen napredek  
**СЛИВ РЕКЕ САВЕ** – Потенцијал за заједнички развој

INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT  
ON THE SAVA RIVER BASIN**

**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
BRDO, MAY 31 – JUNE 1, 2011**

HOSTED BY  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

SUPPORTED BY  
**INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

# Added value

- **Key features of the approach**
  - **Cohesive**, providing conditions for:
    - **Cooperation** of the countries **after the conflict**
    - Implementation of **joint, mutually agreed, basin-wide projects**
    - **Harmonization** of national regulation, methodologies, procedures, ...
  - **Integrated** (whole basin; sustainability and development)
  - **Transparent** (public participation)
  - **Aligned with the EU and UNECE regulation / strategies**  
(EU directives, UNECE conventions / EUSDR, EU 2020 Strategy)
  - **Subregional** (“finer resolution” and complementarity of results with those on the regional scale)
  - **Pragmatic and practical** (offering concrete “products” to the Parties)

# Key challenges

- **Differences between the countries**
  - **Status** with respect to EU & **eligibility** for approaching funds
  - Level of **economic development** (financial resources)
  - **Organizational structure** in decision-making process
  - **Environmental awareness** of the public
- **Financing** priority projects / strategic studies, establishment of integrated systems
- **Resolving** conflicts of interests of different users of water (within a country / between countries / climate change)

## Conclusion

- **Identical overall objective** of the EUSDR and FASRB
- **Conformity** of the ISRBC approach and its priority projects with the EUSDR priorities (ISRBC projects included in the Action Plan of the EUSDR)
- **High potential for synergy** – implementation of the ISRBC projects within the EUSDR framework can contribute to the implementation of both EUSDR and FASRB
- **The sub-regional level** (such as the SRB level) **is likely to be the most effective level** from the viewpoint of the EUSDR implementation

# Contact information

## International Sava River Basin Commission

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