

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

“Europe-INBO 2015” Conference
Thessaloniki, 21-24 October 2015

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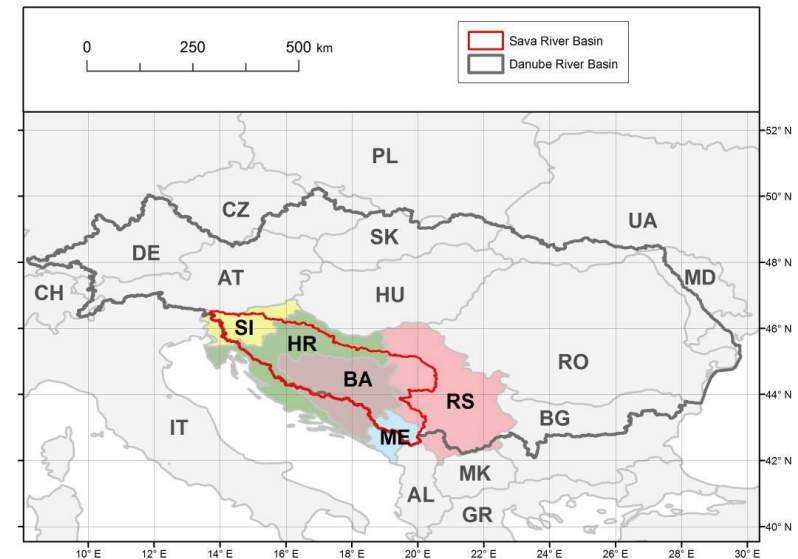
Background to cooperation

- **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



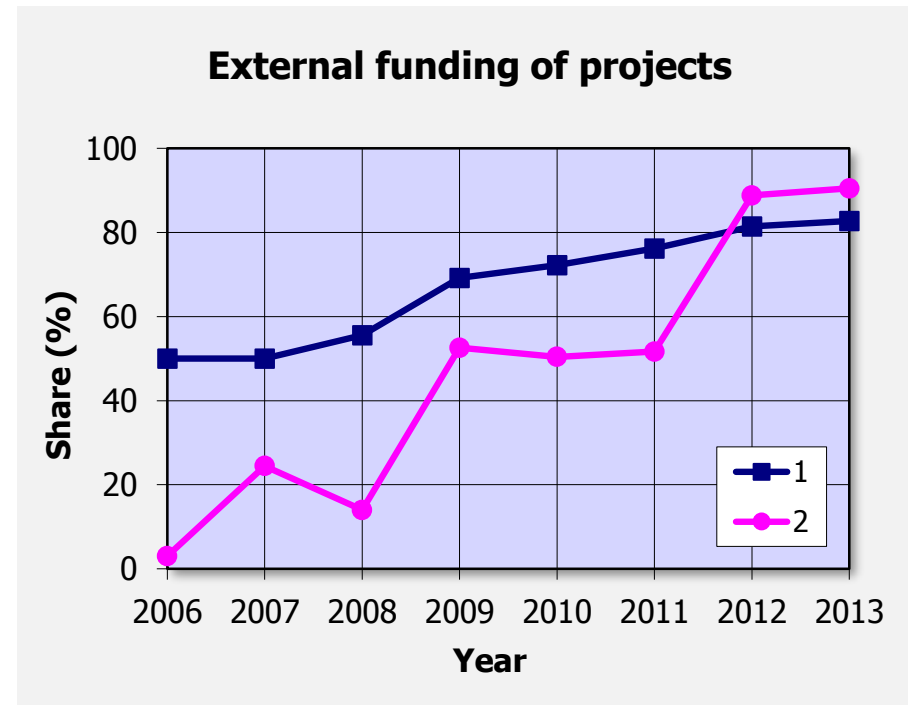
Scope of cooperation

- **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



- 1 – Share in terms of the projects' **number**
- 2 – Share in terms of the projects' **budget**

Mechanism

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

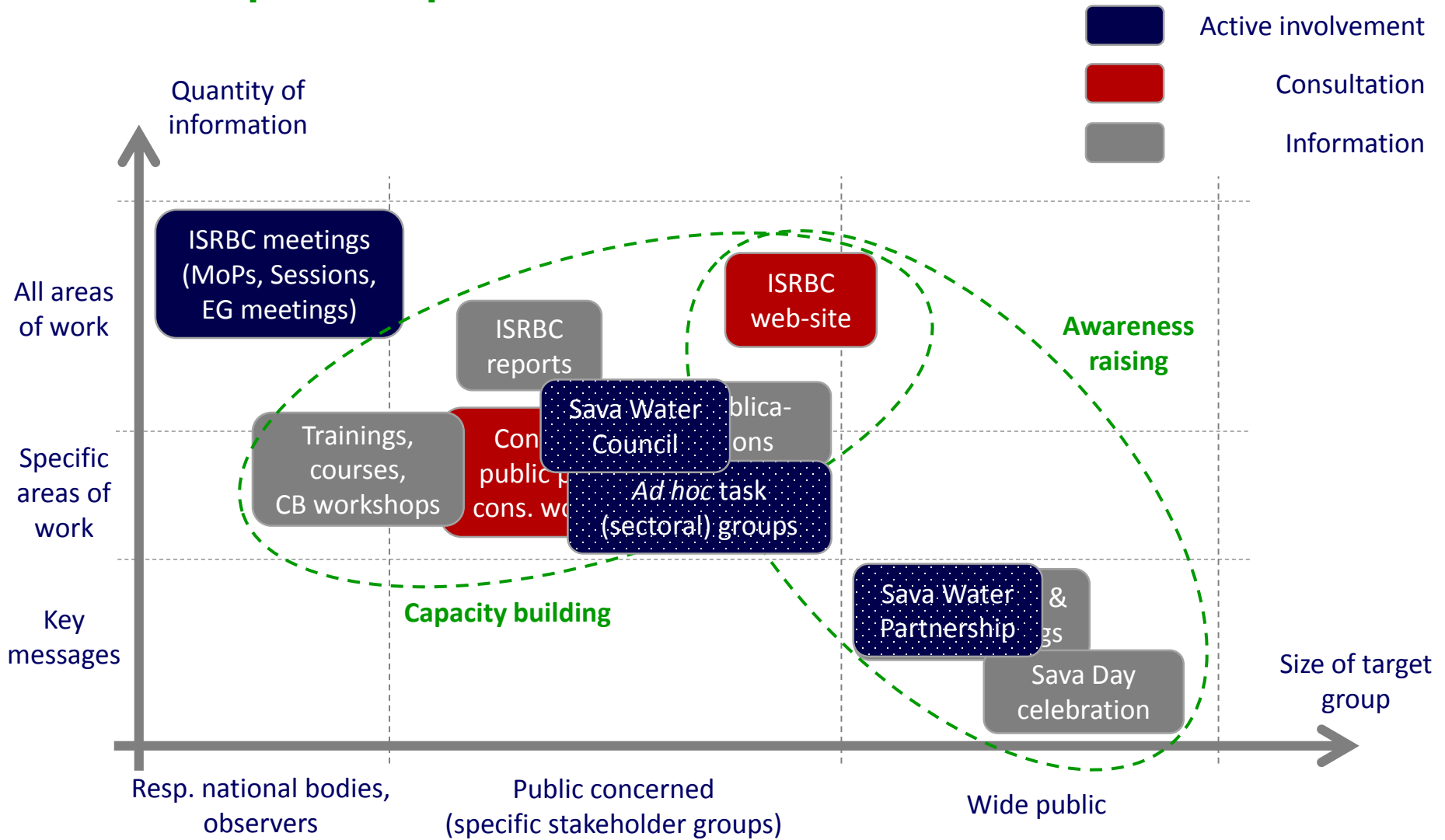
Activity / Field of work	P	F	N	H	A	T	C
River Basin Management Plan (EU WFD)	+	+	+	+	+		+
Water and Climate Adaptation Plan		+	+	+	+		+
Integrated Information System (INSPIRE Dir.)	+	+	+	+	+		
Navigation	+		+	+		+	
River Tourism	+	+	+	+		+	

P – Water and aquatic
ecosystem protection
F – Flood management

N – Navigation
H – Hydropower
A – Agriculture

T – Tourism
C – Climate change

Public participation



Commitment of the Parties

Belgrade, June 16, 2014

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



Zagreb, Dec. 2, 2014



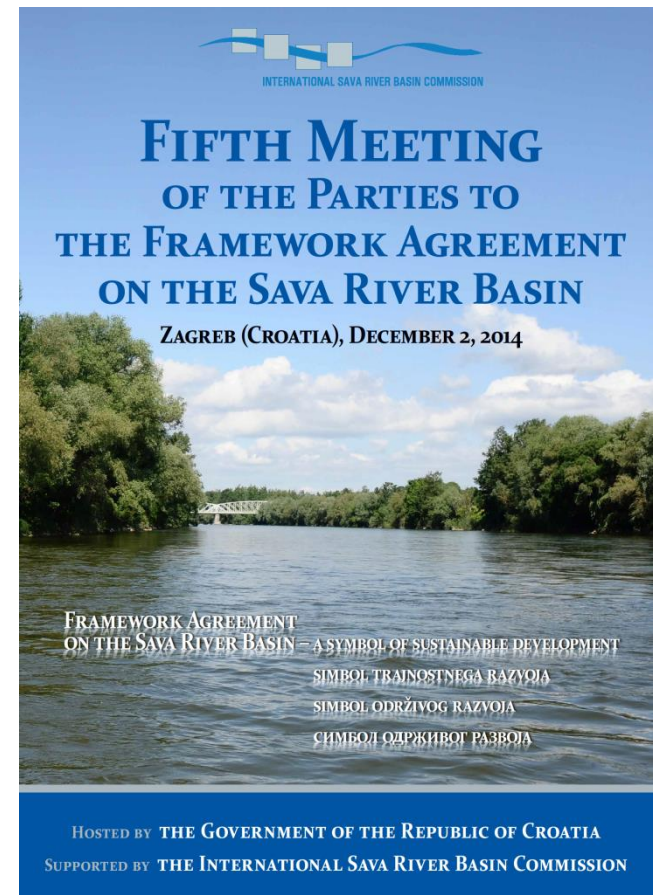
Brčko, July 6, 2015



“Europe-INBO 2015” Conference, Thessaloniki, 21-24 Oct. 2015

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

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