

Agreements and RBOs to strengthen the management of transboundary waters

Example of the Sava River Basin



Sava river basin



Sava river basin

- **Area:** 97 713 km² (the second largest Danube sub-basin; share: 12%)
- **Average flow** at the mouth: 1722 m³/s
(the largest Danube tributary; contribution: 25%)
- **River length:** 990 km (~ 600 km of which is the waterway)
- **Population:** approx. 9 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

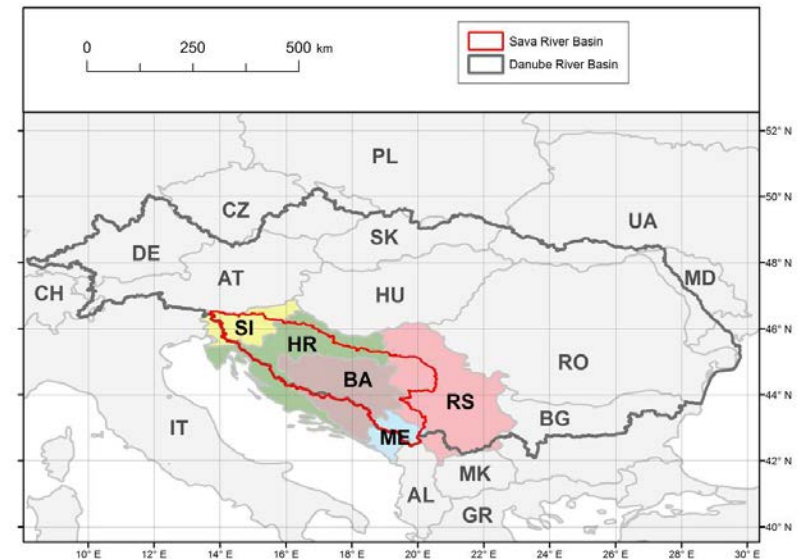
History of cooperation

- **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 – FASRB (2002)
- **ISRBC** (2005),
Secretariat (2006)
- **Participation:**
4 member countries +
1 country (technical level)



Principles of cooperation

- Cooperation based on **sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit** and **good faith**
- **Reasonable and equitable use** of water
- Securing **integrity** of water regime in the basin
- Regular **exchange of information** within the basin
- Reduction of **transboundary impacts** caused by economic and other activities of the Parties (**'No harm'** rule)

→ Building on **Helsinki Water Convention**: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia Parties to the Helsinki Convention – a reference framework, a common language, a neutral institutional platform

Scope of cooperation

- **Management plans**
(river basin, flood risk, sediment, climate change adaptation)
- **Integrated systems**
(information, forecasting, warning)
- **Economic activities**
(navigation, river tourism)
- Harmonization of **regulation**
(national → EU)
- **Protocols** to the FASRB



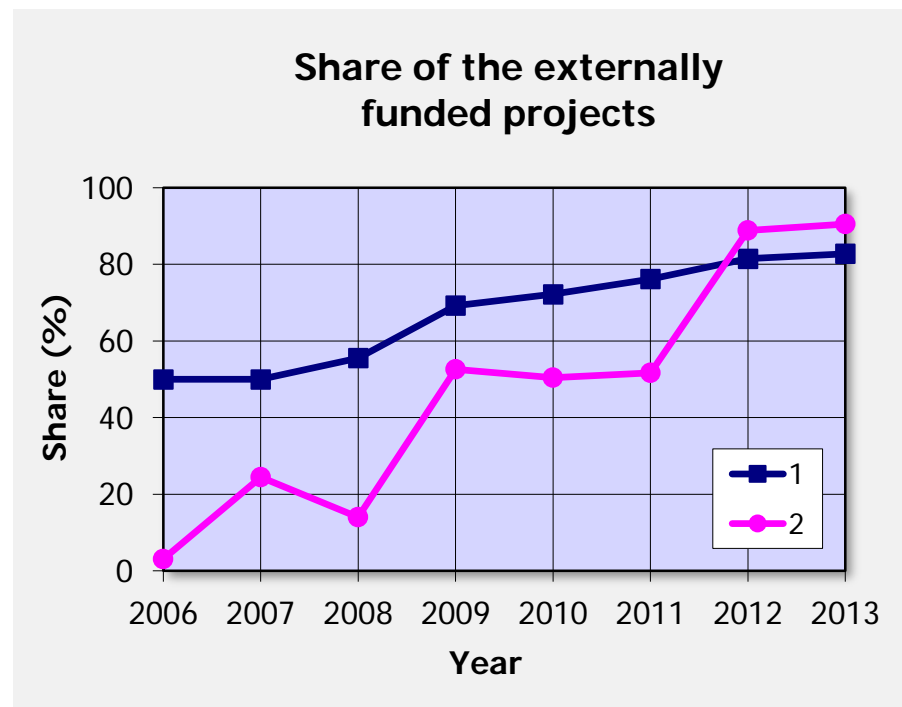
Mechanism of cooperation

- **Legal capacity**

- **Navigation:** Decisions
- **Other issues (i.e. WM):** Recommendations

- **Financing**

- **Work of Secretariat:** MCs' contributions (equal since the establishment)
- **Activities / projects:**
 - MCs' contributions (~ 10%)
 - External sources (~ 90%)

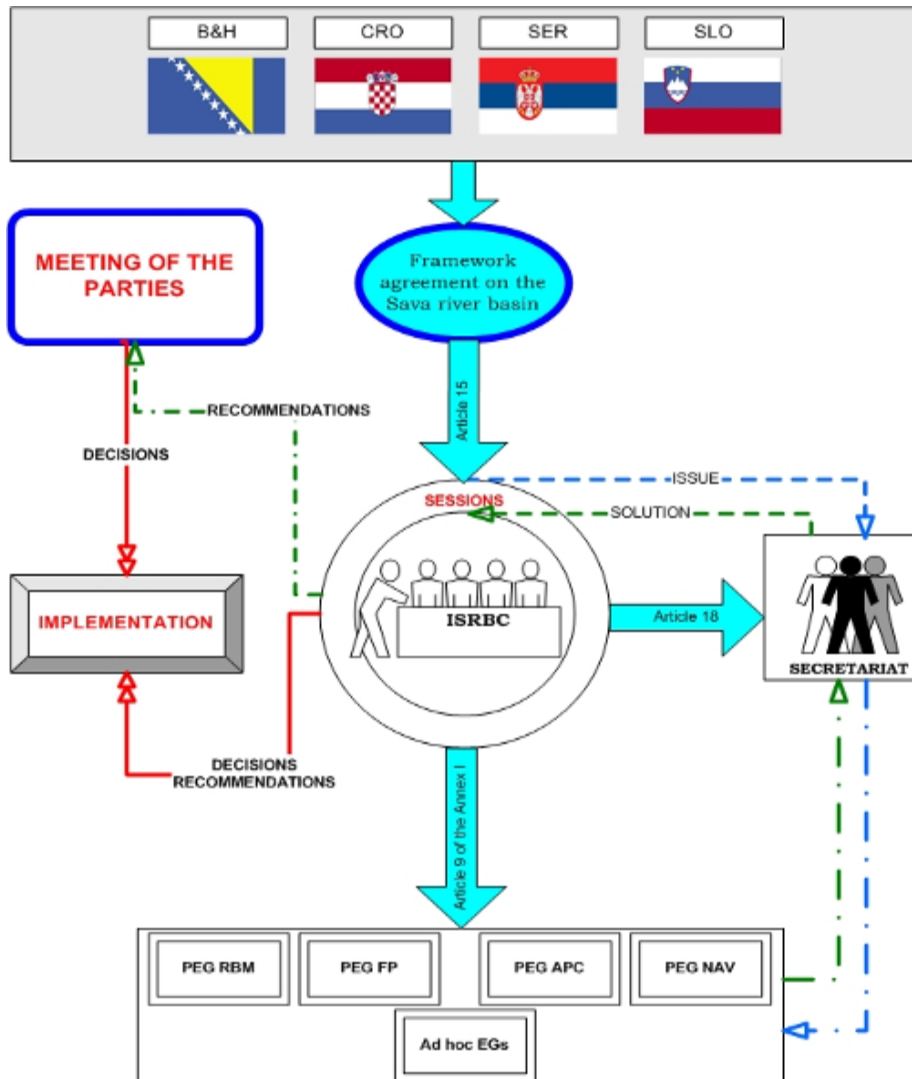


- 1 – Share in terms of the **number** of the projects
- 2 – Share in terms of the **budget** of the projects

Mechanism

- **Stakeholders**
 - **Wide range** horizontally
 - **All societal** sectors
 - Governmental
 - Non-governmental
 - Academic
 - Business

- **Monitoring of implementation**



Acronyms and abbreviations:
 ISRBC - International Sava river basin commission
 PEG RBM - Permanent expert group for river basin management
 PEG FP - Permanent expert group for flood prevention
 PEG APC - Permanent expert group for accident prevention and control
 PEG NAV - Permanent expert group for navigation
 Ad hoc EGs - Ad hoc expert groups

Inter-sectoral coordination

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

Nexus assessment

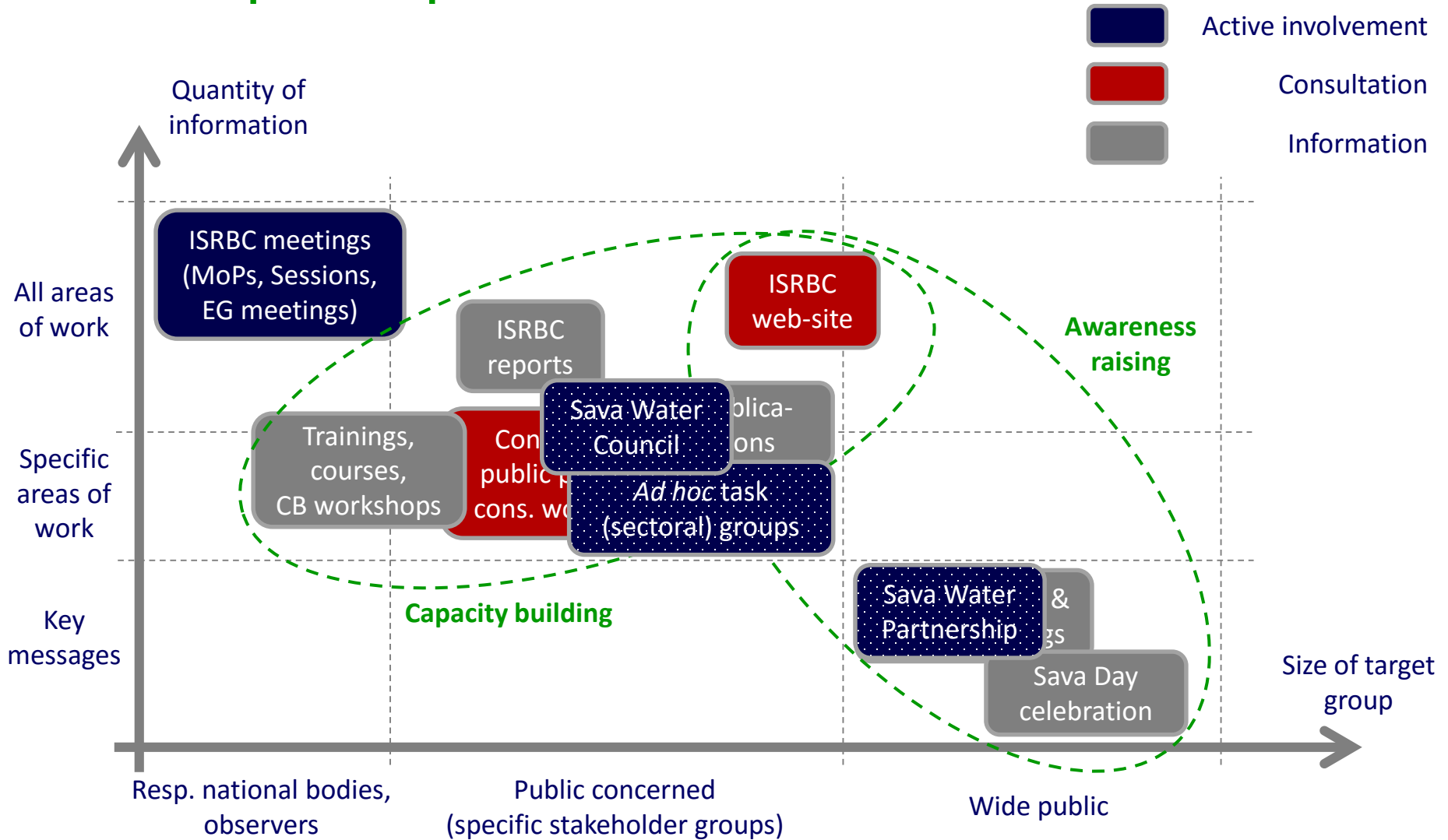
- **Basin is critical** for the region in terms of:
 - Employment
 - Energy generation
 - Greenhouse gas mitigation
 - Irrigation
 - Transport and tourism

- **Governance**

- Strong framework and incentives for good governance
- Serious gaps (incomplete reforms, resource limitations, lack of political will)



Public participation



Approach

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



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