

Improving transboundary cooperation in the Sava River countries

Towards a shared vision of the Sava River
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Status of transboundary cooperation within SRB countries

- Historical situation complex in SRB due to past conflicts
- Not all Sava countries have legally binding bilateral/multilateral cooperation between each other
- Strong demand for stronger involvement of ISRBC for sufficient and transparent information exchange
- any small important projects in place - important is to have larger projects resulting in transboundary cooperation

Status of transboundary cooperation within SRB countries

- There is a lack of communication and transparency
 - inter and intra country/authority level,
 - weak communication to the stakeholders,
 - between projects
 - about projects and their results
 - regarding ISRBC

What are the gaps?

- ⇒ Environmental issues dealt within ISRBC should be emphasised stronger
- ⇒ More efficient intersectoral and intergovernmental cooperation
- ⇒ Lack of interest and capacity to improve cooperation
- ⇒ Lack of political will for cooperation
- ⇒ Lack of efficient feedback mechanisms
- ⇒ Lack of targeted workshops and events
- ⇒ Non-harmonised laws hinder holistic implementation
- ⇒ Need of clear strategy and priority setting on solving the situation

What are the gaps?

- ⇒ Proper bottom-up approaches are missing
- ⇒ Lack of intercalibration of sampling and assessment methods
- ⇒ Weak sharing of the data

Improvements

- Improved strategy for transboundary cooperation
 - Opportunities have to be realised
- Strengthen ISRBC position as a information sharing platform
 - Encourage ISRBC to strengthen cooperation with nature protection sector and with all relevant stakeholders
- Future projects on developing RBM plan should be used as a tool to enhance cooperation
- Sound and inspirational feedback mechanisms to be developed and implemented
- Transparency of work
- Communication to the wider public

Improvements

- Information on ongoing projects, results and full use
- Share of databases
- Funding for targeted shared workshops and events
- Financing of and capacity building for successful transboundary cooperation

Conclusions

- Opportunities have to be taken
- Openess and creativity
- Patience and tolerance from all sides
- Friendly and constructive approach
- This kind of processes take time!