



## **IPA Project 'Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey'**

### **Enhancing hydrological data management and exchange procedures**

**Banja Luka, 15-16 April 2014**

### **MEETING REPORT**

#### **1. Introduction**

In the framework of the IPA/2012/290552 multibeneficiary project "Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey", a final meeting on Enhancing hydrological data management and exchange procedures was organized on 15-16 April 2014 in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability of IPA beneficiary countries to disasters caused by natural hazards in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and increase their resilience to climate change. The direct beneficiaries are the national authorities in charge for the disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

#### **2. Meeting objectives and format**

The representatives of the NMHSs and water agencies from the Sava River Basin dealing with meteorological and hydrological data exchange together with the representatives of WMO, ISRBC met on 15 to 16 April 2014 in Banja Luka at the final meeting for the final consideration of the Draft Policy.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss and contribute to (Agenda is attached as Annex I):

- Requirements for a Data Exchange Policy in the Sava River Basin;
- Policy on the Exchange of Data and Information for the Management of the Sava River Basin;
- Hydrological Data Systems;
- Upgrading of the existing hydrologic and hydraulic models for the Sava river (basin);
- Hydrologic Information System.

The meeting was attended by 11 participants from project beneficiaries, representing the NMHSs and other relevant agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Croatia. The

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

meeting was also attended by representatives from the International Sava River Basin Commission and relevant institutions from Slovenia. The list of participants is attached (Annex II). The presentations of the meeting are available at the ISRBC website: <http://www.savacommission.org>.

### **3. Activities**

In an internationally shared basin as Sava River, the exchange of quality controlled data and information is an essential element for the undertaking of basin-wide activities ranging from flood forecast and warning to the various aspects of water resources management. This issue has to be addressed from several points of view:

- Establishment of arrangements on the data and information exchange policy;
- Improvement and optimization of the current data exchange mechanisms;
- Consistency of the measurements carried out at hydrological stations situated at the state borders.

In this connection, the WMO and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) organized a kick off meeting of the Sava River Pilot Project Team, in June 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia. The meeting contributed to the development of a draft of the Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological Data and Information in the Sava River Basin which has already been presented and discussed at the meetings of the expert groups of the ISRBC and at the meetings with Directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

During the meeting the in Banja Luka, the final considerations related to the Policy were discussed and the modifications planned for the Policy to be agreed and signed in June-September 2014.

### **4. Conclusions and recommendations**

Following conclusions and recommendations were reached and way forward agreed during the meeting:

#### ***Conclusions - Data Policy***

- Data Policy is technically correct but might be slightly modified by the legal experts
  - The NHMSs listed in Annex A and Sava River Watershed Agency (BA Fed) (conditionally) are ready to sign the Data Policy;
  - The other water agencies listed in Annex A will be contacted by ISRBC for confirmation of the readiness to sign the Data Policy;
  - The Hydro Power Companies will be invited to join the Policy later.
- Annex C
  - Where needed the NHMS will revise the list of monitoring stations in Annex C by the end of April 2014. Additional parameters are available for gauging stations Litija and Moste;
  - Maximum delay in the Timetable for data provision for P2 (Daily Discharge) will be changed to 2 years.
- Deadlines for next steps:
  - Remarks to Annex C: within next 15 days
  - Response of water agencies (Croatian waters, Environmental Agency of Serbia and Public institution "Vode Srpske): until mid of May
  - Endorsement by ISRBC: by the end of May 2014
  - Signature: June or September 2014 (the latest)

#### ***Conclusions - data exchange system***

- The existing data exchange system will help the implementation of Data Policy;

- The new architecture presented at the meeting is recognized as a good tool for more effective implementation of Data Policy;
- When improving the existing system, the link should be made with the process of further development of Sava GIS;
- The idea of the improvement of the existing system (the new architecture) will be presented to directors of NHMSs at the Informal Conference South-East European NMHSs Directors (ICSEED), Banja Luka, 28-30 April 2014.

*Final meeting**“Enhancing hydrological data management and exchange procedures”**Banja Luka, 15-16 April 2014*

Agenda			
Topic	Activity	by	Time
	<b>Day 1</b>		
Welcome Address	Introduction and Main Objectives of Meeting	Dejan Komatina (ISRBC)	13:30-13:45
Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey	Provisionally: Summary of Project Progress and Achievements	Tommaso Abrate (WMO)	13:45-14:00
Requirements for a Data Exchange Policy in the Sava River Basin	Importance of the Policy for SRB activities (with examples of how current SRB projects will benefit from the Policy)	Samo Grošelj (ISRBC)	14:00-14:15
	General discussion	All	14:15-14:30
Policy on the Exchange of Data and Information for the Management of the Sava River Basin	Presentation of Draft Policy	Harry Dixon (WMO)	14:30-15:00
<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>			15:00-15:30
Policy on the Exchange of Data and Information – Cont.	General discussion	All	15:30-16:30
	Confirmation of readiness of institutions to sign the Policy	All	16:30-17:00
	<b>Day 2</b>		
Hydrological Data Systems	Introduction by Chairman	TBC	09:00-09:15
Hydrological Data Systems in SRB Countries: Current Status and Future Plans	Bosnia & Herzegovina: Fed, RS	TBC	09:15-09:45
	Montenegro	TBC	09:45-10:00
	Republic of Croatia	TBC	10:00-10:15
	Republic of Serbia	TBC	10:15-10:30
	Republic of Slovenia	TBC	10:30-10:45
<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>			10:45-11:15
Hydrologic Information System	Presentation	Silvano Pecora (ARPA)	11:15-11:30
Final Discussion	General discussion of possible future improvements and harmonization of systems	All	11:30-12:15
International Context	Provisionally: Importance of Data Exchange for Sustainable Water Management	Tommaso Abrate (WMO)	12:15-12:30
Improving Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Drina River Basin- Phase II	Presentation of the Project	Carlo Cacciamani (ARPA-ER)	12:30-12:45
Closing Remarks	Summary of progress and plans for signing agreement	Dejan Komatina (ISRBC)	12:45-13:00

*Final meeting**“Enhancing hydrological data management and exchange procedures”**Banja Luka, 15-16 April 2014***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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