

TEMPLATE AWA final – Serbia - Preparation and implementation of the national Danube River Basin Management Plan

1. Country/Organization:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Water Directorate, Republic of Serbia

2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Preparation and implementation of the national Danube River Basin Management Plan

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

The title of the action indicates both preparation and implementation of the Danube River Basin Management Plan. Preparation of the Plan is in the final stage. The Plan has been prepared according to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) which establishes a legal framework to protect and enhance the status of all waters and protected areas including water dependent ecosystems, prevent their deterioration and ensure long-term, sustainable use of water resources.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Water Directorate in cooperation with Institute for Water Resources “Jaroslav Cerni” prepared first and second part of the Plan (available for public on the web site of Water Directorate).

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

The Danube River Basin Management Plan is based on available data. One of the main challenges during the preparation of the Plan was lack of data in general or lack of readily available information needed for the Plan preparation. That is primarily connected with data needed for fulfilling different obligations towards implementation of the EU directives. As national legislation still is not fully harmonized with EU standards, a modified approach, in comparison of that required by the WFD, was applied. All the data gaps and uncertainties will be elaborated in the Plan and they will be tackled in the subsequent RBM cycles.

Due to financial crises and restricted budget, the activities were not implemented as it was initially planned.

(c) *What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

These are the main planned action foreseen:

- Finalization of the Danube River Basin Management Plan (end of 2013);*
- Adoption of the Danube River Basin Management Plan (2014);*
- Implementation of the Programme of Measures;*
- Reporting on the implementation of the measures planned for the 1st WFD cycle and evaluation of effectiveness of the measures*

4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Astana Water Action was partly useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues, because different ministries and governmental bodies participated in the process - ministries responsible for water management and environment and public water management company.

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Astana Water Action has helped the country to comply with its international obligation, particularly towards implementation of the EU water related directives (EU EFD and Flood Directive).

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No

Yes, this process is very useful and it provides better inter ministerial and international cooperation.