

TEMPLATE AWA final – Serbia - Negotiations on trans-boundary water management agreements with neighboring countries

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)

Negotiations on trans-boundary water management agreements with neighboring countries

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Water Directorate prepared draft proposals of Agreement on Cooperation on trans-boundary waters with Romania. Negotiation on new agreement started in 2010. Due to restricted budget, negotiation was not finalized. In 2013, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Water Directorate prepared draft proposals on continuation of negotiations over the Agreement on Cooperation on trans-boundary waters with Romania and draft proposals of new Agreements on Cooperation on trans-boundary waters with Hungary and with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Inter ministerial discussions are in the final stage and we expect that negotiations will star in October 2013.

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

International cooperation in the field of water is very important for the Republic of Serbia., because a large number of watercourses within its territory has an international character, and Serbia is the downstream country for most of neighboring countries. In addition, 92 % of available waters inflowing to the country through the Danube, Sava, Tisa and other watercourses.

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

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

After approval of the Government, Republic of Serbia will make the proposition to competent authorities in Romania to continue negotiations, and to Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina to start negotiations, on trans-boundary water management agreement.

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:*

Template for reporting on the implementation of the Astana Water Action

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

Astana Water Action was partly useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues, in particular due to the fact that different institutions (ministries and governmental bodies) participated in the process - ministries responsible for water management, environment, foreign affairs, infrastructure 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 helps to improve international/regional and inter ministerial cooperation.

Actions by SERBIA

Negotiations on trans-boundary water management agreements with neighboring countries

Preparation and implementation of the national Danube River Basin Management Plan

Preparation and implementation of the Sava River Basin Management Plan

Actions by the ECE

Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation with the health, environment, agriculture, forestry, energy, industry and housing sectors

Development of transboundary water cooperation in the Dniester, Drin, Kura and Central Asian transboundary waters

Promoting transboundary cooperation in adaptation to climate change

Promoting the achievement of water related MDGs through the reform of the water sector and the development of concrete targets and target dates

Promoting the role of the ECE Water Convention beyond the ECE region at the global level
