



**REPUBLIC of CROATIA**  
Ministry of Economy and  
Sustainable Development

# **Promotion of transparency and public participation in in the two international water management commissions – view of Croatia**

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development  
Republic of Croatia  
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# Public Participation in international forums under Aarhus Convention, EU and national law on water management

- Article 3(7) of the Aarhus Convention requires that “Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment.”
- EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), places public participation at the center stage of water management as part of its integrated approach to water management.
- Article 14 - Public information and consultation „Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, *in particular* in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans.”
- WFD calls for public participation in order to ensure protection and a sustainable use of the European river basins
- Croatian legislation includes all these requirements ...

# Danube River Basin

## International commission for the protection of Danube river – ICPDR



EU Member States (9)

Non-EU Member States (5)

all ratified Aarhus convention

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## ICPDR – Danube River Commission:

- Danube River Basin Management Plan and Danube Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2027

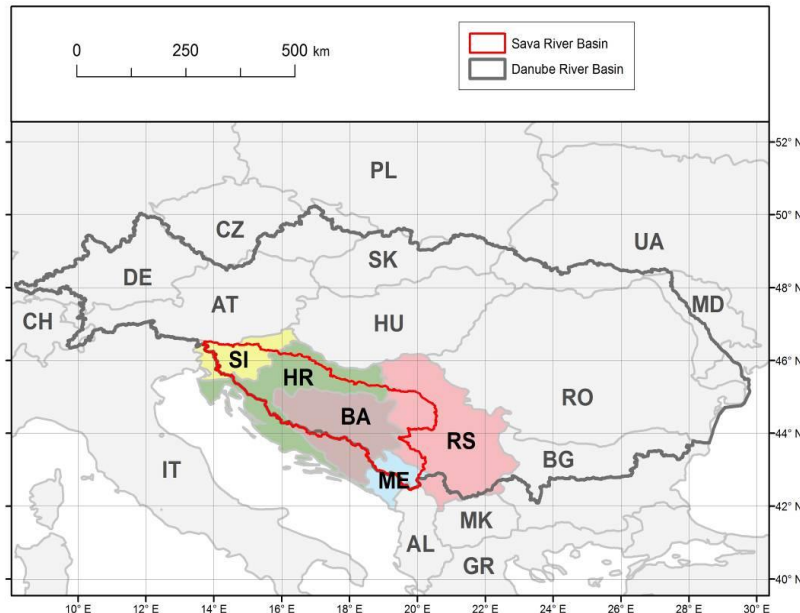
### Public Participation Expert Group

- deals with ICPDR activities concerning public information and consultation, outreach and awareness raising, as well as environmental education
- supports ICPDR activities related to communication and participation issues, including **public consultation measures** for the Danube River Basin Management and Flood Risk Management Plans, publications and outreach initiatives such as **Danube Day**, environmental education, promotion of **Joint Danube Survey...**



# Sava River Basin and contracting parties of FASRB

## ➤ Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, FASRB (signed 2002, on force 2004)



**Parties to the FASRB:** Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia

**Specific goals:**

- To establish an **international regime of navigation**
- To establish **sustainable water management**
- To **prevent/limit hazards** (floods, droughts, ice and accidents) and **reduce/eliminate** their negative **consequences**

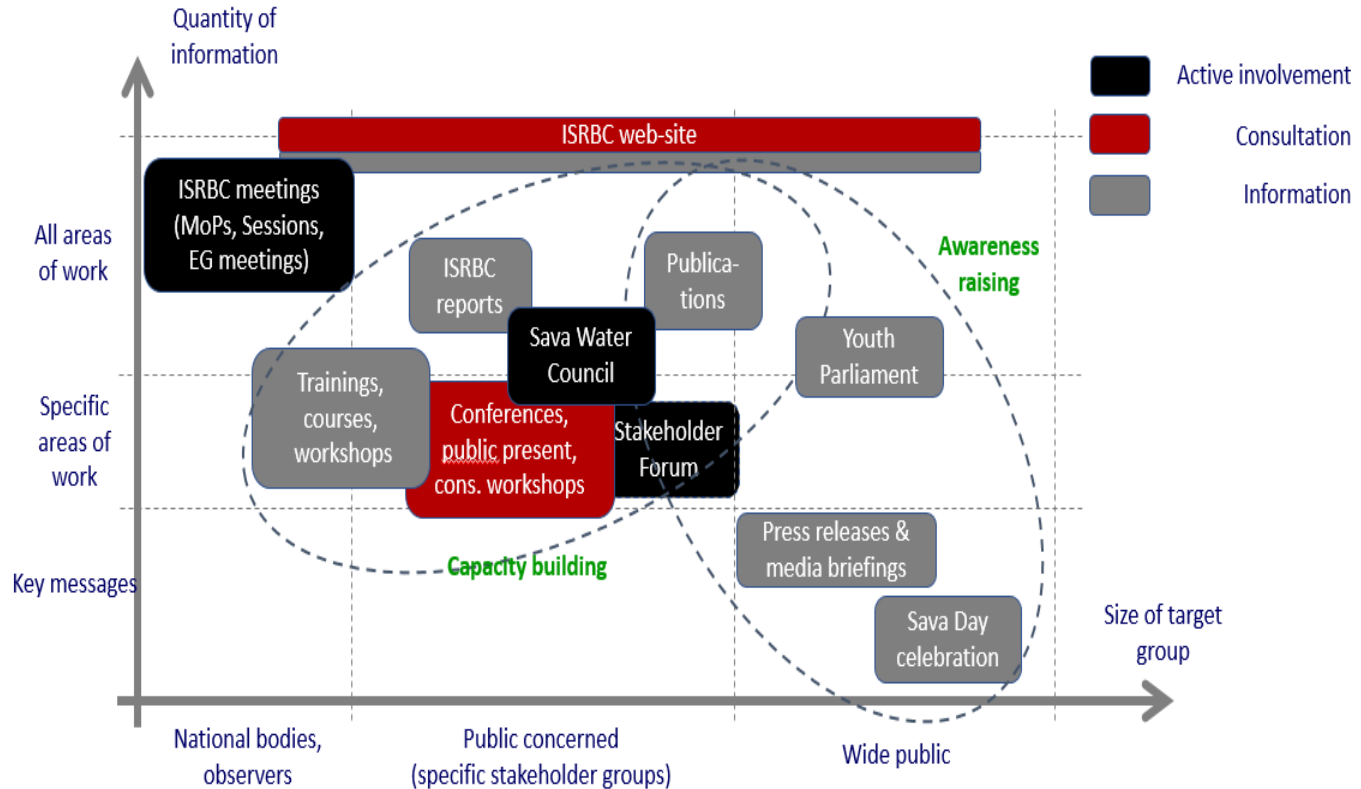
## ➤ Implementation coordinated by the ISRBC – Sava Commission (2005)



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## ISRBC - Sava River Commission:

- Sava River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management plan + Summary of the public participation
- Flood Forecasting and Warning System for the Sava River Basin



Stakeholder involvement

# Sava River Youth Parliament



- **The main objectives of the Parliament**
  - to raise awareness of the importance of **education** on water issues, of education for making decision at local and transboundary level, and of culture of dialogue between water users
  - to **build connections** between generations to solve common problems and challenges in the future, developing a balance between rights and responsibilities for water resources
- **Members**
  - students of secondary schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia Slovenia and Serbia
- **Selection of participants**
  - on the basis of the results of competitions on various subjects (e.g. photo, video)
- **The main messages from the Parliament** are presented on different occasions like the Meeting of the Parties, sessions of the ISRBC and thematic workshops

<https://sava-youthparliament.com/>

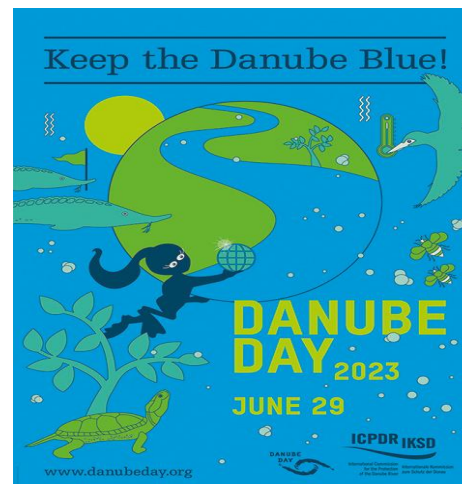
# Celebration of river days in June

**1 June 2023 - Celebration of Sava Day !**

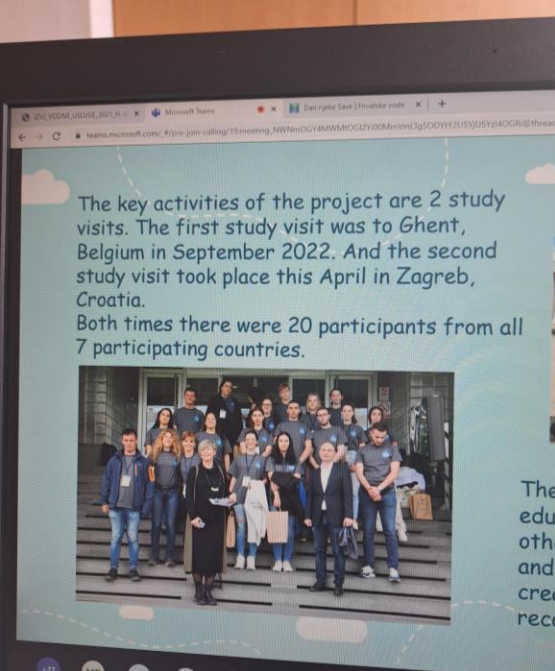
„Let's work with nature" Competition

**29 June 2023 - international Danube Day !**

“Keep the Danube Blue,” inspired by the 4th Joint Danube Survey (JDS4), one of the world's most comprehensive surface water monitoring efforts







## Croatian Water Education Program and cooperation with ICPDR and ISRBC



# Croatian Water Education Program

## EDUCATIONAL PICTURE BOOKS

Picture books on water management issues – Hrvoje Turtle

1. **LIFE ALONG THE RIVER – FLOODS**
2. **WATER – The source of life – WATER PROTECTION**
3. **WATER AND HUMAN – WATER USE**
4. **HRVOJE'S NEW STORY: FROM WASTE WATER TO CLEAN WATER!**
5. **... And more to come**

LARGE  
POSTERS





# PRESENTATIONS OF PICTURE BOOKS

free - at the invitation of teachers and educators



Surveying  
teachers and  
educators



Child's  
Play:

questions and  
answers with  
doll Hrvoje



## OTHER PROJECTS

Children's  
workshops  
and  
exhibitions

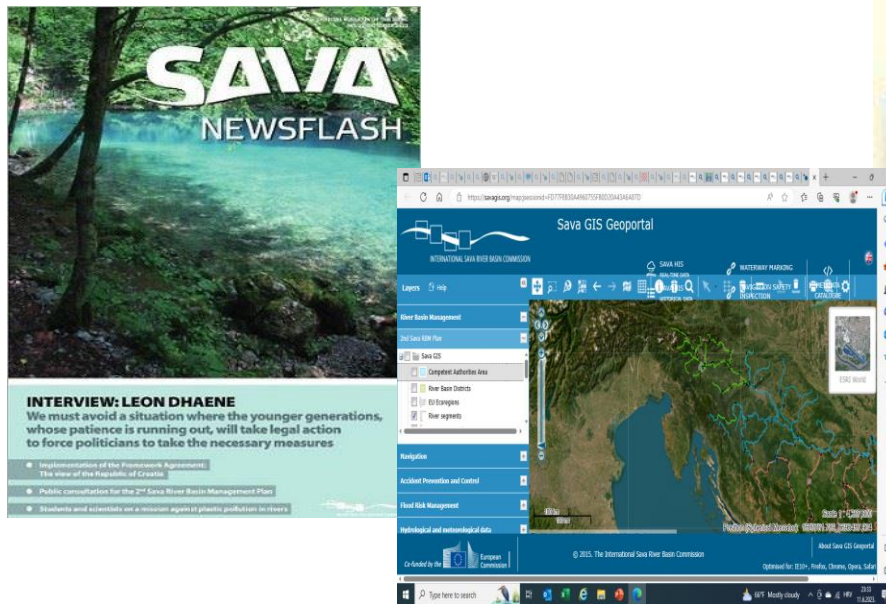
Education –  
mobile  
laboratory



„Our  
beautiful  
Sava”

Public access  
<http://www.icpdr.org/main/>  
<https://www.savacommission.org/>

- publish a range of documents, from magazines Danube Watch and Sava NewsFlash, to maps, yearbooks, annual reports and other technical papers. Most documents are open for the public, there is special section of the website to make easier for stakeholders and the interested public to get access to them, and most of them can be obtained in print. Web-pages have been constantly improved.





Thank you for your  
attention!



PLITVICKA  
JEZERA  
NATIONAL PARK