



Slovenian
Presidency
20-21

6th Forum

of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
Along the coasts of the shared sea
Izola, 11-12 May 2021



Sava Commission - an opportunity for sustainable development through cooperation

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The Sava River is created from the Sava Dolinka and Sava Bohinjka rivers near Radovljica in Slovenia. Slovenian part of the basin makes approx. 12 percent of the total basin area and approx. 61 percent of the population of Slovenia live within the Sava River basin.

Left Sava River tributaries in Croatian part of the basin drain mostly flat areas and low hills of the Pannonian Plain. Lonjsko polje, one of the biggest protected wetland areas in Europe, is home to significant complexes of natural and preserved floodplain forests.

The most pristine river basin in Europe

The Sava River Basin is widely known for its high environmental and social values, originating not only from a natural beauty, an outstanding biological and landscape diversity and large retention areas along the river, but also from a high potential for development activities, such as the waterway transport of cargo and passengers, or tourism and recreation. There are seven Ramsar sites, as well as numerous important bird and plant areas, protected areas and Natura 2000 sites.

Sava River Basin - a natural background for cooperation

The Sava River Basin is a major catchment of the South Eastern Europe covering the total area of 97,713,20 km² and is one of the most significant sub-basins of the Danube River Basin, comprising 12% of this basin. The basin area is shared among six countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania. The Sava River has a length of 945 km until it joins the Danube in Belgrade (Serbia). Together with its headwater, the Sava Dolinka River in the north-west, it measures 990 km. The population of the five countries (Albania is not included since only negligible part of the basin area belongs to its territory) of the region is approximately 18 million and half of this number resides in the Sava River Basin.

INTERESTING FACT

- There are 2 general types of climate conditions within the Sava River basin:
- Alpine or mountainous climate, prevailing in the upper Sava Basin within Slovenia and also in Dinaric Alps at higher elevations;
 - Moderate continental or mid-European climate, dominating in lower elevations of the catchment including Pannonian lowland.

INTERESTING FACT

The elevation of the Sava River Basin ranges between 71 m a.s.l. at the mouth of the Sava River in Belgrade (Serbia) and 2,864 m a.s.l. (Triglav, Julian Alps). The mean elevation of the basin is approximately 545 m a.s.l.

The right tributaries of the Sava River, mainly part of the bosnian section of the basin, are characterized by much higher water yield than the left tributaries. The Drina River, the largest tributary of the Sava River, has a very high water yield between 40 and 50 l/s/km².

The Sava is the Danube's largest tributary in terms of discharge and the second largest in terms of catchment area. Average discharge at the confluence with Danube River in Belgrade is approx. 1,700 m³/s.

Southern part of the Sava River Basin belongs to Montenegro and for the small part Albania. The mountains of Montenegro include some of the roughest terrain in Europe. They average more than 2,000 meters in elevation and occasionally exceed a height of 2,500 meters (the peak of Bobotov Kuk in the Durmitor Mountains).

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Sava River Basin – one of the
„crown jewels” of European
nature

176 sites important for
biodiversity conservation

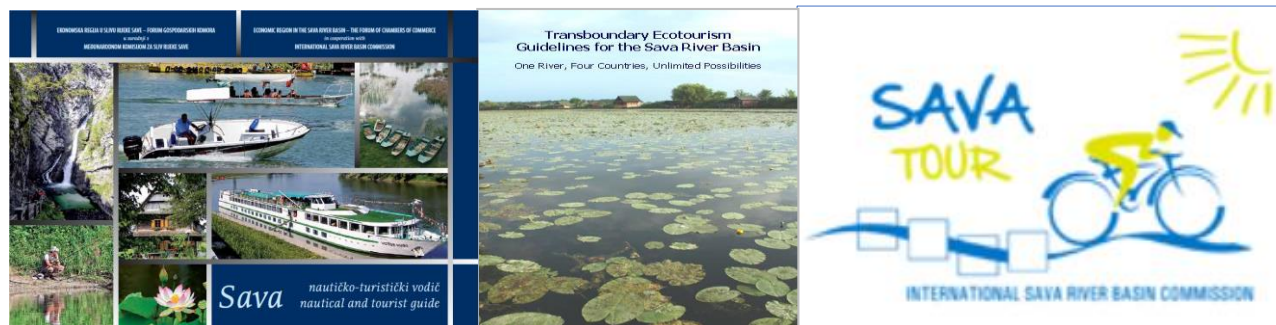
Central Posavina region
„mixed” heritage – nature and
culture

Largest complex of alluvial
forests in Europe



Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (2004)

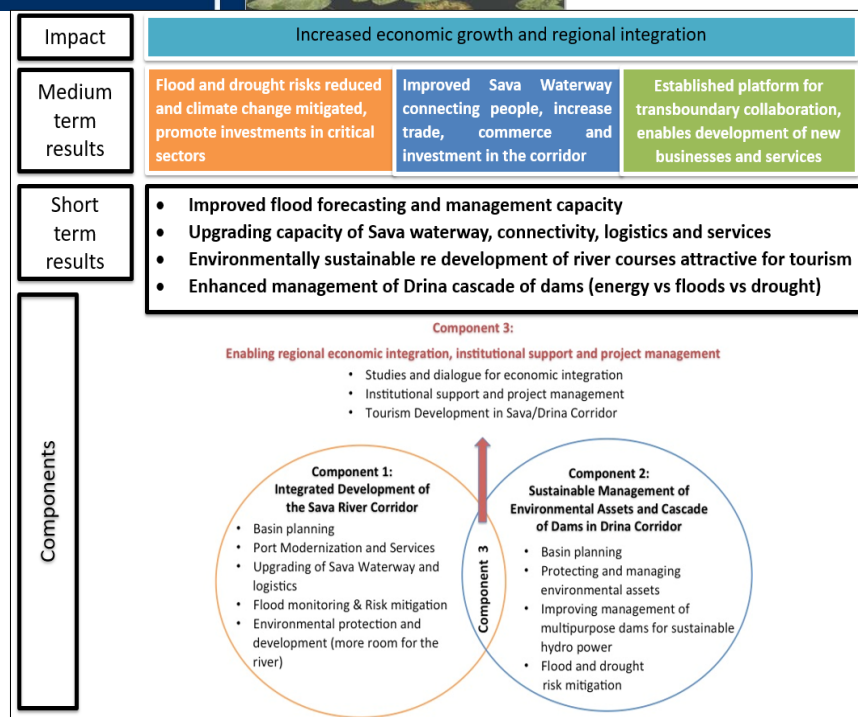
15 years of fruitful cooperation in the frame of the Sava Commission



Joint Statement on regional cooperation on development of sustainable tourism in the Sava River Basin (2017)

Joint Plan of Actions for the Sava River Basin (2017)

Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program (SDIP)





ISRBC-specific stakeholder involvement modes:

- Sava Water Council
- Sava Youth Parliament

Topics:

- sustainable development in harmony with nature
- extraordinary ecological values and economic potential of the Sava River Basin
- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- exceptional tourist potentials of the Sava River Basin
- Let's cooperate for water



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