INTERNATIONAL SAVA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Towards the assessment of ecological status of water bodies in the Sava River Basin

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- Project proposal submitted to START Danube Project Fund
  - Danube Region Strategy
  - **Priority Area 4**: *Water Quality- To restore and maintain the quality of waters*
  - Activity in DRS: **Biodiversity and environment status of sediment, water and biota in SRB**
- Project partners:
  - Biological Research Siniša Stanković (RS)- Lead Partner,
  - Jožef Stefan Institute (SI),
  - Elektroprojekt d.d. (HR),
  - Public Institution "Waters of Srpska" (BA)
  - Water Research Institute Bratislava (SK),
  - ISRBC

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- Challenges:
  - The **collection of data** on environmental status is **performed through the national monitoring programmes** only,
  - Most of the **activities are limited** to certain river sections and particularly to chemical and biological parameters.
  - They are **focused primarily to water** and much less to sediment and biota, while biodiversity is not adequately addressed.
  - **No data on new emerging pollutants** whose significance has recently been elucidated at EU level.
  - A lot of **data are missing** or are unreliable (insufficient monitoring, poor institutional cooperation and use of non-harmonized methodologies)
  - **No common database** and data exchange mechanism has been established.
  - There is a **lack of comparability among existing data** and insufficient assessment of pollutants' fate in water-sediment-biota compartments

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- Main objectives:
  - to **propose a platform** for efficient exchange of monitoring data and information in SRB.
- Major target groups
  - national authorities for water and environment (e.g. ministries, agencies)
  - water companies (local),
  - international organizations (ICPDR, Danube Commission),
  - non-governmental organizations (e.g. WWF, Green Action-HR, Euronatur),
  - management institutions of protected areas (e.g. Nature Park Lonjsko polje)
  - designers**.**

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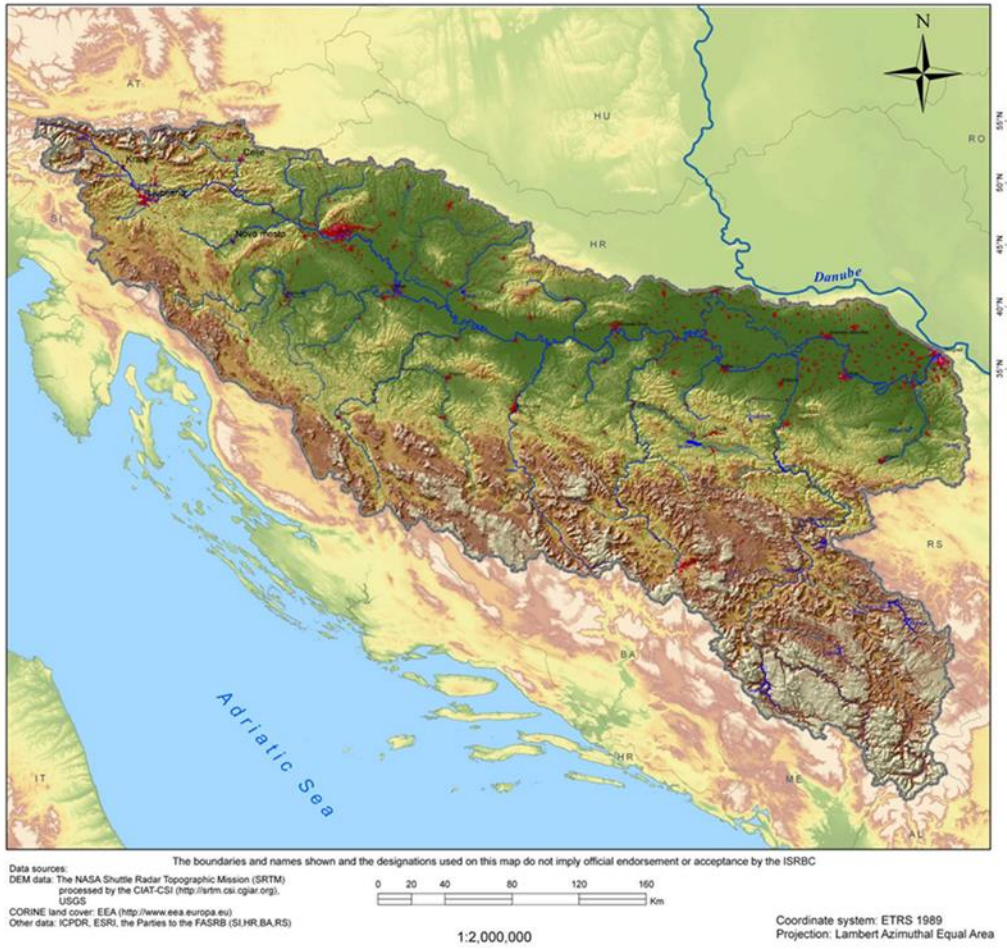

Sava River Basin overview map

- **Area:** 97 713 km^2 (the second largest Danube sub-basin; share: 12%)
- **Average flow** at mouth: 1722 m^3/s (the largest Danube tributary; contribution: 25%)
- **River length:** 940 km (594 km of which is the waterway)
- **Population:** approx. 8.5 million

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- Main activities:
  - **I. Identifying** the data sources
  - **II. Proposal of the platform** of database for water related environmental data
  - **III. Identification of data gaps** regarding water related environmental data
  - **IV. Identification of measures** for fulfilling gaps in respect to water related environmental data
  - **V. Provision of platform for initial harmonization** of methods for ecological assessment of water bodies
  - **VI. Organization of workshop** on issues relevant for the project and training on biological quality elements in ecological status assessment
- Timeframe: **April 2015- March 2016**

- Expected results:
  - supplementary information for development of future water management plans and flood protection plans programmes
    - (SRB Management Plan, Sediment Management Plan, Plans for development of navigation, Protocols to the FASRB, Flood Risk Management Plan).
  - Database proposed
    - (available for water managers, scientists and public through the project web site with the links to the web sites of the project partners and other relevant national institutions (Ministries, Water management agencies), international organizations (e.g. ICPDR, Danube Commission) and non-governmental organizations (e.g. WWF, Green Action)
- Project results will
  - **influence the development and implementation** of planned investments (e.g. navigation, hydroelectric power plants)
  - **help to prevent potential harmful effects** to natural assets, especially in the protected areas.