

Workshop in Croatia

The first national workshop in Croatia was held online on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. The aim of the workshop was to present the project and analyse the current situation in the field of flood, accident pollution and emergency response management. It was organized at the initiative of Croatian Waters and the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure.

The workshop was attended by more than 30 different institutions coming from Croatia, but also neighbouring countries with more than 110 participants who made a significant contribution and participated in the development of the Annexes - the basis for the Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood protection, accidental pollution and emergency situation management in Croatia. The workshop was successful thanks to the dynamic discussion between the lecturers and representatives of the WACOM project and the workshop participants. Topics related to the state of civil protection, water management and river navigation from the aspect of floods and sudden pollution were discussed.

In the discussion, information, knowledge and experience were shared and expanded, and constructive proposals were presented with the aim of improving the final document Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood defence, emergency pollution and emergency management in Croatia, but also for improving the overall situation regarding the more effective system of flood prevention and response systems to sudden pollutions.

Duška Kunštek, Director of the Inland Navigation Directorate of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, pointed out that the key challenge of the WACOM project is to improve cross-border coping capacity in the event of accident, extraordinary pollution and floods in the Sava River Basin. Head of the Croatian Waters Development Department Danko Biondić emphasized big efforts that have been made to improve the flood defence system in the Sava River Basin, as well as in the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia, especially in priority areas for which the EU projects are being implemented, such as the improvement of the Karlovac-Sisak flood defence system and modernization of the left bank downstream from Stara Gradiška towards Račinovci. He additionally mentioned some of the EU projects that are being implemented in Croatia and stressed the importance of the WACOM project. Tomislav Novosel from Croatian Waters stressed out the necessity to further improve transboundary water management cooperation through improved exchange of information and joint development of new hydrological models to better forecast, monitor and evacuate water waves and timely implementation of flood protection measures at endangered areas. Projects such as WACOM can assuredly be of great help in resolving certain open issues in the field of increasing and improving cooperation between different actors of protection and rescue at the state and interstate level. The same goes for extraordinary pollution.