

Workshop in Slovenia

Following successful national workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as part of the Interreg project WACOM DTP - Water Emergency Management in the Sava River Basin - on 27 May 2021 a national workshop for Slovenian stakeholders was organized by Slovenian project partners (University of Ljubljana - Lead Partner, Hydroelectric Power Plants on the Lower Sava and the Water Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia). The workshop was held through the online platform ZOOM, and was attended by more than 70 participants representing 40 institutions.

In the first part of the workshop, an analysis of the current state of preparedness for response and disaster management in the event of extraordinary pollution of watercourses and floods in Slovenia was presented. The response of relevant actors, civil protection and water managers was also analysed and after initial presentations the participants were divided into groups to discuss on the presented analysis. The system for information exchange and coordination of stakeholders in emergency situations (Incident Command System - ICS) was presented in the second part of the workshop. The particular emphasis was placed on standardized information elements: Intervention Organization Scheme (ICS 207), Intervention Summary (ICS 209) and Response Implementation Plan. These elements are proposed by the WACOM project for better cooperation. After the presentation, the participants were divided into groups to discuss on the applicability of the presented system in Slovenia and the adequacy of the proposal for information exchange during the intervention.

The participants expressed a positive opinion on the presented system for information exchange and stakeholder coordination in general. They also approved the extensive analysis of the current situation and welcomed the project's objectives to improve cross-border, coordinated action in the event of accident pollution and floods in the Sava River Basin. They expressed their willingness to continue monitor the project and its results in the future.

Suzana Stražar, representative of the Water Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia, stressed that, as a project partner, the Water Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia strongly supported the objectives of the project because only the coordinated action among stakeholders could bring the best results in the event of emergencies. Mitja Bricelj, representative of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, welcomed the efforts of the WACOM project and called the participants to use the results of the project to be more efficient at their work.