



*Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin*

## **Sava STEER (Strategies for emergency response in the SRB)**

**Output O.T4.1**

**Strategy for the accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability**

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## Table of Contents

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1	Introduction .....	1
2	Mission of the Sava STEER strategy .....	1
3	Strategy for the accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability .....	2
4	Financial resources for the implementation of the Sava STEER .....	5
5	Tool for the implementation of the Sava STEER.....	7
6	TOOL SUPPORTING FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAVA STEER .....	10
7	Conclusions .....	11

### **ANNEX 1:**

#### **D.T4.1.3 Transnational best management practices catalogue**

### **ANNEX 2:**

#### **D.T4.2.2 Transnational check list of priorities for the implementation of the Sava STEER**

## 1 Introduction

As a final outcome of the WACOM project, the partners have developed two strategies (Strategy for the flood response cooperation and interoperability, Strategy for the accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability), that allow to strategically design the further steps of the participating countries in the Sava River Basin towards the set goals - improved transnational management of extreme events - transnational accidental pollution and transnational flood events.

On the one hand, these strategies directly support the objectives of the Framework Agreement in the Sava River Basin and its protocols; on the other hand, the strategies also support the work of national authorities dealing with these issues: Water Management Agencies, Civil Protection Authorities, and Authorities responsible for inland navigation in all participating countries.

Both strategies have several actions in common (e.g., transnational cooperation of civil protection units), but on the other hand, each strategy also has some specific measures unique to each of them. In the following text, the implementation framework for the strategies is explained in more detail in terms of specific texts and procedures.

(1) for flood response cooperation and interoperability and

(2) for accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability.

Both strategies detail all of the necessary arguments for the improvements sought in the areas of (1) flood response cooperation and interoperability and (2) accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability. The development of the strategies is based on the results of the WACOM project, particularly with respect to the WACOM toolbox developed to support transboundary pollution propagation prediction (module OIL-SPILL ), coordination, and situational awareness (module WASP) procedures.

The developed strategies were presented at the final conference of the WACOM project on November 15, 2022, with the signing of the Sava FAP Declaration, which confirms the firm commitment of the partners to the implementation of the project results and further work in this area.

## 2 Mission of the Sava STEER strategy

The Sava STEER strategy was developed as part of a strategy development process of the WACOM project. Its development is clearly recognized as project-based - therefore, by itself, it has no official, mandatory implementation for the countries on the Sava River Basin and the institutions operating in it.

Nevertheless, it is based on the actual problems and requirements identified during the development of the WACOM project, and its content has been widely communicated among the project partners, with the target groups in the national working groups, and during completion, which includes quality control.

Relative to its position and development process it has a mission to have a positive impact, as it could be used to support the development all official strategies developed on regional, national, sectorial, transboundary level and can be adapted and changed as legislative, institutional and other relevant frameworks change.

### 3 Strategy for the accidental pollution response cooperation and interoperability

The development of the WACOM Strategy for Accidental Pollution Response Cooperation and Interoperability has been conducted through a bottom-up process that identified 94 measures that were later grouped into 14 key intervention areas. The intervention areas were recognised as priority areas for incremental actions/measures to be implemented to improve emergency planning and response in the Sava River Basin, while fully recognising the complexity of the area being addressed.

WACOM defined key intervention areas are:

1. Education
2. Finance
3. Governance
4. Human resources
5. Information and communication technologies
6. Supervision
7. Information
8. Infrastructure
9. Knowledge
10. Logistics
11. Organizational
12. Planning,
13. Navigation
14. Other

In each key intervention area, several measures to reduce the risk of accidental pollution and improve response capabilities were identified and discussed at the national workshops. The measures are listed in Table 1, which summarises 94 individual measures. A description of the listed proposed WACOM measures is attached in Annex 1 - Transnational Best Management Practices Catalogue (D.T4.1.3).

The key intervention areas are not listed according to any particular priority; their listing is the result of their evolution during the WACOM project. Thus, their position in this list does not imply that they are predominant or subordinate.

*Table 1: measures for the reduction of accidental pollution risks*

ID	Key intervention area	Measure Title
1	Educational	Education on all levels
2		Social, educational and awareness work with the youth
3		Education of general public and promotion activities
4		ICS 100 - incident command system standardized framework protocols
5		Microcredentials and continuous education
6		Education of special ICS functions (IC, Safety officer, PR, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Administration/finance)
7		Other education, research oriented
8		Supporting Flood and Accidental pollution emergencies
9	Financial	Enforcing the polluter pays principle
10		Securing public financial resources

11		Improved insurance practices and stimulations for wider penetration of insurance for accidental pollution
12		Individual understanding of financial responsibilities in the case of accidental pollution
13		Education of water users (abstractions) on emergency procedures (accidental pollution)
14	Governance	Elective representatives for long-term challenges after the accident
15		Participatory decision making process - water democracy
16	Human Resources Management	Individual communication and indirect education
17		Employee satisfaction
18	ICT	GIS based situational awareness
19		Communication equipment and protocols
20		Nowcasting and forecasting systems
21		Early identification of accidental pollution and alerting
23	Information	Improved data integration
24		Improved supervision and control over the transport of pollutants
25		Improved supervision and control over the production, use and storage of pollutants
26		Registry of water uses (abstractions)
27		Mutual notifying about hazards, disasters, manners of border crossing
28		Improved data integration
29	Infrastructural	Safe river access locations (rescue)
30		Safe river access locations (booms)
31		Additional measures from the Sava flood risk management plan (structural measures, measures for individual protection)
32		Other emergency management related structural measures
33		Waterways
34		Reception facilities
35	Knowledge	National and international (EN) standards
36		Knowledge base of polluters
37		Knowledge base of pollutants and procedures
38	Logistics	Availability of the emergency equipment (pollution)
39		Rescue tools and resources availability
40		Identification of service providers for emergency response
41		Costing units supporting administration and finance processes
42		Identification of service providers (short listing), contracts with the service providers (companies) supporting the emergencies with their specific services
43		Availability of the emergency equipment (pollution)
44	Organizational	UN protocols – adoption
45		PIAC centres and AEWS - adoption
46		Clear positioning of the MACS (Multi Agency Coordination System) being in the core of complex response
47		Improved communication in response framework
48		International, bilateral and multilateral agreements
49		River basin management plans and flood management plans
50		Institutional bilateral and multilateral agreements
51		EU Civil Protection Mechanism
52		Restoration measures
53		Protocols enabling involvement of insurance companies
54		Strategic crisis communication
55		Improved integration of the levels of MACS
56		Control the of legislation implementation and enforcement
57		Water management information systems
58		Improved documentation process of the incidents
59		Improved communication in response framework (companies)
60		Communication with the navigation community
61		Improved communication and role of the police in the case of an incident
62		EU whistle blower directive
63		Certification process for risk management (ISO 33000 family)
64		Certification process for asset management (ISO 55000 family)
65		Certification process for continuous operation management (ISO 22300 family)
66		Use of EU Civil Protection Mechanisms
67		Disaster forensics after the accident
68		Bilge water closing valve
69		Prohibition of burning waste on board
70		Standard procedures for the response in the case of accidental pollution

71		Improved cooperation between relevant bodies
72		Information exchange
73		Technology exchange, scientific and technological cooperation
74		UN protocols – full operational implementation
75		PIAC centres and AEWS - full operational implementation
76	Planning	Maintenance of contingency management plans on different levels
77		Planning, execution and improvement of exercises
78		Hazard identification, risk assessment
79	Supervision	Discharge/level monitoring
80		Regular monitoring of water quality, port areas and auditing of hazardous activities
81		Inspection of vessels
82		Real-time monitoring of water quality
83	Navigation	Protocols with the key water uses/abstractions
84		Improved integration of governmental sectors
85		Notification of authorities
86		Used Oil Log
87		Improved procedures related to the transport of hazardous substances
88		Prohibition of further navigation after a spill
89		Implementation of measures for the protection of waters due to the impact of navigation
90	OTHER	Adaptation to climate change
91		Demining of the Sava (and Drina) river
92		River bank maintenance
93		River corridor maintenance - floating debris and waste
94		River corridor maintenance - vegetation, erosion

In order to harmonize views on the measures and priority action areas, a multi-stage consultation process was conducted: (1) among WACOM project partners during the development of the WACOM Toolbox and its testing during the table-top exercises; (2) as a target process during the development of the Transnational Best Management Practices Catalogue (D.T4.1.3); (3) during four WACOM national workshops; and (4) during the WACOM Final Conference.

This multi-stage consultation process under the WACOM project confirmed that all key intervention areas are equally important for successful long-term improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of accidental pollution management in the Sava River basin. Failure to address any key intervention area (or a specific measure within) could result in a general failure of the complex mechanism of transboundary management of accidental pollution. The Strategy and its implementation process should therefore aim to implement all necessary measures and track progress in all 14 identified key intervention areas.

Within the WACOM project the evaluation of the measures were conducted according to the:

- Status of implementation of the measure in each country (SLO, HRV, BiH, SRB): measure already implemented - partly implemented - measure not implemented;
- Priority for short-term or long-term implementation of the measure: the measure must be implemented urgently in the next 6 years (short-term); it must be implemented urgently in the next 20 years (long-term); both short-term and long-term application are necessary; application of the measure is not so urgent.

The results of the evaluation are introduced in the WACOM deliverable D.T4.2.2, which is attached as an Annex 2 - Transnational check list of priorities for the implementation of the Sava STEER.

## 4 Financial resources for the implementation of the Sava STEER

Financial resources have been identified as one of the main bottlenecks to the successful implementation of the strategies (14 key intervention areas and individual measures defined therein). The project has examined the financial resources available to fund the existing implementation of the identified measures in the priority key intervention areas and individual measures. The final strategy Sava STEER shows the way necessary to activate the necessary financial sources, which are of different origin.

As a project based strategy the document can provide only recommendations relative to financial resources, recognizing that this domain is in narrowly defined framework of national policies:

- Recommendations for securing long-term stable funding (various sources - national, direct compensation, EU funds, climate change funds) of individual measures, also integrating compensation procedures into national contingency plans and water withdrawal permits.
- Recommendations to promote individual understanding of financial responsibility in the event of accidental pollution and to educate the public at all levels and functions. Improved insurance practices and incentives are also needed to achieve greater insurance penetration for accidental pollution.

The management of accidental pollution is not addressed at the EU level in a comparable way to other water management issues (water quality - EU Water Framework Directive, floods - EU Floods Directive). As a result, the management framework and systematic financing of the comprehensive mechanisms identified in the WACOM project are not yet as developed.

For sustainable water resources management to conduct on accidental pollution of transboundary inland waters, well-functioning coordination at different levels-from the national level to river basins and sub-basins-and joint planning involving various interests are important according to Code of Conduct on Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters<sup>1</sup>.

On May 12, 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan: "Towards zero pollution in air water and soil"<sup>2</sup>, which is a key deliverable of the European Green Deal and also touches the area of accidental pollution. The EU, its member states, but also candidate countries<sup>3</sup> have long been committed to phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS). The removal of EHS may contribute to cut expenditure and increase revenues while supporting the achievement of environmental and climate policy goals.

Very important is Individual understanding of financial responsibilities in the case of accidental pollution. The polluter pays principle is a simple idea at the core of EU environmental policy: those responsible for environmental damage should pay to cover the costs. Recognising the partial

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Commission for Europe & United Nations Environment Programme: *Code of Conduct on Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters, as adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at its 45th session (1990) by decision C(45)*

<sup>2</sup> COM(2021)400 EU - Communication Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil'

<sup>3</sup> While Republic of Slovenia and Republic of Croatia are both EU member states, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been recognized by the EU as a „candidate country“ for accession since the decision of the European Council in 2022, similar is the case for the Republic of Serbia (since 2012) both countries are on the current agenda for future enlargement of the EU,



implementation of the Polluter Pays principle<sup>4</sup> this would allow the European Commission to identify where the principle is well applied and where there is scope for further implementation. On the basis of the fitness check, in 2024 it would be able to make a recommendation on how to better implement the polluter pays principle. The polluter pay principle is also incorporated in the Article 3 of the ISRBC Protocol on Prevention of the water pollution caused by navigation.

Reference to the polluter pays principle is necessary because the principle applies to policies that have an impact on the environment (i.e., climate, air, soil, waste, biodiversity, etc.), including from different sectors such as energy, agriculture, and transport. No specific funding is available at the national level for a strategy on transboundary accidental pollution.

### EU Funding

The Commission (co-)finances projects and other initiatives for the implementation of the European Union policies and legislation throughout the European Union and further afield.

The activities of the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) are financed mainly through the [LIFE programme](#), the European Union's programme supporting circular economy and quality of life, biodiversity and nature protection throughout the EU and the EU Overseas Countries and Territories. In addition, DG ENV implements pilot projects and/or preparatory actions as required by the Budgetary Authority. They aim at testing new environmental policy initiatives and/or preparing the ground for the adoption of future measures. Other EU funds aiming at this domain are also available, especially related to the topic are EU civil protection calls (KAPP, TRACK1, ECPP) and INTERREG calls (cross-border and transboundary). Other sources of financing could be recognized as well, usually based upon the agreed priorities on EU and national level and specific line of EU financing: structural funds, cohesion funds, recovery and resilience plan. Some specific lines of EU financing supporting traffic and agriculture as potential risks could be considered as well.

The following legal and financial mechanisms at the EU level in terms of integration in cross-border basins or within the EU framework:

- in the EU there is a UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM (rescEU), which is also relevant for strengthening preparedness for disasters and for sudden pollutions, based on the EU Decision, the Regulation on the Implementation of the Decision on the Union Mechanism in the Field of Civil Protection was adopted in Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia , no. 62/14 and 13/17)

and the obligation of countries to make a national risk assessment and disaster risk management capability assessment. In the case of cross-border watercourses, it would be necessary to upgrade this mechanism also in case of cross-border disasters (similarly, as is the case with Water Management Plans with reports on cross-border cooperation and measures, or the Water Management Plan for the entire Sava basin)

- EU SOLIDARITY FUND, which is available for disaster relief

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<sup>4</sup> Report 12/2021: The Polluter Pays Principle: Inconsistent application across EU environmental policies and actions

## National funding

Many of the measures identified could be defined as core responsibilities of the states/entities in the Sava River Basin in one of the following areas (and the corresponding legislation): Water Management, Civil Protection, and Navigation. For the efficient and effective implementation of the measures, long-term stable funding from the state budget should be ensured. While this priority is usually well recognized among the stakeholders in the water management/civil protection sector, it is usually difficult to negotiate it on the national levels, where the budget allocations are defined.

## **5 Tool for the implementation of the Sava STEER**

Follow-up of the implementation of any strategic guidelines or any strategy in general, which exists on the level of recommendation is a challenging task, because the implementation of a strategy itself is usually not legally binding. Similar is the case for the Sava STEER strategy, recognizing that its implementation is subject to different limitations and bottlenecks on the level of each country/entity. With this strategy countries are encouraged to identify their own action plans for the implementation of the WACOM defined measures and priorities.

As a guiding principle one could refer to the process of transposition of EU directives to national legislation as a comparable process to the implementation of the WACOM proposed strategy (STEER). In this process the Member States and candidate countries can choose the form and methods for the transposition of the directives into national law. However, they are bound by the terms of the directive as to the result to be achieved and the deadline by which the transposition should take place. National authorities must notify the European Commission on the transposition process. The European Commission verifies the completeness and correctness of transposition of EU law into national law.

As for the implementation of the Sava strategy STEER, some kind of follow-up procedure is needed, probably in the form of regular reporting on the implementation of the measures set out in this strategy. At this point, the next question arises: to which body could countries report their implementation of the defined measures? In the case of EU directives, this reporting body is the European Commission (EC). A comparable multilateral body could also be identified as the reporting body in the case of the Sava STEER transposition process.

The reporting body in this case could be the ISRBC, whose role is defined by the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, which sets out three main objectives for the cooperation:

- establishment of an international regime for navigation on the Sava River and its navigable tributaries,
- establishment of sustainable water management,
- undertaking of measures to prevent or limit hazards, to reduce and eliminate adverse consequences including those from floods, ice, droughts and incidents involving substances hazardous for water.

The implementation process of the Sava STEER could also be compared to various processes defined at the EU level for the transposition of EU legislation (guidance documents, directives) into national law. In this context, some important steps have been defined that can be considered as guiding principles:

## - **CONSULTATION PROCEDURE**

In the framework of the WACOM project a significant part of the Consultation procedure was already performed in the communication with the target groups, during national workshops, regional workshops, final conference, and other communications.

Nevertheless, we propose to continue the consultation process in each country/entity, as the development of a strategy and its adoption is based on a broad agreement of all stakeholders involved. The aim of the consultation process is to review the priorities in relation to the implementation of the measures defined in the WACOM project and to include their implementation in the action plan.

Consultation procedures can be reported to ISRBC by the relevant national/state institutions.

## - **OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION AND PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE CASE OF ACCIDENTAL POLLUTION**

Mapping existing legislation and its implementation is an essential part of any programming framework, of which strategy is a part. It is also an essential part of any reengineering process. While reengineering is a relatively common process in the corporate environment, it is relatively unknown in the governance system. The WACOM project analysed the applicable legislation in different areas (water management, disaster management, navigation ) and its implementation. It is recommended that the status and implementation be analysed on a regular basis to identify the constraints that hinder the implementation of the strategy at the country/facility level.

## - **DEFINITION OF IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES, TENTATIVE ACTION PLAN and IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULING**

The WACOM project defined 14 key intervention areas as key areas to be addressed to improve the existing status in the field of transboundary accidental pollution. During the communication with the target groups at the national workshops and the WACOM final conference, it was agreed that all key intervention areas are important, as omitting one of them would hinder the achievement of the objectives in the other key intervention areas. Therefore, they should be considered as parts of a homogeneous system.

While acknowledging the importance of all 14 key intervention areas, the national assessments produced by the WACOM project provided interesting insights into the status of implementation of the identified measures and the priorities for their full implementation. The prioritization Identification of the priorities of identified measures is clearly in the hands of national authorities and is part of the sovereignty of all partner countries.

The institutions representing these countries in the various ISRBC working groups are encouraged to discuss the measures and priorities for implementation of the measures on a country/entity level as well as on the level of the Sava River Basin.

## - IDENTIFICATION OF KEY RESOURCES AND BOTTLENECKS

The implementation of any strategy is closely related to the availability of the limited resources needed to carry it out. While resources are clearly limited, this is also related to the process of resource allocation and optimization of resource use in each country. In this context, two key resources are identified: Human resources in a broad sense (knowledge management, workforce availability, employment capacity of public institutions) and financial resources (available budget). Other necessary resources (spatial availability, technical resources) and time constraints should also be considered, but are usually dependent on the first two. Along with identifying key resources for implementing the identified measures, bottlenecks that limit successful implementation of the measures should also be identified.

As the WACOM project clearly can't affect the national policies defining the availability of the resources, the resources allocated (planned for the allocation) for the implementation of the necessary measures, according to the defined strategy is in the hands of the national representatives from the competent authorities.

## - TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism, established by European Commission in 2001 aims to strengthen cooperation between the EU countries and 8 participating states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Turkey) on civil protection to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters. These include risk assessments to identify the disaster risks across the EU, encouraging research to promote disaster resilience and reinforcing early warning tools.

On this basis, The Council of the European Union underlines the need for Member States and the EU to take an integrated approach to Civil Protection Mechanism, building upon existing Member State and EU legislation and policies, encompassing the entire disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery<sup>5</sup>:

- to support Member States and candidate countries in promoting awareness-raising campaigns for prevention and in adopting best practices, providing relevant updated information and training to the general public through channels that are easily accessible to all citizens on identified risks and procedures to be adopted when faced with natural or man-made disaster situations; urges that, in training schemes for populations, particular attention be paid to young people from school age on and to rural communities; in the context of public awareness-raising. The WACOM project has addressed this priority, with particular impact during the 10<sup>th</sup> Sava Youth Parliament, which focused on water emergencies.
- to build on already existing territorial and cross-border coordination networks in order to develop cooperation focusing more specifically on disaster prevention; **believes that cross-border cooperation structures, such as the macro-regions, with their functionally-oriented cooperation, can become effective platforms for cooperation in the field of disaster prevention;** advocates making use of the valuable experience acquired in this field through projects implemented in the past under the Community's INTERREG Initiative; The WACOM project has addressed

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<sup>5</sup> COE, 2010: EP resolution on Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters

this priority, building on existing bilateral and multilateral protocols in the field of navigation, water management and civil protection.

- Coordinated actions and strategies between Member States, the different sectors and the different actors involved in the disaster management cycle can lead to real advances in the field of disaster prevention; The WACOM project has addressed this priority, recognizing importance of different sectors involved in all key stages of disaster management, which reflects also in the key action areas and relative measures, addressing all three key sectors: water management, civil protection and navigation.

The WACOM STEER strategy is defined to identify and describe the key intervention areas, which should be addressed by the various competent authorities in each country (civil protection, water management, navigation ). An important recommendation of the WACOM STEER is that the competent authorities of the different sectors in the Sava River basin should adequately integrate the WACOM catalogue of measures in their strategic documents.

The transboundary cooperation among the competent authorities should be maintained and strengthened, as well as the gradual implementation of the measures from the catalogue. In this way, each measure should be considered (1) from the point of view of improved status at the national level (national action plan for implementation) and (2) from the point of view of transboundary cooperation, in which ISRBC could play a central coordinating role.

## **6 TOOL SUPPORTING FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAVA STEER**

When identifying a new process, one should also think about a guiding mechanism to facilitate its implementation. This is particularly necessary in a complex international environment where SAVA STEER is to be implemented. The guiding mechanism is usually associated with process control, which, based on the information gathered, influences the decision-making process that, as a result, improves the overall performance of the process with corrective actions. The requirements for this process control subsystem, which monitors and optimizes the implementation of the SAVA STEER , are related to the content of the STEER website and the process of its implementation.

Listed below are key requirements of SAVA STEER implementation process control subsystem:

- From a technological standpoint, it should be relatively easy to use and adaptable to any future situations that might arise after the WACOM project is completed and Sava STEER is phased into official policies.
- The tool should be understandable for the reporting units, which are foreseen as competent authorities responsible for water management, civil protection, and navigation, recognizing that there is probably no single authority in the competence for all the WACOM identified measures.
- The tool should allow easy sharing of reported information, its analysis and publication.

- Number of reporting units providing information to the tool supporting follow-up of the implementation of the Sava STEER is relatively low – we anticipate that there are 3 competent authorities (water management, civil protection, navigation) from 4 countries, in total approximately 12 reporting units.
- The explanations/guide to the use of the tool should be simple and easy to maintain to allow for easy and long-term support for the tool that will support the follow-up of the implementation of the SAVA STEER.
- The tool should allow tracking of the implementation process of Sava STEER implementation process with regular reporting intervals (probably biannual reporting).

As the applicable tool we have defined excel spreadsheets, which match all the defined these requirements, they are a part of specific WACOM Deliverable – O.T4.2 Sava STEER Implementation manual.

## 7 Conclusions

The proposed Sava STEER (Strategies for Emergency Response in the SRB) is an outcome of the WACOM project. Therefore, it is clearly a project-based strategy with relatively limited impact on the official strategies adopted at different levels: institutional, sectoral, local, regional, state, EU, and within different sectors.

Nonetheless, the strategy, which defines 94 specific measures, grouped into 14 key intervention areas, is the result of work done within the WACOM project and by WACOM project partners during interactions with target groups and discussed and reviewed on several occasions: national workshops and WACOM project final conference. As such, it represents an important potential contribution to overarching (official) strategies that can leverage the contribution of the WACOM project.

An important finding of the strategy development process is that progress is needed in all countries in all 14 key intervention areas. Failure to address even one of these 14 key intervention areas could result in failure to achieve the set goal - improved transboundary risk management of accidental pollution. Strategy is therefore aiming at continuous progress of all countries on all 14 key intervention areas.

Together with the developed strategy, we have also presented a recommendation for its implementation. It consists of two main processes:

- A reporting process to track an implementation of all 94 measures at the national/entity level across all 14 key intervention areas. Reporting could be done on a bi-annual basis to allow consistent tracking of the progress of the Sava River Basin countries in each of the key intervention areas/measures; and
- Together with the strategy implementation tracking a strategy maintenance process is envisioned to support the introduction of new key intervention areas and individual measures herein. While we envisage, that a necessity for a modification of key intervention areas is relatively limited, we can on the other hand anticipate that the individual measures

have a strong potential for their modification over the time, following the reality of implementation process in each country/entity. Consistent with the requirements of the Parties to the FASRB, these could be conducted in a similar bi-annual process as proposed for reporting on the status of the national implementation process.

Sava STEER (STrategies for EmErgency Response in the SRB), together with the defined post-project process, has a strong potential to influence the official strategies of the addressed institutions and countries, leading to stable, long-term progress in the addressed area of accidental pollution.