

**Roundtable on Fundraising Activities
for the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) Projects**
Sarajevo, 17 May 2011

CONCLUSIONS

The Roundtable was organized by the RCC Secretariat and the ISRBC, and was held in the premises of the RCC Secretariat.

The purpose of the event was to facilitate and speed up fundraising activities for the ISRBC projects. The Roundtable served as a platform for informing the representatives of institutions in the Framework Agreement for the International Sava River Basin (FASRB) Parties responsible for international financing and support to projects about the ISRBC projects, for discussion about the possibilities for projects' financing both on national and regional basis and the methodology for the continuation of the cooperation.

The Roundtable was attended by the Secretary of the ISRBC and the Commission representatives, representatives of project implementation units from the institutions responsible for the FASRB implementation and institutions in the FASRB Parties responsible for international financing and support to projects' implementation, as well as RCC Secretariat officials.

The Roundtable adopted the following **Conclusions**:

1. Key role of the ISRBC in the regional project proposals preparation was confirmed alongside the important support of the RCC in that respect.
2. Need for continuous coordination of the relevant national bodies and the ISRBC in the previously mentioned activities was stressed.
3. In the process of project proposals preparation it is sufficient to use the existing work methods of expert groups within the ISRBC taking into account the fact that they enable implementation of all necessary activities and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
4. Organization of ad hoc thematic events that would concretize activities on project proposals preparation and applications to possible financing mechanisms was supported.
5. Results of expert groups operation and outputs of thematic meetings will be used by the ISRBC and FASRB countries for exploring the most appropriate financing mechanisms.

6. Strengthening the communication and cooperation between units responsible for preparation and project implementation in the institutions responsible for the implementation of FASRB with the central national institutions responsible for international financing and support to the projects' implementation as well as with other relevant national bodies, was strongly supported.
7. Gratitude was expressed to the RCC Secretariat as the co-organizer and host of the Roundtable.

Background Information

The RCC Statute defines as an important task of the RCC Secretariat to provide guidance to and receive substantive input from relevant task forces and initiatives active in specific thematic areas of regional cooperation.

Participating in the new Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (MB IPA) Programming Cycle 2011-2013 and its strategy working groups, International Financial Institutions Advisory Groups as well as being an Observer to the Steering Committee of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF), the RCC can significantly back preparation and prioritization of regional project proposals as well as facilitate application for their financing and finding the most appropriate support mechanisms. The RCC role in preparing and implementing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EU SDR) and related Action Plan (AP) in particular on the ground of mobilizing the 'bottom-up' stakeholders, as stipulated in the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, has been explicitly recognized by these documents.

ISRBC is recognized by the MB IPA Sector Plan on Infrastructure as one of key regional cooperation frameworks together with the Transport Community, Energy Community, European Common Aviation Area, Regional Environmental Network for Accession, Dablas process and Danube Region Strategy. It is also identified by the EU SDR as key stakeholder in the process of preparation and implementation of this strategy. Moreover, AP of the EU SDR quotes five ISRBC projects as examples of projects.

Regional cooperation in the area of integrated water resources management is one of the pillars of the countries' accession process towards EU and their efforts for achieving sustainable development.

ISRBC scope although already comprehensive is expanding promoting integrated approach, support to 'bottom-up' stakeholders and vital aspects of sustainable development. This approach is compatible with what was specified in the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. The roundtable reflected this compatibility and produced additional opportunities for strengthening mutual cooperation.

Within the framework of the ISRBC, a few significant projects are under implementation with the partial financing provided i.e. it is crucial to ensure financing for the full projects' implementation. At the same time, a few projects are in the preparatory phase and it is needed to ensure financing for the start of projects implementation. Taking into account previously mentioned, it is necessary to enhance fundraising efforts at all levels

and strengthen mutual cooperation with and between the relevant institutions in the Framework Agreement on Sava River Basin (FASRB) Parties responsible for international financing and support to projects from relevant areas and other national bodies. That was the major rationale behind the joint organization of the roundtable by the ISRBC and the RCC Secretariat.