



*Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin*

**Report from the Republic of Serbia  
workshop development**

**Output T1.2**

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Date: 02 June 2021

Place: Online workshop

Country: Republic of Serbia

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Version	Final
Date	01.07.2021.

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## 1 General information

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Republic of Serbia</b>
<b>Date &amp; Place:</b>	<b>02 June 2021</b>
<b>Organizers:</b>	Jaroslav Černi Water Institute, JVP SRbijavode
<b>Documents attached.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of participants</li> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• Photos</li> <li>• Analysis for Serbia based on filled-in tables</li> </ul>	

## 2 Workshop Summary

### **Main points from the workshop / short summary**

*Please prepare short summary of the workshop*

Due to the settling of covid-19 pandemic down it was decided that Workshop in Serbia is going to be organized in the so-called hybrid format with strict anti-covid measures applied.

Presenters and organizers met in-person at the venue place while other participants followed meeting via video link.

The workshop and the entire WACOM project received strong support from ASP PWC Srbijavode that hosted event providing technical and logistic support. Meeting was organized at River House on the Sava River on Novi Beograd.

The workshop was attended by 11 different institutions / organizations coming from the territory of the Republic of Serbia and partner countries, with 24 participants who made a significant contribution and participated in drafting the annexes - the basis for "Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood defense, accidental pollution and emergency management in Serbia."

Although the larger number of participants was expected but some of them did not show up, the workshop was very successful, thanks to a dynamic discussion between WACOM project partners and workshop participants. During the workshop topics related to the current state of civil protection and water management and river navigation from the aspect of floods and accidental pollution were discussed.

In the discussion, participants exchanged their experiences, different views and gave constructive proposals to improve the final document "Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood defense, accidental pollution, and emergency management in the Republic of Serbia", but also improving the overall situation a more effective system of prevention and response to floods and accidental pollution.

In addition to the above, project partners presented the overall activities and plan of the WACOM project and the key activities of the International Sava River Basin Commission. A special section is dedicated to the presentation of the system for information exchange and coordination of

participants in emergency situations (Incident Command System - ICS) with particular emphasis on elements 207 (Incident Organization Chart), 209 (Incident Status Summary), and IAP (Incident Action Plan).

**Participants**

*Shortly describe who were the participants, from which sector, institutions, levels, ...? How many of them, etc.?*

On the national workshop held within WP T1 and project WACOM, there have been 24 participants in total (9 in-person and 15 on-line), registered on the MSTeams platform. Project partners from Serbia – Jaroslav Cerni Water Institute, PWC Srbijavode, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Water Directorate, were present in-person, as well as partner representatives from other countries: University of Ljubljana, International Sava River Basin Commission and AZUR.

Representatives of: Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, PWC Vodevojvodine, Port Governance Agency, Ministry of EU Integration, Ministry of Internal Affairs – Sector for emergency situations participated in the on-line mode.

All participants came from area of civil protection, water management, river navigation, infrastructure, or meteorology.

### 3 Outcomes and main topics elaborated

The following is a short feedback from stakeholders on the topics of the workshop:

#### 3.1 Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood defense, accidental pollution, and emergency management in Serbia

In connection with the above, it should be noted that all participants in the workshop before the workshop received an e-mail document "Analysis of the current situation in the field of flood defense, accidental pollution and emergency management in Serbia."

The document was presented at the workshop by project partners from Serbia (Water Institute Jaroslav Cerni) and by lead partner of WPT1, AZUR. Key parts of the analysis were highlighted. After that, an interactive discussion was conducted on the following four questions:

- a) To what extent is it possible and realistically feasible to improve cooperation between different levels of government and institutions so that prevention, preparedness and response to floods and sudden pollution are more successful within the state framework?
- b) In your opinion, how is it feasible to improve cooperation between the states in the Sava River Basin to act more effectively on floods and sudden pollution?
- c) What are the main obstacles to more effective cooperation between different government levels and institutions on prevention, preparedness and response to floods and sudden pollution within the state framework?
- d) To what extent can projects such as WACOM contribute to resolving specific open issues in increasing cooperation between different actors of protection and rescue at the state and interstate level?

Short feedback from stakeholders to the first question are as follows: Stakeholders said that competencies and jurisdictions between different institutions and areas had not been fully defined, which slows down the rate of the information exchange and affects overall efficiency. Therefore, operational procedures should be established for all levels of government and areas to clearly delineate jurisdictions. It would be good to conduct practical training on the simulated incident situation. Pollutant risk maps and measures should be developed with different scenarios. It is necessary to establish a better communication system and coordination between institutions when there is a need for an urgent solution to some problems because the existing system is complicated and lacks in efficiency. More meetings need to be organized and more communication need to be provided between different levels of government and institutions.

Regarding the second question, stakeholders have the following opinion: For areas where there are no protocols, they need to be developed (and SOPs), and then existing protocols and newly developed ones need to be checked through regular exercises for different situations. It is necessary to strengthen the early warning system and include it in larger and smaller basins, as they have in the Danube basin. Currently, there is a lengthy procedure in receiving and providing information; the above needs to be shortened and accelerated. Serbia does not have a single center for reporting accidental pollution, and it should work on the establishing of the above mentioned. There are enough documents and bilateral agreements in Serbia, but they need to be more operationalized in practice.

Respondents answered the third question as follows: Poor communication and coordination between different actors is a main problem as well as unclear responsibilities. The biggest problems are at the local level, where all resources are insufficient. It was pointed out that there is a lack of support from higher levels of government. More cooperation is needed between different

horizontal and vertical levels of government and institutions, and exercises based on real scenarios need to be conducted. More resources need to be directed to the local level, fully operational 112 center should be established and its role should be better defined. The same apply for civil protection headquarters.

In the fourth question, the following answers were recorded: The projects have contributed a lot and contribute to strengthening the capacity of protection and rescue participants. The projects help to improve cooperation between different levels of government in Serbia. While the projects are ongoing, various actors are interested in the above, but practice shows that the interest in their results weakens after the project's termination. In addition, there is a challenge as there are different projects that are not sufficiently harmonized, nor is there a central place where all the realized projects can be found as well as indicators of their results.

In addition to the above, for additional insight into the situation, an online questionnaire was developed that was completely anonymous. The workshop participants were asked to fill it out during the workshop. The questionnaire consisted of the first group of questions to which answers were sought between predefined and offered; on the second group of questions, narrative answers were sought. The following is an overview of the more indicated parts of the answers.

The question (Are there any shortcomings in the field of information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on events between different levels of government and institutions in Serbia?) was answered by 4 participants. Two participants (50%) answered affirmative, 1 participant answered negatively, while 1 participant answered that he/she do not know.

The question (Are there any shortcomings in the field of information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on an international level?) was answered also by 4 participants. One participant (25%) answered affirmative, 1 participant answered negatively, while 2 participant answered that they do not know.

The next question was asked for all those participants who answered Yes to one or both previous questions and were asked to write which shortcomings were involved. The following are listed: Level of cooperation between Serbian institutions is at very low level, and there is no officially established communication protocols. The problem is in communication between levels of government as well as in complicated administrative procedures to act quickly in critical situations; Information is not delivered on time to lower levels; Incomplete protocols for the exchange of information and data, and the intertwining of competencies of different institutions in moments of incident situations; There is no central place to share information; The information exchange system should be more efficient, especially in the event of pollution. Lot of action is based on a personal communication. Respondents also expressed great expectations from Wacom project hoping it will fill gaps in the current practice.

The question (Are there deficiencies in information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on events between different levels of government and institutions in Serbia?) was answered by 4 participants as follows: Two participants gave positive answer, two others answered that they do not know.

The question (Are there deficiencies in information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on international level?) was answered by 4 participants. One participant answered positively, one gave a negative answer, while two participants answered that they did not know the answer.

The next question was asked for all those participants who answered Yes to one or both previous questions and were asked to write which deficiencies were involved. Regarding international cooperation participants thought that better communication should be established, and existing

tools and protocols should be upgraded. On the national level, better communication should be established between authorities on both national and local level. Protocols accepted at the international level - the Sava Commission - should be promoted, encouraged, and monitored through their Action Plans and elaboration of measures.

The question (Are there shortcomings in the field of information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on flood forecasting between different levels of government and institutions in Serbia?) was answered again by 4 participants. Two participants responded positively, one negatively, and one did not know the answer.

The question (Are there shortcomings in the field of information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on flood forecasting on international level?) was answered by 4 participants as follows: One participant responded positively, 2 participants responded negatively, and one did not know the answer.

The next question was asked for all those participants who answered Yes to one or both of the previous questions and were asked to write which shortcomings were involved. In most cases, similar or even identical answers were provided as to the previous two questions in which a narrative answer was sought. The role of Sava Commission is particularly emphasized and how it acts like platform to enhance international coordination and action. The following is additionally highlighted: An insufficient number of hydrological stations on watercourses affects the timeliness of the information on the occurrence of floods; Insufficient software, hardware and human resources. Recalling severe floods back in 2014, it was evident that the system of notification, alerting and evacuation had failed, as well as the practical application of the civil protection system in the field.

The question (Are there deficiencies in information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on accidental pollution between different levels of government and institutions in Serbia?) was answered by 4 participants: One participant responded positively, one negatively, and two others did not know the answer.

The question (Are there deficiencies in information and coordination in case of floods or accidental pollution: - when providing information on accidental pollution on international level?) was answered by 4 participants. The results are as follows: One participant responded positively, one negatively, and two others did not know the answer.

The next question was asked for all those participants who answered Yes to one or both previous questions and were asked to write which deficiencies were involved. The following is highlighted: It is necessary to define who is responsible for communication at the international level; Cooperation protocols need to be done; Capacity building in the competent institutions is needed for the information to be adequately received and processed; Competencies between several institutions overlap.

## **3.2 Presentation of Incident Command System**

The Incident Command System (ICS) is presented as a standardized on-scene emergency management system construct specifically designed to provide for the adoption of an integrated organizational structure that reflects the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents.



ICS is used by various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private, to organize field-level incident management operations.

ICS consists of a standard management hierarchy and procedures for managing temporary incident(s) of any size. ICS procedures should be pre-established and sanctioned by participating authorities, and personnel should be well-trained prior to an incident.

ICS includes procedures to select and form temporary management hierarchies to control funds, personnel, facilities, equipment, and communications. Personnel are assigned according to established standards and procedures previously sanctioned by participating authorities. ICS is a system designed to be used or applied from the time an incident occurs until the requirement for management and operations no longer exist.

Subsequently, elements 207 (Incident Organization Chart), 209 (Incident Status Summary) and IAP (Incident Action Plan) are specifically explained. Finally, examples of how the ICS system is implemented in Slovenia are presented.

## 4 Conclusion

Please describe what were other important feedback, messages recommendations from stakeholders:

The workshop was attended by 11 different institutions / organizations representing stakeholders in the implementation of this project. These institutions / organizations are significant in project acceptance, project cooperation and implementation of results that are sought to develop during the project. Therefore, their observations are essential.

Stakeholders also made some crucial feedbacks and recommendations:

The first recommendation was to look at the activities and target results in the ongoing regional projects (PARK project and Command D project) in the WACOM project to avoid redundancy of activities and, if possible, to superimpose the results and impacts.

The second recommendation is to determine all the procedures required for the Sava River Basin and the Drina River Basin within the WACOM project.

The third recommendation is that activities in the WACOM project also need to be considered concerning the Law on Critical Infrastructures of the Republic of Serbia so that certain legal obligations would not be missed.

## Annex



### AGENDA



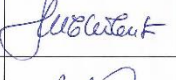



10:00 – 10:10	Dobrodošlica i predstavljanje učesnika
10:10 – 10:30	Predstavljanje WACOM projekta i Međunarodne komisije za sliv Save
10:30 – 10:45	Predstavljanje Centra za upravljanje odbranom od poplavama u JVP "Srbijavode"
10:45 – 11:10	Stanje u oblasti odbrane od poplava, akcidentnih zagađenja i upravljanja u vanrednim situacijama (prezentacija stanja za R. Srbiju)
11:10 – 11:40	Diskusija po grupama
11:40 – 11:50	Izveštavanje o rezultatima diskusije
11:50 – 12:00	Pauza
12:00 – 12:30	Prikaz sistema za razmenu informacija i koordinaciju učesnika kod vanrednih situacija (Incident Command System – ICS) sa posebnim osvrtom na elemente 207 (Incident Organization Chart), 209 (Incident Status Summary) i IAP (Incident Action Plan)
12:30 – 13:00	Diskusija po grupama
13:00 – 13:10	Izveštavanje o rezultatima diskusije
13:10 – 13:30	Zaključci radionice



## PHOTOS





## List of in-person participants


**PRVA NACIONALNA RADIONICA**  
**BEOGRAD, 02.06.2021. GOD**


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3					
4					
5					
6					

## Annex

### LIST OF TARGET GROUPS

#### Local public authority

Organization
1. Grad Beograd
2. Lučka kapetanija Sremska Mitrovica
3. Luka Leget

#### National public authority

Organization
1. Direkcija za vodne puteve "Plovput"
2. Ministarstvo evropskih integracija
3. Ministarstvo građevinarstva, saobraćaja i infrastrukture RS
4. Ministarstvo zaštite životne sredine RS
5. Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede - Direkcija za vode
6. Republički hidrometeorološki zavod
7. Ministarstvo unutrašnjih poslova

#### Infrastructure and (public) service providers

Organization
1. JVP "Srbijavode"
1. JVP "Vode Vojvodine"
2. Udruženje profesionalnih lađara Srbije
3. Agencija za upravljanje lukama

**Enterprise, excluding SME**

**Organization**

**1. Građevinski fakultet Univerziteta u Beogradu**