



Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin

Third national workshops on improved transboundary cooperation and interoperability in the field of water emergencies

Output Number T4.3

| Lead Institution | LP UL | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Lead Author/s | Jerca Praprotnik Kastelic | |
| Version | V1 | |
| Date | 26. 10. 2022. | |
| Date (version) | | |



List of contributors:

| PP Acronym | Contributor |
|-------------------|--|
| ERDF LP - UL | Jerca Praprotnik Kastelic, Ajda Cilenšek, Primož Banovec |
| ERDF PP1 - DRSV | Stanka Koren |
| ERDF PP2 - HESS | Ambrož Božiček |
| ERDF PP3 - HV | |
| ERDF PP6 - MMPI | |
| ERDF PP5 - ISRBC | Samo Grošelj |
| IPA PP1 - AZUR | |
| IPA PP3 – RUCZ RS | Danijela Ždrale |
| IPA PP4 - JCI | |



Table of Contents

| 1 | The 3rd WACOM workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina3 | | | | |
|---|---|---|------|--|--|
| 2 | 2 Agenda of the 3. National workshop of the WACOM project, 26. 10. 2022 | | | | |
| 3 | 3 Introduction | | | | |
| | 3.1 | Overview of the WACOM project and Sava Commission activities | 5 | | |
| | 3.2 | Presentation of the main results of the table-top exercise | 5 | | |
| | 3.3 introd | Presentation of the WACOM catalog of measures related to strategies for the duction of measures | 7 | | |
| | 3.4 | Analysis of the voting on the measures according to the "Quick Fingers" principle | le 9 | | |
| 4 | Conclusions1 | | | | |



1 The 3rd WACOM workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Management of extraordinary events in the Sava river basin

On Wednesday, October 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the 3rd National Workshop of the WACOM project was held in the congress hall of Hotel Holiday, Sarajevo and through the online platform ZOOM.

The key challenge of the WACOM project is the improvement of cross-border, coordinated action in the event of extraordinary pollution and flooding on transboundary watercourses in the Sava river basin, which includes the analysis of responses in each individual country.

The workshop, as the second in a series of three workshops, aimed to present a simulation of a headquarters exercise, where we tested the developed tools and approaches for a better transnational response and cooperation in the event of such disasters.

The 3rd BiH national WACOM workshop was attended by 25 participants, in addition to the organizers and project partners, from the following institutions:

- Representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Department of Water Management
- Agency for the water area of the Sava River, AVP
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Relations,
- Republic Hydrometerological Institute of the Republic of Srpska,
- Civil protection, city of Bijeljina
- Captaincy of Brčko District,
- Faculty of Security Sciences, University of Banja Luka,
- Agency for the Protection of People and Property INZA d.o.o.



2 Agenda of the 3. National workshop of the WACOM project, 26. 10. 2022

| 09.45 - 10.00 | Okupljanje i prijava sudionika | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 10:00 - 09:10 | Dobrodošlica i predstavljanje sudionika | AZUR – UL FGG |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | Pregled projekta WACOM i aktivnosti Savske | Primož Banovec, Samo |
| | komisije | Grošelj |
| 010:20 - | Predstavljanje ključnih zaključaka komandno - | Haris Delić |
| 10:30 | štabne vježbe | naris Delic |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Predstavljanje WACOM kataloga mjera vezanih uz | |
| | strategije uvođenja mjera (rasprava) | Primož Banovec, |
| | - Opšte mjere | Co-lead: |
| | - Mjere vezane za slučaj poplava | Danijela Ždrale |
| | Mjere u slučaju iznenadnog zagađenja | |
| 11.30 – 11.45 | Kratka pauza | |
| 11:45-12:45 | Rasprava učesnika o mjerama (100 mjera) — i | Primož Banovec, |
| | glasanje - <mark>feedback</mark> | Co-lead: |
| | - Postupanje u slučaju poplava | Danijela Ždrale |
| | Postupanje u slučaju iznenadnog zagađenja | |
| 12:45 – 12:55 | Rezime rasprave | Danijela Ždrale |
| 12:55 – 13:00 | Zaključci i daljnji rad u okviru projekta WACOM | Primož Banovec |

3 Introduction

After the greetings of the project manager Primož Banovac, UL Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy and Haris Delić, AZUR, the VACOM project, project partners, purpose and content of the project were presented in accordance with the agenda.



3.1 Overview of the WACOM project and Sava Commission activities

The WACOM project builds on the activities and protocols of the International Commission for the Sava River Basin, which respects various international protocols (on transboundary pollution, ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) and follows the objectives of civil protection of the EU mechanism and takes into account the sovereignty of interventions in different countries .

Then Mr. Samo Grošelj (ISRBC) presented the legal framework and activities carried out by the Sava Commission. The International Commission for the Sava Basin consists of 4 member states + Montenegro. They mainly deal with the management of emergency situations related to the waters of the Sava river basin and sustainable water management, sustainable management of hazards (floods, droughts, accidents, etc.), international navigation regime and FASRB protocols. Current activities are focused on flood risk control and the establishment and improvement of flood forecasting and warning systems in the Sava river basin. The activities of the Sava Commission are also focused on accident prevention and control, which provides early information among potentially affected coastal countries (Emergency Protocol (draft) and Emergency Emergency Warning System (AEWS)). They also inform the public with the system for exchanging data and information about RBM, FRM and HMI and the database for FFWS: Sava GIS (www.savahis.org;) whose upgrade (APC and NAV module) is planned as part of the WACOM project.

3.2 Presentation of the main results of the table-top exercise

The purpose of the staff exercise is primarily that successful management of major disasters (e.g., transboundary flooding, accidental pollution) requires effective and coordinated action by institutions in all countries.

Knowledge of the disaster management mechanism in upstream countries improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the response in downstream countries (floods, extreme pollution). It links both countries and sectors: disaster management, water management and navigation. It involves target groups, creating a broad platform needed for better prevention and response to floods and emergencies.

As part of the WACOM project, work package 3, we planned and performed 5 simulations of staff exercises:



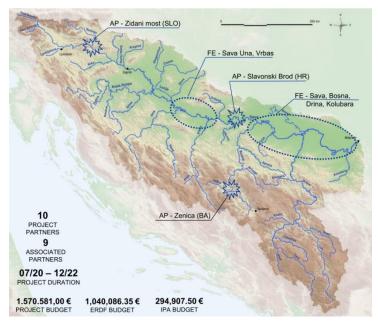
•3x simulation of accidental pollution to Sava river

- -SLO-HR accidental pollution Zidani Most
- –HR-BIH accidental pollution Slavonski Brod
- -BIH-SRB accidental pollution Zvornik(Drina)

•2x simulation of floods

-HR-BIH (river area: Una, Vrbas)

-BIH-SRB (river area: Drina, Sava)



Picture 1: five table top exercises were executed

Findings: Participants would like to see more key agencies involved in disaster response participate in such exercises. In this way, they would gain more hands-on experience, more information and better insight into what actually happens during operations, and be able to better assess the usefulness of the tools.



Findings from the participants' experiences: TTX was positively received by the participants

- TTX provides better insight into what happens during interventions;
- During TTX, participants learn about the operations of other institutions and their protocols for responding to accidents. This enables:
 - a better work of the incident commanders and
 - better interaction and coordination between headquarters;
- Lack of exercises of this type (for some it was the first such experience);
- Overall rating of WACOM tools: 4.3.

Organizers' findings:

- To ensure effective familiarization with TTX and implementation, it is necessary to conduct preparatory workshops in advance, and the implementation documents should not be too extensive:
- A brief description of the purpose and the exact role of the participants is required;
- The Master Scenario Event List must not be too extensive; it must reflect the main idea of the script, and during the TTX the script must be guided by the narrator so that changes can be made during the event;
- It would be necessary to involve the media in such workshops (familiarity with what is happening during the interventions, importance of sharing selected information);
- Example of good practice: conducting group and individual analysis;
- TTX is an efficient approach to testing new tools (for developers and users);
- TTX was used to successfully achieve the project goals in the WACOM project (testing and verifying new WACOM tools in an international environment).

3.3 Presentation of the WACOM catalog of measures related to strategies for the introduction of measures

Main conclusions and hot wash

The main purpose of the workshop was to present a set of measures and strategies that would contribute to an approach for improved response and cooperation in the event of such disasters at the national or transnational level. The measures refer to the case of floods as well as to the case of accidental pollution.

We presented WACOM's comprehensive list of measures as a starting point for prioritizing the following issues:

- The status of implementation of the measure in each country (SLO, CRO, BH, SRB) the measure is already implemented the measure is not implemented;
- The priority of the introduction of the measure in the short term;
- The priority of the introduction of the measure in the long-term period;

We have divided the measures into groups, namely:

- Education;
- Organization;
- Knowledge;



- Logistics;
- ICT;
- Infrastructure measures;
- Control measures;
- Planning;
- HR measures;
- Financing;
- Other.

Measures already included in water management plans and flood risk reduction plans are not part of the strategy.

| | Key intervention area | Proposed measure | |
|----|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | Education on all levels, including Social, educational and awareness work with the youth, Education of general public and promotion activities and | |
| 1 | EDUCATIONAL | ICS 100 - incident command system standardized framework protocols | |
| 2 | | Enforcing the polluter pays principle (compensations for the floods) | |
| 3 | FINANCIAL | Securing public financial resources | |
| 4 | | Improved insurance practices and stimulations for wider penetration of insurance for floods and accidental pollution | |
| 5 | | Education of water users (abstractions) on emergency procedures (floods, accidental pollution) | |
| 6 | GOVERNANCE | Elective representatives for long-term challeneges after the accident | |
| | HUMAN RESOURCES | Employee satisfaction | |
| 7 | MANAGEMENT | | |
| 8 | INFORMATION AND | GIS based situational awareness | |
| 9 | COMUNICATION | Nowcasting and forecasting systems | |
| 10 | TECHNOLOGY | Flood management centres and Improved data integration | |
| 11 | MONITORING | Discharge/level monitoring | |
| 12 | INFORMATION | Improved supervision and control over the transport of pollutants and Improved supervision ond control over the production, use and storage of | |
| 12 | INTONIVIATION | pollutants | |
| 13 | INFRASTRUCTURAL | Safe river access locations (rescue) | |
| 14 | KNOWLEDGE | National and international (EN) standards | |
| 15 | | Knowledge base of the polluters and Knowledge base of the pollutants and procedures | |
| 16 | LOGISTICS | Availability of the emergency equipment (pollution) and Availability of the emergency equipment (floods) | |
| 17 | | Rescue tools and resources availability and Identification of service provides for emergency response | |
| 18 | | Costing units supporting administration and finance processes | |
| 19 | | Clear positioning of the MACS (Multi Agency Coordination System) being in the core of complex response | |
| 20 | | Improved communication in response framework | |
| 21 | | River basin management plans and flood management plans | |
| 22 | | Protocols with the key water uses/abstractions | |
| 23 | | Protocols enabling involvement of insurance companies | |
| 24 | ORGANIZATIONAL | Strategic crisis communication | |
| 25 | | Improved integration of the levels of MACS | |
| 26 | | Control the of legislation implementation and enforcement | |
| 27 | | Improved documentation process of the incidents | |
| 28 | | Improved communication in response framework (companies) | |
| 29 | | EU whistle blower directive (2019/1937) | |
| 30 | | Disaster forensics after the accident | |
| 31 | | Planning, execution and improvement of exercises | |
| 32 | PLANNING | Hazard identification, risk assessment | |
| 33 | | Regular monitoring of water quality, port areas and auditing of hazardous activities | |
| 34 | OTHER | Demining of the Sava (and Drina) river | |
| 35 | | River corridor maintanance - floating debris and waste | |

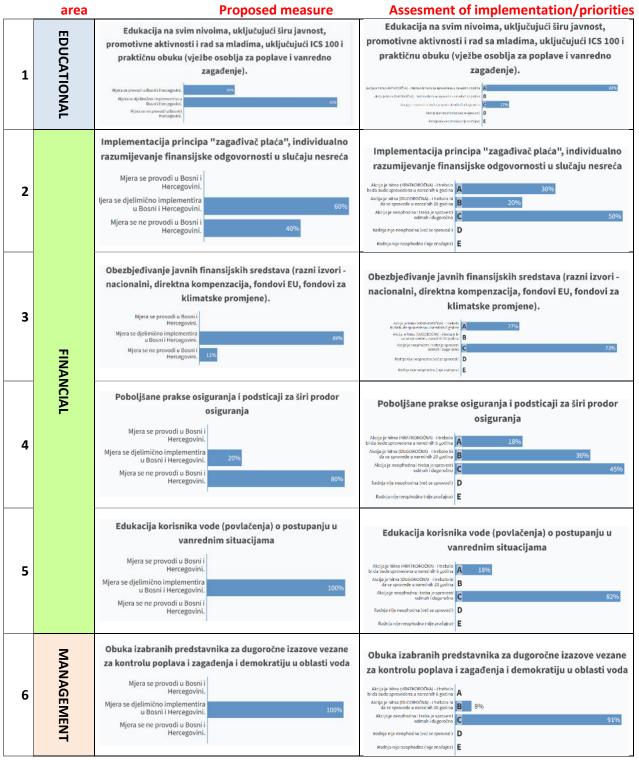
After a detailed presentation of the measures, a vote on the measures was conducted according to the principle of "Quick Fingers", which individually identified the priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for each measure in the sense of:

- State of implementation of the measure in the country: the measure is already being implemented the measure is not being implemented;
- The priority of introducing the measure in the short term;
- The priority of introducing the measure in the long term;

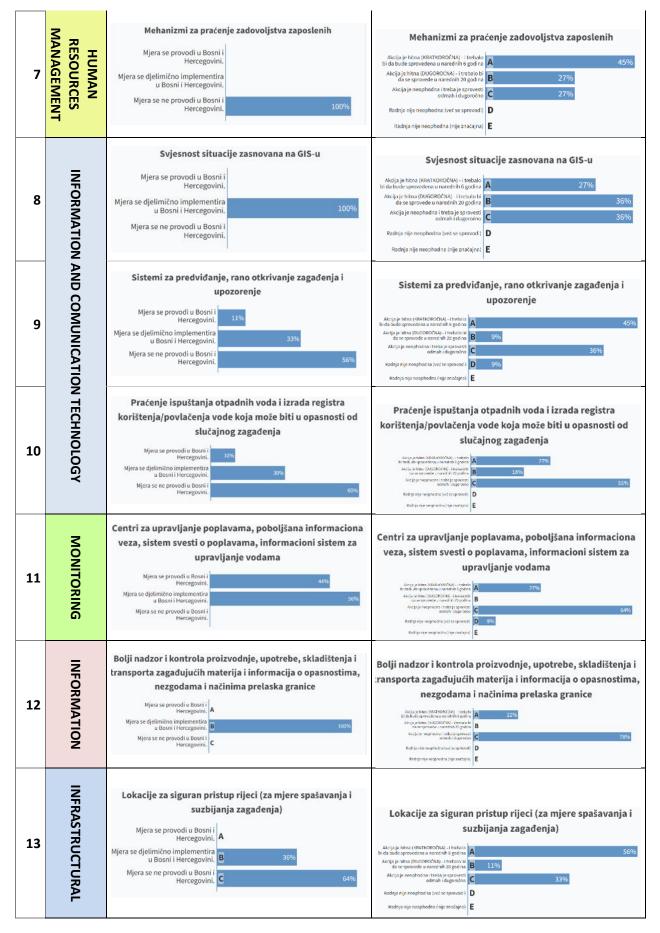


3.4 Analysis of the voting on the measures according to the "Quick Fingers" principle

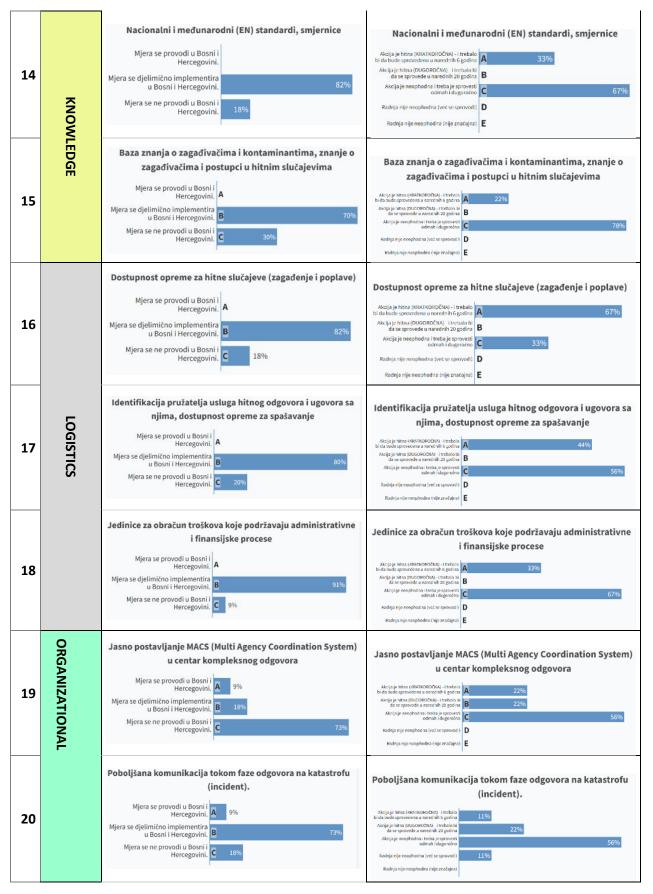
Key intervention



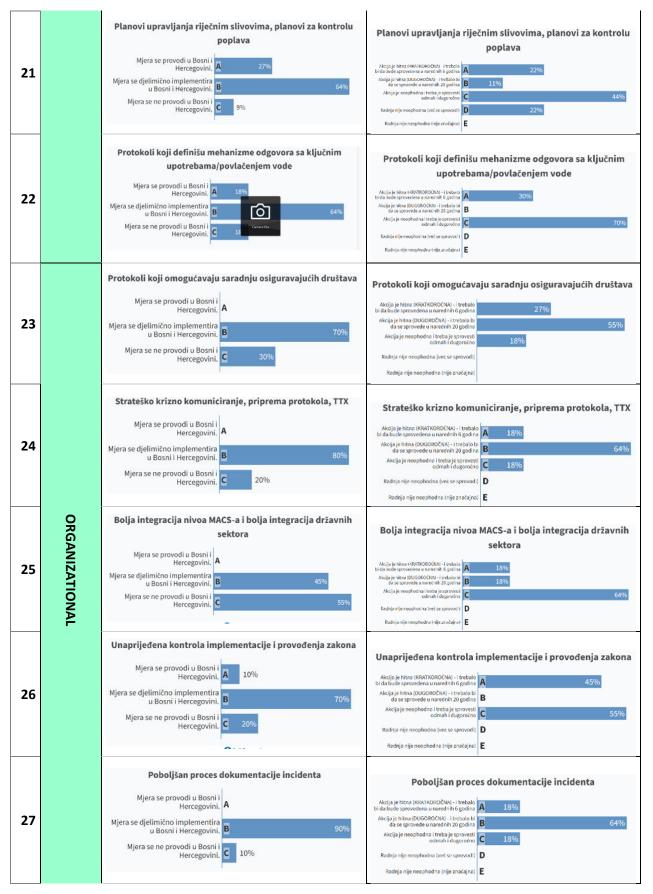




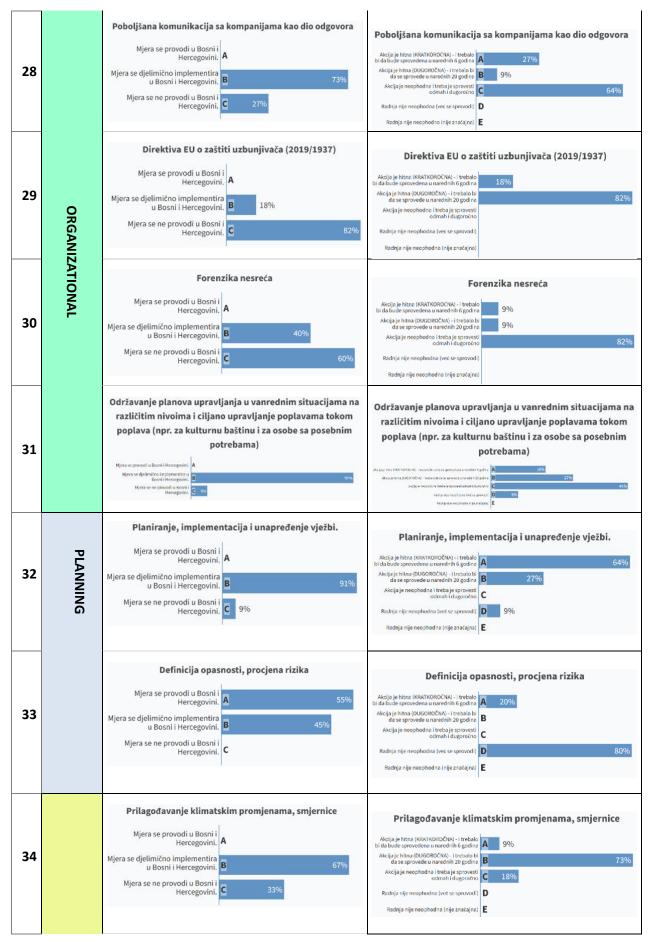




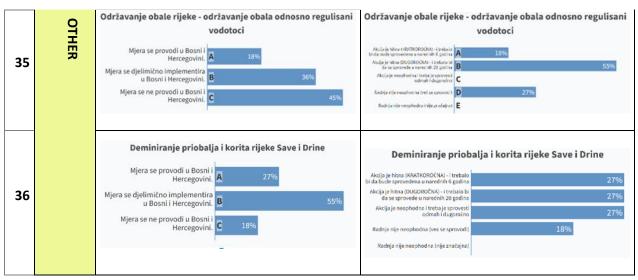












4 Conclusions

After the successful completion of the third national workshop within the project WACOM DTP - Management of Emergency Situations Related to Water in the Sava River Basin - we can say that the participants are aware of the importance of response preparedness and disaster management in case of exceptional pollution of watercourses and floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In general, the participants expressed positive views on the presented measures and strategies that would contribute to an approach for improved response and cooperation in case of such disasters at national or transnational level. The measures refer to the case of floods and accidental pollution, which is a sufficient spectrum, but could be extended to other types of disasters.

- Participants expressed concern about the inconsistent reporting instructions and the forms they have to fill out in case of accidents, as they should be harmonized, especially in case of serious accidents that require the collection and analysis, as well as the unnecessary coordination of a large number of different reports.
- Communication and recognition of the different actors and their roles, responsibilities and methods of collaboration are also very important, which is crucial for the management of interventions.
- Above all, the participants emphasized that the implementation of the protocols in practice is extremely important, since the courses of action were written and should be followed in order to organize quickly and well after the accident. We must also pass on the problem of flowing waters to the managers of flowing waters, so that they try to prevent undesirable processes and events that could affect the action in advance of accidents, thus reducing or even preventing the extent of accidents.

The evaluation of the answers to the individual questions will take place within the framework of the handover of the catalog of measures, together with the evaluation of the implementation and the importance of the rapid start of the implementation of each measure in the formed strategy. Regardless of this, we can already state that the participants have clearly identified the measures that are already implemented to a large extent and that probably need to be strengthened, as well as the measures for which they have recognized that the level of implementation is low and the priority of their introduction is high. Among them, we can highlight the following:

(6) Training of elected representatives for long-term challeneges after the accidents related to flood and pollution control and water democracy.



- (18) Cost accounting centers to support administrative and financial processes.
- (19) Clear positioning of the MACS (Multi Agency Coordination System) being in the core of complex response.
- (23) Protocols enabling and better involvement of insurance companies in preparing for and responding to disastrous events.
- (25) Improved integration of the multi-agency response management levels (MACS) and improved integration of governmental sectors.
- (29) EU whistle blower directive (2019/1937).
- (36) Maintenance of the river bank maintenance of banks, i.e. regulated watercourses.

The participants of the stakeholder workshop welcomed the efforts made so far and welcomed the objectives of the project, namely to improve transboundary coordinated response to exceptional pollution and flooding on transboundary watercourses in the Sava River Basin. Finally, we invited the participants to the final conference of the WACOM project, which will take place on November 15, 2022 in Sarajevo via video streaming, where all the results of the WACOM project will be presented.