Danube Transnational Programme
WACOM

Water Contingency Management in the Sava River Basin

Cluster 1 – Pilot table-top exercises simulating the incident and the response of transboundary accidental pollution
Output T3.1

(2/5)

(Report from Exercises simulating the incident and the response of transboundary accidental pollution in Slavonski Brod)

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Introduction

On 18 May 2022, the WACOM project has reached one of the key project milestones - the execution of the second table-top exercise (TTX), which was carried out in Slavonski Brod, Croatia. This document represents the summary of the main objectives, outcomes and organisational activities of the TTX. It also describes how the exercise was performed and points out the lessons learned from it.

## 1 Table-top exercise objectives

The general objectives of the TTX are aimed on verification, utilisation and confirmation of existing protocols and procedures of response to emergency situation. Additional objective is related to the use and evaluation of the new WACOM tools used in the emergency situations. More specifically (as it was already explained in the preparatory elaborate of the TTX (*D.T3.3.2 - Report on the requirements and planning of table-top exercise*), the objectives of the Table-top exercise are the following:

- to introduce the methodology of the TTX execution in the form of the explanatory – coordinated type of the table-top exercise,
- to introduce the "imaginary" scenario of accidental pollution,
- to involve all active participants to cooperate and jointly develop the strategy of the response to the accident,
- to familiarize the participants with the new WACOM tool set and to utilize them during the execution of the TTX,
- to assess the usability of the new WACOM tools.

The project partners identified and capitalized on the importance of the exercise execution for the active groups participating in realistic events of accidental pollution, or any other types of hazardous events. The execution of such TTX proved that keeping response institutions, forces, or even administration employees, aware of emergency situations and enabling them to get to know each other and share their on-field experiences or response plans helped build a strong response body with a high-level awareness of emergency situation response plans.

2 Execution of the Table-top exercise in Slavonski Brod: Accidental pollution in Slavonski Brod (HR)

The TTX was organised by the project partner Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia, and it was carried out on 18 May 2022 in Slavonski Brod, Croatia, in the Brod-Posavina County Hall. The hall could accommodate up to a hundred participants; however, due to the necessary arrangement of the participants' work in the headquarters and their individual use of personal computers, maps and accompanying materials, the capacity of the hall was halved, which was the reason why some could not be accepted as exercise participants. The passive participants, i.e. observers were placed at the back of the hall.
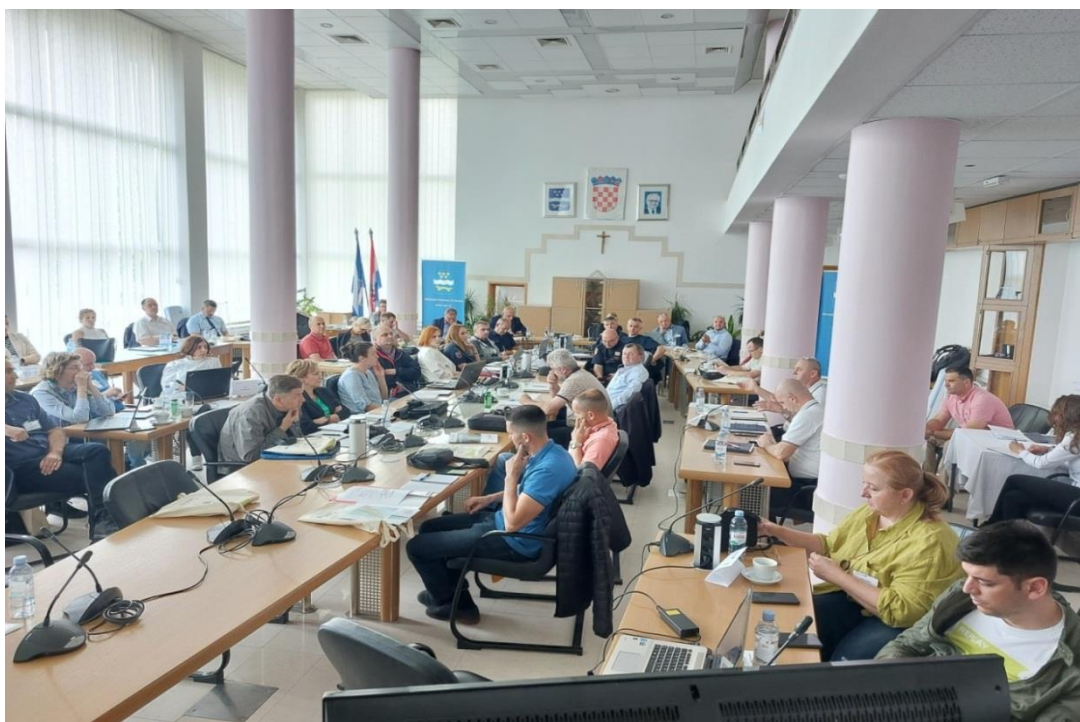
Figure 1: The TTX participants

For those participants who could not participate at the TTX venue, an on-line link (ZOOM) was established. It was not foreseen that the on-line participants would cooperate in the active face-to-face communication; however, they could leave the comments, ideas, etc. in the chat area of the on-line platform.

The Table-top exercise was chaired and lead by the Mr. Primož Banovec, a representative of the lead partner of the WACOM project - the University of Ljubljana. He presented the scope of the

TTX, WACOM tools, as well as narrated the accidental pollution scenario and encourage intercommunication among all participants of the TTX.

Additional support in the presentation and utilization of the WACOM tools was provided by other members of the partner UL, the developer of the WACOM tools.
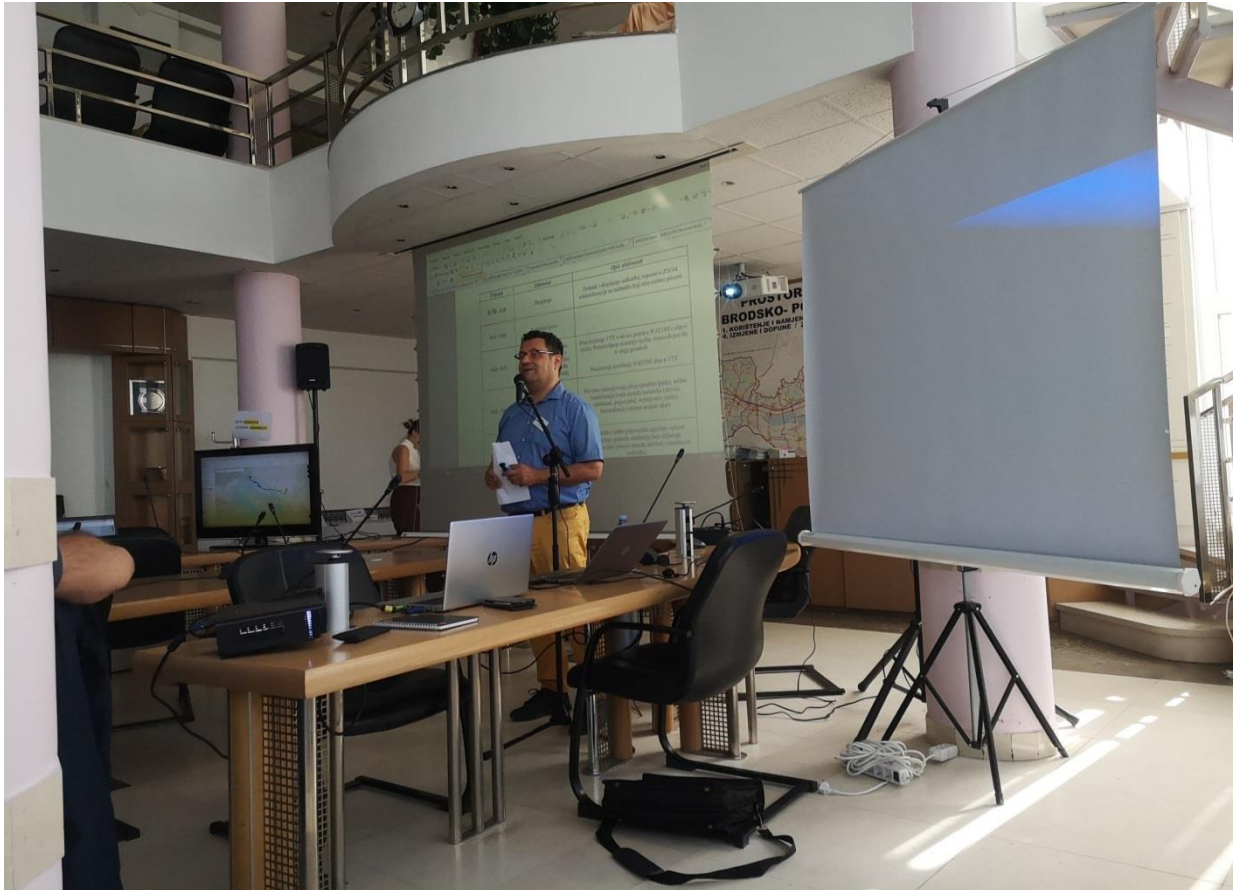
Figure 2: The Narrator, Primož Banovec (UL), conducting the TTX

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2.1 Participants of the Table-top exercise

The TTX was attended by 50 participants in total - 22 from the project partners and 28 from external institutions representing the target groups.

As shown in the table below, several headquarters were involved in the active participation in the Table-top exercise. At the municipality level, the headquarters were joined by several institutions that formed the multiagency headquarters, while some institutions formed the single-agency headquarters.

Table 1: Active Headquarters (Active participating headquarters at the venue)

Headquarters	Other companies or institutions in the Headquarter
Croatia	
Croatian Waters	International Sava River Basin Commission (Sava Commission, ISRBC)
Ministry of the Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure	Centre for Security Cooperation RACVIAC
Port Authority Slavonski Brod	JANAF
Port Master Office Slavonski Brod	HESS-Hydropower plants of the Lower Sava River (SI)
State Inspectorate	University of Ljubljana (SI)
Civil Protection Administration, Vukovar	
Administration, Slavonski Brod	
Civil Protection Administration, Osijek	
Đuro Đaković TEP	
Unit for Civil Protection Planning and Measures	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Civil Protection Administration of the Republika Srpska (RUCZ)	AZUR- Association for Risk Management
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Civil Protection Administration of Brod	
Municipality of Šamac	
Oil Refinery Brod	
Public Safety of Brčko District Government	
Sava Watershed Agency Sarajevo	
Public Company "Vodovod i Kanalizacija", Tuzla	

2.2   Introduction to the table-top exercise

The introduction of the TTX began with a short presentation of the WACOM project, its main objectives and developments. Mr. Primož Banovec introduced the purpose of the TTX in relation to the WACOM project.

Following the introduction, the active participants who played important roles in the TTX accidental pollution scenario introduced themselves and briefly explained their activities and roles in the emergency situation. They were gathered in an improvised headquarters that operated as a single unit in the further TTX activities (reporting, measures, etc.).

The narrator proceeded with the initial information about the TTX and introduced the provisional methodology of TTX execution to all participants. He explained the role of participants, their tasks during TTX, and tools they will be using during the TTX, WACOM tools.

The exercise had a cross-border nature and applied the scenario of sudden pollution in Slavonski Brod in Croatia. As part of this exercise, the simulation of the decision-making process for accidents involving the spilling of a large amount of petroleum products from a vessel at the location of Slavonski Brod was carried out.

2.3   Introduction to the WACOM tools

During the TTX, the tools developed and prepared for the use among stakeholders, were presented and demonstrated. These include:
-   The tool for improving the coordination of the activated headquarters,
-   The tool for improving the situational awareness about the accidental event, and
-   The tool for improving the modelling of the accidental pollution propagation.

Table-top exercise participants gathered in headquarter groups utilised those tools via mobile phones and laptops.

3   Execution of the Table-top exercise

The TTX execution can be divided in several activities: simulations/predictions; discussions; use of existing tools (e.g. WACOM tools, AEWS, etc.). In this part, the dynamic of TTX will be briefly presented.

Initiation of the incident and entering data in WASP DSS

At the beginning, all headquarters were asked to log into the WASP DSS application. Mr. Banovec made the first demonstration login and entered all the necessary data required for the proper display of users/staff within the application. It was demonstrated how the headquarters' structures could be defined and entering information about the Incident Commander, Public Information Officer, Security Officer, Liaison Officer, Operations Department, Planning Department, Logistics Department and finance/administration by entering the personnel information. All headquarters properly registered and logged into the application. There were problems with the application when using mobile phones.

The Civil Protection Slavonski Brod opened the pollution exercise called "Accident with the spilling of a large amount of oil derivatives from a vessel at the location of Slavonski Brod", and informed all necessary services about it.

The coordination of operational activities

The headquarters were asked to define the operational measures in the event of an oil spill into the Sava River from the ship "Siscia" near Slavonski Brod. The following steps were defined:

- The boatman calls the Port Authority of Slavonski Brod and the Regional Center 112 Slavonski Brod and reports that there had been an accident with an oil spill from the ship "Siscia".
- The Center 112 Slavonski Brod receives the call and informs the Civil Protection Headquarters of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian Waters that there has been pollution on the location.
- The main headquarters of civil protection, through the operational communication center, informs the surrounding countries about the situation (PIAC).
- The Ministry of Security of BIH informs the Ministry of Transport and Security of BIH, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, and the entity Civil Protection Headquarters for Rescue. In case of pollution, the Sava Watershed Agency Sarajevo goes out to the site. The rehabilitation units are engaged.

- Croatian Waters, upon receiving a call from the 112 center, puts their regional on-call employee on standby, contacts the State Inspectorate, the Water Inspection and the Port Authority of Slavonski Brod.
- Based on the received report from the Center for Civil Protection and Croatian Waters, the Water Inspectorate notifies the State Inspectorate, which determines the level of pollution and issues a decision to proceed with the remediation.
- According to the issued decision, Croatian Waters hires remediation companies that go out to the site and take measures.

Safety measures during the intervention

The participants were asked to prepare information about occupational safety measures for the intervention and the method of implementing occupational safety. They highlighted the following problems:

- The institutions involved in rescue measures should check whether all involved persons comply with the prescribed safety measures,
- The fact that there are areas in the Sava river basin (BiH territory) that have not yet been cleared of mines from the past war must be taken into account,
- The staff in public institutions should be additionally educated and trained for such scenarios,
- The navigation in that section of the waterway should be halted,
- In such cases, the places for interventional access to the river from the land should be precisely defined and kept clean and free for access,
- It is necessary to ensure the possibility to bring equipment by road to the pollution site,
- Through the application, the list of boats on the river available at that moment should be defined,
- The headquarters should verify the staff's equipment - determine the list of necessary equipment that could be used and provide enough drinking water, as well as first aid,
- The population should have accurate instructions about what should be done at certain times and how to act in certain situations.

Communication with the interested public

The participants were asked to discuss communication with the public. They agreed that communication should be carried out by the authorities.

It would be useful to create a strategy for communication with the public in crisis situations in the future.

4   Analysis of the Table-top exercise

The main part of the Table-top exercise was the analysis of the performed activities, with a critical overview of the TTX execution, preparation and involvement of the participants (target groups), as well as the assessment of the new WACOM tools.

The analysis of the TTX was based on four activities:

- Analysis done by the TTX participants (anonymous questionnaire for the participants),
- Analysis done by the TTX evaluation group (questionnaire for the evaluators),
- Analysis done by the individual institutions participating in the TTX,
- Lessons learned by the project partners (which will be shown in chapter: "**Findings (lesions learned) and conclusions of the Table-top exercise" (Chapter 5)**.

4.1.   Analysis of the Table-top exercise – Hot-wash

After termination of the TTX, the hot-wash was carried out, which was based on the predefined questions, and allowed each headquarter to give their assessment of the TTX.

The main conclusion and findings of the participants were the following:

- during the TTX, the participants concentrated on the shortcomings that were observed during the execution of the exercise, thus the execution of the exercise was reviewed as a free exchange of critical views and information, which created an opportunity for pointing out things that had an impact on every aspect of the action. The critical review of the performance of the exercise showed professionalism and the desire to constantly improve the way one acts during an emergency, or an incident situation;
- the participants of the TTX actively engaged in the discussion and contributed by providing insights gained from the exercise, but also from observing and remembering events from the not-so-recent past. They also worked on issues that help strengthening human and material capacities;
- during the exercise, the participants identified both their own mistakes and the mistakes of others, and indicated the need for their correction. The approach applied to the TTX "Management of interventions in case of sudden pollution" was assessed as effective. The post-implementation review relies on the collection of data to assess performance. The learning culture ranked cooperation and exchange of ideas based on an integrated approach very highly;

- it has been pointed out that the communication between the headquarters is difficult when the headquarters are distributed in the field, as well as coordination of activities and response to sudden pollution. It is easier to communicate when all headquarters are at the same table, in the same room. Numerous procedures, same as procedures of communication with mutual reporting and interventions in the field eventually become complex and sometimes laborious, especially when they reach the international level. Heterogeneity in communication is the main characteristic in emergency situations due to their sudden appearance and high expectations from individuals, as well as the resulting demands. Most often, there is an overlap in the lines of command. Using the TTX tool in such situations is a useful and positive experience, and the satisfaction with what had been done was expressed by numerous suggestions about how to improve and simplify the tool;

- as one of main conclusions of TTX is that there is a need for better coordination, communication and training of local representatives for disaster response.

4.2 Analysis of the Table-top exercise – The survey

As already mentioned, analysis was conducted on several levels. This analysis of the TTX was performed through the survey. The questionnaires were prepared both for the participants and the evaluators.

4.2.1 Analysis of the anonymous questionnaire completed by the participants

The questionnaire for the participants had a total of 15 questions, of which some had sub-questions. A total of 42 exercise participants completed the questionnaire. The questions and short observation on answers are presented below.

Question No. 1 *Is the material presented at today's workshop as you expected? If not, what did you expect differently?* All participants responded positively to the question, meaning that the materials prepared for the workshop were useful.

Question No. 2 *Do you think that emergency response protocols and the development of IT tools need to be tested in such exercises involving actual participants in interventions?* All participants who answered the question responded affirmatively.

Question No. 3 *Should other significant headquarters participate in such exercises? If so, which ones?* A part of the participants (22) responded positively and stated the following: firefighters,

police, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, media, Public Institution "Vode Srpske", Red Cross. The comment is that some of the invited participants did not respond to the invitation, while some of those who wanted to come could not be accepted due to the capacity of the venue. At the same time, the exercise was attended by representatives of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia. These responses show that the different systems are very numerous according to the actors involved and that it is challenging to organize the presence of them all at such exercises.

Question No. 4 *What grade would you give today's exercise? (1-poor... 5-excellent)*? A part of the participants (28) rated the exercise as excellent and a part (14) as very good.

Question No. *5 Do you estimate that the topic of the exercise is sufficiently elaborated for quality pilot testing of new IT tools? If not, please suggest which is not sufficiently elaborated in your opinion.* The vast majority of participants (41, with one participant undecided) answered positively, which shows the correctness of the chosen approach to testing new IT tools in such exercises.

Question No. *6 Do you have access to data on the headquarters and management structures of various institutions in the event of an emergency and intervention?* The answers are very different: nineteen participants answered "Yes", twelve participants answered "No", while eleven participants did not write any answer. The distribution of answers indicates that a significant number of participants do not have access to data on the headquarters and management structures of various institutions in the event of an emergency and intervention. Therefore, WACOM project partners believe that the new IT tools developed and presented within this project – if implemented in practice – could significantly fill the gap in this challenge.

Question No. *7 Assess the quality of information on the functioning of individual headquarters during interventions? (1-poor... 5-excellent).* The distribution of responses is very wide: thirteen participants responded with "5", fourteen participants with "4", five participants with "3", one participant with "2", while nine participants did not respond. As with the previous question, it can be observed that applying the new IT tools in practice could reduce the gap between the need for information and its use by different actors.

Question No. *8 How do you assess the availability of data on the operation of individual headquarters during the interventions? (1-poor... 5-excellent)?* Again, the distribution of the answers is extensive, with as many as ten participants who did not answer this question. That also shows how the exercise participants need greater data availability, in which technology can be

helpful. So there is a belief that the IT tools being developed within the WACOM project can allow the actors to address their data availability challenges at different levels.

Question No. *9 Do you often communicate with other headquarters during interventions?* The most significant number of answers is "Yes" (28 participants), five participants answered "No", while nine participants did not answer this question.

Question No. *10 Has there been a situation in which you found it difficult to establish communication with other headquarters or found it difficult to find contacts with other headquarters?* Seven participants answered "Yes", 28 participants answered "No", while seven participants did not respond. Regarding those participants who answered that it was a situation in which they found it difficult to establish communication with other headquarters or found it difficult to find contacts with other headquarters, WACOM project partners believe that the full and active practical application of the tools developed within this project by all headquarters could solve this challenge.

The answers to the following three questions (*11 Would a platform that would offer information on the activities, organization and contacts of individual headquarters be useful for you?; 12 Would such a platform make it easier for you to operate during interventions?; 13 What is your assessment of the presented WACOM platform?*) confirm the analysis of the answers to the previous questions. All participants who answered the questions think that the presented tools/platform would be useful in their work and enable them to work more easily during an intervention. In addition, all participants were very positive towards individual applications (Pollution propagation in the Sava River area, ICS 207, ICS 209), with a different distribution of responses between very useful and useful.

Question No. 14 *What is your assessment of today's workshop? (1-poor… 5-excellent)?* All participants gave very high grades to the conducted workshop.

The comments and suggestions written in free form on the last question No. *15 Please provide additional comments, remarks and/or suggestions* are especially valuable for project's efforts. What needs to be emphasized is that the participants recognized the value and importance of both the WACOM project and the IT tools being developed within the project, as well as the importance of regional cooperation, and how it is necessary to continue even more intensely with all activities.

4.2.2   Analysis of the questionnaire completed by the evaluators

The questionnaire had a total of 19 questions, of which some had sub-questions. A total of three evaluators completed the questionnaire. The questions and short observation on answers are presented below.

The first three questions (No. *1 Have you read the documents for the TTX preparation (scenario, contingency plan, master scenario list, report)?; No. 2 Are the purpose and goals of the simulation of the TTX understandable? (1-not understandable...5-fully understandable)?; No. 3. Do you find the structure of the master scenario event list understandable and adequate? (1-not understandable...5-fully understandable)*) referred to the materials prepared for the exercise. The evaluators rated this part positively.

Question No. 4 *How do you estimate the participants' understanding of their tasks and the TTX objectives? (1-not understandable...5-fully understandable)* All evaluators gave high positive grades.

No relevant answers were provided to the next question regarding other comments about the preparedness of the TTX.

The next 2 questions (No. *6 How do you evaluate the introduction to the TTX? (1-poor...5-understandable and well done); No. 7 Assess the narrator's role during the TTX and provide suggestions for improvement. (1-poor...5-understandable and well done)*) referred to the introduction to the exercise. All the answers were very positive, with one suggestion: "There should be more explanations about the tools and main goals of the TTX".

Question No. 8 *Assess the role of active participants (participating headquarters) – all and individually (1-poor...5-well done).* All evaluators gave the maximum score.

The same answers were given to the next question *9 Assess the timeline following the master scenario event list (1-poor...5-well done).*

The next 7 questions are related to the level and quality of participation in the exercise and usage of IT tools (No. *10 Assess the adequacy of the activation/deactivation of headquarters and information exchange on the activation of headquarters (ICS 207) – did all HQ use it and how? (1-poor...5-well done); No. 11 Assess the overall usage of the situational awareness tool (201, 209) – did all HQ used it and how it was accepted? (1-poor...5-very usable); No. 12 Assess the usage of forecasting tools (oil spill - forecasting model) (1-poor...5-very usable); No. 13 Assess the quality of communication among the active headquarters during the exercise (1-poor...5-well done); No.14 Other comments; No. 15 Assess the de-activation progress and closure procedures of the TTX (1-*

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poor…5-well done); No. 16 Assess the hot-wash procedures after the TTX (1-poor…5-well done)). In general, all three evaluators evaluated the participants' active exercise contribution with high grades.

The following three questions and their answers are essential for evaluating both the exercises and the whole project. Question No. 17 *Overall assessment of the contribution of the WACOM project to the improved transnational response based on the TTX (1-poor…5-important contribution)*. The evaluators gave high grades as well as wrote very valuable comments. Quoting: "An invaluable contribution as this was the first such approach to the exchange of information."; "WACOM is an important link between institutions. It connects them with activities, workshops, TTX and tools that are accessible to all."

Valuable observations have also been written as answers to the following question No. *18 Objective of the WACOM was to organize a first and basic level of a TTX exercise. Please state any suggestions for the next level of TTX.*

A comment on the last question No. *19 Other comments* – is especially valuable. One of the evaluators wrote: "It is very important that many members of the institutions got to know each other and develop trust. This will be useful in real situations with the developed tools that will provide a better situational awareness. In the time ahead, I suggest that everyone uses the application and makes observations that are important for improvement. It is key that the application becomes a desirable communication tool." This comment shows the full value of the WACOM project, and how the project itself goes beyond the given framework and achieves much more than the planned results.

4.3   Analysis done by individual institutions participating in the TTX

Regarding the individual experiences of the representatives of the institutions that participated in the implementation of the TTX exercise, all experiences presented during the exercise and after its completion were extremely positive and encouraging towards the continuation of such projects.

It was further recognized and highlighted that it was necessary to solve open challenges, such as the lack of operational procedures and measures of action and cooperation between different institutions within each individual country, and especially at the international level. In this part, all representatives expressed their satisfaction with the WACOM project because it enabled discussions of these issues, experts getting to know each other and development of new IT tools. A part of the participants believed that the procedures and measures of cooperation in

extraordinary events between different areas (civil protection, water management, navigation) were missing, and that the Sava Commission could take more initiatives to encourage the institutions in different countries to cooperate more.

Most participants of the exercise recognized that the cooperation and communication between different headquarters (crisis management bodies) is not at the level it could and realistically should be, the reason for this being sometimes objective and sometimes subjective circumstances. However, the almost unanimous opinion of all participants was that the mentioned difficulties could be at least partially solved by using IT tools, such as those presented in the exercise.

5 Findings (lessons learned) and conclusions of the Table-top exercise

Lessons learned by the project partners

After the execution of the TTX in Slavonski Brod, the project partners of the WACOM project gained new experiences and insights related to the preparation and execution of a table-top exercise. The main lessons learned were as follows:

- Preparatory stage:

  o It would be necessary to insist that all preparatory documents are developed well before the exercise itself, so that they can be checked, customized and delivered in a timely manner to the institutions that are invited to participate in the exercise.

  o The preparatory documentation should not be too extensive, because the experience of this exercise has shown that too much documentation will result that the participants invited to the exercise will not ultimately attend, or will not have enough will to read all documentation and familiarize themselves with all details of the exercise.

- Execution stage:

  o It would be necessary to ensure that all participants of the exercise bring a laptop, as this was necessary for the implementation of the exercise.

  o In order to avoid a situation where individual exercise participants cannot fully participate in the implementation of the exercise because they did not bring a laptop, it would be necessary to provide a certain number of laptops by the organizers in the following exercises in order to make the exercise as functional as possible.

  o Some participants were unfamiliar with what exactly they were supposed to do and with the competences of other institutions. This caused certain delays in the implementation of the exercise. In order to avoid such situations in the future, it is suggested that in the preparatory meetings before the implementation of an exercise, the future participants get to know each other and exchange basic information about what their institutions do.

- After-execution stage:

  o In addition to the hot wash analysis, it would be very useful to ask all exercise participants to submit their observations about the exercise in writing.

In terms of exercise implementation, TTX had several initial objectives, as follows:

- To introduce the methodology of the TTX execution in the form of the explanatory – coordinated type of the table top exercise;
- To introduce the "imaginary" scenario of the accident;
- To involve all active participants to cooperate and jointly develop the strategy of the response to the accident;
- To familiarize the participants with the new WACOM tool set and to utilize them during the execution of the TTX;
- To assess the usability of the new WACOM tools.

All planned objectives were achieved during the preparation and implementation of the exercise.

i.   There was a lot of interest for the participation in the exercise by the representatives of the institutions that are the target groups of this project. Due to the limited space in the hall where the exercise took place, all applicants could not be accepted by the organisers. For this reason, individual experts participated in the exercise via a video link that was provided, so that a certain number of representatives of the institutions which are the target groups, as well as representatives of the project partners followed the exercise and actively participated in it in this manner. **It can, therefore, be concluded that in view of the interest and response, this exercise justified its organization and implementation.**

ii. The exercise implementation had several parts. The first part was related to the Introduction and presentation of WACOM project. It was important to familiarize all exercise participants with the project, its activities and what was implemented within the project to date. This was particularly important for the participants who were involved in the WACOM project for the first time. The following step was the Demonstration of the WACOM toolbox that will be used during the TTX. In this part, the individual, existing tools developed and used in the exercise implementation before the project, were presented. The same as the presented online tools developed within the WACOM project, they were both used and tested during TTX. Simultaneously, some participants clarified the manner in which the system of protection in case of water pollution functions in practice. The following part was related to the exercise implementation itself, which was executed according to the earlier planned scenario, with a very active involvement of all participants. Regarding this part, a certain number of situations were observed that need

to be further considered and possibly improved in real practice. **Finally, it should be emphasized that the exercise was implemented at the top level, with a very active involvement of all participants.**

iii. After the exercise, a hot wash analysis was conducted, in which all exercise participants took part – the project partners and experts from the institutions representing the target groups. All reported observations present valuable recommendations for the solutions of a certain number of challenges in actual situations. The first observation relates to the fact that the information about pollution has not been systematically collected and stored, which would create an appropriate database that could be used in the future TTXs. This needs to be remedied. The following observation emphasized the fact that there is a lacking of the pollution prevention and remediation plans, both for minor pollution events and for major pollution events. This needs to be remedied and such plans should be developed. The following observation relates to the fact that the existing procedures (such as water rights inspectors going on site and taking actions) are complex and mostly slow, thus it is necessary to simplify existing procedures and make them more dynamic, while the new procedures should be immediately developed in this manner. Following this, it has been observed that the communication and coordination between the headquarters and institutions in real situations is made difficult due to various reasons and circumstances. In such situation, the use of digital platforms and online tools would definitely contribute to a faster, more efficient solutions to certain situations. **All expressed recommendations were valuable and they form a basis for work in the coming projects, as well as the activities of the countries, institutions and the Sava Commission.**

iv. An in-depth analysis of the exercise was performed subsequently and based on four activities: "Analysis done by the TTX participants" (anonymous questionnaire for the participants); "Analysis done by the TTX evaluation group" (questionnaire for the evaluators); "Analysis done by the individual institutions participating in the TTX"; "Lessons learned by the project partners". In "Analysis done by TTX participants", it should be emphasized that the exercise participants were very satisfied with the organisation and implementation of the exercise, exchange of knowledge and experiences and presented online tools. They gave their full support to such activities, with the recommendation that they should be organised more frequently. Based on the results collected in the part the "Analysis done by the TTX evaluation group", the evaluators positively assessed the preparation, implementation and active participation of the

experts in the exercise. With respect to the part "Analysis done by the individual institutions participating in the TTX", it is especially valuable to emphasize an observation coming from stakeholders which closely follow the work of the Sava Commission, use the tools developed by the Sava Commission and wish to achieve a closer, more practical cooperation with the Sava Commission. The WACOM project has, indeed, significantly contributed to this, since it focused the attention to certain existing situations and opened up the perspective for future cooperation. Regarding the part "Lessons learned by the project partners", the project partners recognized certain lessons that could be prepared and organised in a different manner for the following simulation exercises. **In conclusion, it is important to point out that numerous recommendations have been recognized that are extremely relevant for the future and possible courses of action that the countries, institutions and the Sava Commission may take.**