

<b>NOTIFICATION TO AN AFFECTED PARTY OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION</b>
<b>1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY</b>
<b>(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity</b>
<b>Type of plan proposed</b>
Adoption of the River Basin Management Plan for the territory of the republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027 (RBMP)
<b>Is the proposed activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention? YES</b>
<b>Scope of proposed activity</b>
River basin management plan on the territory of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 – 2027 (hereinafter: the Plan) was developed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: RS), related to water sector, with applicable international agreements signed by RS related to water sector, with respect to requirements of the European Union Directives, primarily Water Framework Directive (hereinafter: WFD) as the most important legal act of the European Union (hereinafter: EU) in water sector. According to the Law on Water, water management plans are developed in compliance with the Danube River Basin Management Plan. Considering that the Danube River Basin in the RS covers about 93% of the territory, it was decided to develop a single water management plan for the entire territory of the RS.
<b>Scale of proposed activity (e.g. size, production capacity, etc.)</b>
Total area of the RS is approximately 88,499 km <sup>2</sup> . The RS consists of two autonomous provinces: AP Vojvodina (area: 21,614 km <sup>2</sup> ), and AP Kosovo and Metohija (area: 10,910 km <sup>2</sup> ). Pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija is under the provisional civil and military administration of United Nations. Due to the lack of data, this territory was addressed only in the chapters of the Plan for which data from previous period were available. The territory of RS encompasses parts of the Black, Aegean, and Adriatic Sea Basins.
According to Article 27 of the Law on Water, the following river districts are defined on the territory of the Republic of Serbia: Sava, Danube, Morava, Ibar and Lepenac, and Beli Drim. The Sava River District covers a part of Bosut River Basin, the immediate basin of the Sava River from the village of Jamena to the confluence with the Danube, Kolubara River Basin, and part of Drina River Basin. The Danube River District covers immediate Danube River Basin on the territory of Serbia, parts of Tisa and Tamiš River Basins, and other watercourses in Banat, river basins of Mlava, Pek, Porečka River, and Timok. Morava River District covers Velika Morava River Basin and parts of river basins of Zapadna and Južna Morava. Parts of river basins of Pčinja and Dragovištica are also included in the Morava River District. Ibar and Lepenac River District covers river basins of Ibar and Lepenac. Beli Drim River District covers the Beli Drim River Basin.
<b>Description of proposed activity (e.g. technology used)</b>
The period from 2021 to 2027 is the first planning cycle for which a PM has been established for the territory of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the requirements of the WFD. For

<p>each pressure that puts WB “at risk”, an appropriate measure has been selected and included in the PM. In order to standardize the procedure, these measures are defined as key measures (hereinafter: KM) according to the guidelines of Guide no. 35: WFD reporting.</p> <p>The initial identification of KM is closely aligned with the main pressures and issues listed in the Significant Issues Report.</p> <p>The scope of previously identified measures far exceeds the financial and other resources available in the six-year planning period. Therefore, some measures have been postponed to later planning cycles.</p> <p>The most important steps towards meeting the objectives of the WFD are prevention of quality deterioration (quality preservation principle), improvement of the knowledge base (analysis of pressures and impacts, monitoring) and harmonization and implementation of all EU policies and directives related to water (basic measure).</p>
<p><b>Description of purpose of proposed activity</b></p> <p>The implementation of the measures needed to improve the state of affairs in the water sector over the 6-year planning period.</p>
<p><b>Rationale for proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical geographic basis)</b></p> <p>The establishment of a suitable legislative environment requires full implementation of the Water Law, including drafting and passing of missing implementing legislation within the timeframe stipulated by law. This also applies to planning documents. The completion of missing documentation also applies to the environmental sector, specifically the segment that involves water.</p>
<p><b>Additional information/comments</b> No</p>
<p><b>(ii) Information on the spatial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity</b></p>
<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>The territory of the Republic of Serbia</p>
<p><b>Description of the location (e.g. physical-geographic, socio-economic characteristics)</b></p> <p>Total area of the RS is approximately 88,499 km<sup>2</sup>. The RS consists of two autonomous provinces: AP Vojvodina (area: 21,614 km<sup>2</sup>), and AP Kosovo and Metohija (area: 10,910 km<sup>2</sup>). Pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija is under the provisional civil and military administration of United Nations.</p>
<p><b>Rationale for location of proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical-geographic basis)</b></p>
<p><b>Time-frame for proposed activity (e.g. start and duration of construction and operation)</b></p>

2022-2027
<b>Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity</b>
<b>Additional information/comments</b> No
<b>(iii) Information on expected environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures</b>
<p><b>Scope of assessment (e.g. consideration of: cumulative impacts, evaluation of alternatives, sustainable development issues, impact of peripheral activities, etc.)</b></p> <p>The period from 2021 to 2027 is the first planning cycle for which a PM has been established for the territory of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the requirements of the WFD. For each pressure that puts WB “at risk”, an appropriate measure has been selected and included in the PM. In order to standardize the procedure, these measures are defined as key measures (hereinafter: KM) according to the guidelines of Guide no. 35: WFD reporting.</p> <p>The initial identification of KM is closely aligned with the main pressures and issues listed in the Significant Issues Report.</p> <p>The scope of previously identified measures far exceeds the financial and other resources available in the six-year planning period. Therefore, some measures have been postponed to later planning cycles.</p> <p>The WFD requires the establishment of a program of measures to address significant issues to enable the achievement of environmental objectives in accordance with Article 4 of the WFD. The program of measures in accordance with Article 11 (2) of the WFD should include basic and complementary measures (if the environmental objectives are not achieved only through the application of basic measures). Basic measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Measures required to comply with EU legislation related to the environment and the water sector as set out in the WFD (Article 10 and Part A of Annex VI),</li> <li>2) Measures required for the implementation of EU legislation related to the environment and water as specified in the WFD (Article 10 and Part A of Annex VI),</li> <li>3) Measures for implementation of Article 9 of the WFD (costs recovery),</li> <li>4) Measures to promote efficient and sustainable water use</li> <li>5) Measures to protect the quality of drinking water and reduce the level of treatment of affected waters,</li> <li>6) Measures to control abstraction from surface and groundwater,</li> <li>7) Measures for control of groundwater natural recharge,</li> <li>8) Measures to control discharges from concentrated sources of pollution,</li> <li>9) Measures to prevent and control the input of diffuse sources of pollution,</li> <li>10) Measures to address any other pressures that have a significant impact on the status of WB, especially related to hydromorphological pressures,</li> <li>11) Measures to remove or reduce pollution by priority and priority hazardous substances and</li> <li>12) Measures to prevent accidental pollution.</li> </ol>

Basic measures are identified according to the basic postulate of the WFD, which is that basic measures represent the minimum requirements defined through EU directives.

Analysis of pressures and impacts indicated that more than half of the estimated organic load comes from agglomerations with more than 50,000 p.e. In these agglomerations, about 85% of the organic load is due to the small number of sewage systems with municipal wastewater treatment plants (hereinafter: WTP). These loads can be significantly reduced by improving the sewerage infrastructure.

According to the established general principles for determination of PM, measures to reduce organic pollution need to be implemented at 508 WB that are assessed as “possibly at risk” or “at risk” of not achieving good status/potential.

Implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive has begun in Serbia, but it is still at an early stage.

A significant reduction in the pressure from organic pollution will be contributed by the full transposition and fulfillment of the relevant EU legislation, especially the Directive on Urban Wastewater Treatment (91/271/EEC) and the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), while providing the necessary institutional and administrative capacities for their implementation.

Water management, capacity building within institutions, and finance are crucial issues in the first planning cycle. Therefore, several cycles will be required until all the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive are met. The specific implementation plan (DSIP) for Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive envisages the construction of 65 WTP in the period 2018-2032.

Although only four WTP have been proposed for more than 150,000 p.e., their load accounts for 42% of total organic pollution in water. The third largest group of WTP (15,000-50,000 p.e.) is expected to reduce the share of about 20% of the total organic load.

Regarding sewage systems, it is estimated that about 10,400 km of new sewage network for wastewater collection (main sewage collectors and secondary sewage network) should be built, which will additionally provide adequate wastewater collection and disposal for about 2 million users.

According to the established general principles for determination of PM, measures to reduce nutrient pollution should be implemented at 1,403 (43.6%) WB, which were estimated to be “possibly at risk” or “at risk” of not achieving good status/potential. The draft Code of Good Agricultural Practice and the DREPR project provide guidelines for reducing nutrient pollution and further improving water quality.

With the transposition of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) into national legislation, significant progress is expected in reducing nutrient pollution of surface and GWB. Also, the transposition of the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) is expected to reduce pollution with nutrients originating from the food and chemical industries and farms.

To meet the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/676/EEC), it is necessary to apply a higher degree of treatment in sensitive areas to remove nutrients at plants for more than 10,000 ES. Several planning cycles will be required to achieve an adequate

reduction in nutrient pollution.

A key measure to reduce nutrient pollution from concentrated sources is the construction or reconstruction of WTP (KM 1). Measures to reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture as a diffuse source are combined with appropriate advisory services for farmers (KM 2 and KM 12). Where there is no clear boundary for the origin of nutrient pollution (concentrated or diffuse sources), there will be necessary research, improvement of the knowledge base to reduce uncertainty (KM 14) and the involvement of advisory services (KM 12). KM 14 will also apply to all WB “at risk” or that are “possibly at risk”.

Pollution with priority and priority hazardous and other specific substances causes toxic effects on aquatic organisms and humans. Monitoring of priority and priority hazardous substances in the RS is carried out mainly for the Danube and its main tributaries. Pollution of these substances in water most often originates from industrial sectors with combustion processes, chemical industry, landfills, mines, transport, and energy sector.

The “combined approach for point and diffuse sources” defined in Article 10 of the WFD, involves emission control (based on the application of best available technologies for concentrated sources of pollution, and in the case of diffuse sources the application of best practices and relevant emission limit values) and the establishment of environmental quality standards.

With regard to the remediation of contaminated sites and sediments, measures in accordance with Article 11 (3h) of the WFD are of particular importance, specifying the application of general binding rules for the control of diffuse sources of pollution.

Some of KM must be implemented at the national level, such as KM 15. This measure may include specific measures related to the location (mines, landfills or industrial plants that emit priority and priority hazardous substances) where the drivers of pollution have been identified. Especially important measures are also KM 16 and KM 4, which refer to the construction and reconstruction of existing industrial WTP as well as the remediation of contaminated sites. KM 4 is planned as a supplementary measure for WB “at risk” where mining and/or landfills are the most probable source of pollution, while KM 16 is planned as a supplementary measure if industry is found to be the most probable source of pollution.

KM 14 is one of the main measures related to a significant increase in administrative capacity (i.e. providing the necessary human and financial resources, training and organizational solutions) for monitoring and control of pollution sources of priority and priority hazardous substances.

Hydromorphological alterations have the potential to change the natural status of surface and groundwater bodies and their associated aquatic flora and fauna. From the aspect of obtaining appropriate physical characteristics of WB in order to maintain the desired hydromorphological conditions and habitat continuity, they are an integral part of determining the ecological status of WB.

The analysis of hydromorphological pressures estimated that interruptions to river continuity, embankments, reservoirs, water abstraction and regulation of watercourses represent significant hydromorphological pressures on WB. Due to these pressures, as well as additional pressures (e.g. change of land use in the coastal zone, altered flow meandering) 411 WB in the RS are “at risk” of not achieving the objectives of the WFD, and 865 WB are “possibly at risk”.

Instruments for the application of basic WFD measures related to hydromorphological alterations already partially exist in RS and they are:

- Application of minimum sustainable flow
- Procedures related to water acts
- Obtaining water permits
- Establishment of water information system (WIS)
- Determination of water fee
- River sediment extraction plans

To achieve the objectives of the WFD, in addition to the basic hydromorphological measures, it is necessary to apply supplementary measures, as well as technical hydromorphological measures on those WB where it is recognized that environmental objectives cannot be achieved due to significant hydromorphological pressures.

According to Annex V of the WFD, defined hydromorphological quality elements important for biological elements used to assess ecological status can be associated with various key measures to reduce hydromorphological alterations: hydromorphological alterations associated with hydrological regime (KM7), hydromorphological alterations associated with river continuity, KM17) and hydromorphological alterations associated with morphological conditions (KM6). KM 23 is associated with both hydrological regime and morphological conditions, while KM17 is relevant for all three hydromorphological quality elements and hydromorphological pressures.

There are two types of hydromorphological measures that are associated with specific key measures:

- 1) Administrative and research hydromorphological measures- are carried out on all WB
- 2) Technical hydromorphological measures- are carried out only on WB for which it has been determined that they are "at risk" or "possibly at risk" for achieving environmental goals.

Groundwater abstraction is regulated by the Law on Water, the Law on Mining and Geological Research "Official Gazette of the RS" no. 101/2015, 95/2018- other law, and 40/2021). Water abstraction measurement is mandatory for public water supply, agriculture/ irrigation, industry, and water bottling. Any water abstraction is subject to the issuance of a water permit, except for the needs of one's own household, if the water springs on one's own land but does not flow beyond its borders, as well as in case the groundwater abstracted on one's own land is used for drinking, watering, and sanitation.

The basic measure aimed at reducing water losses is the rehabilitation of water supply networks. Reducing water losses will make it easier to achieve good quantitative groundwater status. Artificial recharge can also be an alternative to sustainable groundwater management; however, the possibilities of its use are still poorly explored. Measures that include conditions for artificial recharge or increase of groundwater volume in accordance with Article 11 (3f) of the WFD have not been sufficiently implemented, but research and improvement of knowledge on the possibilities of artificial recharge is planned.

The risk assessment of the quantitative status of groundwater showed that 18 of GWB (about 12% of the total number of WB) are "at risk" of losing good status, most of which are in AP Vojvodina (12). 135 GWB are "not at risk" of achieving good quantitative status, i.e. about 88% of the total number of WB.

The main reason for low quantitative status is excessive exploitation, ie. lack of balance

between groundwater abstraction and restoration. There is a lack of reliable monitoring data that prove significant impacts of water abstraction and that clearly show a declining trend in groundwater levels. Another reason for the failure to achieve good status, especially in the Morava River Basin, is also the significant and permanent lowering of groundwater levels in river alluvium, partly due to the uncontrolled extraction of river sediment.

The basic measures for reducing the pressure from groundwater abstraction in terms of key measures (KM) are improving the groundwater regime and controlling the amount of groundwater abstraction (KM 7), water pricing policy measures for households, industry and agriculture on the principle of full reimbursement of water services (KM 9, KM 10 and KM 11), measures to establish drinking water protection zones (KM 13), measures to encourage efficient and sustainable water use (KM 8), improved monitoring to more reliably assess the quantitative status of groundwater and research to improve knowledge of the conceptual model of GWB at risk in order to reduce uncertainty (K 14).

The Report on Significant Water Management Issues in the Republic of Serbia (SWMI) defines the necessary measures for other “related significant issues” that address: organization of the water sector and financing of water activities, deterioration of sediment quality, impacts of invasive species, floods, droughts, and climate change.

In this plan, plastic pollution in the aquatic environment and sturgeon have also been recognized as a significant issue.

**Expected environmental impacts of proposed activity (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)**

Based on the assessment of the significance of the impacts taking account of the measures under the Plan, it may be concluded that the implementation of the measures envisaged by the Plan will lead to strategically significant positive impacts in water sector management, water protection, and improving the environment. What is particularly notable is that special attention is paid in the Plan to the environmental protection aspect in several chapters of the Plan. Certain negative impacts of the activities envisaged under the Plan are possible, and are related to water use, on the one hand, or to the activities pertaining to the use of, or effect on, water resources and on which the water sector has no direct effect, on the other.

The implementation of the activities and measures under the Plan contributes to a systematic reduction of water pollution and to water protection, via the implementation of an array of measures (technical, planning, organizational, institutional, and legal) involving the application and development of the European directives and standards in the area of water. This is primarily related to preventive protection, maintenance, and construction of facilities intended for water use and protection, as well as protection against water. Improving water regimes with the aim of implementing the foundational postulate of eco-system protection, i.e. that in the conditions of increasingly unfavourable anthropogenic pressures on the environment, the environment is best protected by means of active management measures, the most significant of which is improvement of water regimes, by purpose-driven management of reservoirs regulated annually (increasing small water bodies and decreasing large water bodies, which are an especially unfavourable form of environment destruction). Soil protection, anti-erosion and biological treatment of drainage basins as the most important condition for integral design, use, and protection of space. Protection of all natural and man-made resources, as

well as biodiversity, as a result of the implementation of measured envisaged under the Plan.

**Inputs (e.g. raw material, power sources, etc.)**

**Outputs (e.g. amounts and types of: emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into the water system, solid waste)**

**Transboundary impacts (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)**

As regards transboundary impacts, the most severe water pollution comes from Romania, where the water of the Begej, Tamiš, Zlatica, Karaš and Nera rivers are below the required class. Accidents such as the cyanide spill in the Tisza River from the gold mine in northern Romania, and spills of tailings, left an environmental disaster in their wake, with long-term consequences to the ecosystem in the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Serbia cooperates with other countries in the region as regards the control and impacts of transboundary pollution. International cooperation primarily refers to the quality of water in the Danube, the Sava, the Tisza, the Tamiš and the Drina rivers. The water in the Danube is particularly important for the Republic of Serbia, chiefly for its water supply and protection of South Bačka and South Banat groundwater against pollution. The pollution of the Danube reflects on the quality of the water in Lake Đerdap. Developing regional cooperation in the field of water resource management is very important. To this end, by ratifying the international Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube and signing the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin, the following is implemented: sustainable water management, regulation of use, protection of water and the aquatic ecosystem, as well as protection of water against adverse effects. Potential transboundary pollution of water in the countries down the Danube (Romania and Bulgaria) can come from Majdanpek and Mining and Smelting Combine Bor (mines, mills, smelting plant and refinery) via the Borska, the Pek, the Timok, the Kriveljska and the Danube rivers. Transboundary pollution of the countries down the Danube is possible via the Sava River (the towns of Šabac, Barič), and transboundary pollution of Bosnia and Herzegovina via the Drina (the towns of Ljubovija, Zajača, Krupanj).

For cross-border watercourses, water regime issues are resolved by international commissions and bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries. This cooperation is particularly important during periods of drought.

As regards groundwater, special attention should be paid to resolving the quantitative status of transboundary groundwater bodies that have become threatened by excessive use. Possible solutions for this problem may lie in bringing additional quantities of water from the coastal sections of big rivers for the purposes of supplying the populace, as well as in exploring the possibility of replenishing the water-bearing layers.

**Proposed mitigation measures (e.g. if known, mitigation measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize, compensate for environmental effects)**

<p>In order to keep the positive impacts of the planned solutions within the estimated values that will not jeopardise the capacity of the space, as well as to minimise and/or prevent the possible negative impacts of the solutions planned, certain environmental protection guidelines are determined, which are necessary to follow. Separate monitoring systems for different environmental factors are developed as well, as an instrument for following the implementation of the planned activities and monitoring the current condition of the environment.</p>
<p><b>Additional information/comments</b> No</p>
<p><b>(iv) Proponent/developer</b></p>
<p>Name, address, telephone and fax numbers</p>
<p><b>(v) SEA documentation</b></p>
<p><b>Is the SEA documentation (e.g. SEA report) included in the notification? If no/partial, description of additional documentation to be forwarded and (approximate) date(s) when documentation will be available.</b></p> <p>SEA documentation is included in the notification.</p>
<p><b>Additional information/comments</b> NO</p>
<p><b>2. POINTS OF CONTACT</b></p>
<p><b>(i) Points of contact for the possible affected Party or Parties</b></p>
<p><b>Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA(refer to decision I/3, appendix)</b> Name, address, telephone and fax numbers</p> <p>To be delivered by the diplomatic post</p>
<p><b>List of affected Parties to which notification is being sent</b></p> <p>Hungary, Republic of Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.</p>
<p><b>(ii) Points of contact for the Party of origin</b></p>
<p><b>Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA(refer to decision I/3, appendix)</b> - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers Ministry for Environmental Protection Omladinskih brigada 1</p>
<p><b>Decision-making authority if different than authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the SEA</b> - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers Nataša Milić, acting director, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Republic Water Directorate</p>

Bulevar umetnosti 2a 00381 11 201 33 60
<b>3. INFORMATION ON THE SEA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED</b>
<b>(i) Information on the SEA process that will be applied to the proposed activity</b>
Time schedule - 2021
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to be involved in the SEA process - November 2021
Nature and timing of the possible decision - November 2021
Process for approval of the proposed activity - December 2021
Additional information/comments
<b>4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</b>
<b>Public participation procedures</b>  Public consultation on the Draft Report on SEA shall include publishing of text on Republic Water Directorate website ( <a href="http://www.rdvode.gov.rs">www.rdvode.gov.rs</a> ). Public consultation shall also include public hearing which will be held during November 2021.
<b>Expected start and duration of public consultation</b>  Public consultation will be organized in period November 1 – December 1, 2021
<b>Additional information/comments</b> NO
<b>5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE</b>
<b>Date</b>  December 1, 2021