ACTIVITIES ON CROATIAN INLAND WATERWAYS DURING THE LOW-WATER PERIOD IN 2011 AND THE IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES
Significant waterways in the Republic of Croatia consist of three major rivers: the Danube, Drava and Sava rivers, which are of international importance and on which the international navigation takes place.

Croatian Inland Waterways border with neighboring countries:
- The Danube with the Republic of Serbia;
- The Sava with Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- The Drava with Hungary.

The border with the Republic of Serbia on some parts on the Danube is not yet fully identified in the way that is determined in year 1999, which may complicate the performance of works in future time.
Until now:

- Croatia has adopted a Strategy of development of Inland Waterways and Inland ports in the period 2008 - 2018 based on the European Action Plan NAIADES.
- Croatia has adopted medium-term plan for development of Inland Waterways and inland ports in the period 2008 - 2016.
- Croatia has completed the legal framework of laws and regulations harmonised with the acquis communautaire.
- Croatia is a member of the Danube Commission.
- Croatia is a member of the Sava Commission.
- Croatia is aware that the Danube river is an integral part of the multimodal transport system of the Danube region.
- Croatia admits that the Inland navigation is energy – efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transport.
Bottlenecks on the Danube River

- Croatian section of the Danube River has 137.5 km in length and there are several bottlenecks where the navigation was difficult during the low water level in 2011.

- In the purpose of removing obstructions to navigation on the Danube, Croatia has announced and nominated the bottlenecks on the Danube as a major project in the Danube Strategy.

- Republic of Croatia had started preparation of project documentation for the Inland Waterways of the Danube River from the mouth of river Drava, upstream to the border with Hungary, which we are coordinating with the Republic of Serbia.

- The Environmental Impact Assessment for the above mentioned project, is currently in the process of evaluation, after the public discussion was carried out.
The Danube River

- Croatia and Serbia have signed a bilateral Agreement on navigation on the Inland Waterways and their technical maintenance - in 2009.
- The negotiating process concerning the signing of the Ordinance on the technical maintenance of the Danube River waterway is ongoing.

- There are several bottlenecks for navigation.
- The most difficult situation is in the sector Apatin - Kopački rit.
- During the low-water level in the fall of 2011 there was frequent visits to sector in cooperation with responsible institutions of the Republic of Serbia and also we have made additional recording and marking of waterways.
Current measures

- Positive assessment of Environmental Impact Assessment is expected for the project of the waterway of the Danube River from the mouth of the Drava River, upstream to the border with Hungary.

- In this section the most critical sector for navigation is from rkm 1400 to rkm 1410 (the part where the city of Apatin is on the left bank, and the Nature Park Kopački rit is on the right bank) Croatia and Serbia have aligned project solutions.

- It is necessary to obtain the location and construction permit for the critical sector.

- Funds for the rehabilitation of the bottleneck from the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia are not sufficient so Croatia will endeavor to try to provide the same from EU funds.

- In this direction, we expect the full support of the European Commission.
The Drava River

- International Waterway of class IV from the mouth of the Danube to Osijek.
- In the fall of 2011 at the mouth of the Drava into the Danube, riverbed was deepened on several occasions.
The Sava River

- International Waterway of class IV – is planned from Belgrade (RS) to Sisak.
- Because of the war, there was a complete interruption of navigation during the period 1991-95.
- Lack of maintenance and intense dredging make difficulty for navigation.
- In the fall of 2011 there was cleaning of the riverbed on several bottlenecks on the Croatian side.
- The Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have signed and ratified the Agreement on navigation on Inland Waterways.
- The Republic of Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina have signed the Agreement on the method of financing and capital project management and administrative procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment, obtaining location permits, approvals and construction permits for the project "Reconstruction and modernization of the waterway of the Sava River from Sisak to Račinovci,"
Thank you for your attention!