

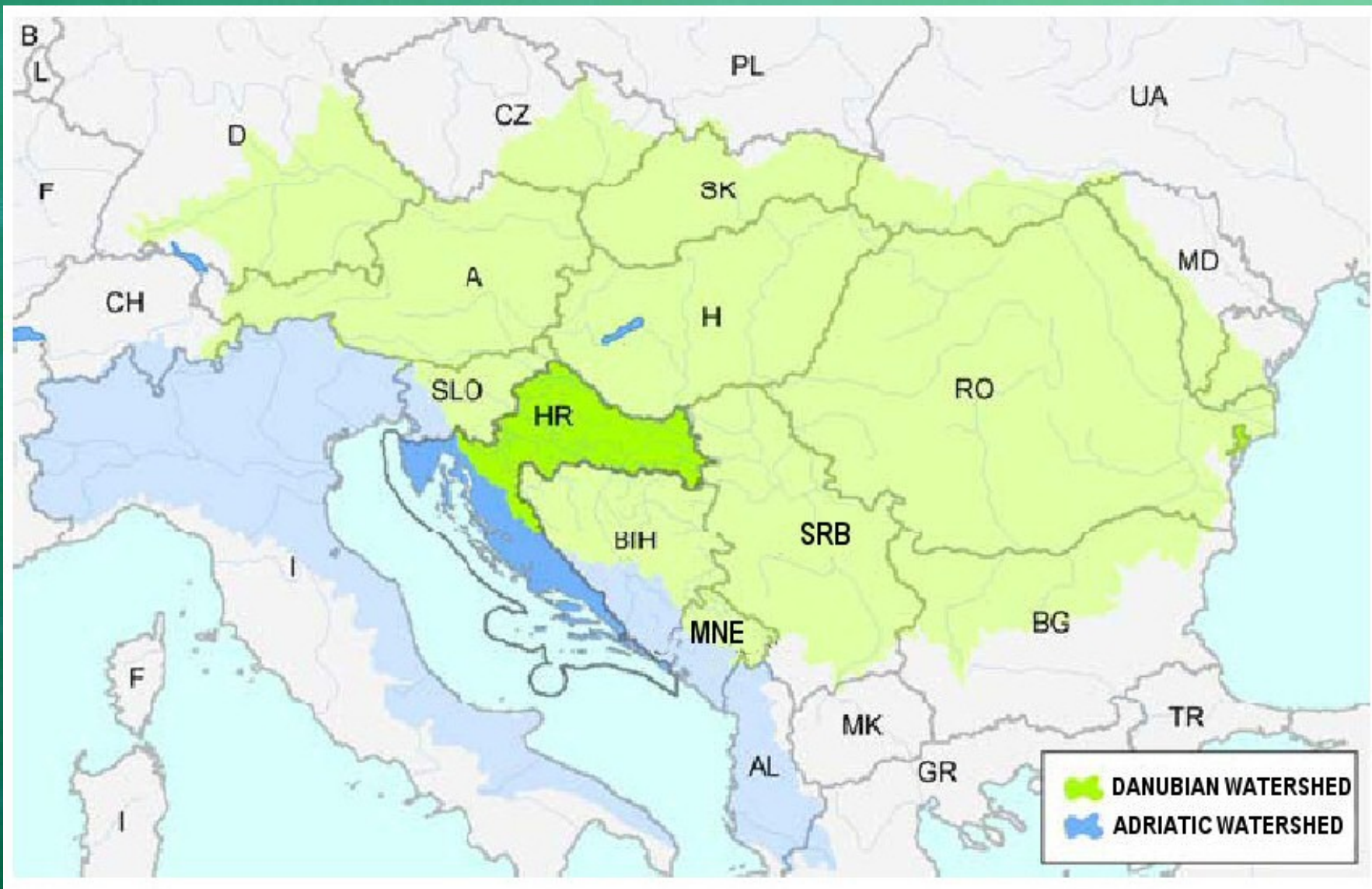
TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS IN CROATIA: FLOWING TOWARDS COOPERATION

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Major issues

- Political issues, primarily concerning the borders which are still partially an open question after the break-up of ex-Yugoslavia
- Water management = waste water management, fresh water distribution, irrigation and flood prevention
- Inland navigation
- Environmental protection and sustainable development and exploitation of the resources in general and raw materials in particular



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The theory and conceptual framework

- The principle of subsidiarity
- The concept of the international regimes
- EU Water Framework Directive
- Integrated river basin management (IRBM)
- Regional cooperation
- *Interviews with the officials*
- *Questionnaires - local self-government, environmental NGO, local water authority and private sector*

Hypothesis

- In Croatia there is generally a fairly good management of the transboundary rivers which is not affected by the size of the river basin and the countries sharing that river with Croatia rather on the issue or sector in question along with the level in which decisions about governance and management on the river basins are made and implemented.



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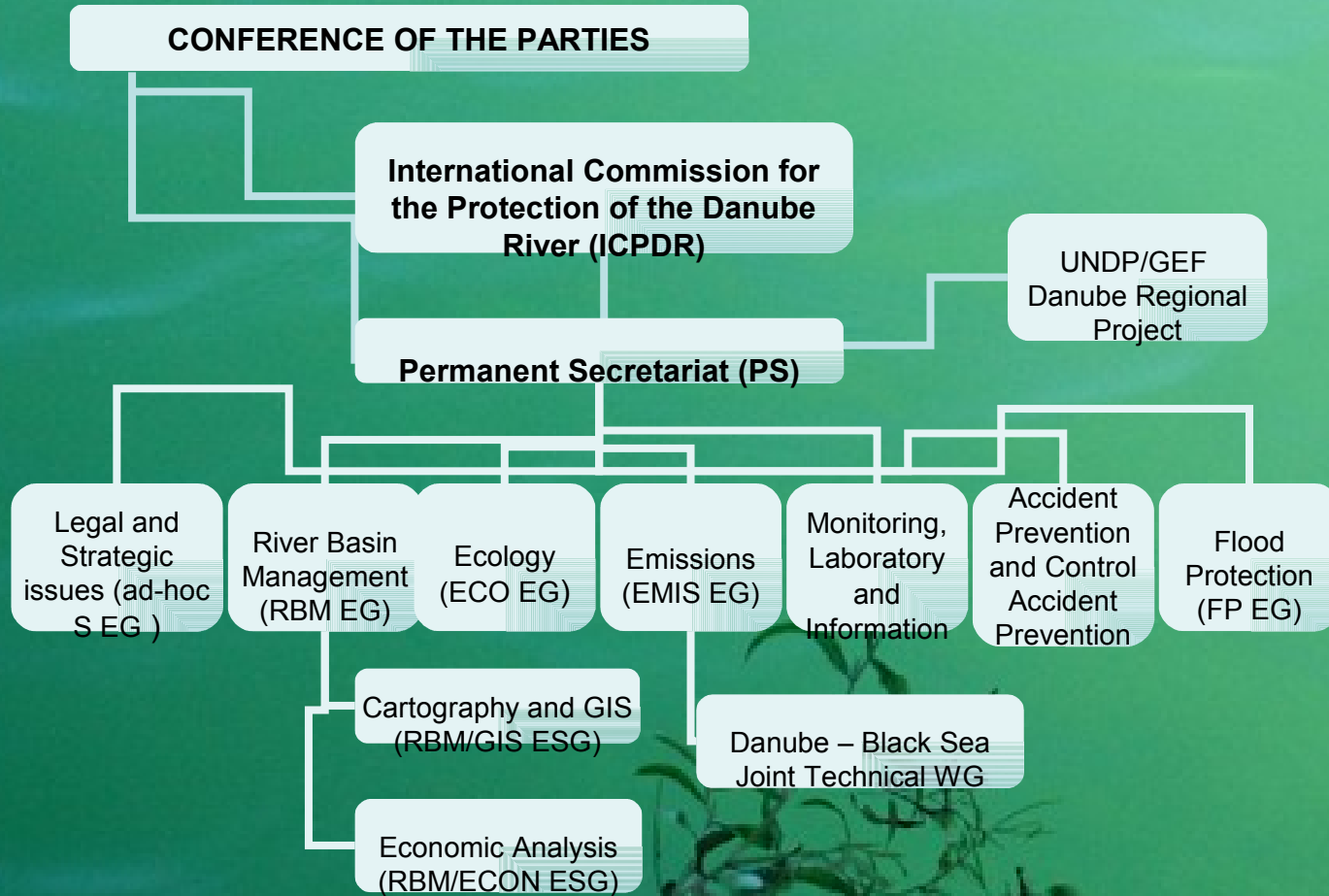
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Danube / Dunav

- The second largest river basin in Europe covering 801,463 km²
- Comprehensive river basin management and the full fledged regime

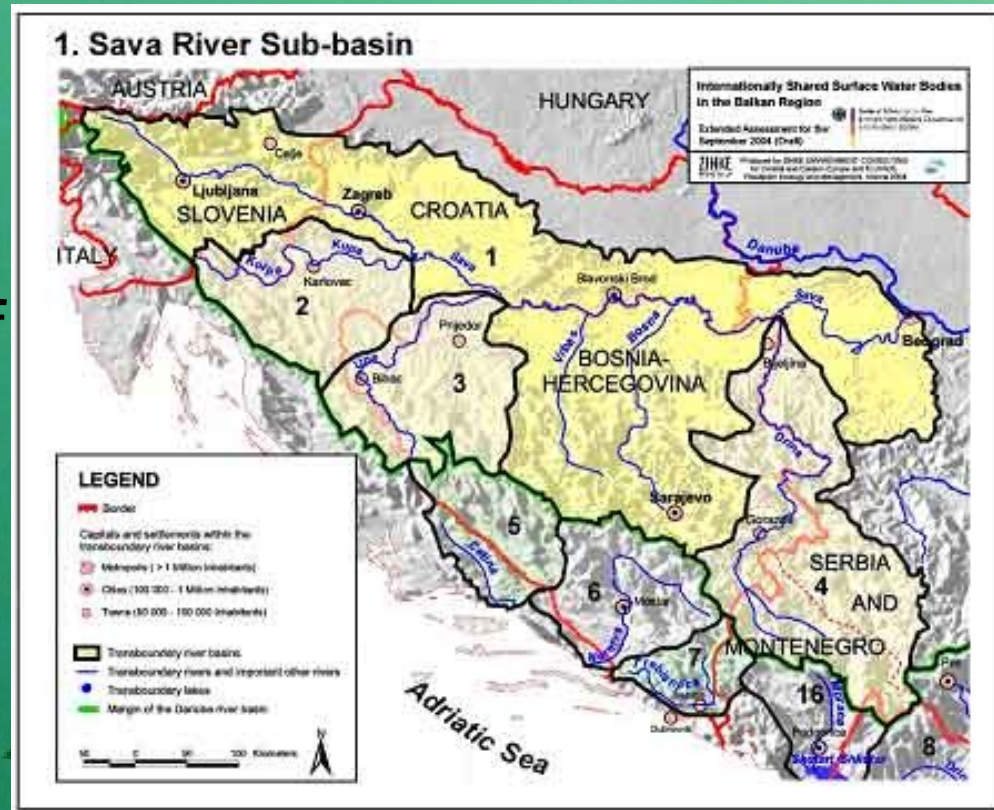


ICPDR

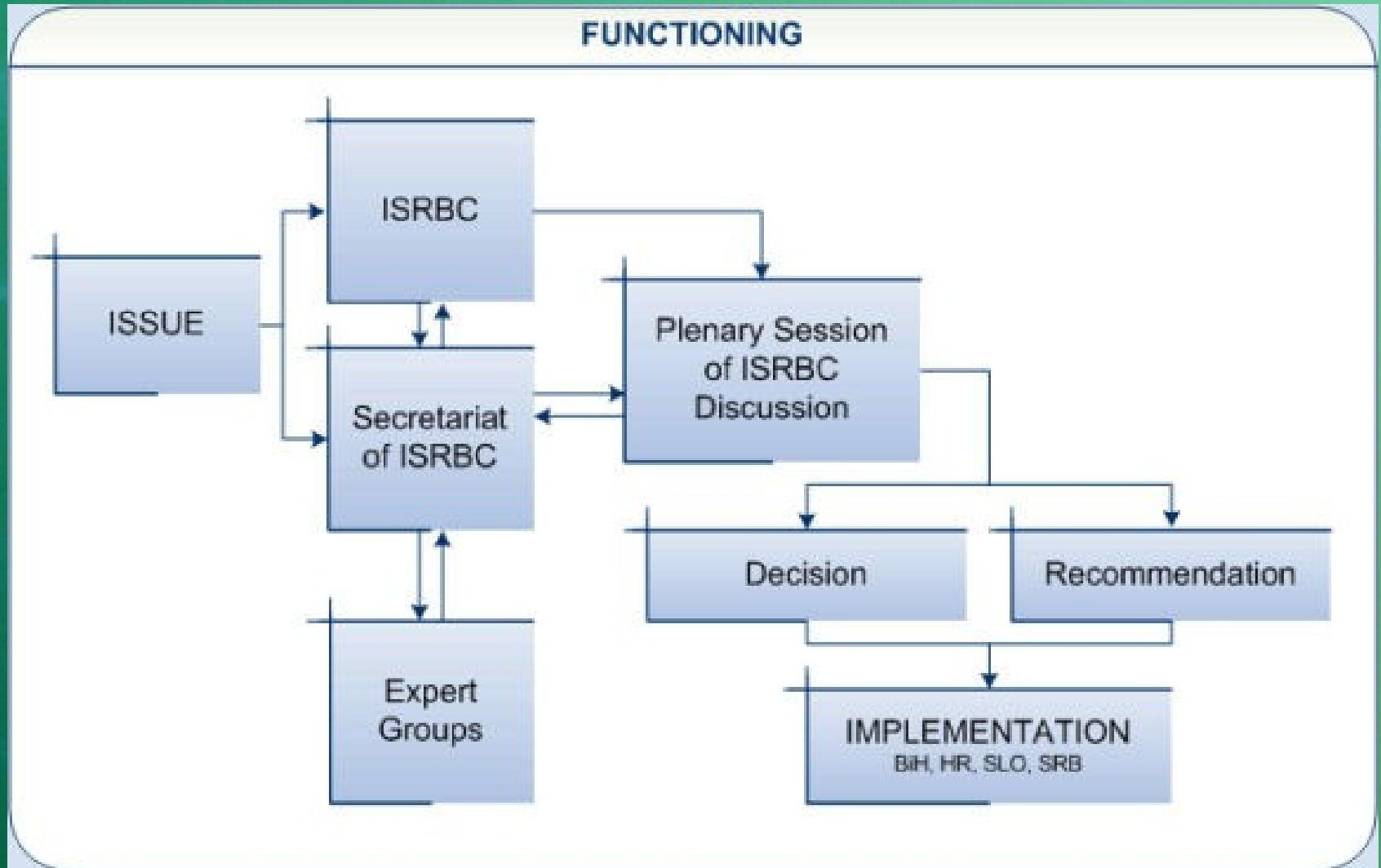


Sava

- The longest river course in Croatia (562 km) and its basin covers around 40 % of Croatia state area
- Its management adopts good practices from the Danubian example



ISRBC



Neretva

- Pertains to the Adriatic watershed and originates in karst environment
- The fragile environment of its delta is the main consideration of Croatia



Results 1

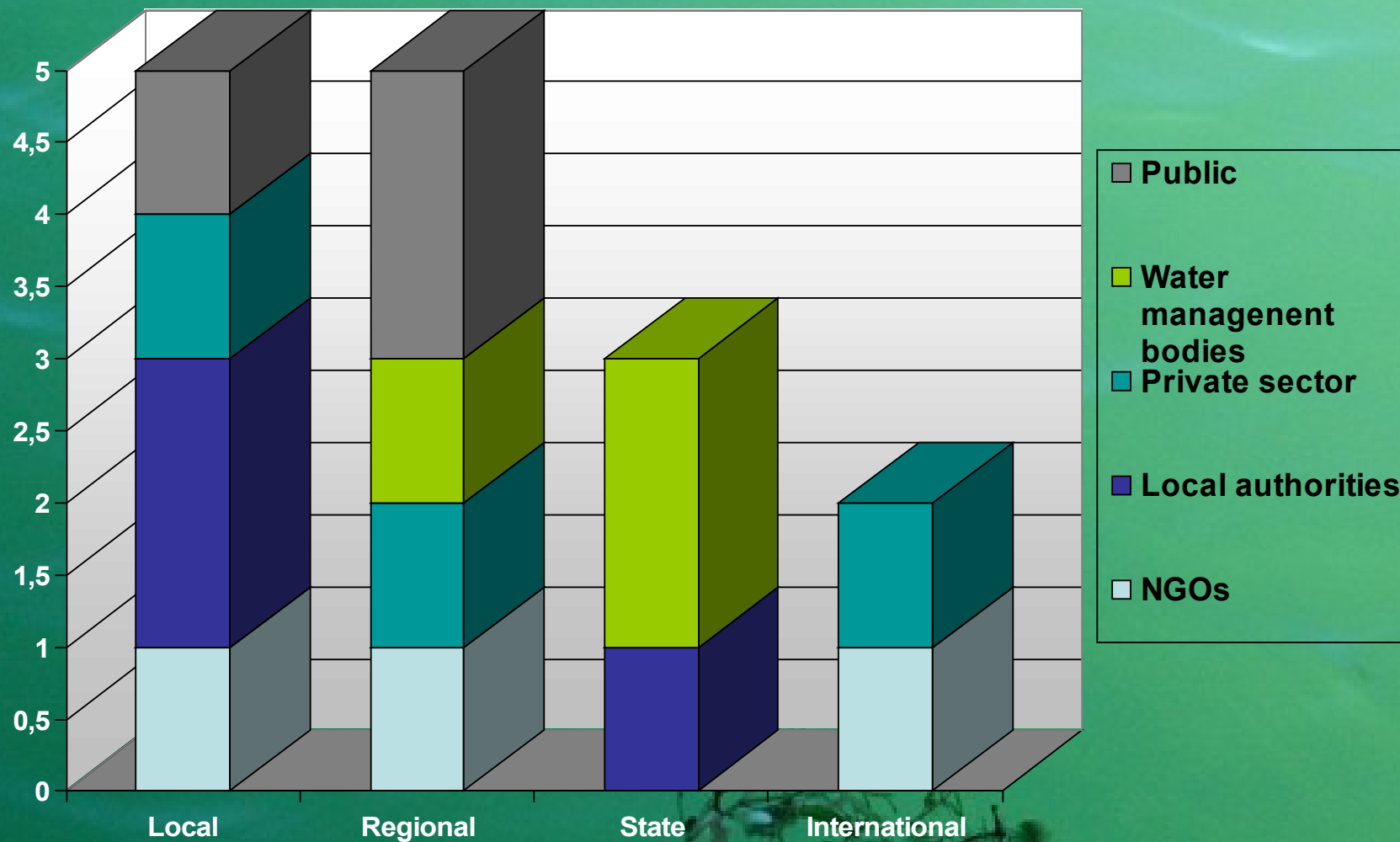
- 81% answers: improvement of the bilateral relations in general would improve the cooperation on transboundary rivers
- High level of satisfaction with the role of the international organisations
- NGOs - spreading the awareness and informing the public



Results 2

- There is no decisive answer to the question of the subsidiarity
- Danube – border issues
- Sava – environment
- Neretva – hydroenergy
- The most successful – construction projects and environment protection

Optimal level for decision making



Conclusions

- General relations between riparian countries are very similar to their relations regarding the shared rivers
- An impression that the EU wants to pressure Croatia into cooperating with the adjacent countries through the river basin commissions, at any cost
- Important issues should be defined, divided and directed toward the right decision making point which would have the authority of supervising correct and on-time implementation thereof

Thank you for your attention!

