



**Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Construction,
Transport and Infrastructure**

Implementation of the EU Directives and Regulations Serbian National Crew Data Base

Budapest, January 29th 2026.

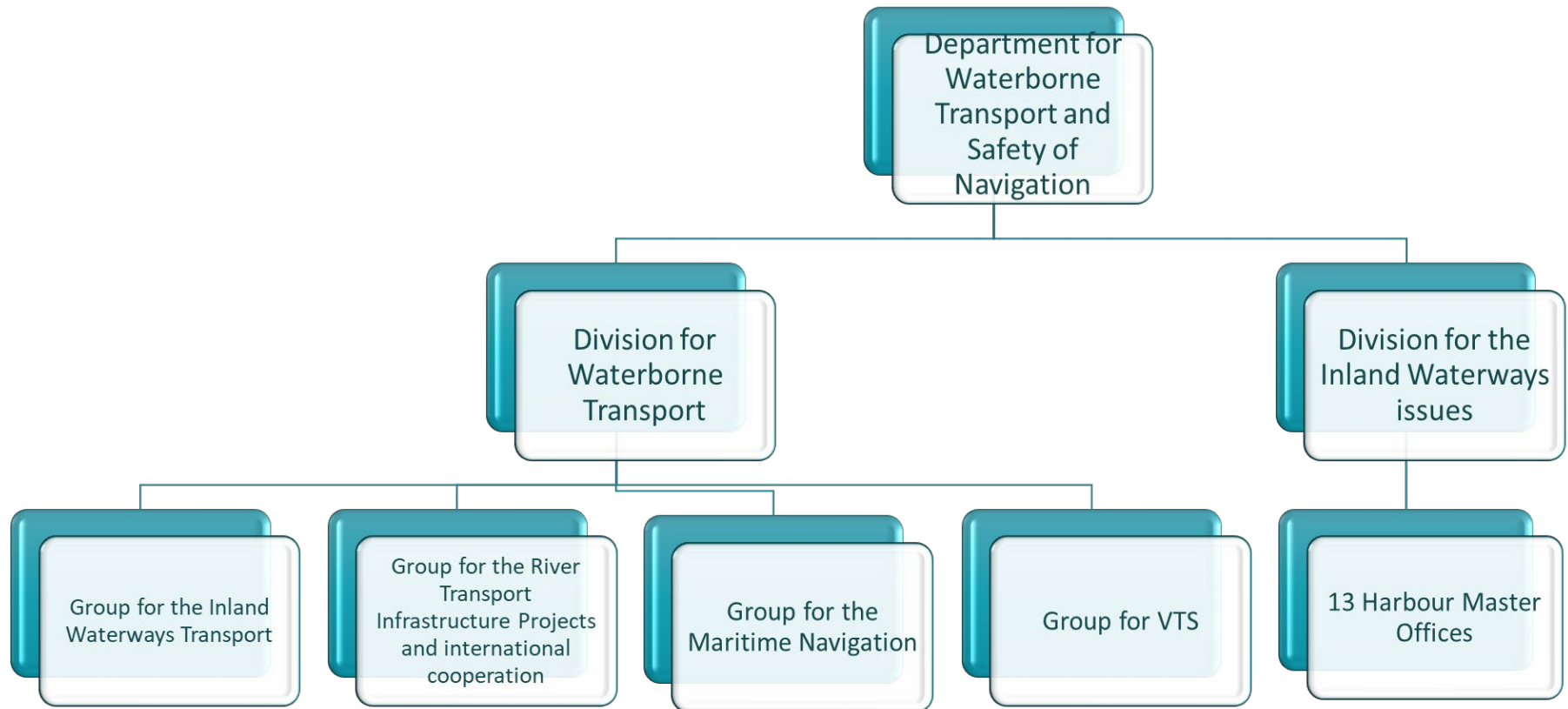
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International rivers in the Republic of Serbia



Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure Department for Waterways Transport and Navigation Safety



Main National Legislation for Inland Navigation Vessels

- Law on Navigation and Ports on Inland Waters („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 73/2010, 121/2012, 18/2015, 96/2015 - other law, 92/2016, 104/2016 - other law, 113/2017 - other law, 41/2018, 95/2018 - other law, 37/2019 - other law, 9/2020 and 52/2021);
- Rulebook on Qualifications of Crew Members of Inland Waterway Vessels („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 2/2026);
- Rulebook on Service Record Books for Crew Members of Inland Waterway Vessels („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“ No. 113/2025);
- Rulebook on Vessel Certificates and Official Records („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“ No. 60/2015, 20/2019, 145/2020, 139/2022 and 113/2025);
- Rulebook on Medical Fitness Requirements for Crew Members of Inland Waterway Vessels and Other Craft, and on the Conditions and Procedures for Medical Examinations („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 119/2020 and 17/2021 and 111/2025);
- Amendments and supplements to the above-mentioned bylaws has been adopted, published and entered into the force, which are fully in line with EU regulations on ship crewing and which were prepared in direct cooperation with European Commission experts.

International Inland Navigation Legislation

The Republic of Serbia is a member of Danube Commission and Sava Commission

Directive EU 2017/2397, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/473 and other EU regulations adopted for its implementation

ES-QIN – European Standard for Qualifications in Inland Navigation;

- standards relating to inland navigation, including:
- profesional qualifications of crew members (boatmaster, crew);
- training requirements, minimum competencies, skills and knowledge;
- certification and mutual recognition of qualifications between countries;
- standards for equipment, safety, navigation, environmental protection, etc.

ES-TRIN – technical standards for inland waterway crafts, which brings CESNI (European Committee for Drawing up Standards in the Field of Inland Navigation)

Implementation of Directive EU 2017/2397 **for Inland Waterways**

- December 2022 EC request for recognition of certification of crew members submitted;
- June 2024 visit of European Commission experts to Belgrade, after which an assessment of the Serbian certification system was carried out and an assessment of the issuance of inland waterway vessel crew certification, service record books and logbooks was carried out;
- In 2024 a request was submitted to the European Commission for access to the EU Crew and Hull Database (ECDB and EHDB);
- Approval by EC experts from September 2025 that amendments and supplements to all four by-laws regulating the titles of crew members, the issuance of authorizations, ship's books and logbooks, as well as the medical fitness of crew members, which were prepared by the ministry are in accordance with EU Directive 2017/2397 and other EU regulations adopted for its implementation.

Motive for Creation of National Crew Data Base

- Harmonization of domestic legislation with European Union regulations (ensuring conditions for the full implementation of EU Directive 2017/2397 and other EU regulations);
- Issuance of certificates of competence and special qualifications of crew members, certificates for inland waterway experts;
- Issuance of service record books and combined service record books;
- Issuance of ship's logbooks;
- Compliance with the standards adopted by CESNI - ES-QIN and other standards;
- Ensuring that Serbian crew members acquire qualifications for work on vessels under the same conditions as in EU member states and that they can work on both Serbian vessels and vessels flying the flags of EU member states with documents issued by the Republic of Serbia;
- Adoption of the European Commission Decision on the recognition of documents issued by the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia.

Financial Aspect

- Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure gets approval from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia and provides the entire budget for the project of the crew national base.

Most Important Facts

- Technical documentation for the national crew data base completed
- Public procurement was completed (started 01.11.2025 / ended 01.12.2025)
- We had 5 offers automatically generated by public procurement site
- The best offer has been selected
- The Contract has been signed
- Cooperation with TAIEX – Austria was established, and the first meeting was held in November 2025, the next is scheduled for February 11th 2026.
- Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure will use cloud space in Serbian National Data Center in Kragujevac that ensures the most secure personal data protection. The connection is secured by authorized electronic sign to e-administration.
- There are 6,050 citizens of the Republic of Serbia employed as crew members on vessels in inland waterways.

Next Steps

- Active assistance to the chosen company (necessary equipment has been ordered, and the company will start creating the national database, training of Harbor master office personnel, and ensuring continuous maintenance).
- Active coordination and cooperation during the creation and establishment of the national base with EK and TAIEX – Austria, ensuring conditions for a smooth connection to ECDB/EHDB.
- Accepting Serbia by EU nations to be connected with ECDB/EHDB

**Thank you
for your attention**

Milan Nikolić
Head of Division for Harbour Master Offices
Department for waterways transport and navigation safety
Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
Nemanjina 22-26, Belgrade
E-mail: milan.nikolic@mgsi.gov.rs
website: www.mgsi.gov.rs