

# Chapter 27: Environment and climate change - Development of water status monitoring in accordance with the Water Framework Directive

## PRESENTED AT:

**Study visit Serbia – EU negotiations for Chapter 27:**

Study visit Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment to Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection

(1 February 2023)

*Serbian Environmental Protection Agency*

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Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Environmental  
Protection

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# COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Serbia 2016 Report



## 5.27. Chapter 27: Environment and climate change

*The EU promotes strong climate action, sustainable development and protection of the environment. EU law contains provisions addressing climate change, water and air quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution, chemicals, noise and civil protection.*

Serbia has achieved **some level of preparation** in this area. **Some progress** has been made in further aligning policies and legislation with the *acquis*, including in waste, nature protection and climate change. Serbia improved its strategic planning and set up a Green Fund, both key recommendations in 2015. In the coming period, Serbia should in particular:

→ enhance administrative and financial capacity by strengthening the environmental protection agency's monitoring and reporting, adequately resourcing the new environmental

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On **water quality**, the level of alignment is moderate. A national strategy and action plan on water protection have yet to be adopted. Untreated sewage remains the main source of pollution. **Monitoring of surface water and ground water has improved but needs further strengthening.** Preparatory work on river basin management plans is ongoing. Some progress has been made towards adopting a water management strategy and a water management plan for the Danube river basin. Serbia needs to make significant efforts to further align its legislation with the *acquis*, to implement it and to strengthen administrative capacity, in particular for enforcement and inter-institutional coordination. The code of good agricultural practice needs to be adopted and implemented.

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# COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Serbia 2022 Report



Brussels, 12.10.2022  
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## COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

### Serbia 2022 Report

*Accompanying the document*

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

2022 Communication on EU Enlargement policy

{COM(2022) 528 final} - {SWD(2022) 332 final} - {SWD(2022) 333 final} -  
{SWD(2022) 334 final} - {SWD(2022) 335 final} - {SWD(2022) 336 final} -  
{SWD(2022) 337 final}

## Chapter 27: Environment and climate change

*The EU promotes strong climate action, sustainable development and protection of the environment. EU law contains provisions addressing climate change, water and air quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution, chemicals, noise and civil protection.*

Serbia has achieved some level of preparation in the area of environment and climate change. Overall, Serbia made **limited progress** during the reporting period including on last year's recommendations, in particular by continuing to increase environmental funding and investments, improving trans-boundary cooperation and developing its national energy and climate plan. The adoption of important legislation and strategic documents is pending.

Last year's recommendations remain largely valid. Serbia should considerably step up ambitions towards a green transition and focus on:

- adopting and start implementing an ambitious national energy and climate plan through transparent consultative procedures, consistent with the European Green Deal's zero emission target for 2050 and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans;
- intensifying implementation and enforcement work, such as ensuring strict adherence to rules on environmental impact assessment, closing non-compliant landfills, increasing investing in waste reduction, separation and recycling, improving air and water quality including through phasing out coal, further intensifying trans-boundary cooperation, improving law enforcement by inspectorates and judiciary, adopting Serbia's river basin management plan 2021-2027 and continue preparing for Natura 2000;
- enhancing administrative and financial capacity of central and local authorities, in particular in the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency and environmental inspectorates, by further improving inter-institutional coordination, further raising staff levels, continuing to raise environmental investments as well as further improving strategic investment planning and management including transparency of procedures. A coordinated, institutional structure is required to deliver the size and quality of the investments that Serbia needs.



## WATER MONITORING ACCORDING TO THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (2000/60/EC)



Adoption of the Water Law in 2010 and following bylaws acquired adequate conditions so that SEPA could establish and begin to conduct water monitoring according to the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

A total of 498 surface water bodies are determined on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Of that, 493 (99%) water bodies are classified into watercourses, whilst 5 (1%) water bodies are classified into lakes. Surface water bodies of watercourses are grouped into three categories: rivers (69%), heavily modified water bodies - HMWB (28%), and artificial water bodies - AWB (3%).

# THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015

## 3.5 Europe is far from meeting water policy objectives and having healthy aquatic ecosystems

### Trends and outlook: Ecological status of freshwater bodies

**5–10 year trends:** Mixed progress; more than half of rivers and lakes are in less than good ecological status.

**20+ year outlook:** Continuous progress is expected as implementation of the Water Framework Directive continues.

▣ **Progress to policy targets:** Only half of surface water bodies meet the 2015 target to achieve good status.

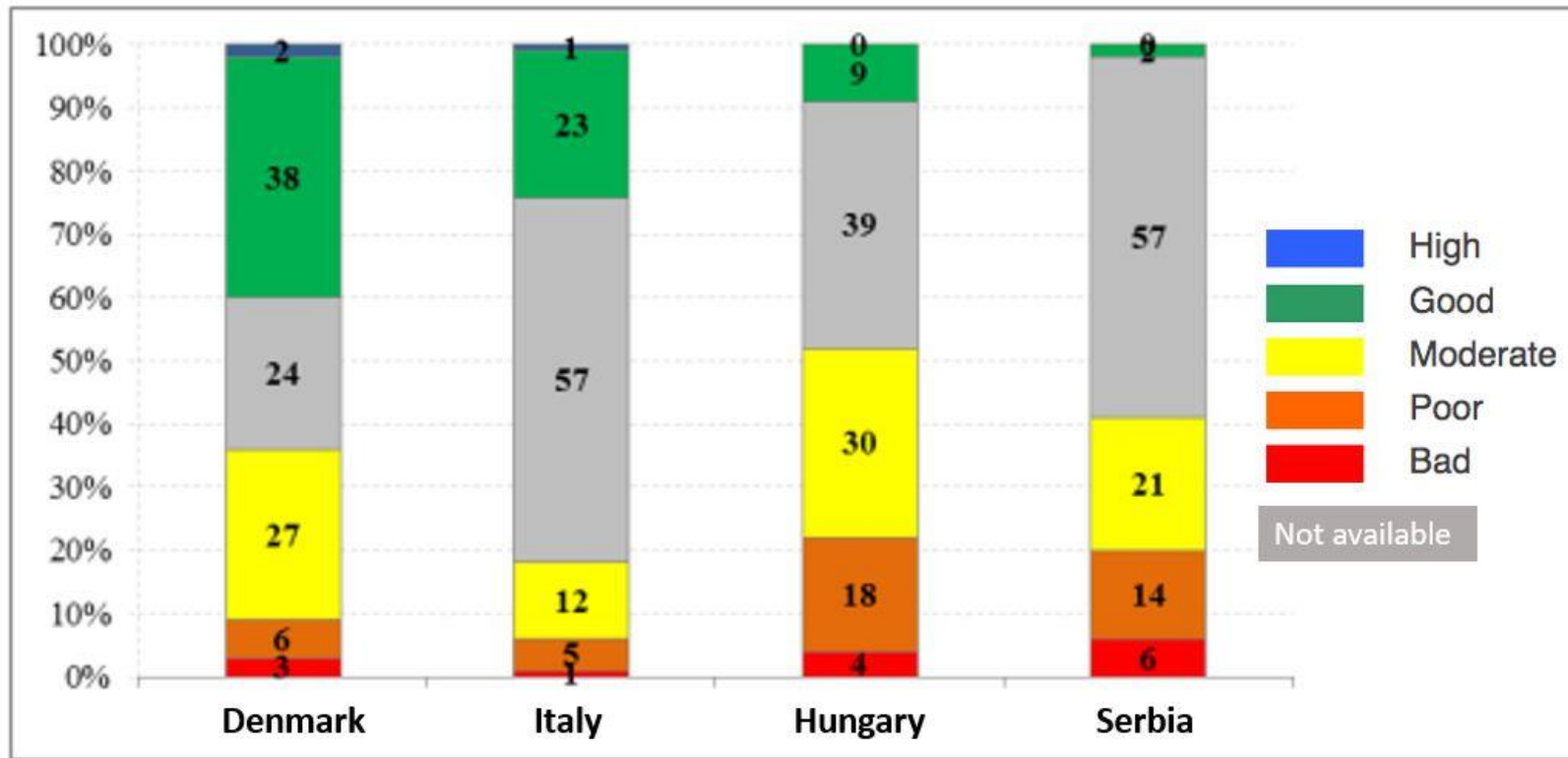
! **See also:** SOER 2015 thematic briefings on freshwater quality; and hydrological systems and sustainable water management.

The main aim of European and national water policy is to ensure that throughout Europe, a sufficient quantity of good-quality water is available for people's needs and for the environment. In 2000, the Water Framework Directive established a framework for the management, protection and improvement of the quality of water resources across the EU. Its main objective is that all surface water and groundwater should hold good status by 2015 (unless there are grounds for exemption). Achieving good status means meeting certain standards for the ecology, chemistry, morphology and quantity of waters.

In 2009, 43% of surface water bodies were in good or high ecological status, and the Water Framework Directive objective of reaching good ecological status by 2015 is only likely to be met by 53% of surface water bodies (Map 3.2). This constitutes a modest improvement and is far from meeting policy objectives. Rivers and transitional waters are on average in a worse condition than lakes and coastal waters. Concerns about the ecological status of surface water bodies are most pronounced for central and north-western Europe in areas with intensive agricultural practices and high population densities. The status of coastal and transitional waters, in the Black Sea and greater North Sea regions is also of concern.

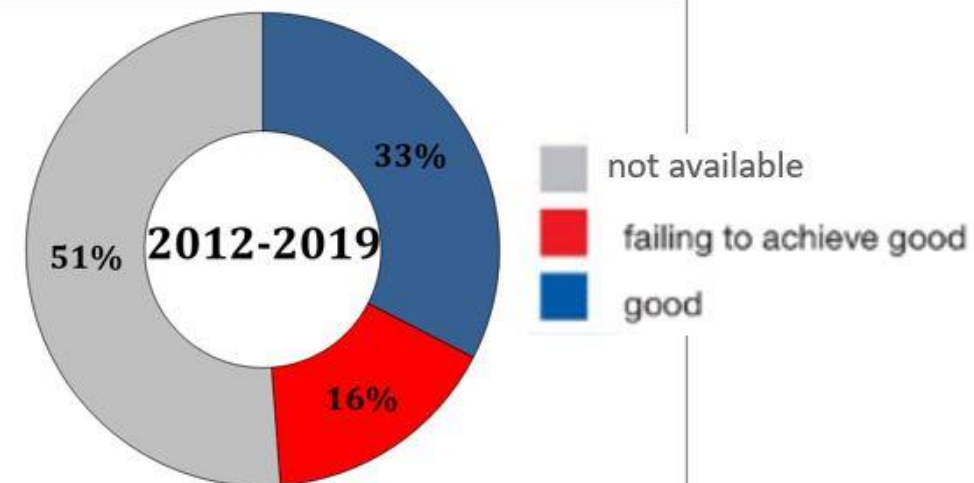
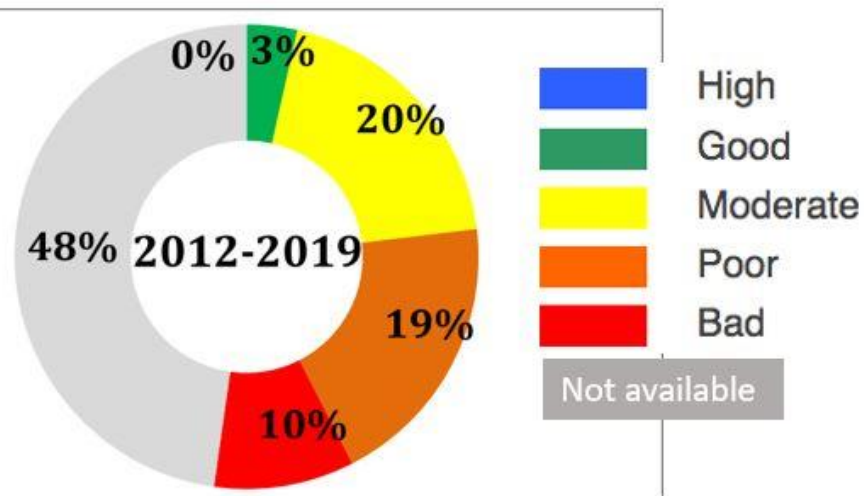


## ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF SURFACE WATERS OF EU COUNTRIES (2009-2015) AND SERBIA (2012-2016)



Comparing the achieved WFD goals for EU countries, Serbia is also far from fulfilling the goals of the water management policy and the establishment of unpolluted water bodies system.

# ECOLOGICAL STATUS/POTENTIAL AND CHEMICAL STATUS OF WATER BODIES OF SURFACE WATER FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2019.



The planning document entitled **Directive Specific Implementation Plan for the Directive 2000/60/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing framework for Community - Action in the field of water policy was created within the framework of the European Union project Aid/135629 /IH/SER/RS "Further Implementation of Environmental Approximation Strategy", which should improve capacities for planning the implementation of the EU *acquis* through the development of eight plans for the implementation of specific directives in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

The Directive Specific Implementation Plan (DSIP) lists the main institutions involved in the implementation of ODV and provides an assessment of their needs in terms of additional staff, training and equipment. The presented requests are defined in accordance the expected expansion of functions and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.





**Table 10. Costs of strengthening of institutional capacities**

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Budget for salaries of extra staff, thou EUR/year</i>	<i>Extra operational costs, thou EUR/year</i>	<i>Budget for competence raising, thou EUR/year</i>	<i>Costs of equipment, thou. EUR</i>
Ministry of Environmental Protection	-	-	10	-
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	-	-	10	-
Republic Water Directorate (RWD)	60	-	20	-
PWMC "Srbijavode"	170	-	30	~200
PWMC "Vode Vojvodine"	45	-	30	~100
<b>Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)</b>	350	~ 5 500	30	~ 2 000
Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia (RHMSS)	85	~ 200	20	~200
Environmental inspectorate	-	-	30	~200
Water Inspectorate under the RWD	45	-	30	~200
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection, Sector for Inspection Affairs	20	-	20	~200
<b>Total</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>5 700</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>3 100</b>

## Directive Specific Implementation Plan, p. 50

**Table 7. Institutional demands related to the implementation of the WFD**

Institution involved	Number of employees	Main tasks related to the implementation of the WFD / justification for increase of capacities	Demands		
			Extra staff	Training	Equipment
Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	33	<p>Water quality monitoring; maintenance of the national pollution source register</p> <p>/Extra staff, equipment and competence raising will be needed in relation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>substantial extension of the surface water quality monitoring network and increased number of monitored parameters (i.e. macrophytes, hydromorphological parameters, full list of priority substances in water, priority substances in biota and sediments),</li> <li>extension of the groundwater quality monitoring network,</li> <li>development of a system for a long-term trend analysis,</li> <li>establishment and maintenance of a unified data base for inventory of emissions, discharges and losses of priority and priority hazardous substances.</li> </ul>	43	Yes	<p>Yes:</p> <p>Laboratory equipment; vehicles</p>

## Directive Specific Implementation Plan, p. 39

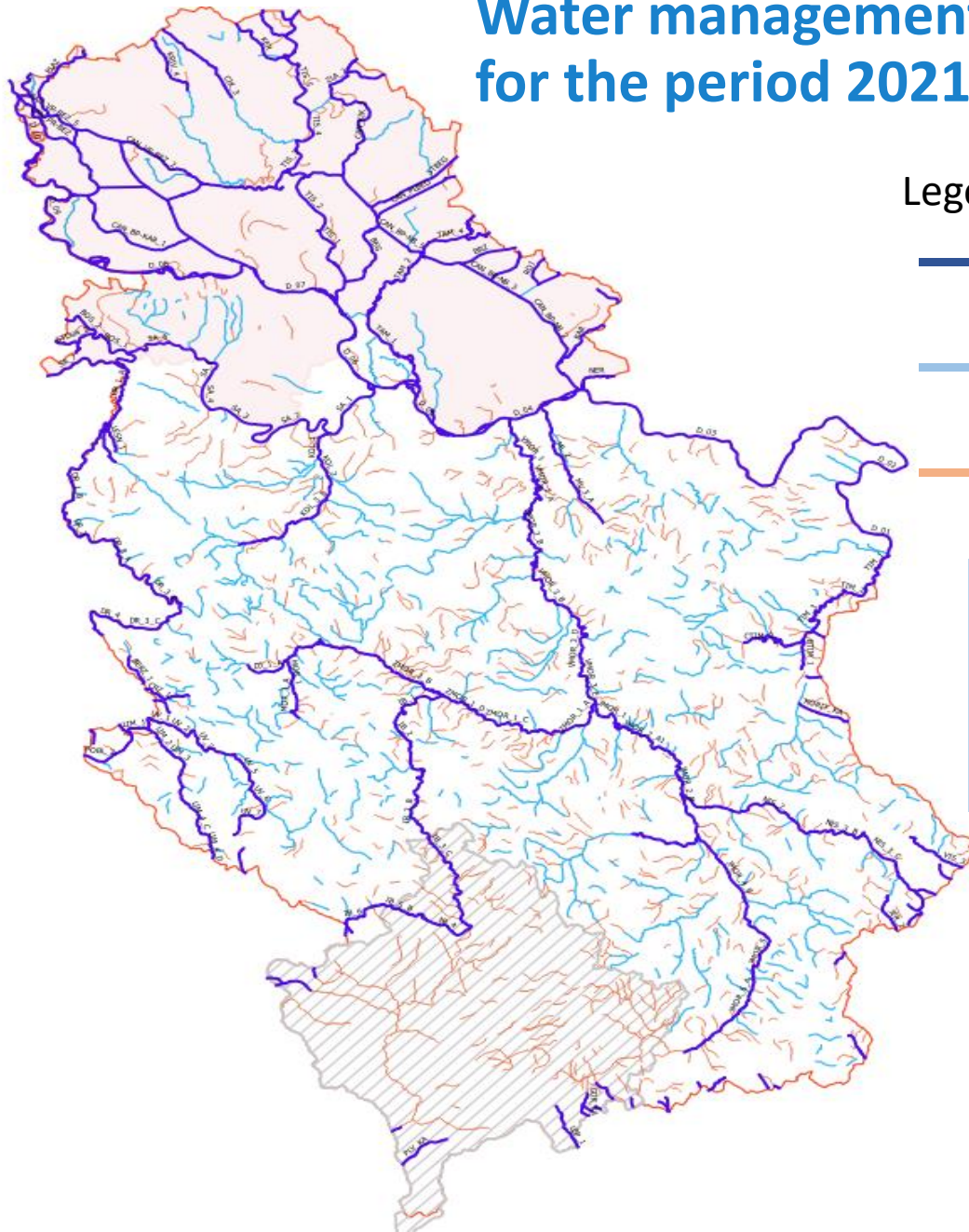
# THE IPA PROJECT PROPOSED BY THE EU DELEGATION IN SERBIA

The IPA project proposed by the EU Delegation in Serbia is in the phase of preparing documentation for submission to the European Commission. The project refers to "Strengthening the capacity in the water quality monitoring sector" which consists of two sub-projects: the development of regional water monitoring stations at the level of river basins (Novi Sad, Šabac, Raška and Grdelica) and equipping the National Laboratory with additional equipment and instruments for the detection of priority and priority hazardous substances.

The estimated value of this project is around 3.5 million euros. Termination of the project will contribute to the further improvement of water monitoring and full compliance with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive and domestic legislation, which will increase the number of profiles, i.e. water bodies where surface and underground water and sediment quality monitoring will be carried out.

By establishing regional stations, equipping them with modern equipment and instruments, as well as by strengthening personnel in accordance with the previous ones, the volume of monitoring will be increased by more than three times, which will continue the development of very important operational work in the field of water resources management in the Republic of Serbia.

# Water management plan in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2027.



## Legend

- Surveillance monitoring
- Operational monitoring
- Investigative monitoring

Type of monitoring	Number of water bodies	Period	Frequency	Parameters
<b>Surveillance</b>	225	per year	monthly	Regulation
<b>Operational</b>	601	every third year	monthly	only specific parameters
<b>Investigative</b>	873	onetime	quarterly	based on a previous study



## 4.2.1 Monitoring programs for chemical pollutants in the Western Balkans (p. 22)



**Table 3.** List of physicochemical and chemical parameters covered by routine national water quality monitoring in WB.  
Source: JRC.

Parameter	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Serbia
Basic physicochemical parameters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metals and metalloids		✓		✓	✓	✓
Priority substances		✓		✓		✓
Other pollutants						✓
Monitoring of biota						✓





# Western Balkan countries play a valuable role in partnering with EEA to tackle environmental and climate challenges

The European Environment Agency cooperates with a large number of countries, including those in the Western Balkans. How does this cooperation further the EU's work on the environment and how does it benefit Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo? We sat down with Luc Bas, head of Coordination, Networks and Strategy Programme, to discuss how the EEA is working with these countries to improve the environment.

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## **What areas specifically, is cooperation so vital to the EEA's work?**

Our cooperation evolves largely around monitoring, reporting and assessment. The Western Balkan countries deliver data to the EEA on a regular basis in areas like air emissions or water quality, allowing us to process and assess the data. This data serves as the basis for informed decision making.

The region is facing a number of challenges, specifically around air, water and soil pollution which only can be addressed properly when sound and reliable data and information are available. The region is also specifically vulnerable in terms of climate change. There is also a lot of pristine nature that needs effective protection. By providing expertise and capacity building, the EEA aims to address the problems in this area as well.

*Luc Bas, Head of Programme, Coordination, Networks and Strategy, EEA*



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