

# Save the Blue Heart of Europe











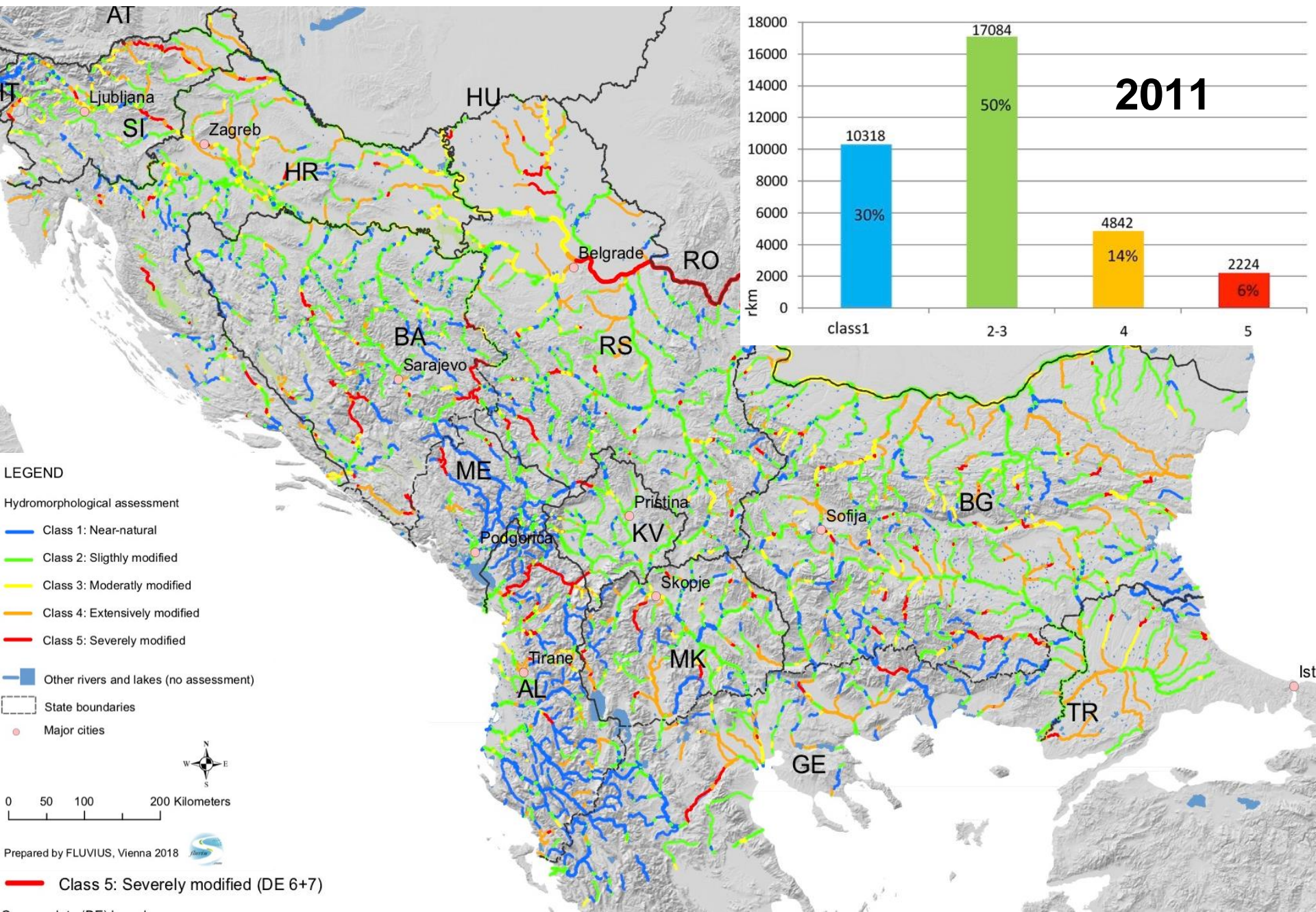




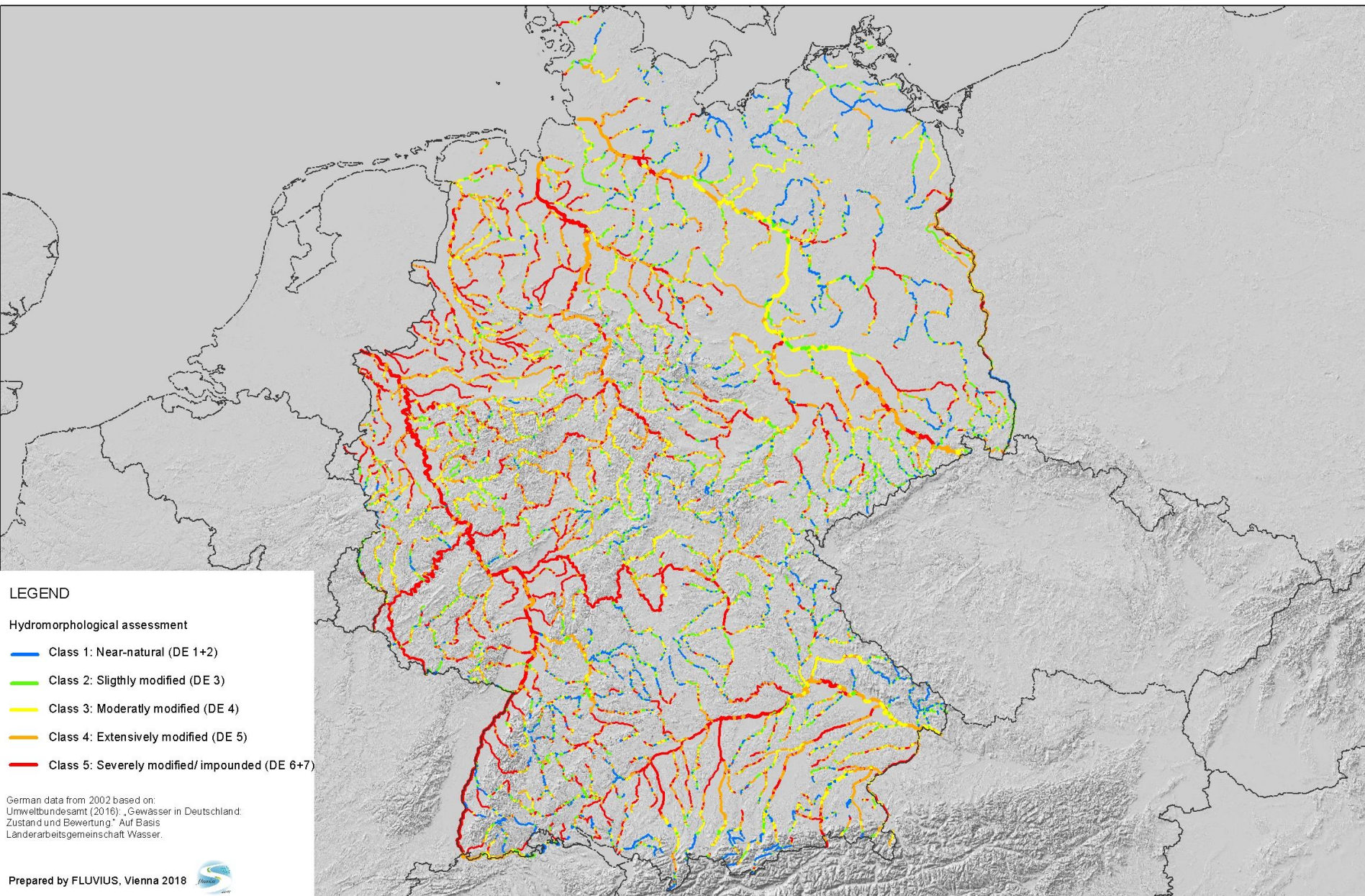




# Hydromorphology Assessment of 34,850 km (larger rivers)









**Since 2011, 1,500 km of near-natural river stretches have been degraded**

**80,000km**

**LEGEND**

Hydromorphological assessment

Class 1: Near-natural

Class 2: Slightly modified

Class 3: Moderately modified

Class 4: Extensively modified

Class 5: Severely modified/ Impoundments

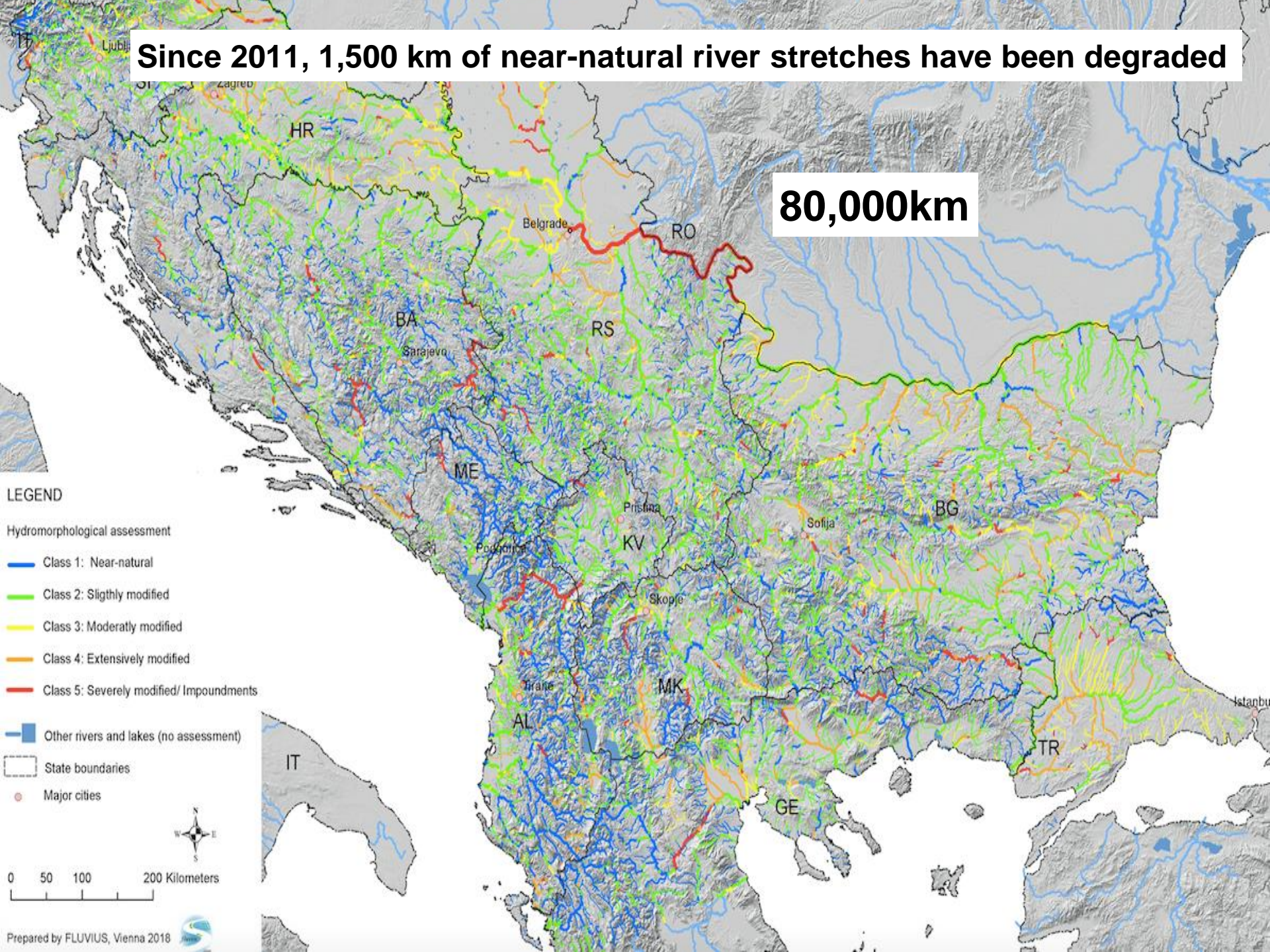
Other rivers and lakes (no assessment)

State boundaries

Major cities

0 50 100 200 Kilometers

Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna 2018





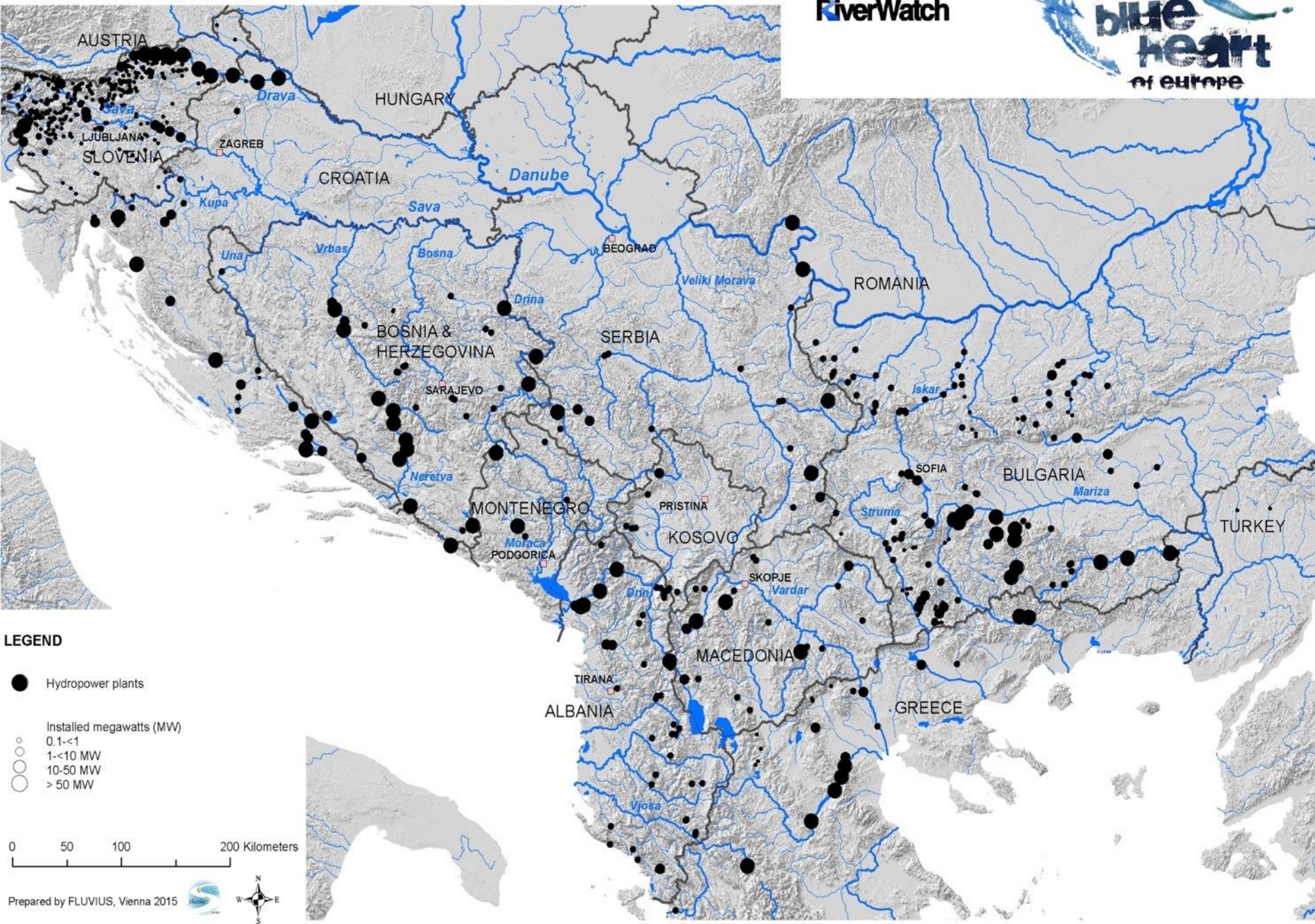




# Existing hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

euRONATUR FOUNDATION

RiverWatch





# Hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

euRONATUR  
RiverWatch

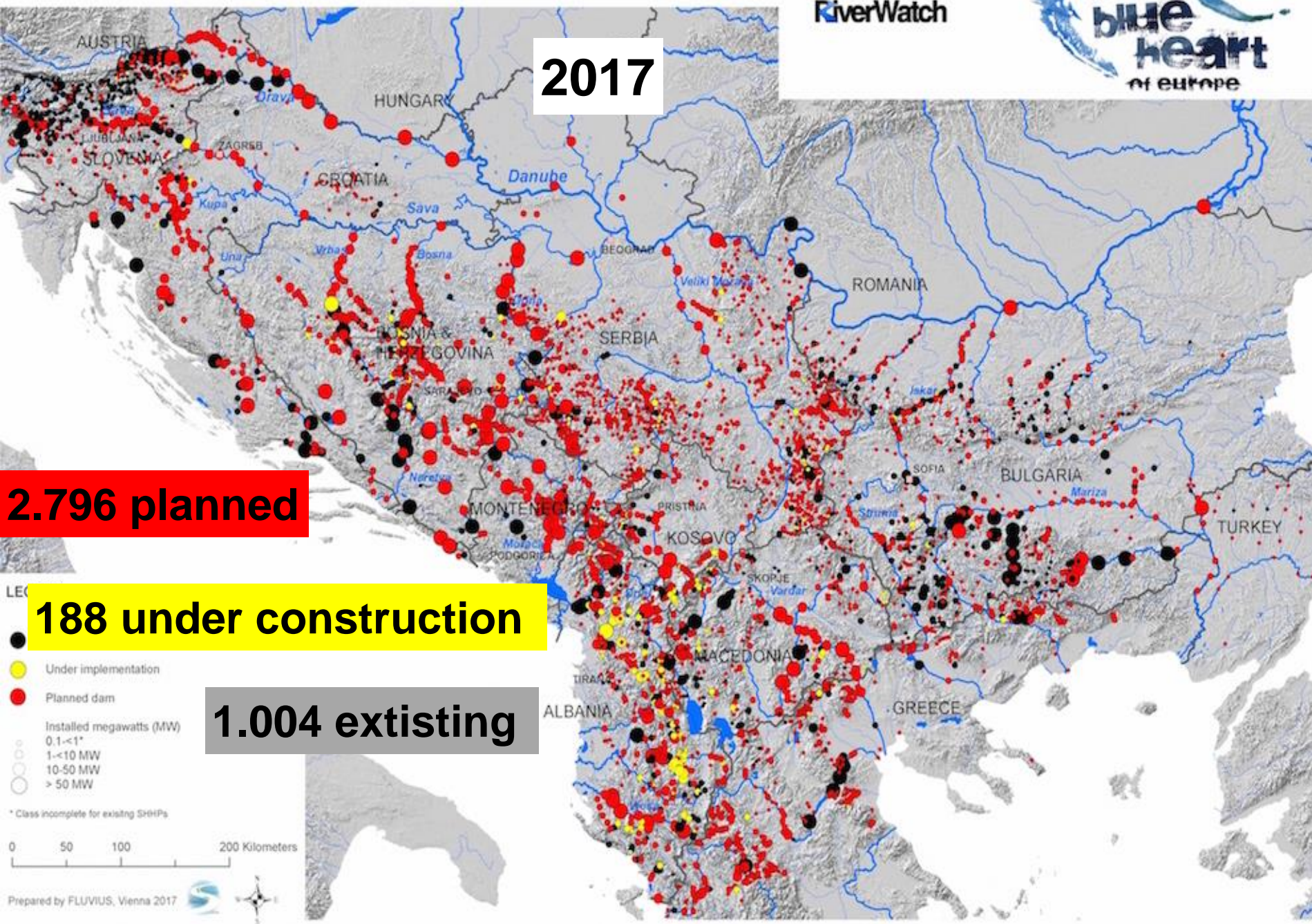


2017

2.796 planned

188 under construction

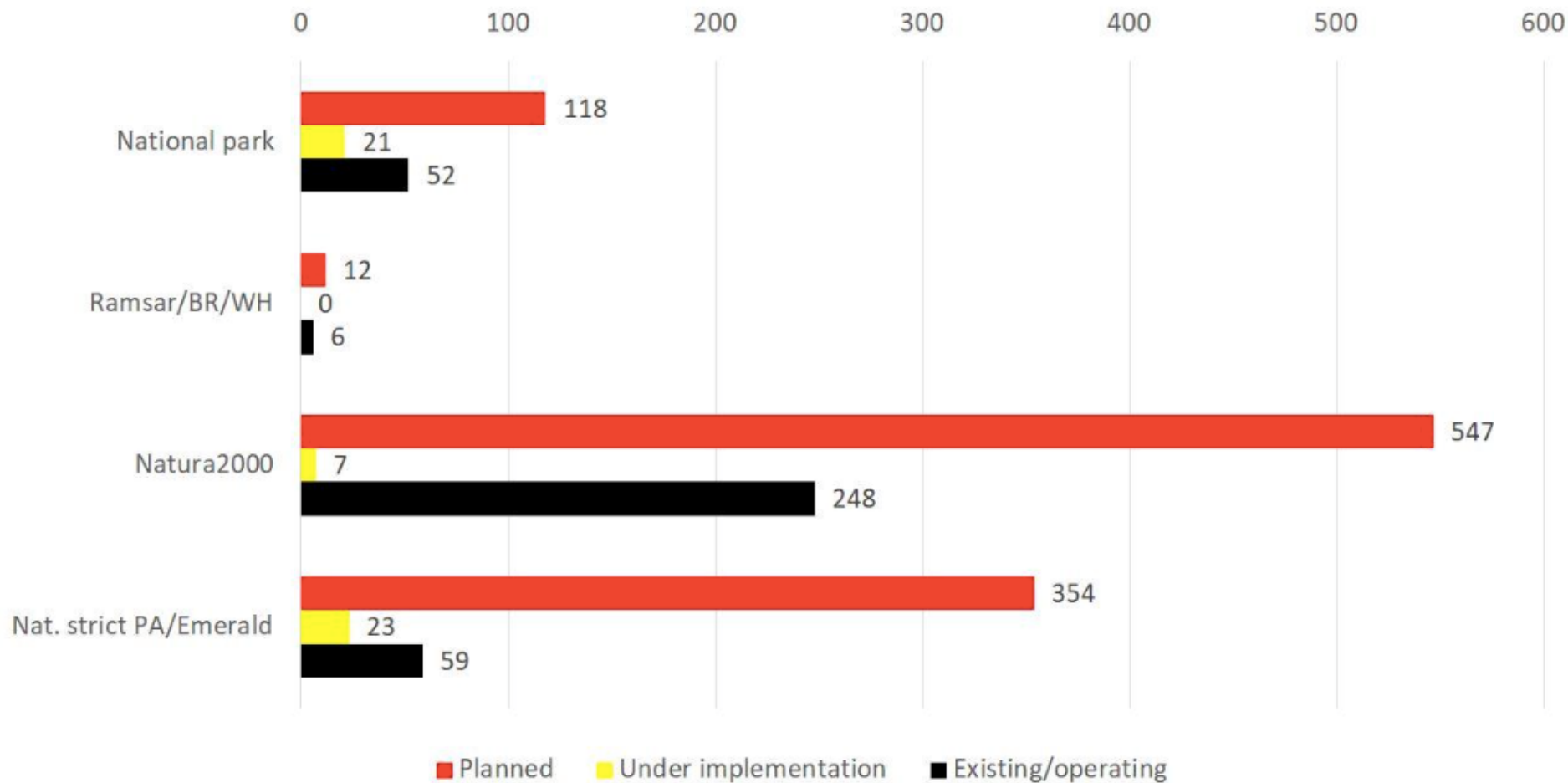
1.004 existing





# 1,075 HEPPs in PAs

**Figure 3. Total Hydropower Plants in Protected Areas in the Balkans 2017**





# Valbona National Park - Albania









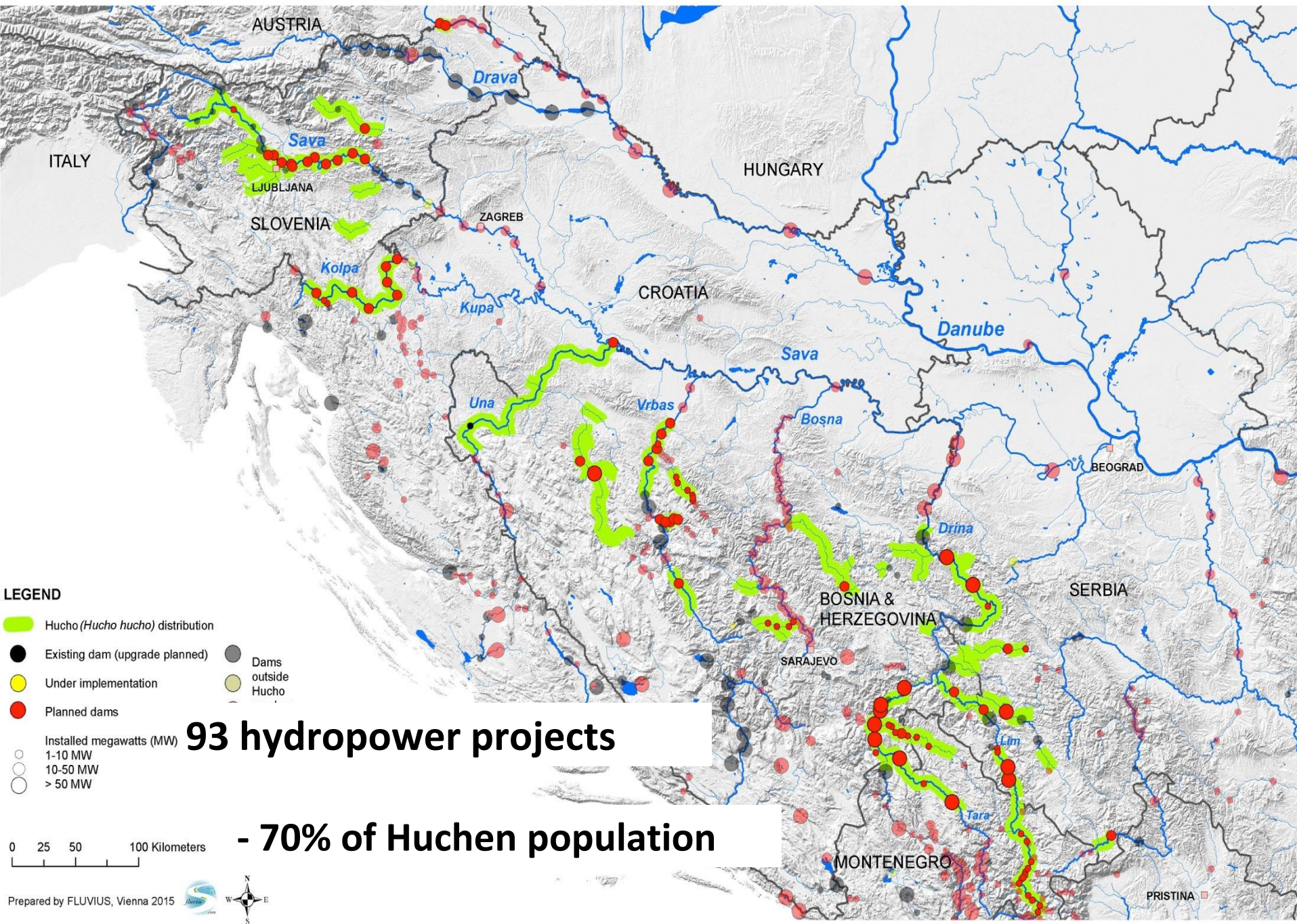
# The Huchen (*Hucho hucho*)













### *Cobitis hellenica*

Louros spined loach (eng.), Louros-Steinbeisser (ger.), Lourovelonitsa (gr.)



IUCN:  
**Endangered**

EUR-HAB-DIR:  
**Annex II**

Bern Convention:  
**Annex III**

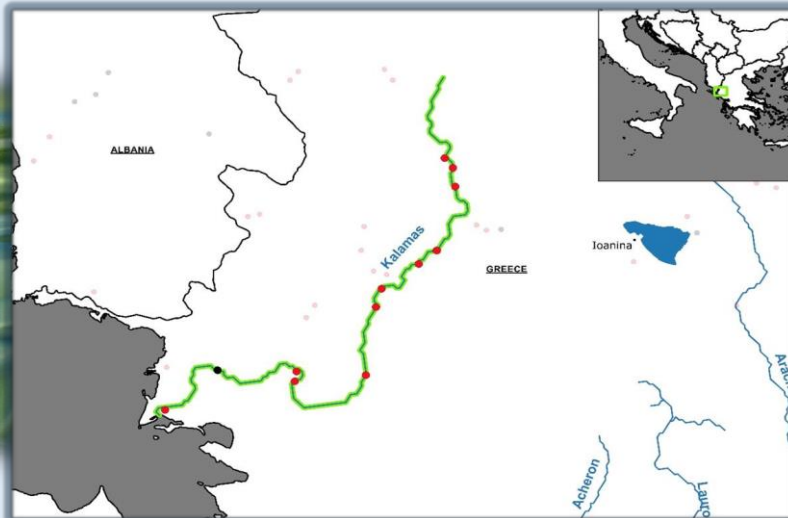
Hydropower Sensitivity:  
**Moderate**

Balkan Dam Threat:  
**Moderate-to-High**

#### Distribution and Habitat - Greece

In our study area, the **Louros spined loach** is limited to the Kalamas drainage (Zogaris et al 2009). Found together with dense vegetation in clear streams, with low to moderate flow on sand or silt (Kottelat & Freyhof 2007). Water extraction, pollution and hybridization are listed as threats but the IUCN Red List entry is in need of updating (Crivelli 2006).

Six hydropower facilities are already under construction on the Kalamas River, including the large Gjegan 1 project. At least 12 more projects are in the planning stage, not including those in small tributaries. This chain of hydropower facilities along the entire length of the Kalamas would put a significant portion of the global population of this species at risk of extinction, especially considering the threat of hybridization with *C. arachthosensis* in the remaining (Lourus drainage) area of occupancy.



## Study on Endangered Fish Species

113 endangered species

Balkan rivers are a global Fish diversity hotspot



**11 species would go globally extinct**

**38 species would be pushed close to extinction**

**= 10% of all European  
freshwater fish species**







**THE VJOSA IN ALBANIA**  
Europe's last big wild river  
[www.balkanrivers.net](http://www.balkanrivers.net)

© Gregor Subic











A photograph of a Balkan lynx (Lynx lynx balcanicus) walking across a rocky, mountainous landscape. The lynx is seen from the side, moving towards the left. It has a tawny coat with dark spots and a short, thick tail. The ground is covered with light-colored rocks and some sparse vegetation. The background shows more rocky terrain and some dry grass.

**Mavrovo NP, Macedonia**

**WB and EBRD pulled out of 2 HPPs in 2015 and 2017**



# Bosnia-Herzegovina







**DON'T TAKE VJOSA  
DON'T TAKE OUR LIFE**

**KEEP  
OUR**

**STERIL THOTË JO**

**ULIKE LUN**

**YOU COULD NOT TAKE  
THE LAND  
ANCESTORS**

**EURO  
EURO**









**Kruscica, BIH: blocking construction site since August 2017.**

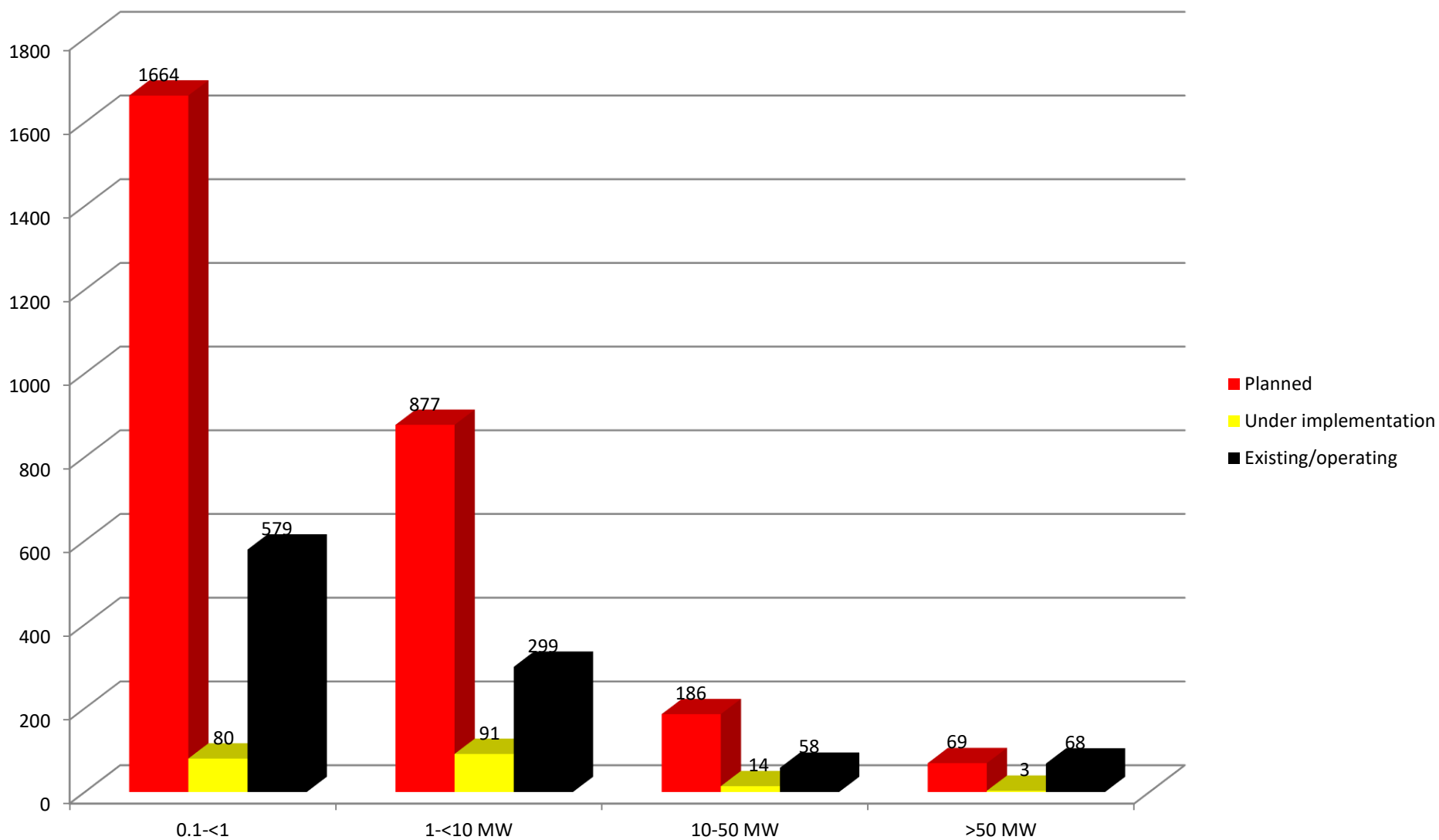




**Stara Planina Nature Park,  
Serbia**

**58 dams planned**





**91% < 10 MW**







## Is small beautiful?



DG NEAR 2017: „*The 390 small hydropower plants currently in operation in the Western Balkans 6 region represent almost 90% of all hydropower plants in number while only producing 3% of the total hydropower generation...*“



# **Germany**

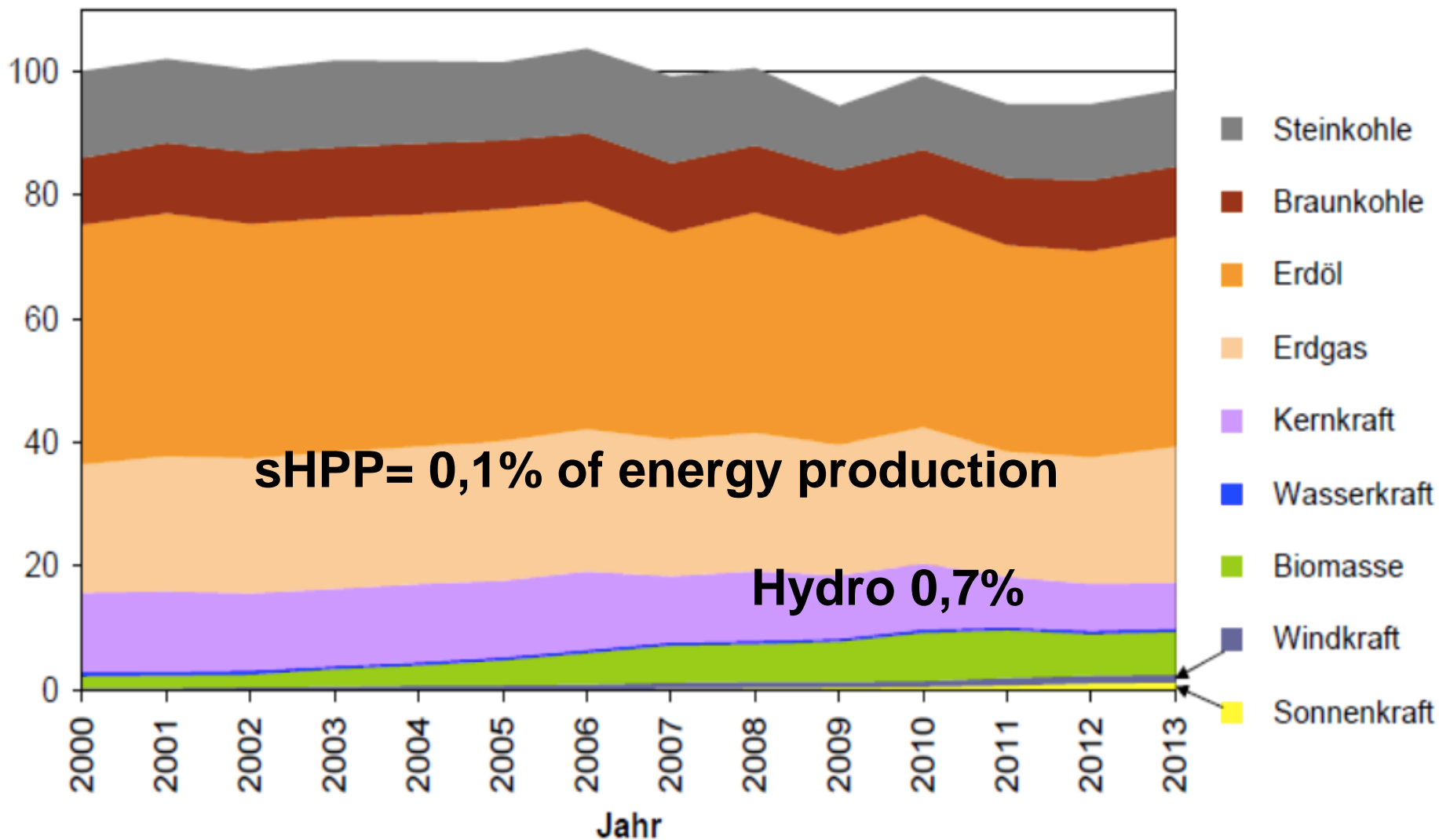
**Total: 7,700 HPPs**

**400 HPP > 10 MW = 85% capacity**

**7.300 HPP < 10MW = 15% capacity**



## Energieverbrauch in Deutschland





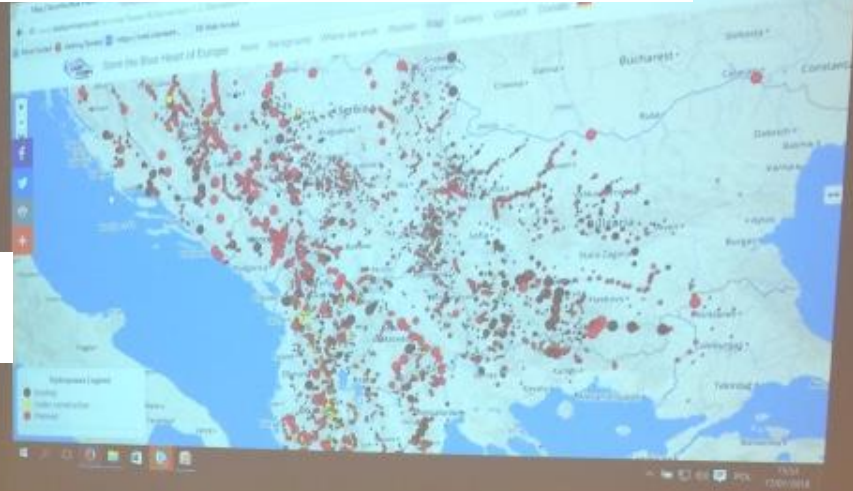


**2020 EU Revision of Subsidies for Renewables**



# Create a „Lawsuit Tsunami“

## „Armada of Lawyers“



**Lawsuits**

**Conventions**

**European Commission**

**Energy Community**



# Balkan Rivers are under threat

- Balkan rivers are a European biodiversity hotspot
- Around 3000 hydropower plants are planned or under construction
- Public resistance against dams is growing and more projects are being legally challenged
- No-go river stretches must be declared to protect the rivers and the communities they support
- Our Eco-masterplan helps to avoid bad planning and to increase security for investors





# ECO-MASTERPLAN FOR BALKAN RIVERS

DRAWING A LINE IN THE SAND











# CONCERT FOR BALKAN RIVERS

SARAJEVO, BBI CENTER

SEPTEMBER 29.TH  
19:30 H

FREE  
ENTRANCE

IN CASE OF RAIN  
CONCERT WILL  
BE AT DOM MLADIH  
SKENDERIJA.

## FEATURING ARTISTS



RAMBO  
AMADEUS



TAMARA  
OBROVAC



DAMIR  
IMAMOVIĆ



EDA  
ZARI

# SLOBODA RIJEKAMA!













## **2. Focus on EU Commission to influence Balkan country leaders**