



# Save Blue Heart of Europe

## The Balkan Rivers at Risk

*Ulrich Eichelmann*

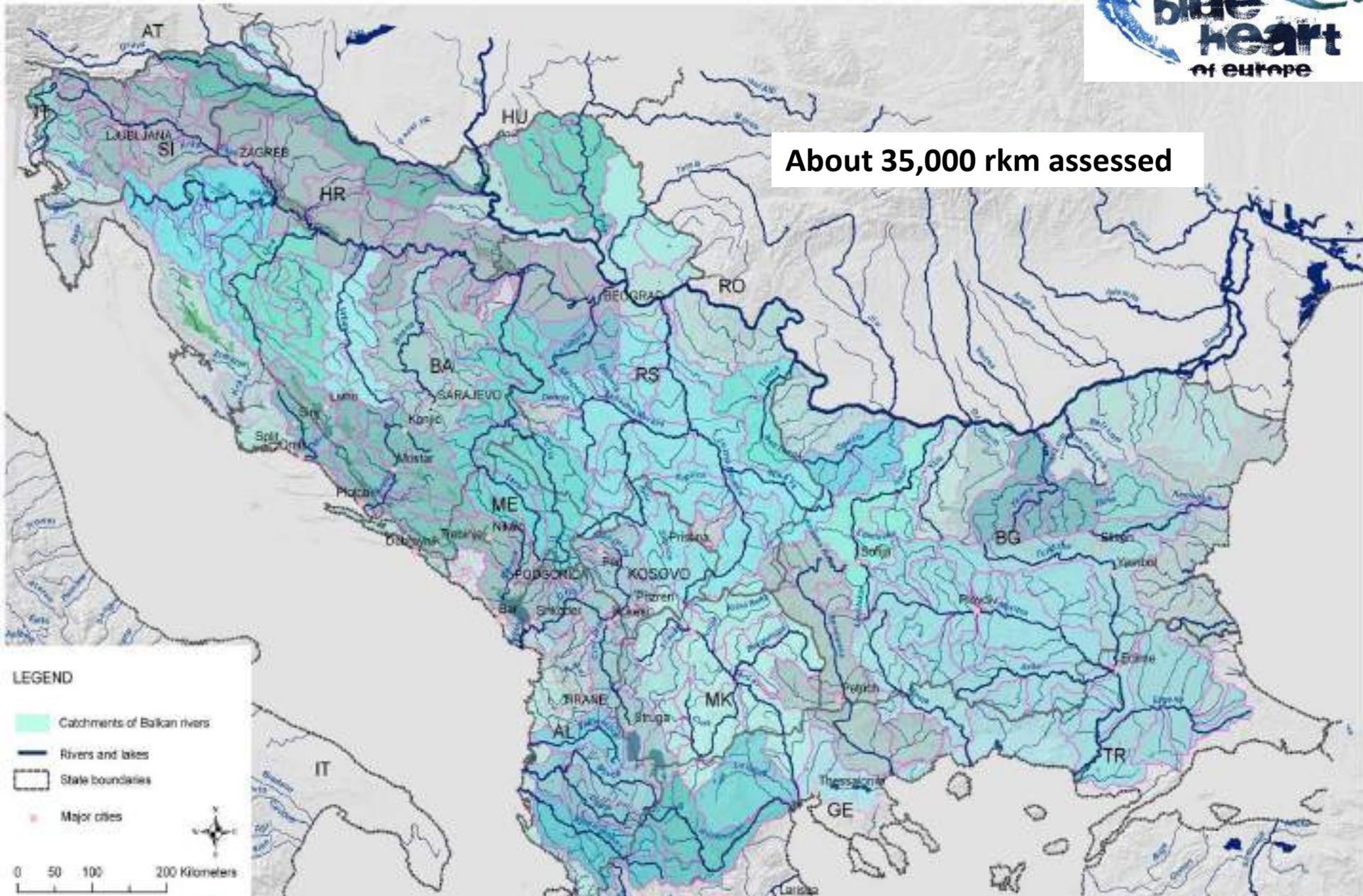




# Overviewmap Balkan Rivers



About 35,000 rkm assessed



**LEGEND**

- Catchments of Balkan rivers
- Rivers and lakes
- State boundaries
- Major cities

0 50 100 200 Kilometers

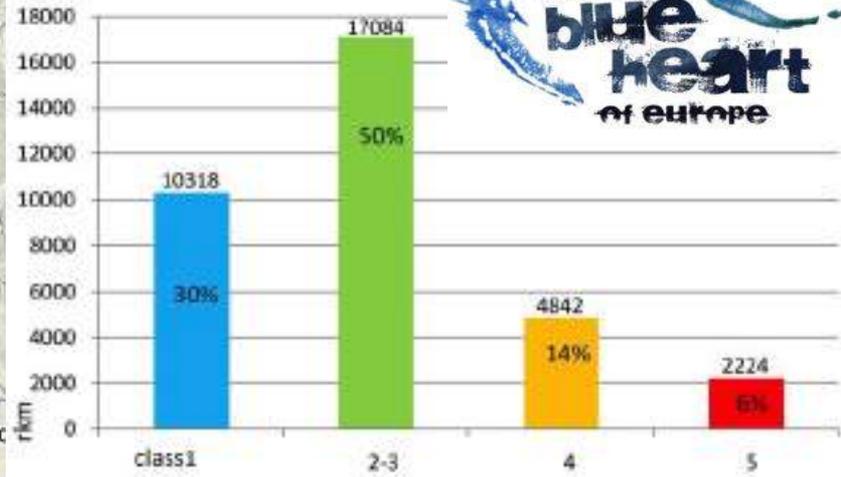
Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna 2010



## ➤ Hydromorphological Assessment:

- Evaluating the intactness of Balkan rivers







- not affected
- slightly affected
- moderately affected
- significantly affected
- strongly modified
- severely modified
- completely modified



PHYSIKALISCHER ATLAS  
VON DEUTSCHLAND  
7.10 Gewässerzustand (2001)

**euRONATUR** FOUNDATION

**RiverWatch**



© J. Freyhof

Croatian Pijor - *Telestes croaticus*

Balkan Rivers are home to 69 endemic fish species

28% of all European endangered freshwater fish species live in Balkan rivers



**4 trout species and 17 trout varieties**



**151 endangered freshwater molluscs species live in Balkans  
= 40% of all endangered European freshwater molluscs**

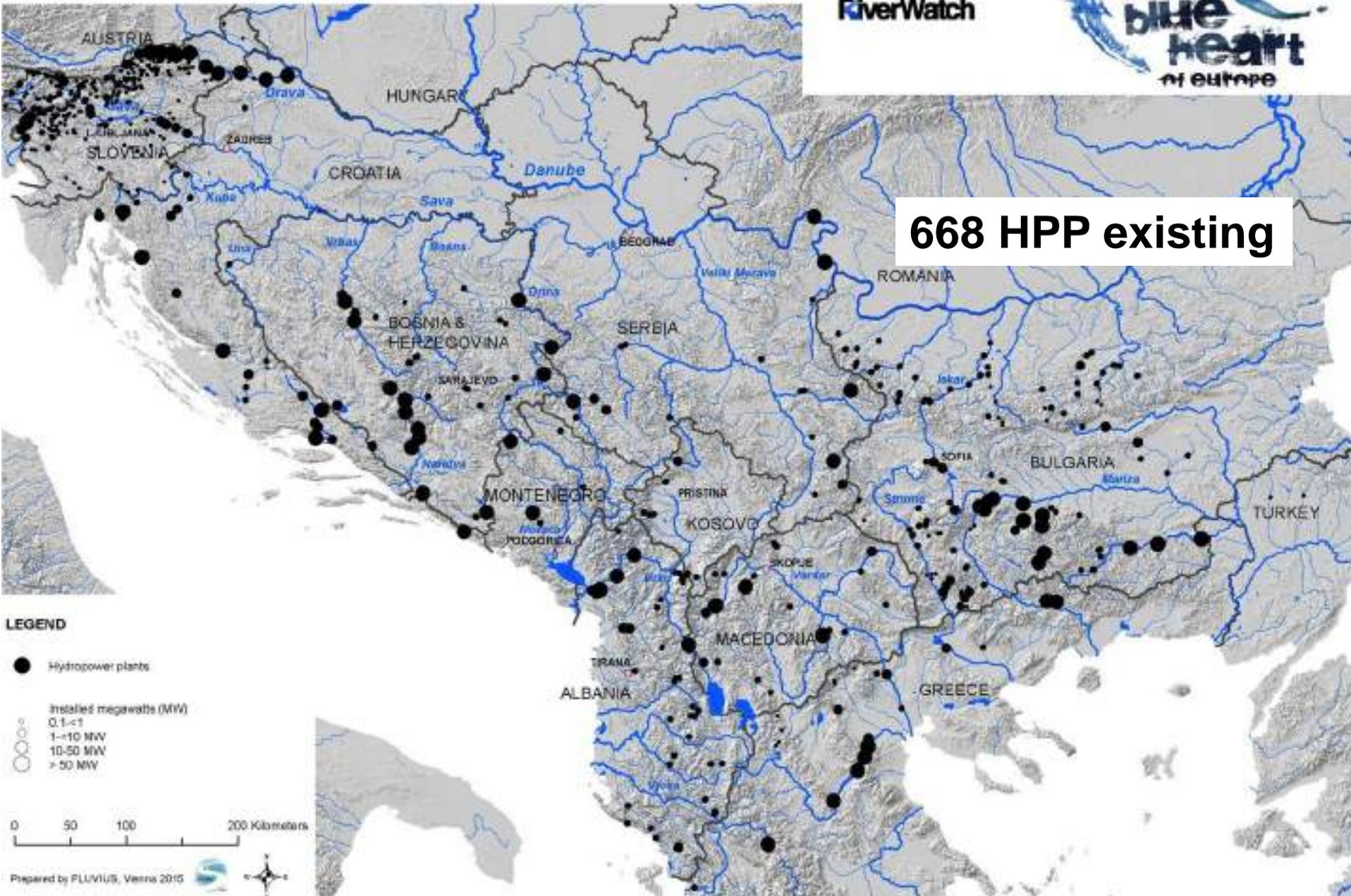


**15 new river insect species have been discovered in last 5 years.**



# Existing hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

EURO NATUR  
RiverWatch



# Hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

EURONATUR  
RiverWatch

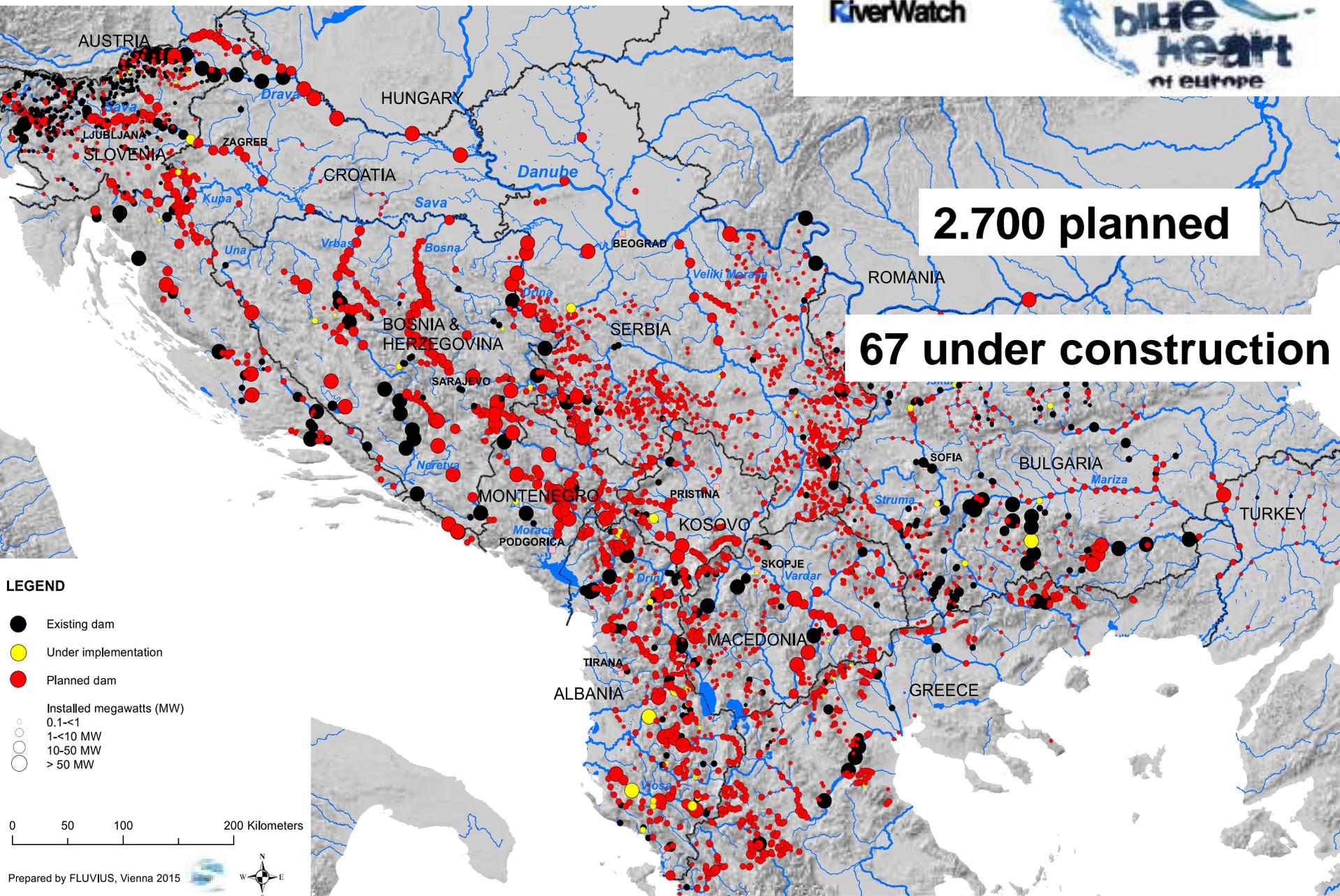
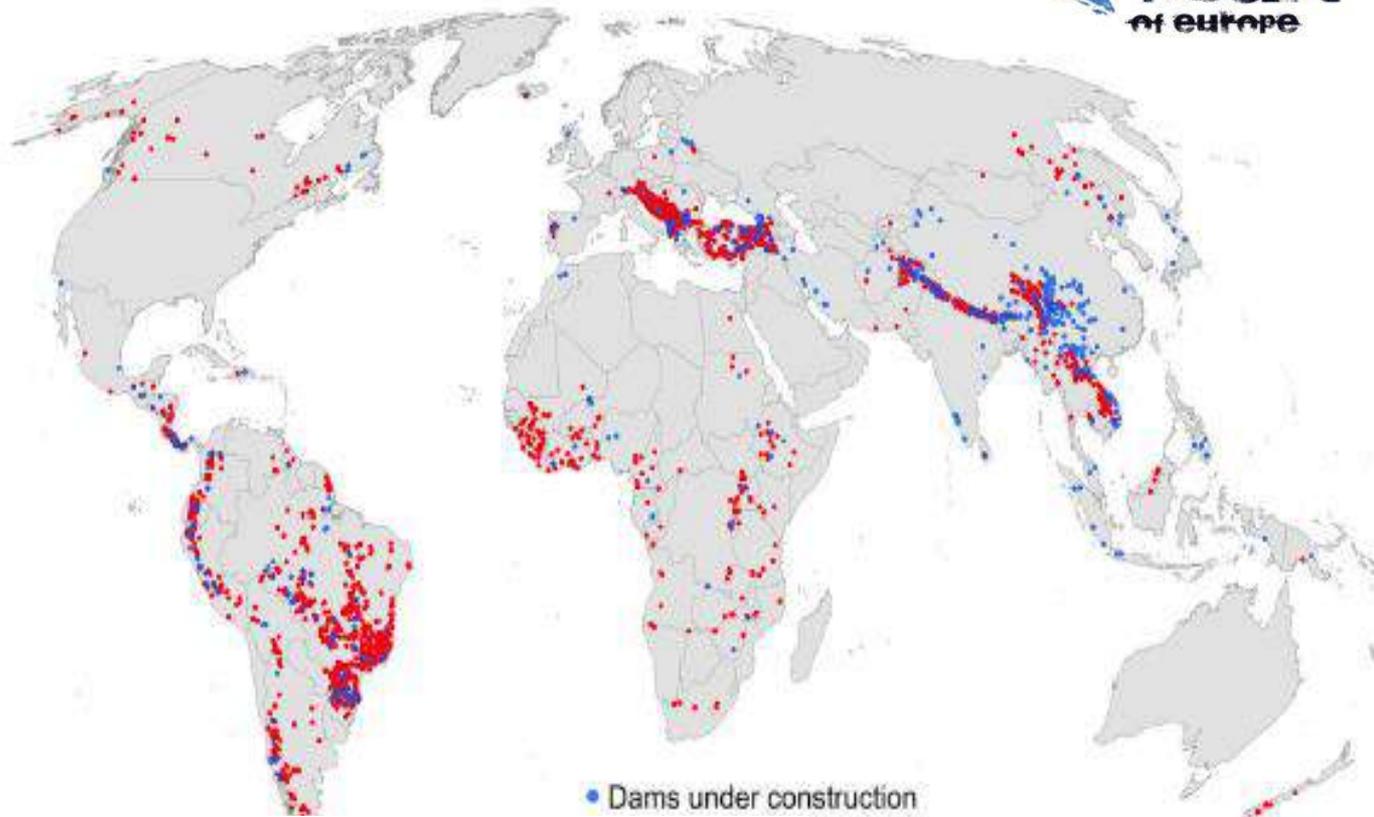


Fig. 2 Global spatial distribution of future hydropower dams, either under construction (*blue dots 17 %*) or planned (*red dots 83 %*)



**2010: 100 billion \$ invested in hydro power**

**19 billion for solar**

Source: Zarfl et al. 2015

**Balkan Rivers are unique in Europe**

**Biodiversity hotspot**

**Nobody knows it**

**Entire rivernet is threatened by dams**



## **Goal: Stop dam tsunami in the Balkans**

**→ Make values and threats visible**

**→ Collect data**

**→ Create networks**

**-> Initiate a river masterplan with no go areas for dams**

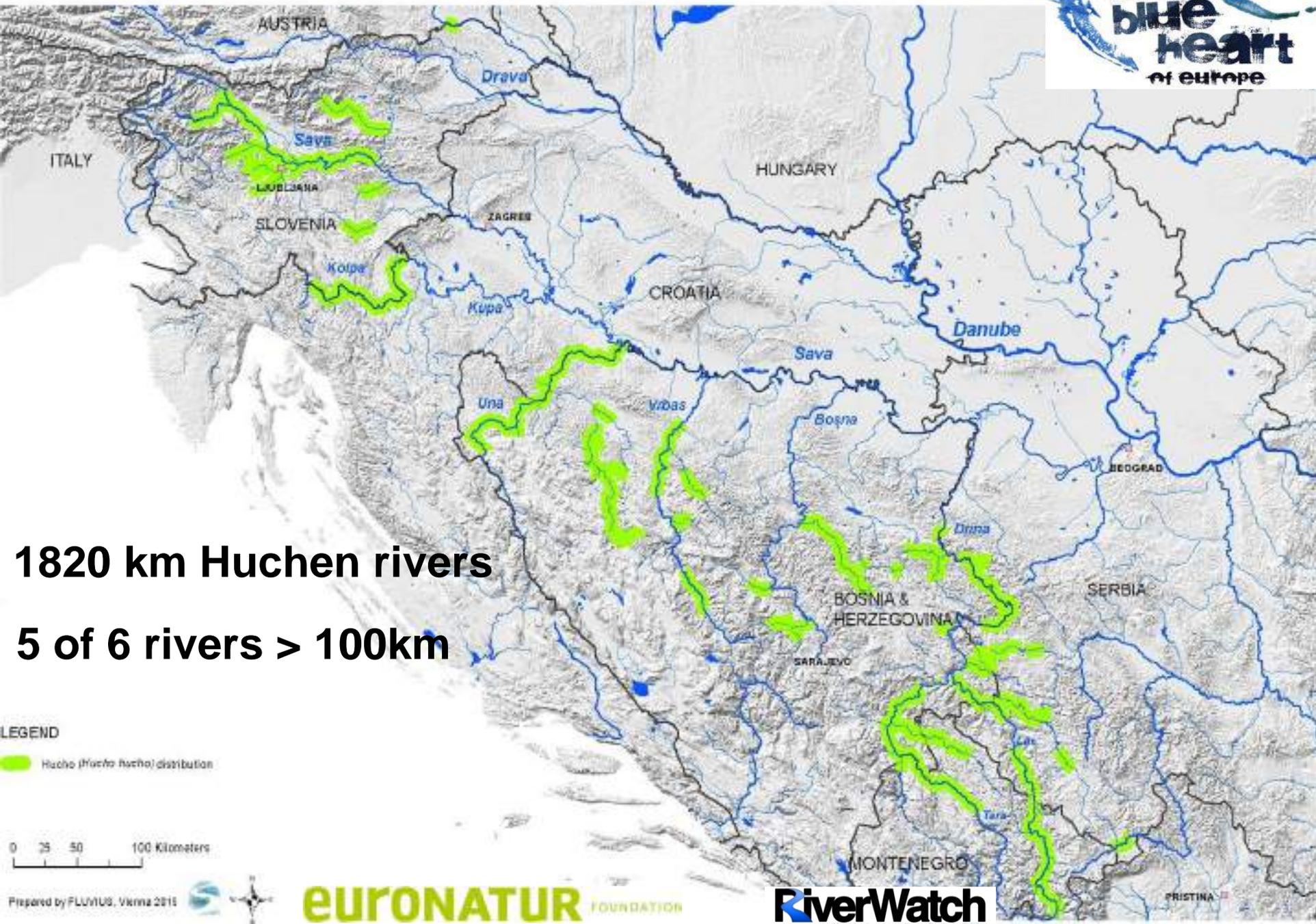
# Masterplan with no-go areas for dam projects



# The Huchen in the Balkan region



# Hucho populations in Western Balkan rivers



**1820 km Huchen rivers**

**5 of 6 rivers > 100km**

## LEGEND

 Hucho (Huchen) distribution

0 25 50 100 Kilometers

Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna 2015



**euRONATUR** FOUNDATION

**RiverWatch**

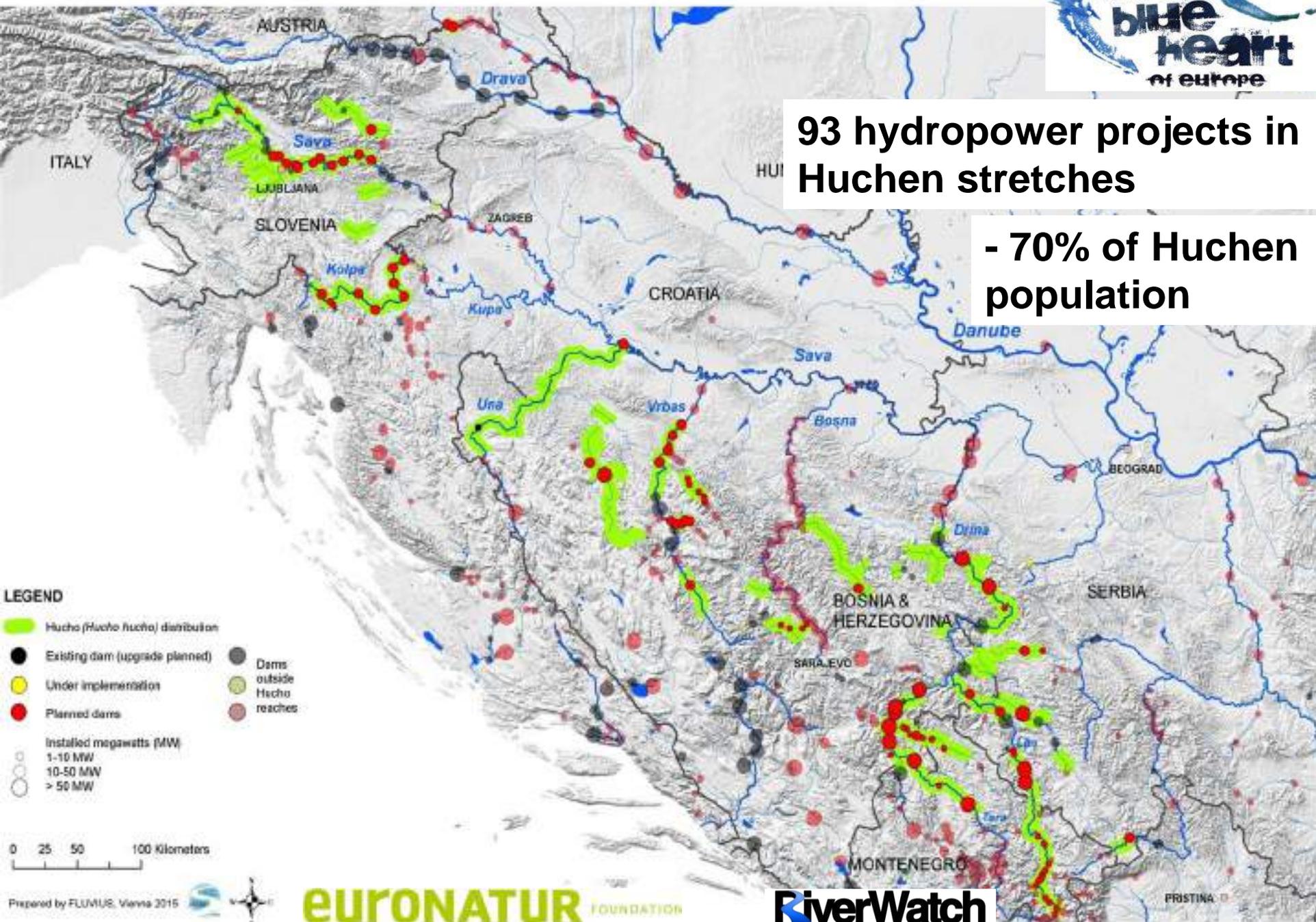
PRISTINA

# Hucho populations and hydropower planning in Western Balkan



93 hydropower projects in Huchen stretches

- 70% of Huchen population



# HEPP Medna - Sana

**Austrian KELAG**

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom center. In the middle of the valley, there is a large, light-colored area that appears to be a dam site or a reservoir under construction. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is a natural landscape with a significant engineering project in progress.

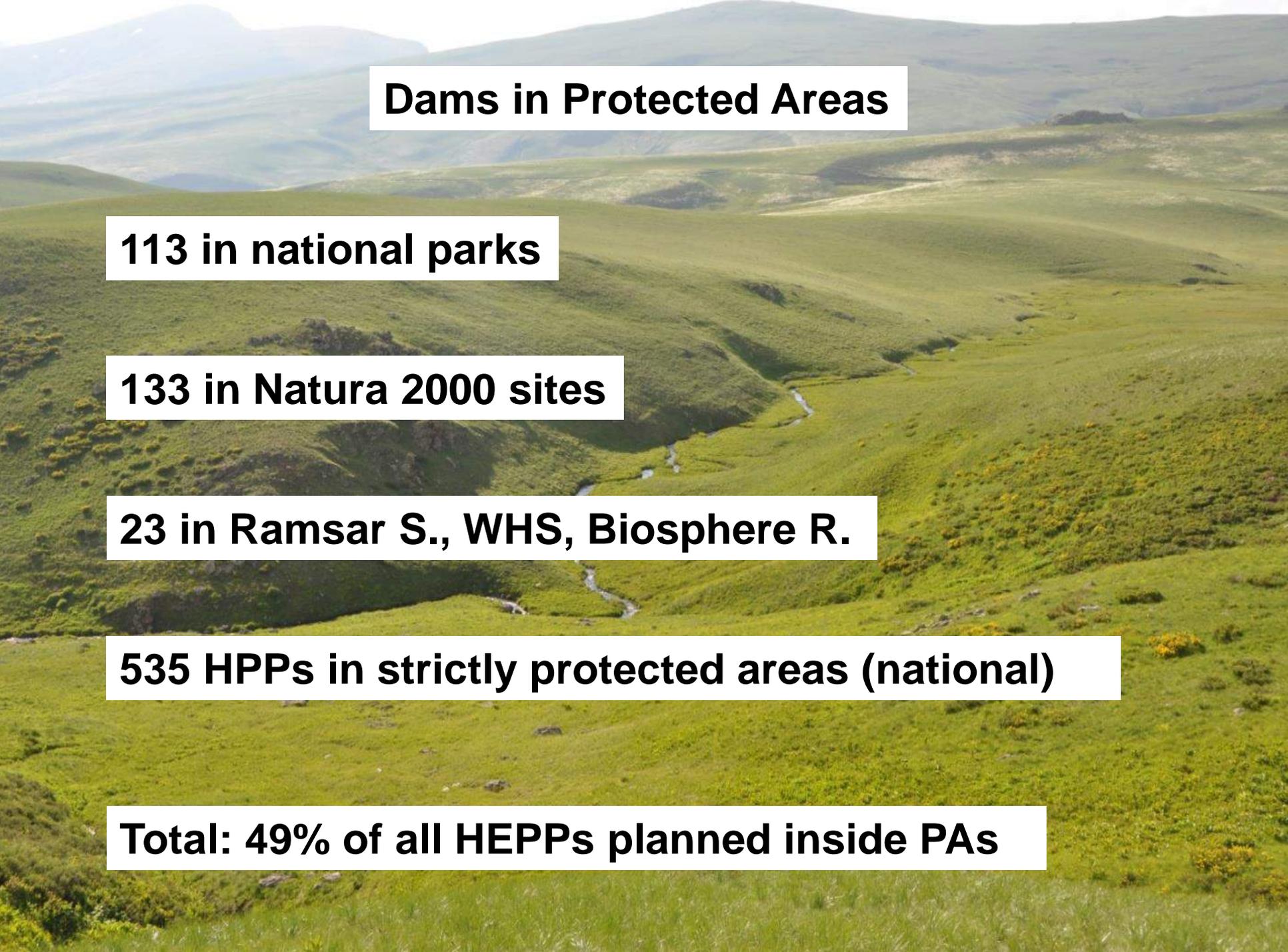




Study Series within the Campaign:

# Hydropower Projects in Protected Areas on the Balkans





## **Dams in Protected Areas**

**113 in national parks**

**133 in Natura 2000 sites**

**23 in Ramsar S., WHS, Biosphere R.**

**535 HPPs in strictly protected areas (national)**

**Total: 49% of all HEPPs planned inside PAs**

You are here: [Bern-convention](#) > [Home](#)

The Bern Convention is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation, covering most of the natural heritage of the European continent and extending to some States of Africa.



First ever mediation visit under the Bern Convention to find a compromise between energy developments and biodiversity conservation

05/10/2015

The first-ever mediation visit organised under the Bern Convention will take place on 6-9 October...

[See all news »](#)



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ [35th Standing Committee meeting - 1-4 December 2015, Strasbourg \(France\)](#)

**Dams in Mavrovo NP: Conclusion of the expert mission: „... the proposed hydropower construction planned in the Park is not compatible with the status of protection of the Park (...); the projects, as currently planned, should be abandoned.“**



***„The involved financial institutions (EBRD + WB) shall suspend the projects.“***

# Dams & Investors

CEE

bankwatch  
network

Initiated by



Fund Label



With funding from:



SAL. OPPENHEIM

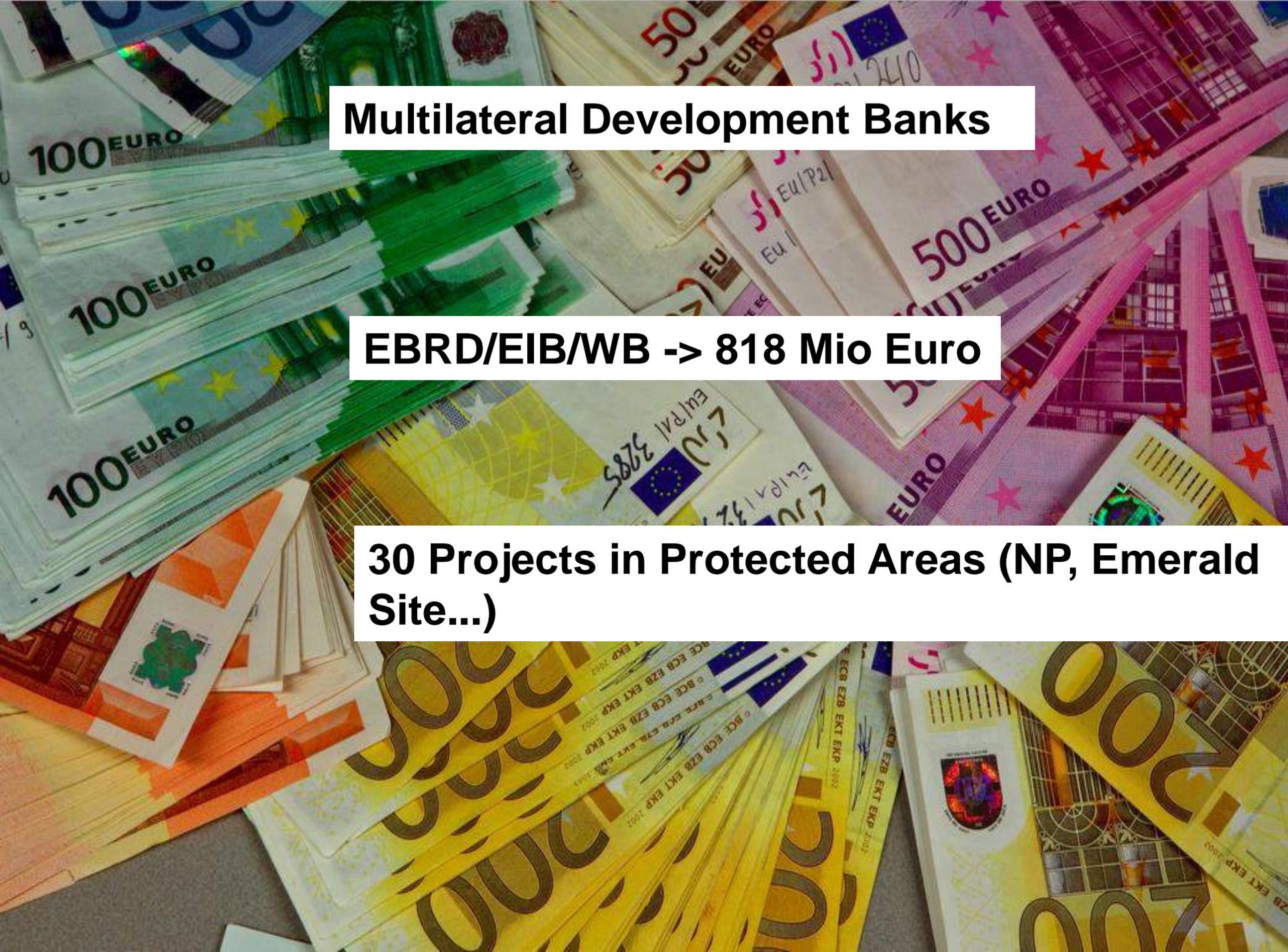


# Dams & Investors

**1.000 HPPs: Companies identified**

**325 HPPs in protected areas**

**Foreign companies: AUT, IT, GER, NOR**



# Multilateral Development Banks

**EBRD/EIB/WB -> 818 Mio Euro**

**30 Projects in Protected Areas (NP, Emerald Site...)**

# Langarica HPP in Hotove-Dangelli NP/Albania

**6 Mio Euro via WB/IFC**

**5 Mio Euro via OeEB/AUT**

**9,1 Mio Euro via Green Growth Fund (= EIB, KfW...)**



**Project coordinator: ENSO Hydro/Austria**

“Balkanka” Association, Sofia, Bulgaria  
“Nature has all the time in the world, we do not”.

**COMPLAINT**  
**TO**  
**THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**  
**CONCERNING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COMMUNITY LAW**



Representative for this complaint:

  
/dipl.eng. Dimiter Koumanov/

Chairman of the board:

  
/Krasslav Dimitrov/

## Complaint form

### Alleged breach of Union law by a member state

#### I. IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS

##### 1. INDIVIDUALS

First name (mandatory): Nicolae Călin

Surname (mandatory): Dejeu

##### 2. BUSINESSES OR ORGANISATIONS

Name (mandatory): Not applicable

Sector / field of activity and location(s) where active: Not applicable

##### 3. ADDRESS OR REGISTERED OFFICE

Please inform the European Commission of any changes to your address and any event likely to affect the handling of your complaint.

Providing your email address will make it easier for the Commission to contact you.

Address (mandatory): 55 Grigore Alexandrescu Street, ap. 36

Town/City (mandatory): Cluj Napoca

County/State/Province (mandatory): Cluj County

Postcode (mandatory): 400560

Country (mandatory): Romania



# Recommendations



**Accession Reports (EC/EP): Pay increased attention to hydropower development**

**Provide increased assistance to countries in implementing N2000 Directives and WFD.**

**Include elements of N2000 Directives and WFD in Energy Community Treaty**

**Support the masterplan concept with no-go areas for HEPPs**

**Visit the Balkan rivers**





*Thank you for your attention!*

More information at:  
*[www.balkanrivers.net/en](http://www.balkanrivers.net/en)*