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The Vjosa in Albania

-Europe's last wild river-

Olsi Nika EcoAlbania, 2017



EcoAlbania





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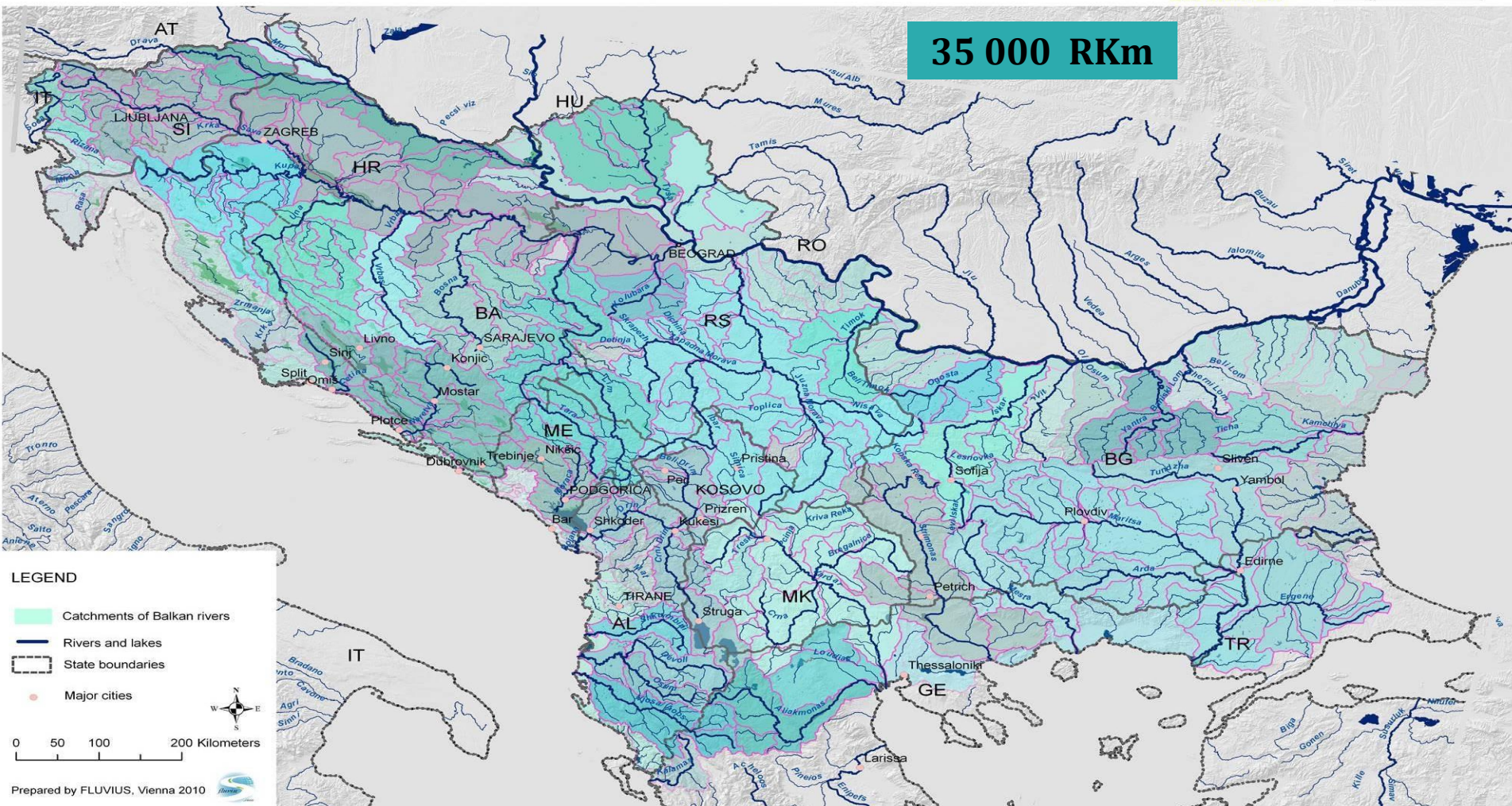
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Overviewmap Balkan Rivers

35 000 RKm





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Hydro-morphological Assessment: - Evaluating the intactness of Balkan rivers -



Class 1:
Pristine or
near-natural
(Vjosa, Albania)



Class 2-3:
Slightly to moderately
modified
(V. Morava, Serbia)



Class 4:
Extensively modified
(Crna, Macedonia)



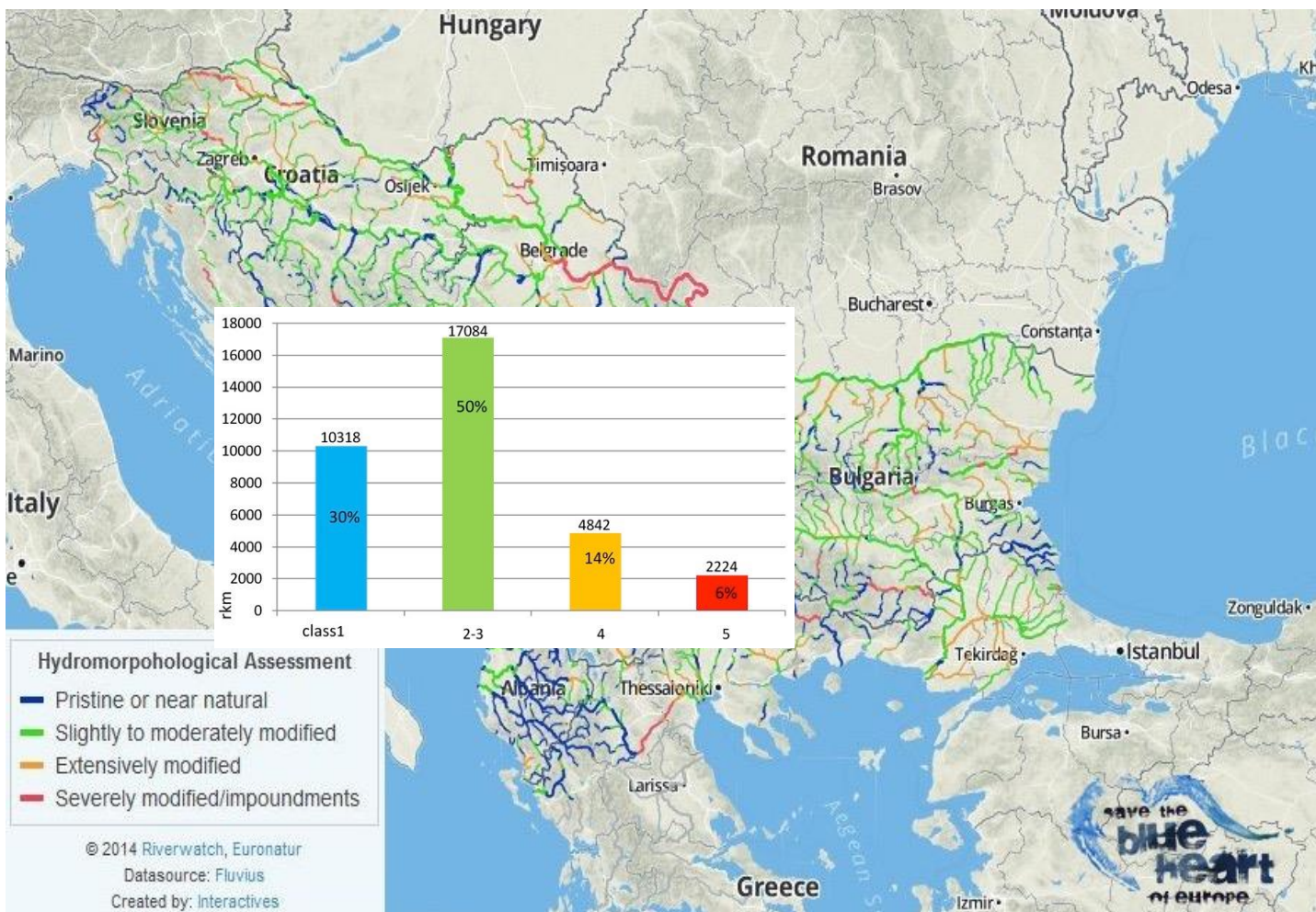
Class 5:
Severely modified/
impoundments
(Drina, Serbia)



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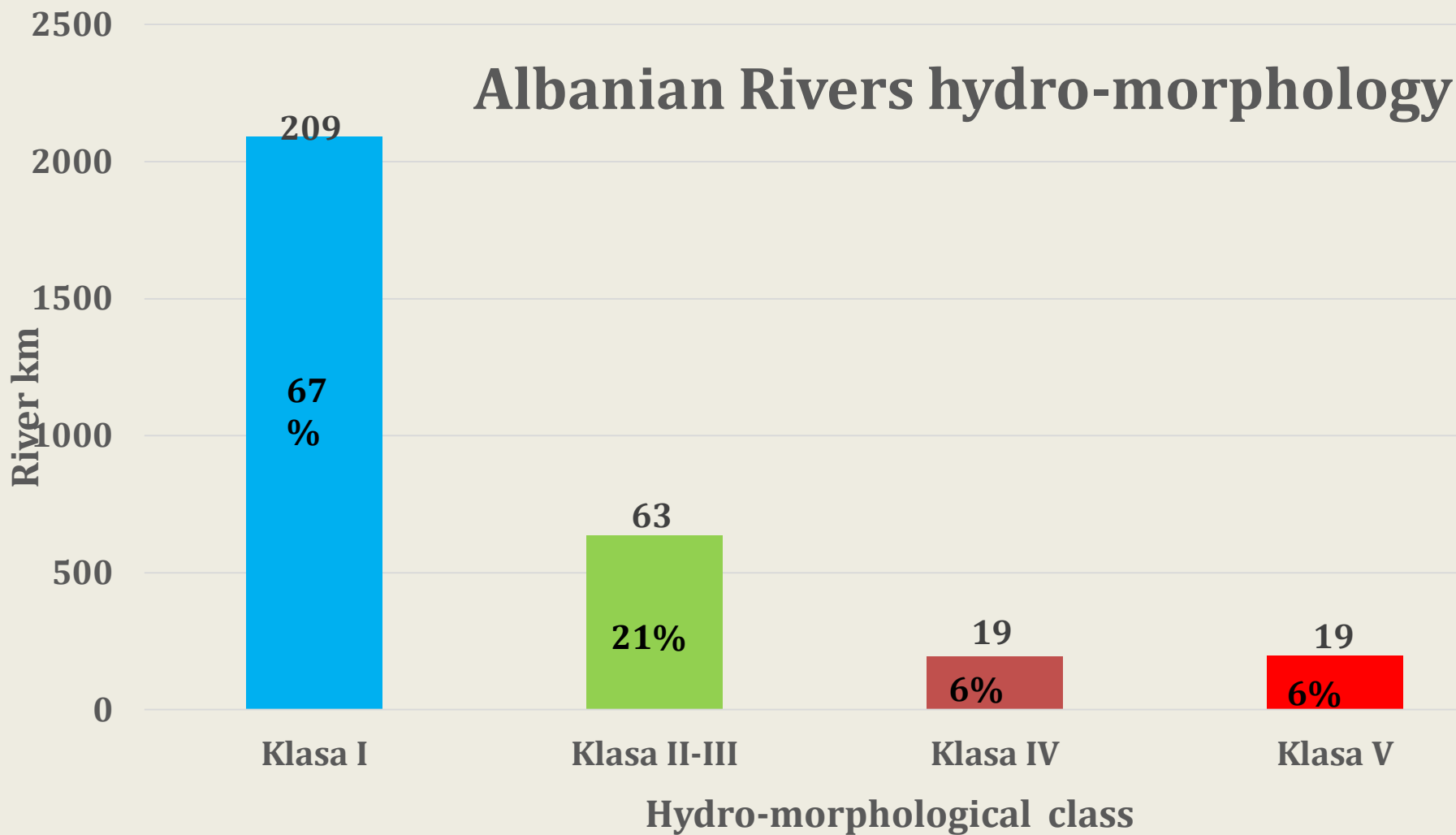


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Empower Environmental Club



INCA
INSTITUTE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION IN ALBANIA



Croatian Pijor - *Telestes croaticus*

Balkan Rivers are home of 69 endemic fish species

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

Gap in knowledge



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4 trout species and 17 trout varieties





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





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





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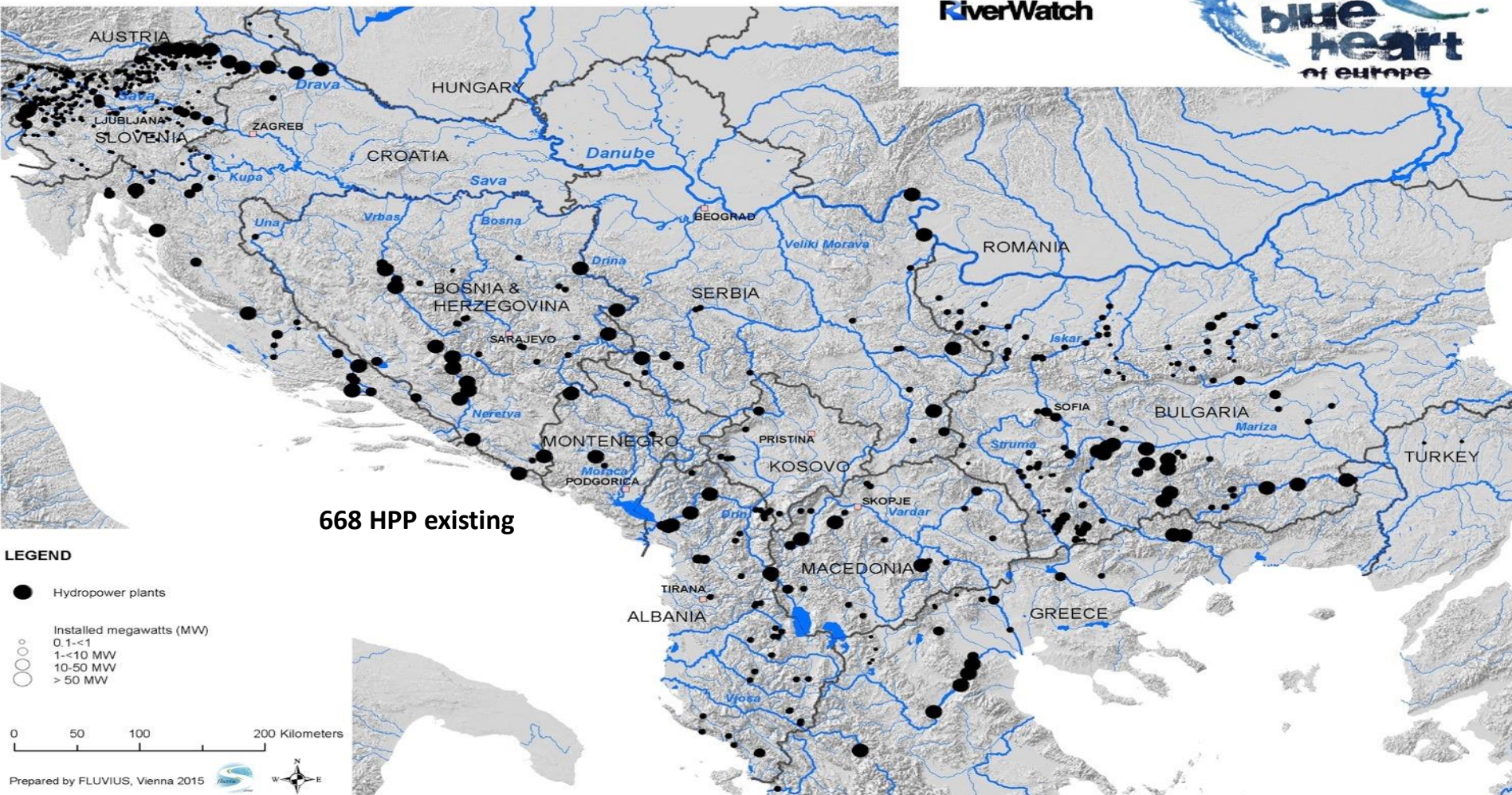




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Existing hydropower plants in Balkan rivers



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RiverWatch

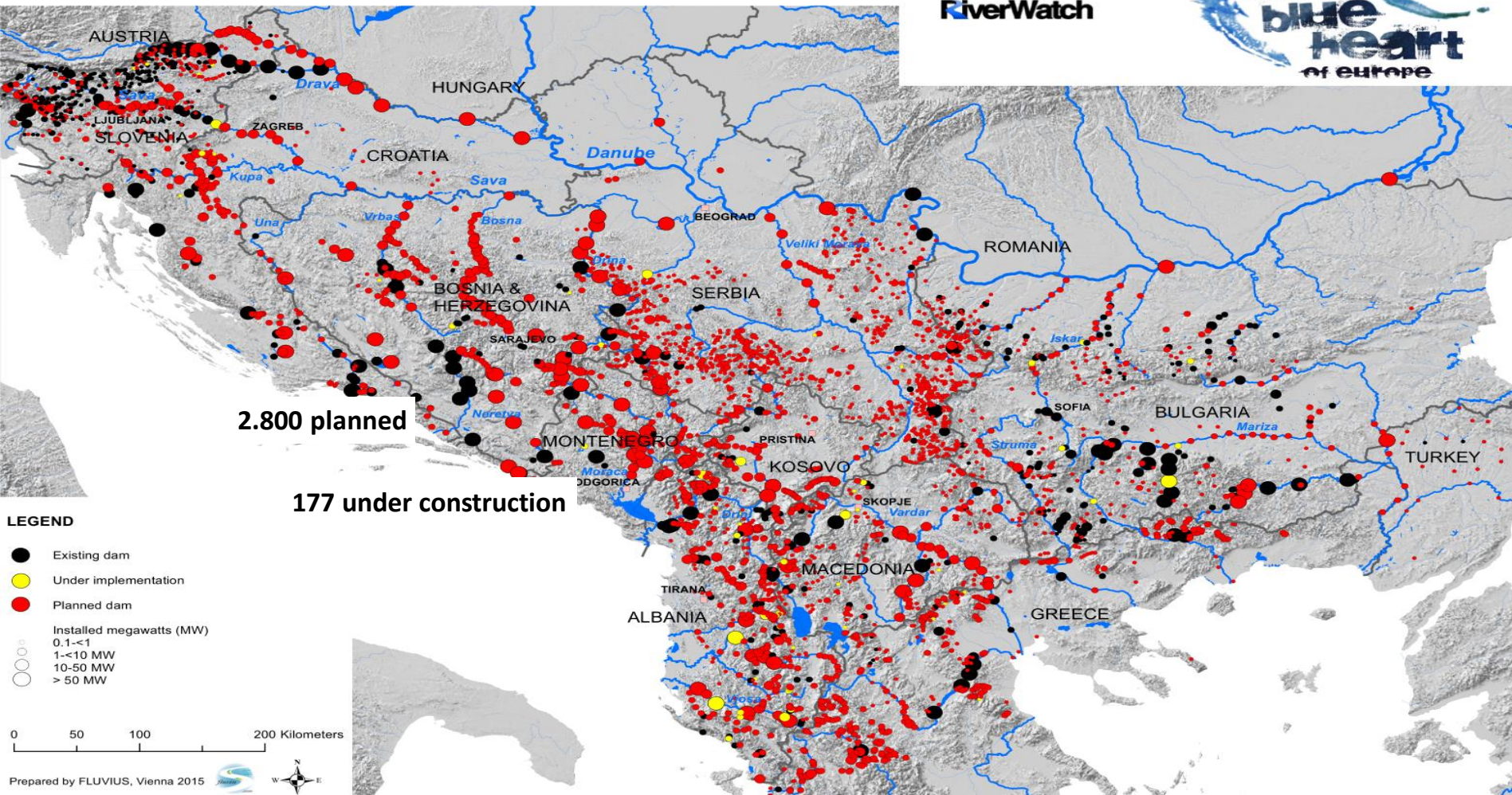




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Hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

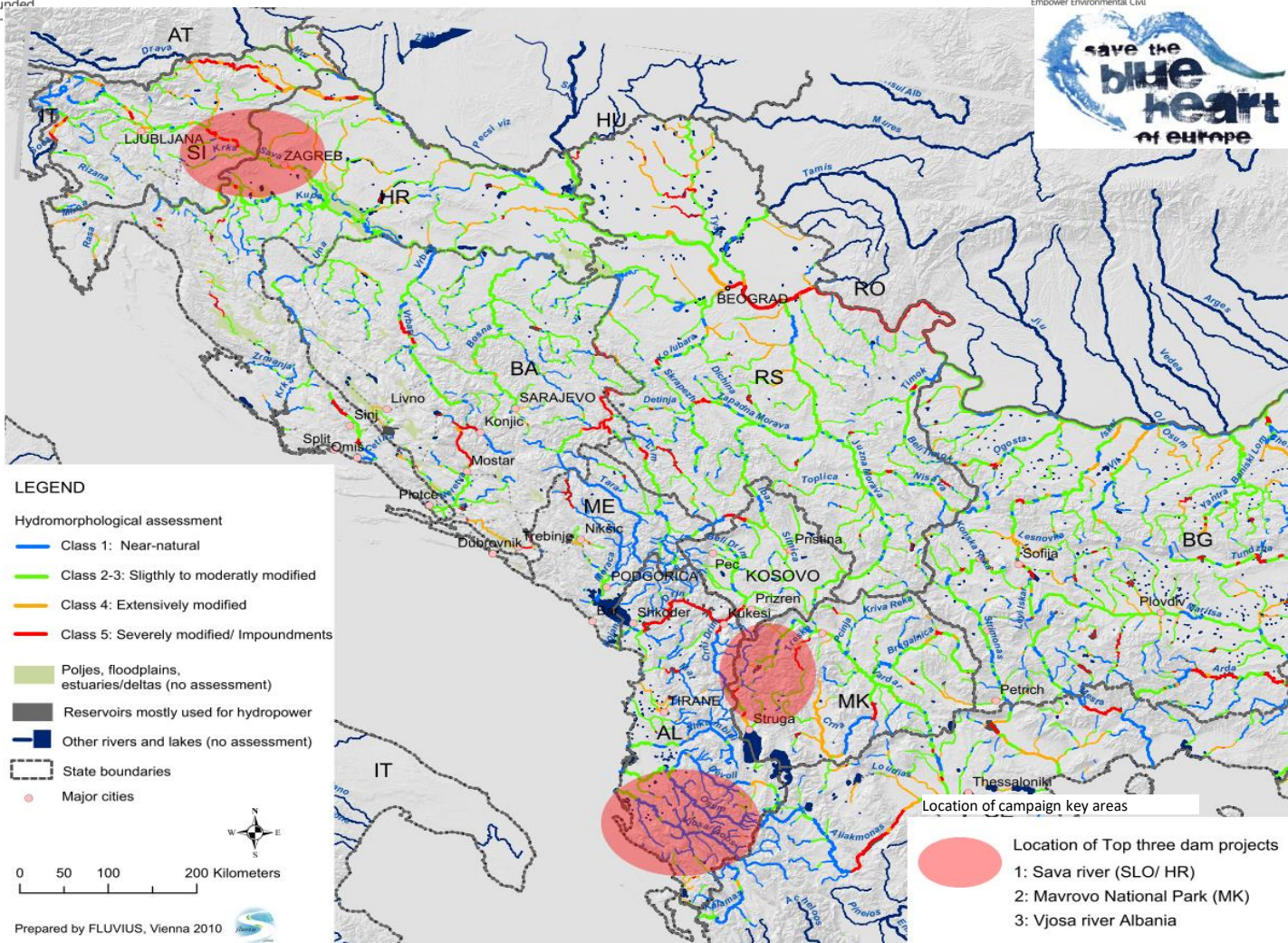




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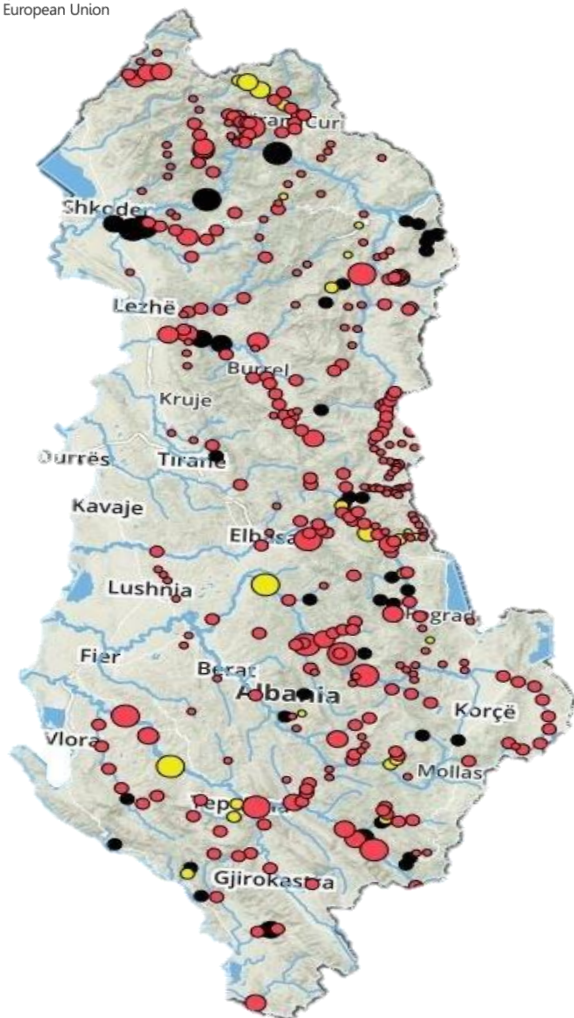
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RiverWatch





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-  **325 Planned**
-  **81 Under construction**
-  **114 Existing / operating**

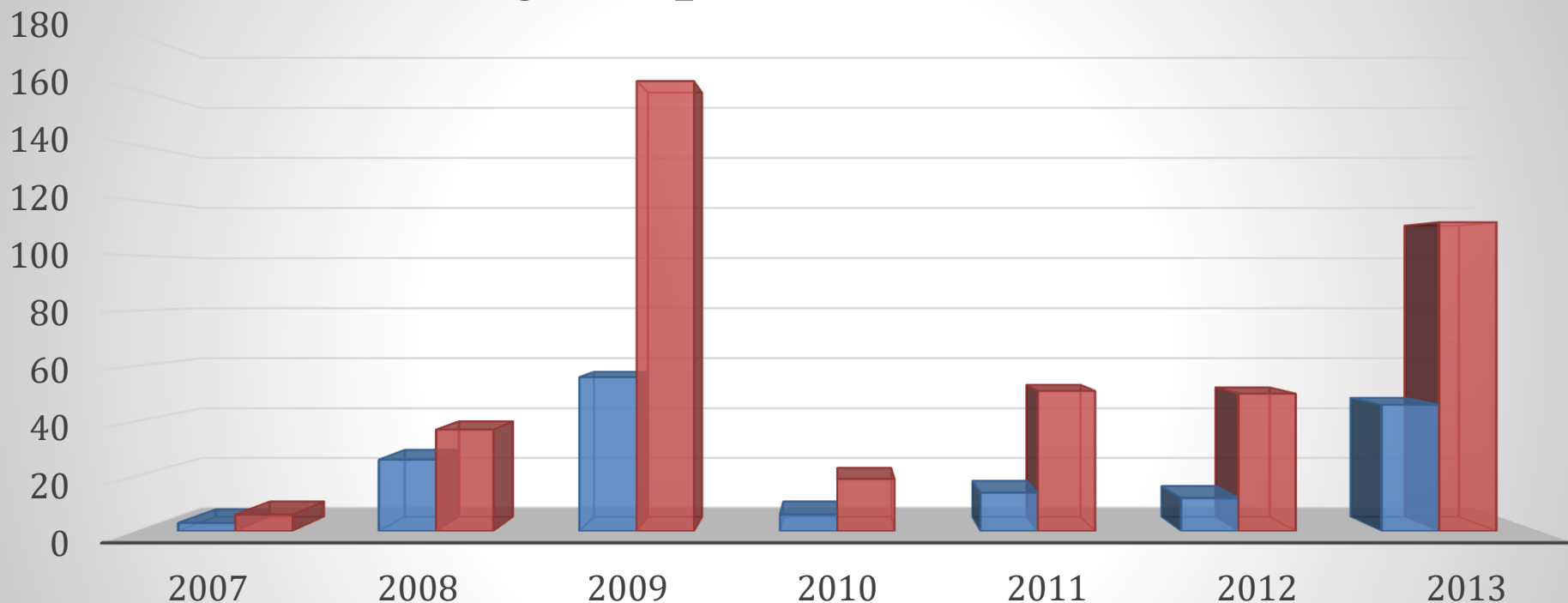


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Hydropower Boom in Albania

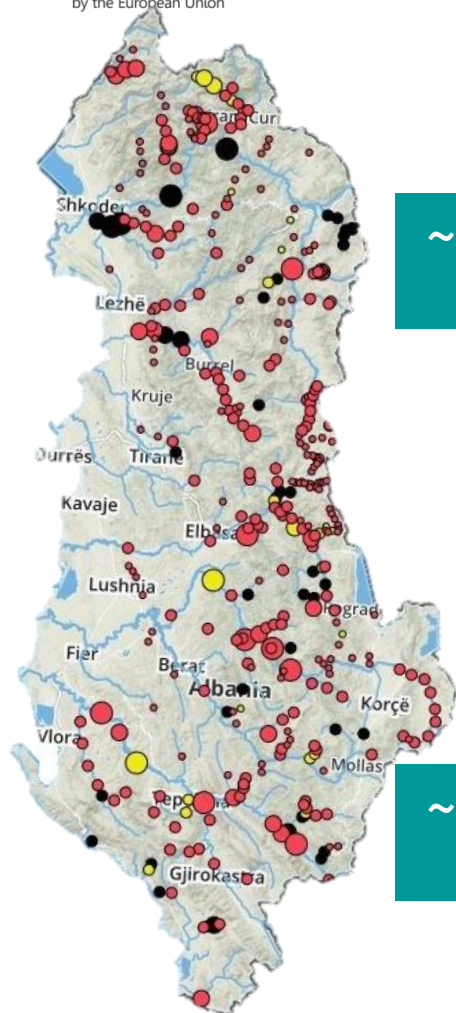
Source: AKBN



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
■ Concesionary Contract	3	26	56	6	14	12	46
■ HPP-s	6	37	163	19	51	50	112



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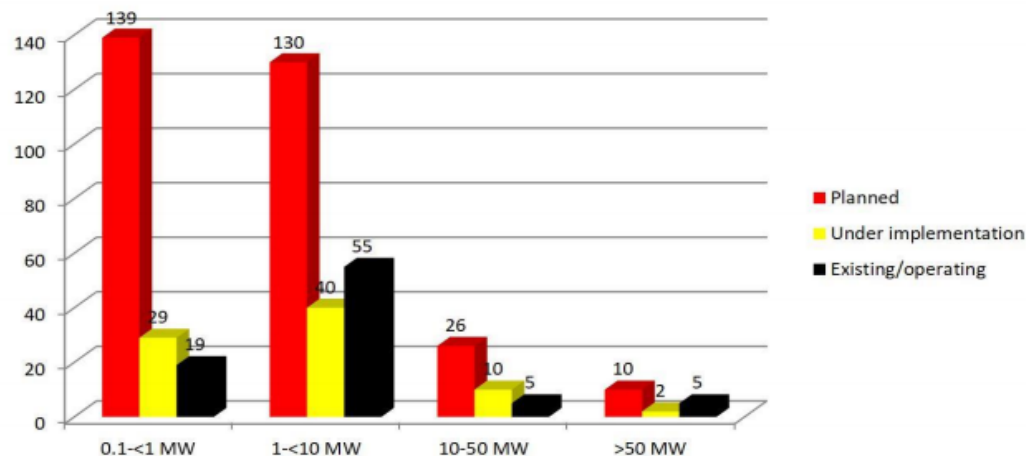


**~90% of HPPs
< 10 MW**

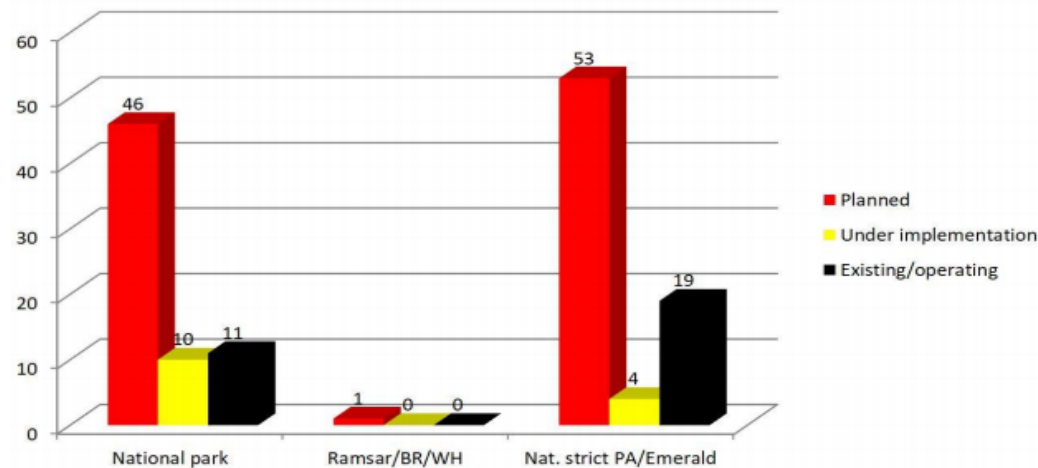
**~31% of HPPs
in PAs**



Hydropower Plants in Albania by size (capacity) 2017



Hydropower Plants in Protected Areas in Albania 2017

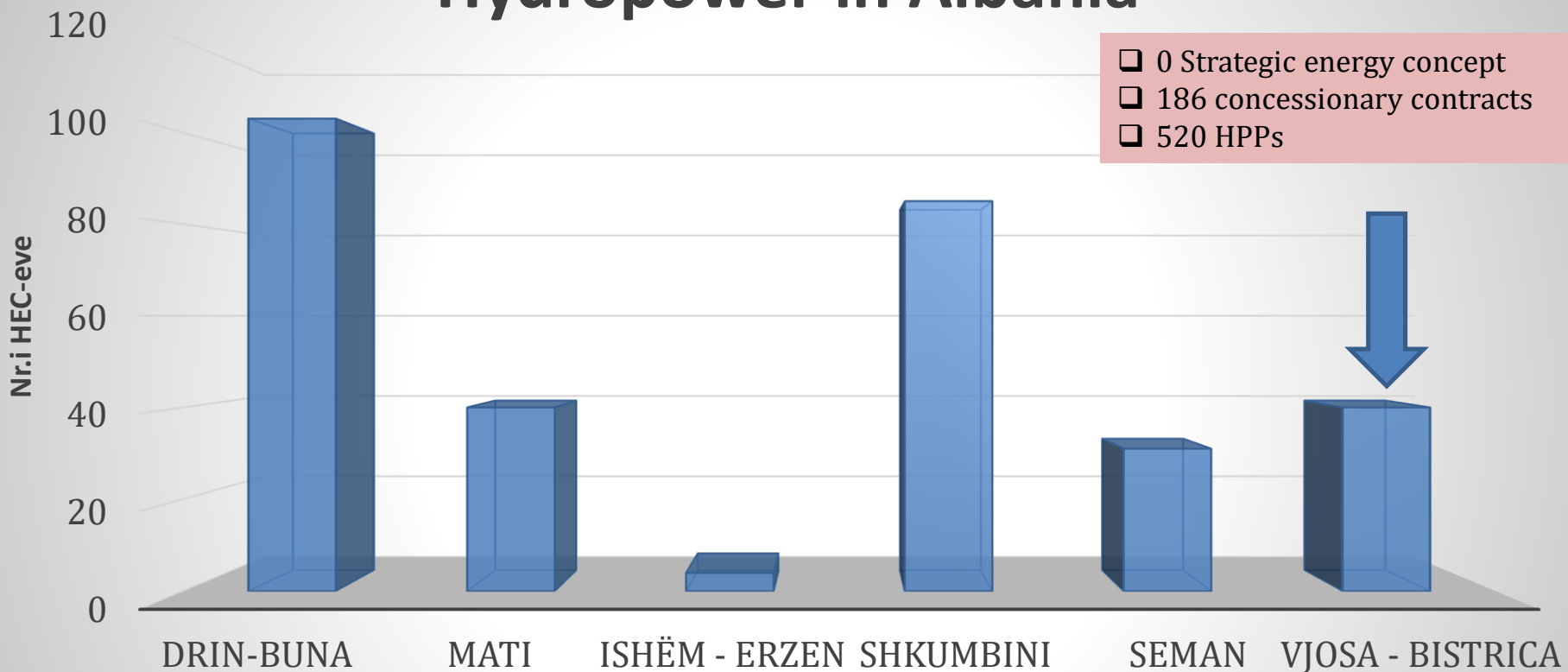




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Hydropower in Albania



	Drin-Buna	Mati	Ishëm - Erzen	Shkumbini	Seman	Vjosa - Bistrica
No. of HPP-s	103	40	4	85	31	40



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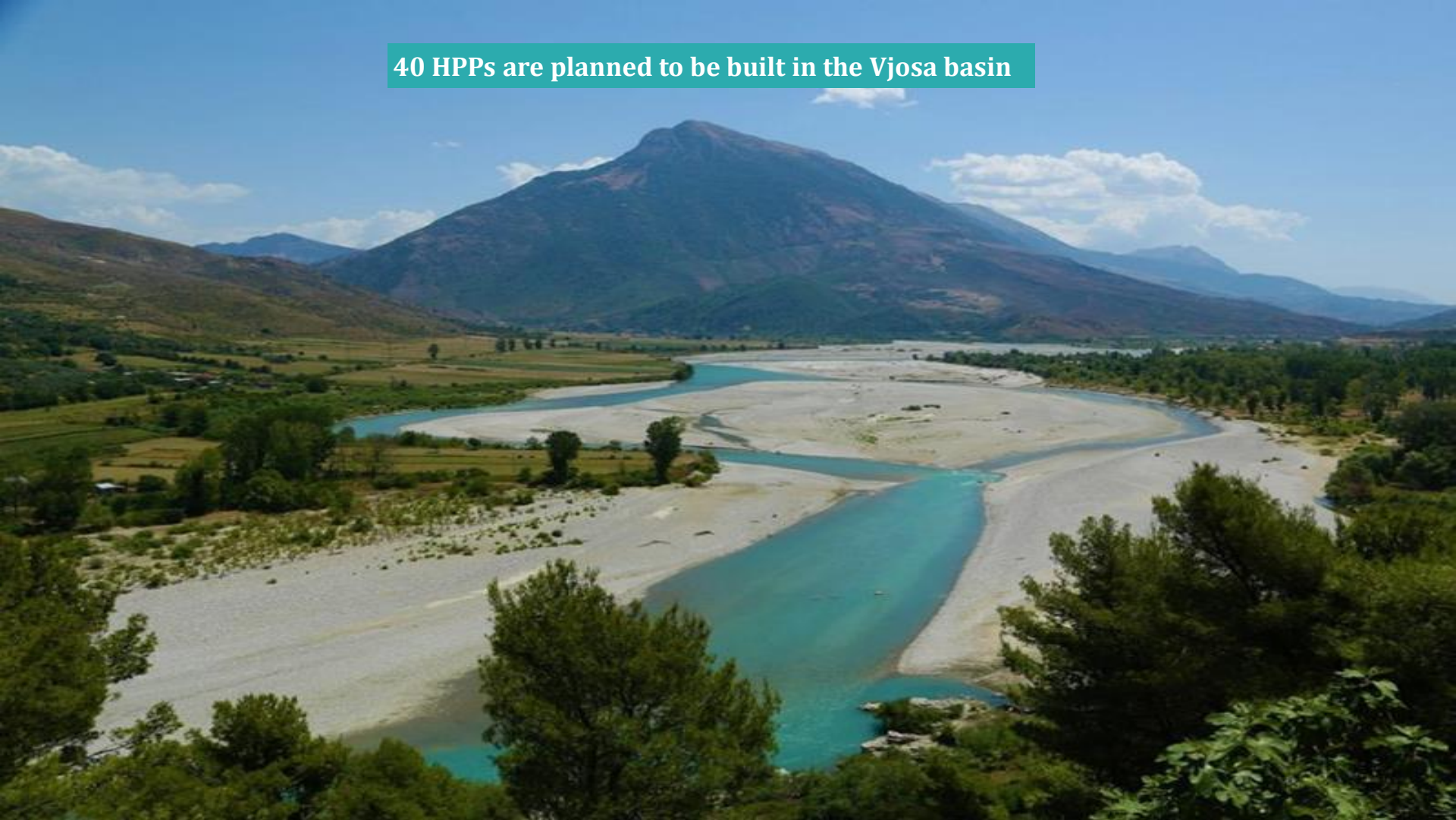




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40 HPPs are planned to be built in the Vjosa basin

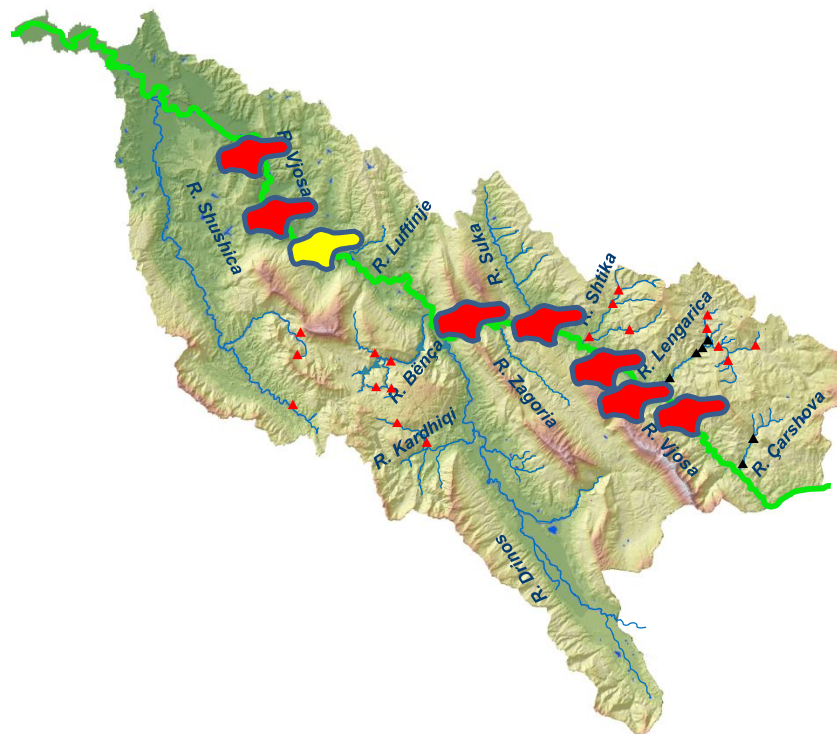




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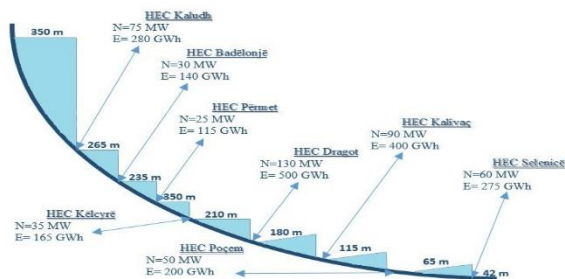
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9 dams on the
Vjosa main course

31 on its
tributaries

Skema e shfrytëzimit të Lumit Vjosa





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Irreversible impacts

Weak EIA studies

No Public consultation





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It's about the future of our Nature...





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...and local Communities





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Strategy

Tools





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Informing the local community





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Supporting the organization of protests





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Supporting the organization of protests





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National lobbying





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International lobbying





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EU messages to AL Government



The investments in hydropower **need to comply with nature protection obligations** especially for **protected areas and areas of high natural value** and to be carried out in conformity with the *acquis* in particular with the environmental impact assessment, Water Framework Directive and Birds and Habitats Directives

Brussels, 10.11.2015 EC on the 2015 Report on Albania

Calls on the Albanian Government to control the development of hydropower plants in environmentally **sensitive areas such as around the Vjosa River** and in protected areas and to maintain the integrity of existing national parks; recommends **improving the quality of environmental impact assessments**.

EP Resolution: Brussels, April 2016





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Involve celebrities





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228 Scientists active support

a) EIA follows EU standards

b) Research program

c) 3 year moratorium on dam construction plans





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International community is aware





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International Protest against Poçem Project





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AARHUS CONVENTION
for our environment

Involving International conventions





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Poçemi HPP

Dam height: 30 m



Reservoir surface: 24 km²

Reservoir volume: 295 mil. m³





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Poçemi HPP

Concession winners “Cinar San & Ayen Enerji”

Limited scientific knowledge of the area

Fake public hearings





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Lawsuit against Pocem HPP

The 1st Environmental court case

10 hearings at the court





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Empower Environmental Civil Organizations to promote action in Albania



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Europe's Last Wild River Is About to Get Dammed

John Wendle/Kuta and Tirana, Albania @johnwendle | Aug. 3, 2016



The push for green power can hurt the environment

The paddlers slap the hulls of their candy colored kayaks with open palms, sending deep thunks bouncing off the walls of the Albanian prime minister's offices in Tirana, the capital. Chants of "No dams!" join the thumping, as nearly a hundred residents of Kuta, an ancient village threatened with flooding by a proposed dam project on the Viosa River. join the





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Support us to SAVE THE VJOSA!

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