WATER MANAGEMENT

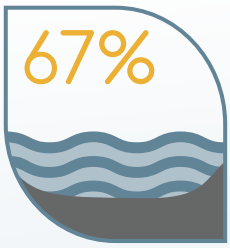
envap
Serbia and Sweden for Chapter 27

A European Union key objective is to achieve, by 2027 the latest, good status for the over 111 000 surface waters (e.g. rivers, lakes, coastal waters) and the over 13 000 groundwaters in EU territory. Achieving "good status" means securing good ecological and chemical status for surface waters, good quantitative and chemical status for groundwaters and the main sources of abstraction of drinking water. Achievement of the EU goals is supported by several directives, including the **Water Framework Directive (WFD)**, which establishes a strategic framework for the protection of all water bodies, i.e. rivers, lakes, coastal waters and groundwater. It is highly integrated with the complementary Directives on the protection of Groundwater against pollution and deterioration (GWD) and on Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) establishing the standards which constitute the chemical status criteria for the Water Framework Directive. The River Basin Management Plan is the main tool for planning and implementation of WFD, EQS and GW directives.

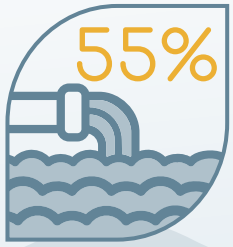
Other important legislation includes the **Urban Waste Water Directive** which requires that wastewater generated by agglomerations is collected and made subject to appropriate treatment before being discharged into the natural environment. Other directives are the **Nitrates Directive**, which deals with the relationship between agriculture and water quality and the **Floods Directive** which requires Member States to assess flood risks and to establish flood risk management plans with the aim to reduce flood risk for human health, economic activity, the environment and cultural heritage. Then there are the **Drinking and Bathing Water Directives** which requires Member States to meet binding quality standards to ensure safe drinkable water from the tap and clean water for bathing, to monitor whether the standards are complied with and to inform consumers and the public accordingly.

Serbia is aligning it's legal and institutional framework with EU directives and is implementing some of the requirements. Given the current situation of the water sector infrastructure, the full implementation might take a longer time, up to 20–25 years.*

In Serbia, around 67% of water for drinking water supply is abstracted from groundwater sources (well and karst springs), whereas 33% is abstracted from surface waters (rivers and reservoirs).

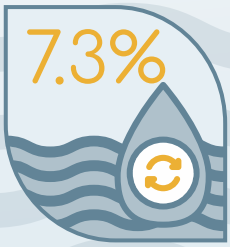


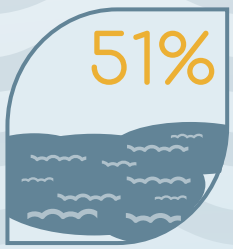
Certain municipalities are lacking availability of good quality drinking water. Parameters like arsenic, nitrites and nitrates are the most frequent causes of non-compliance.



Approximately 3.9 million residents are currently connected to wastewater collection systems (55% of the total population).

Only about 7.3% of wastewater receives biological treatment and 1.3% a more stringent treatment.





According to 2012–2018 monitoring data 51% of lake water bodies were characterized as having poor ecological status and only 4% of stream and river water bodies were characterized as having good ecological status.

*Action and target dates reflect plans as described in the draft strategic documents. This still may change during the process of approval or as a result of negotiations.

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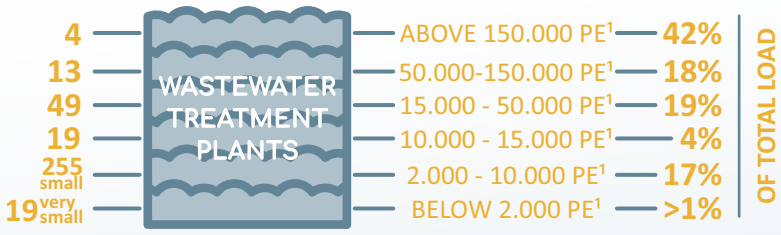
In order to prepare for negotiations, Serbia has developed four Directive Specific Implementation Plans (DSIP) for the Water Framework Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the Drinking Water Directive and the Nitrates Directive. These documents are adopted as annexes of the Negotiating Position for Chapter 27.

IN ORDER TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN SERBIA, SEVERAL PRIORITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

- A considerable strengthening of both, surface and groundwater monitoring systems. In order to meet the requirements of the WFD, UWWT Directive, Nitrates Directive and other water related directives, about 1300 monitoring stations might be needed. Of these monitoring stations would about 230 be for surveillance, about 1000 for operational monitoring and about 70 for investigative monitoring. Adoption of a new water monitoring programme and collection of monitoring data according to EU requirements from 2021 is also needed;
- 5 River Basin Management Plans need to be developed. The biggest – for Danube river basin (which covers 92% of Serbia's water) – is under development and to be officially adopted by the end of 2021;
- Implementation of 140 projects in order to ensure compliance with drinking water requirements that are mainly dealing with water quality parameters, addressing health impacts issues (presence of arsenic, nitrate and nitrite, etc.) and acceptability concerns (turbidity, color, etc.) and solving water shortage issues (1,551 MEUR);
- Development of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the territory of Serbia to be ready by the end of 2021 as well as the first cycle for water districts;
- Construction of 359 wastewater treatment facilities in 398 agglomerations (1,266 MEUR investment);



- The construction of around 10,370 km of additional collection network and 1,050 km of the existing network to be replaced/rehabilitated (2,552 MEUR investment);
- Reform of the water utility sector, which will balance and improve the quality of services and lead to more efficient management of public water supply, as well as the systems for collection and treatment of wastewater in service areas. It will focus on the improvement of performance and efficiency of utilities and the implementation of tariffs reform measures that are indicated in the Water Law.

Environmental standards are essential to an improved quality of life for Serbian citizens. Major efforts in terms of financial and human resources are foreseen during the implementation process across the entire sector. Large scale investments will support the construction or modernization of the urban wastewater collection and treatments systems and the improvement and extension of the water supply networks to ensure that safe drinking water is available to everybody. There are several significant steps already being made in order to improve the situation in water supply and wastewater treatment with full awareness that the cost for improved standards will be high, but that the benefits for this and coming generations will be even greater.

[1]PE- population equivalent

Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Republic Water Directorate

Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Environmental Protection

Шведска
Sverige