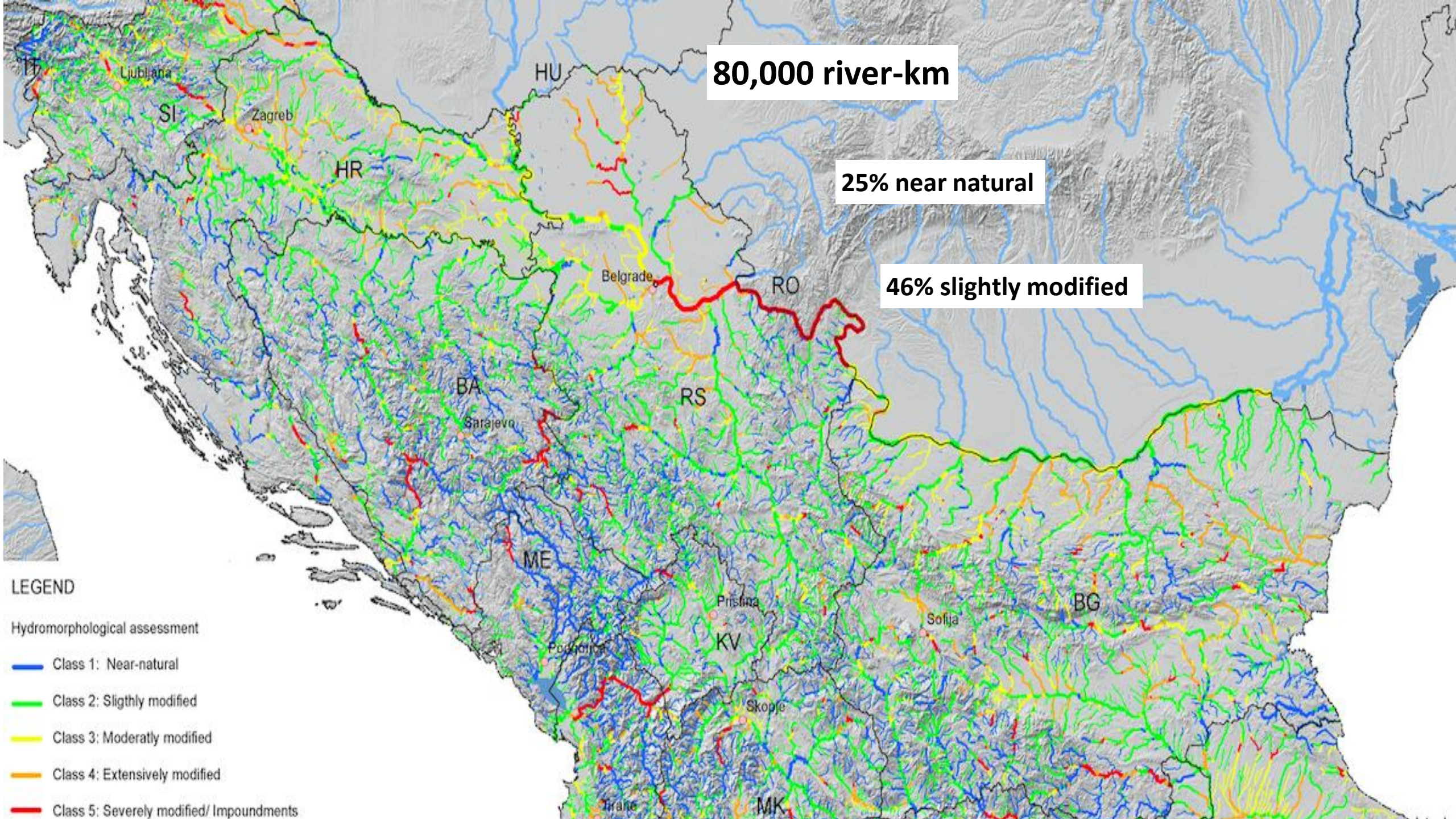


# Flüsse retten – Aber wie?





save the  
**blue**  
**heart**  
of europe



**80,000 river-km**

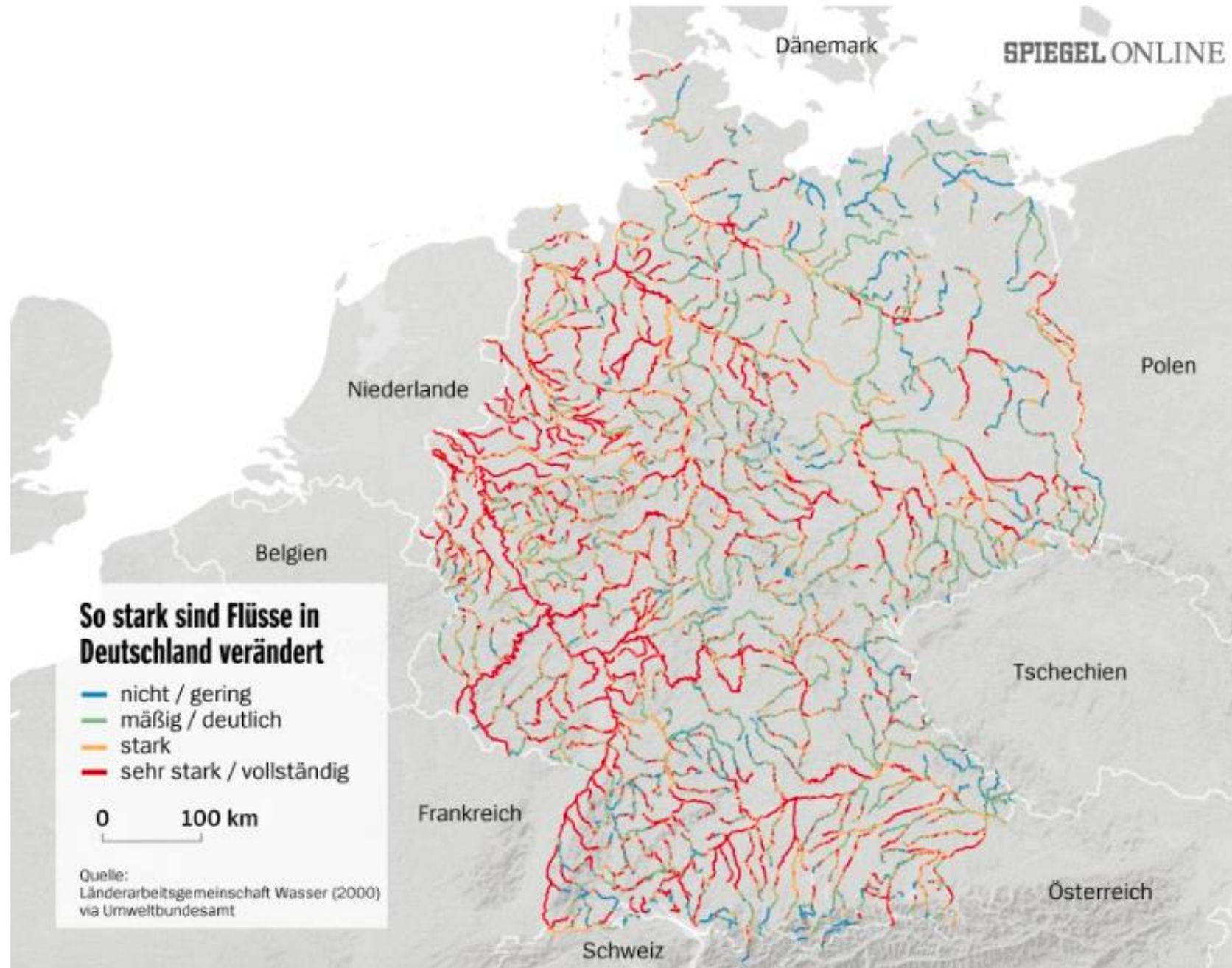
**25% near natural**

**46% slightly modified**

**LEGEND**

- Hydromorphological assessment
- Class 1: Near-natural
  - Class 2: Slightly modified
  - Class 3: Moderatly modified
  - Class 4: Extensively modified
  - Class 5: Severely modified/ Impoundments









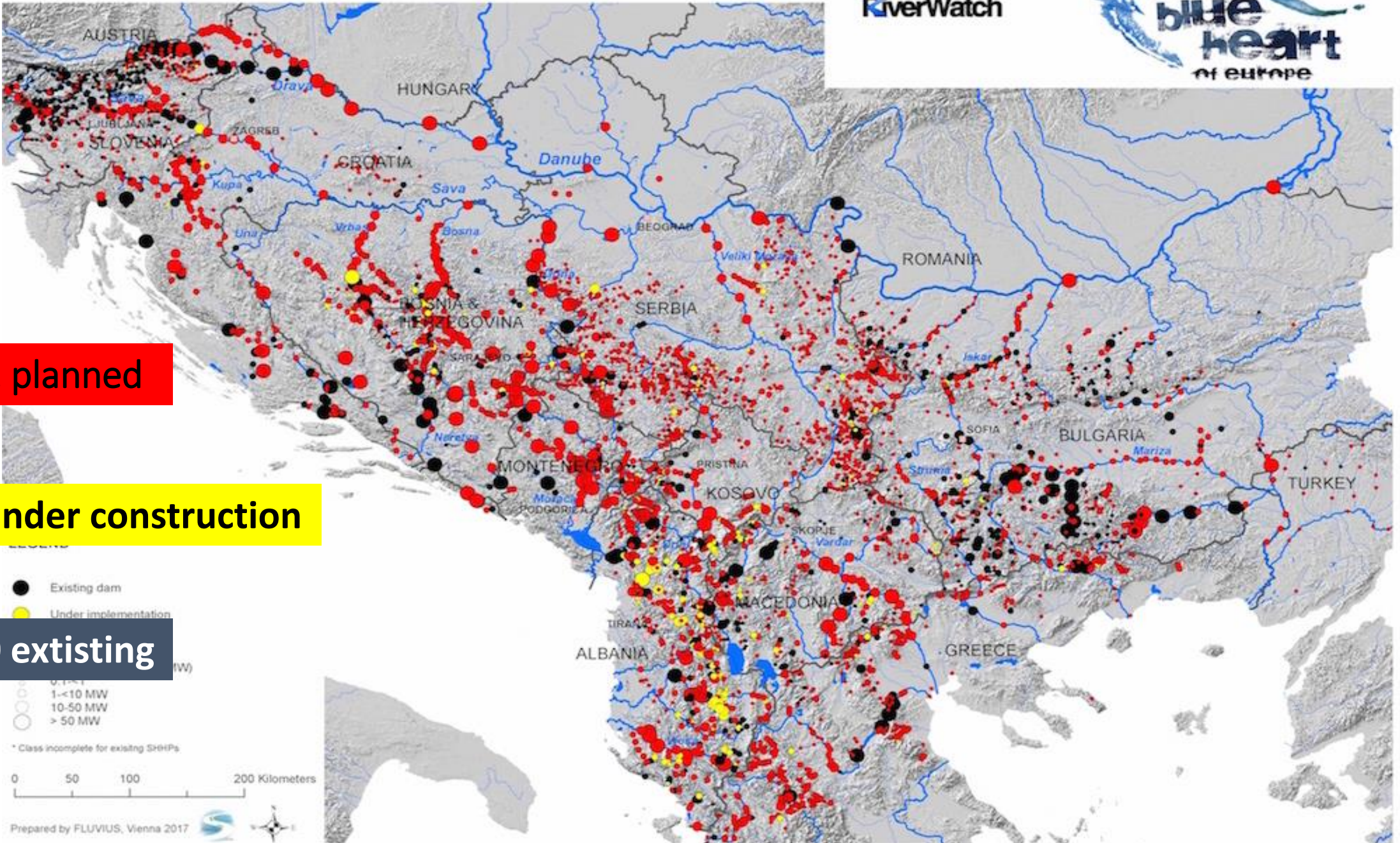






# Hydropower plants in Balkan rivers

EURONATUR FOUNDATION  
RiverWatch



3,431 planned

108 under construction

1,480 existing

- Existing dam
  - Under implementation
  - 1-10 MW
  - 10-50 MW
  - > 50 MW
- \* Class incomplete for existing SHPPs
- 0 50 100 200 Kilometers
- Prepared by FLUVIUS, Vienna 2017



# Balkan Freshwater Fish and Molluscs in Numbers

## 113 SPECIES

listed in one of the three IUCN threat categories and/or listed in one or more of the annexes of the European Habitats Directive or Bern Convention.

## 69

**ENDEMIC FISH SPECIES ARE FOUND HERE** and nowhere else on the planet, making it one of the highest concentrations of endemic fish species in Europe.

## 28%

**OF EUROPE'S ENDANGERED FISH ARE FOUND HERE**

## 40%

**OF EUROPE'S ENDANGERED MOLLUSCS ARE FOUND HERE** making the Balkans a hotspot for threatened molluscs which are highly vulnerable to hydropower development.

## FRESHWATER FISH AND MOLLUSCS

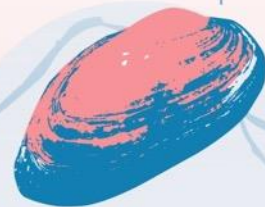
are the two most threatened taxonomic groups in Europe.



DANUBE SALMON



ARACHTHOS SPINED LOACH



MICROCONDYLEA BONELLII

## IF DAMS ARE BUILT:

## 49

**FISH SPECIES** are faced with either the threat of extinction or loss of between 50 and 100% of their Balkan distribution, 11 of these are endemic so will be globally extinct.

APPROXIMATELY

## 10%

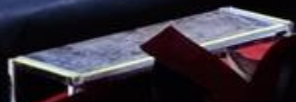
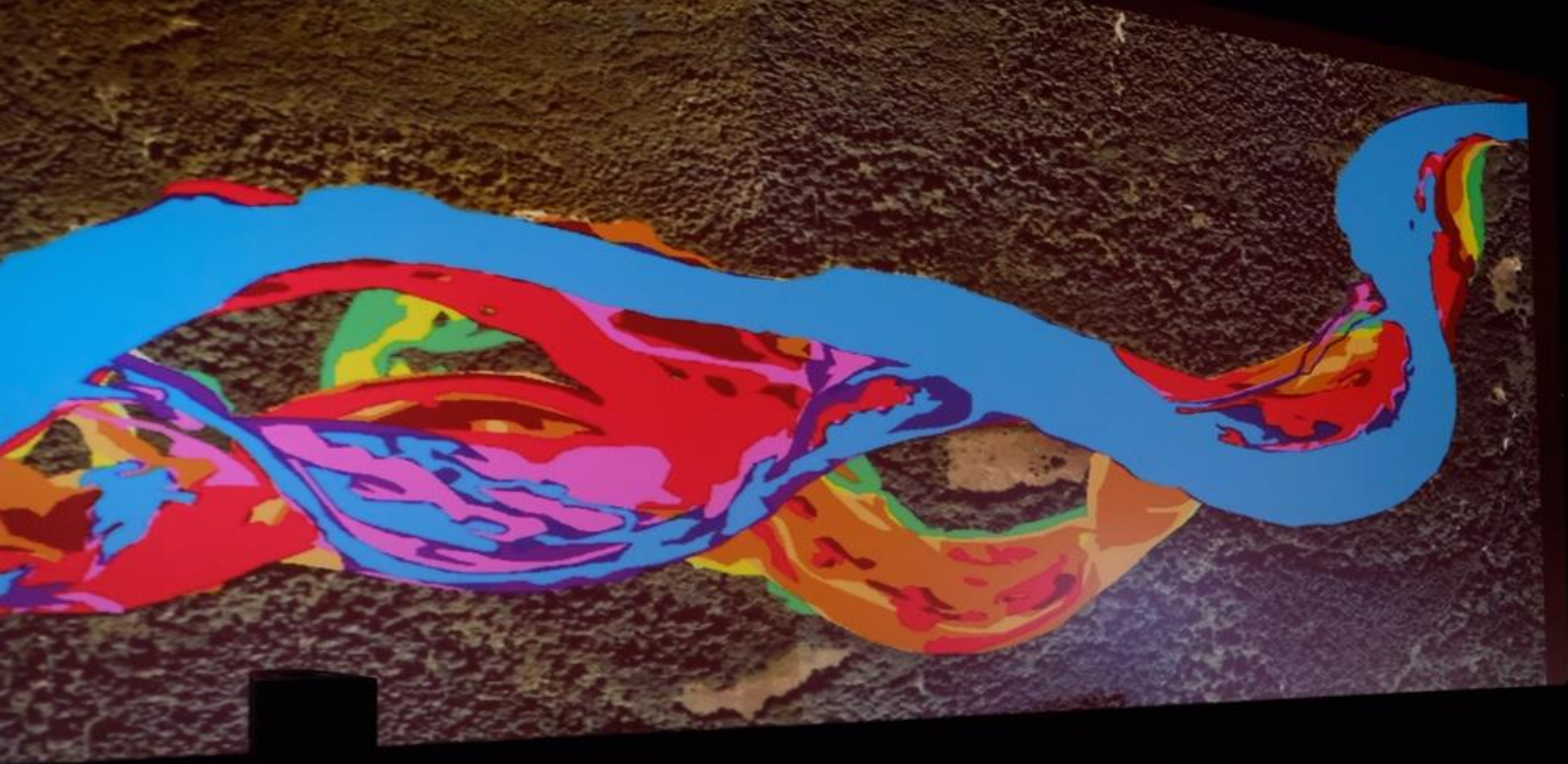
of all of Europe's freshwater fish species are threatened by Balkan dams. (There are around 500 freshwater fish species in Europe).

## 108 OUT OF 113

species would become either extinct or assigned to a threat category.



**SCIENTISTS**  
for Balkan Rivers





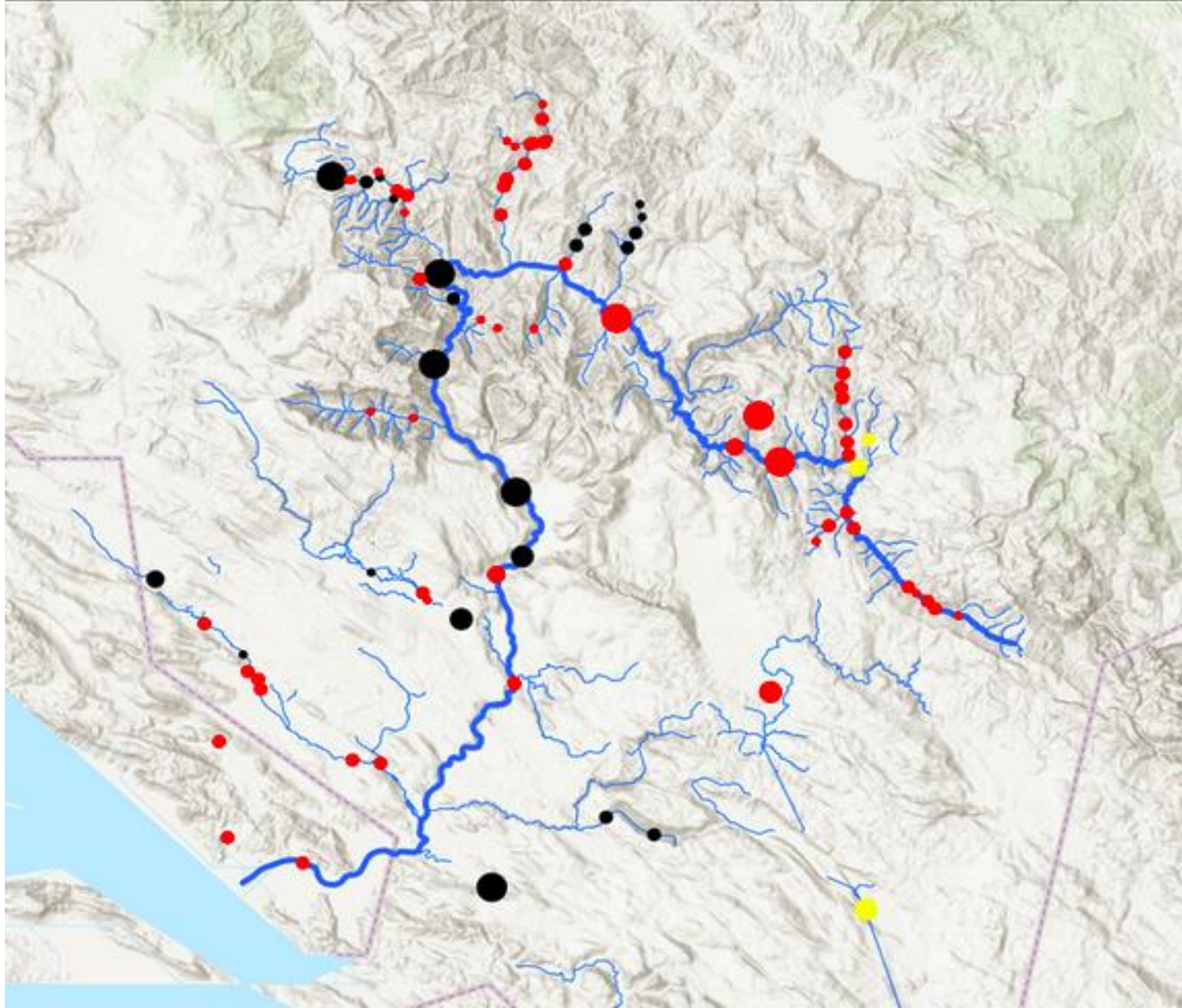




# VJOSA RESEARCH CENTER "FRITZ SCHIEMER"









**70 scientists**  
**40+ journalists, activists, artists**  
**17 countries**













## Neretva: Ein wertvolles Flusssystem in Gefahr

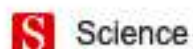
04.08.2023



### Scientists are fighting to save the 'blue heart' of Europe

The Neretva River, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is known for its unique biodiversity, but a hydropower boom is putting this at risk.

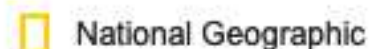
10.08.2023



### In the Balkans, researchers mobilize to protect a wild river

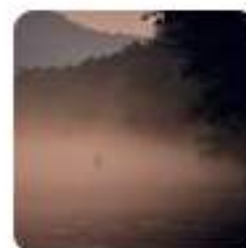
Five years ago, researchers from across Europe converged on a cold, fast-moving river in the highlands of Albania for a week of intensive...

24.06.2022



### A 'tsunami' of hydropower threatens some of Europe's last wild rivers

AS I LEAVE SARAJEVO and head south towards the cool waters of the Neretva River, views unfold ahead. Dense forests sweep to the horizon....





# LAWYERS FOR RIVERS

With a team of legal experts, we are creating a wave of lawsuits and complaints against hydropower plants across the Balkans, supporting local communities and boosting awareness in the legal community.





# Federation of BiH bans construction of small hydropower plants



Photo: Pixabay

The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has three months to produce bills and ban small hydropower plants after the

Published  
June 24, 2020

## NEWSLETTER

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once a week.

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## MOST POPULAR

April 13, 2021

**Saudi Arabia to add 3.7 GW in solar power, achieves world's lowest price**

October 21, 2021

**Europe's first LFP battery factory**



# ARTISTS FOR RIVERS

---

By mobilizing artists from different disciplines to publicly defend rivers from hydropower, we are connecting to people on an emotional level, as well as reaching individuals who might otherwise be unaware of the threat.



MEGA MUSIC

MEGA MUSIC

MEGA MUSIC

MEGA MUSIC

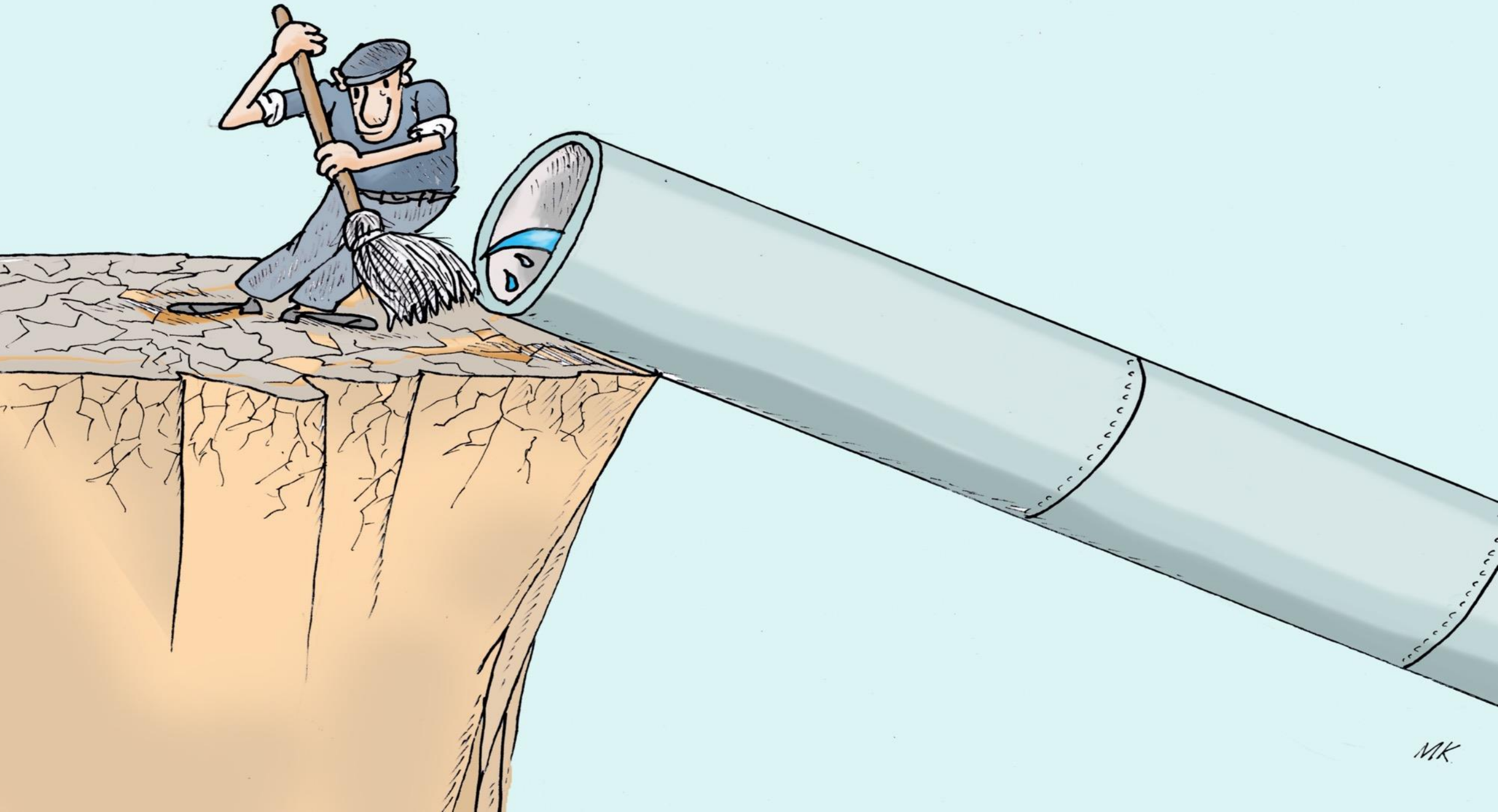
YAMAHA

MEGA MUSIC









MK



**VIDEO/ Aktori i famshëm kundër Ramës! Leonardo Di Caproi sulmon HEC-et në Vjosë**



# ACTIVISTS FOR RIVERS

---

We support local communities of affected people and activists, who go on the barricade against hydropower projects, as much as we can. They are the cornerstone of the fight for their threatened river heritage.





EKOLOŠKO DRUŠTVO »BISTRO«  
BISTRO  
Kruščica-Vitez

USTI ME DA TČE!  
NEREČICA

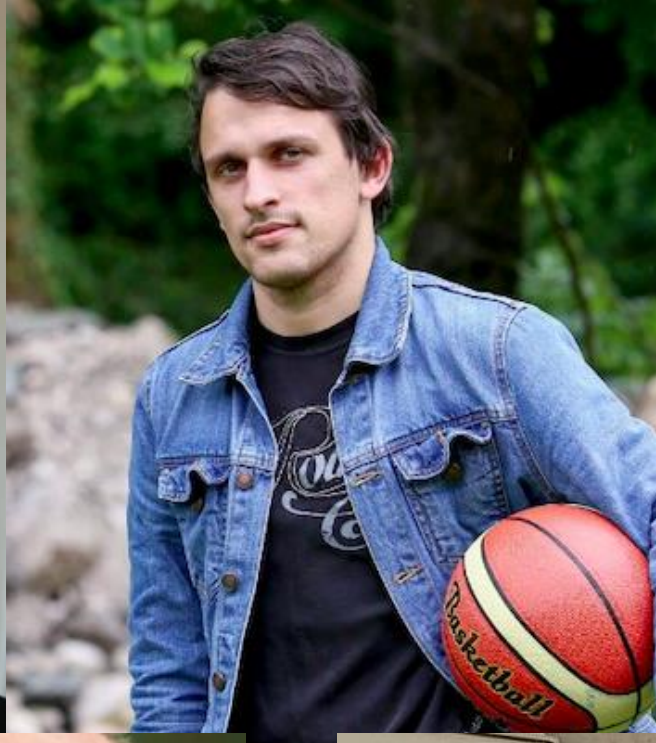
Podržano od: USAID CCI



**„Brave women of Kruscica“ blocked construction site >500 days and nights**



Robert



An aerial photograph of a river with a small boat on the left. The river flows through a landscape of light-colored gravel and sandbars. The text 'VJO SA WILD RIVER NATIONAL PARK' is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

**VJO SA  
WILD RIVER  
NATIONAL  
PARK**





VETOES A  
NATIONAL PARK  
NOW



**YJOSA  
NATIONAL PARK  
NOW**



VJDS A  
NATIONAL PARK  
NOW







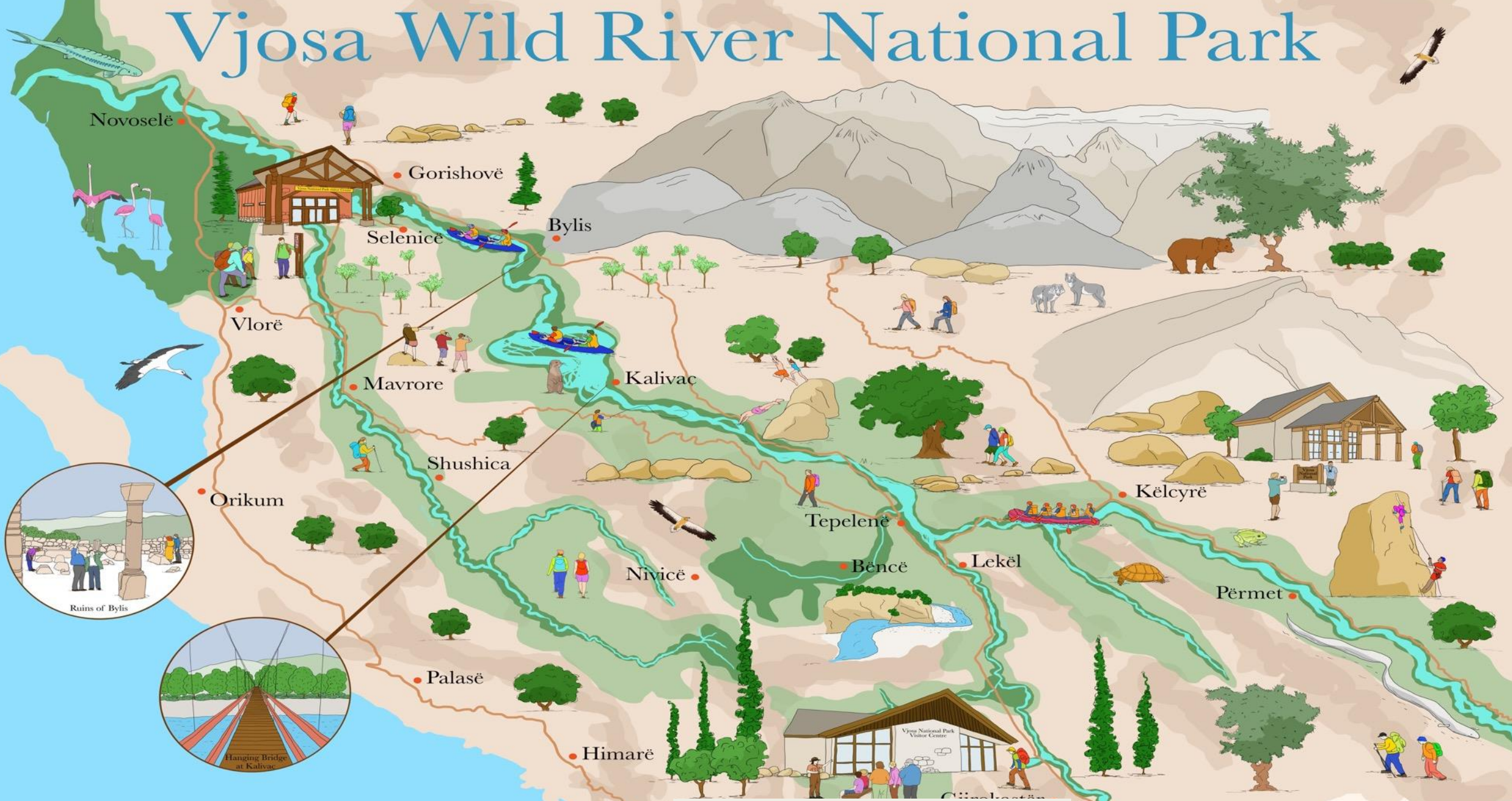








# Vjosa Wild River National Park



Europe's first wild river national park. **404 river-km** are of rivers and streams





THANK YOU