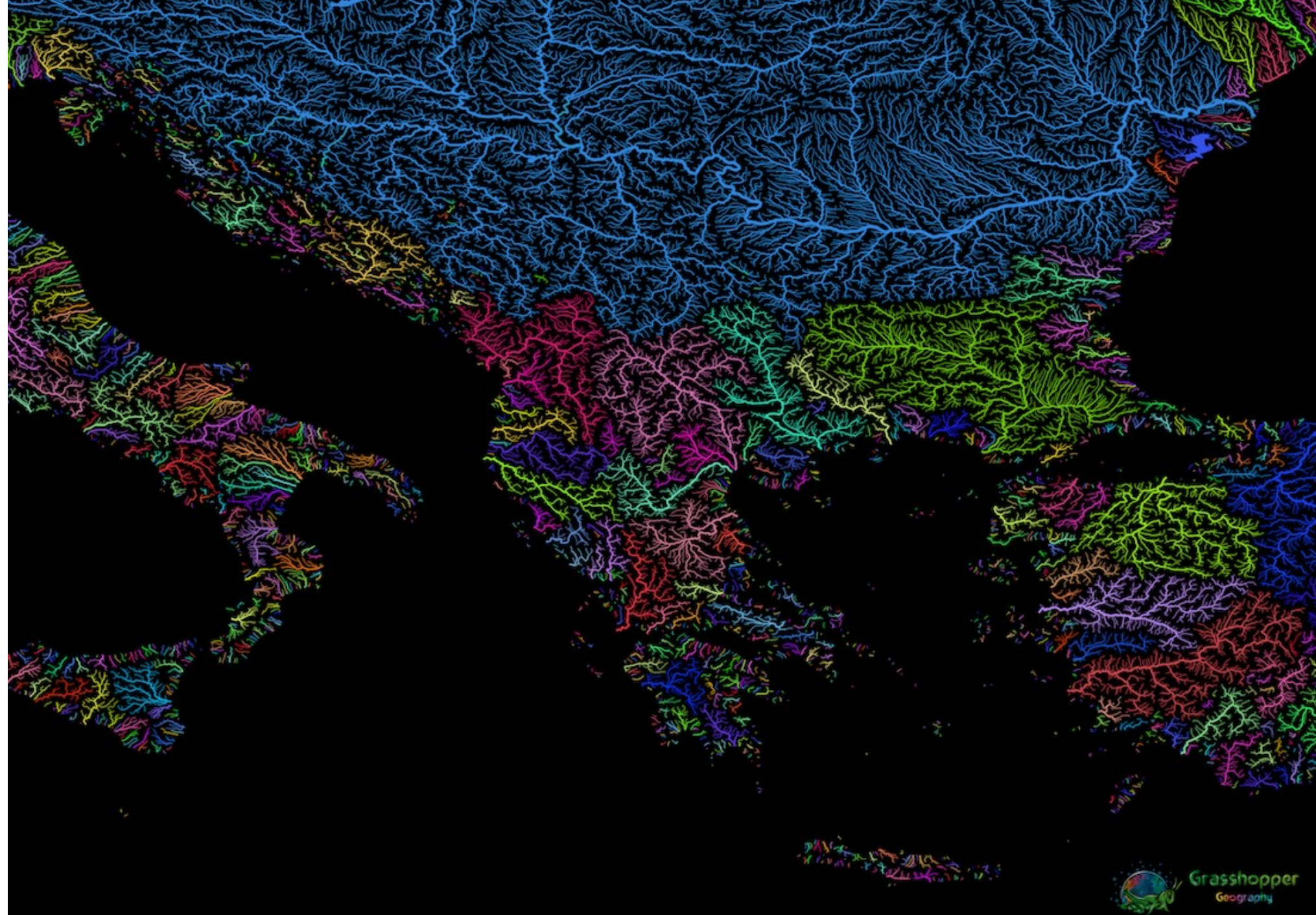




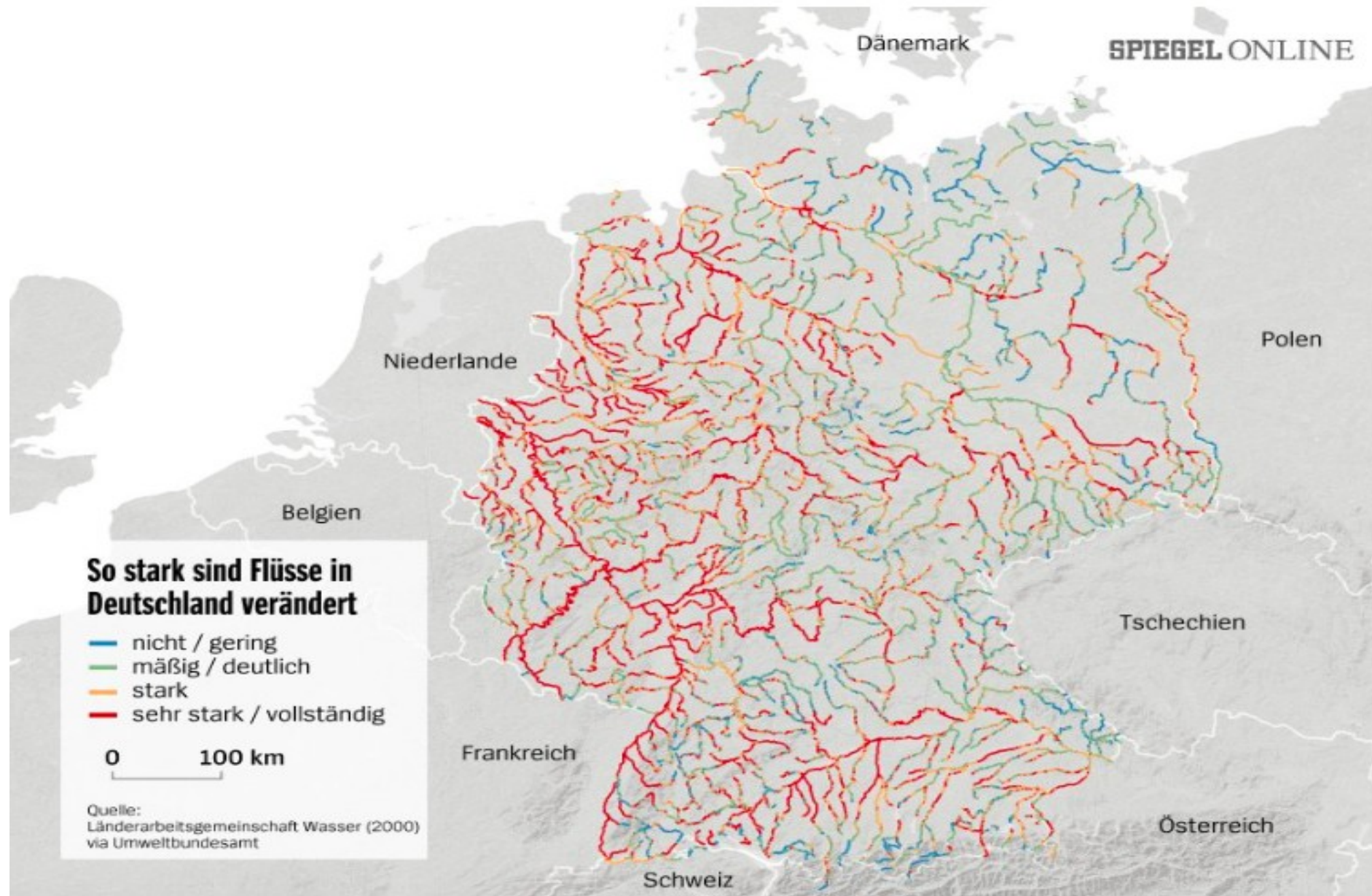
Save the Blue Heart of Europe

Ulrich Eichelmann
RiverWatch



Grasshopper
Geography















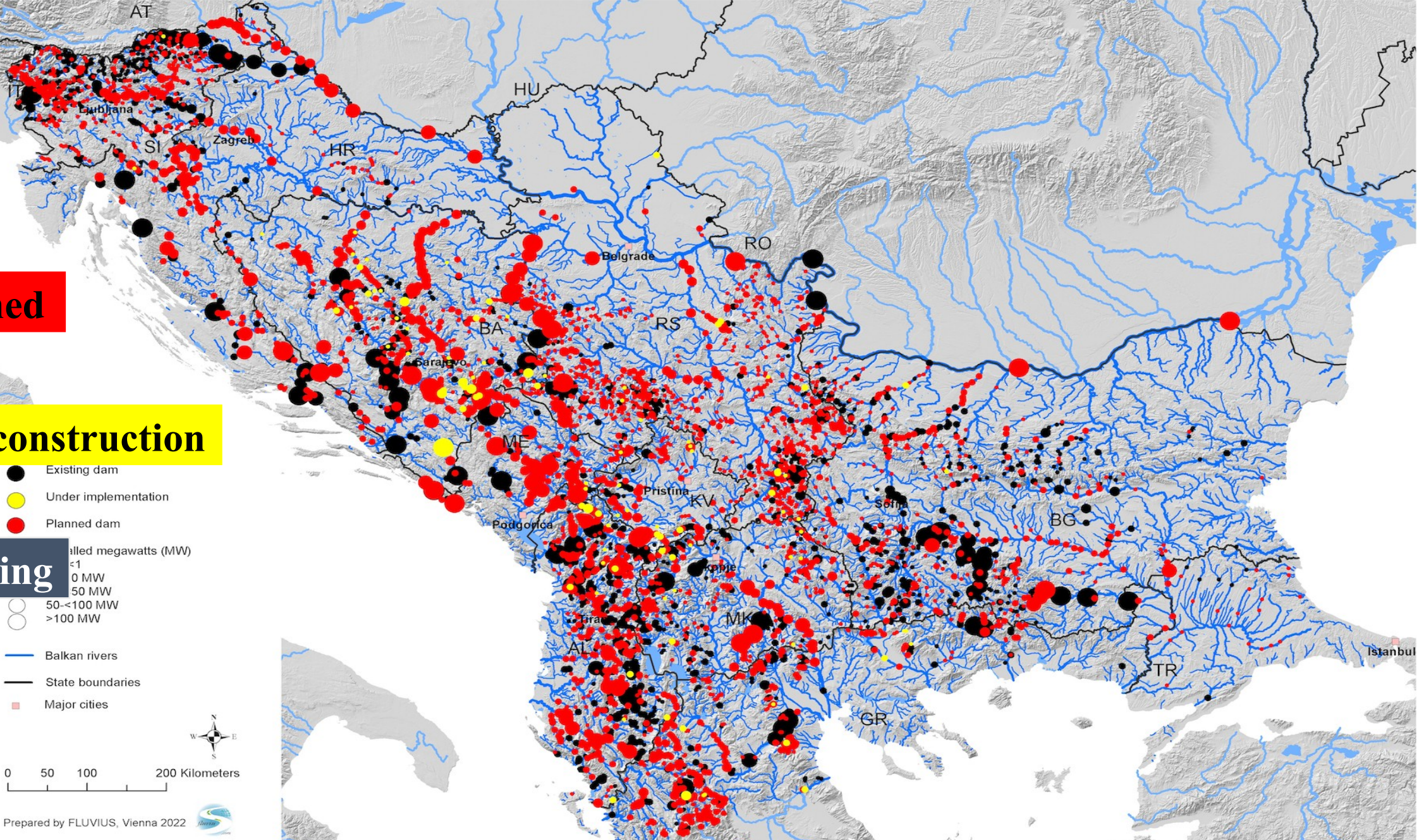
Enormous variety of trout species

Overview of Hydropower plants in the Balkan countries 2022

3,281 planned

108 under construction

1,726 existing











Balkan Rivers are last stronghold of Huchen

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%

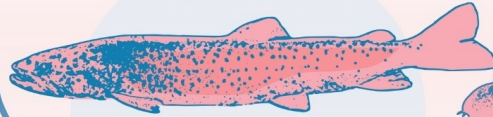
OF EUROPE'S ENDANGERED FISH
ARE FOUND HERE

40%

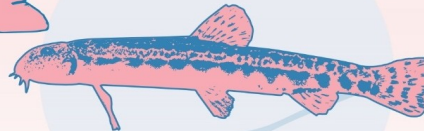
OF EUROPE'S ENDANGERED MOLLUSCS
ARE FOUND HERE making the Balkans a hotspot for threatened molluscs which are highly vulnerable to hydropower development.

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.



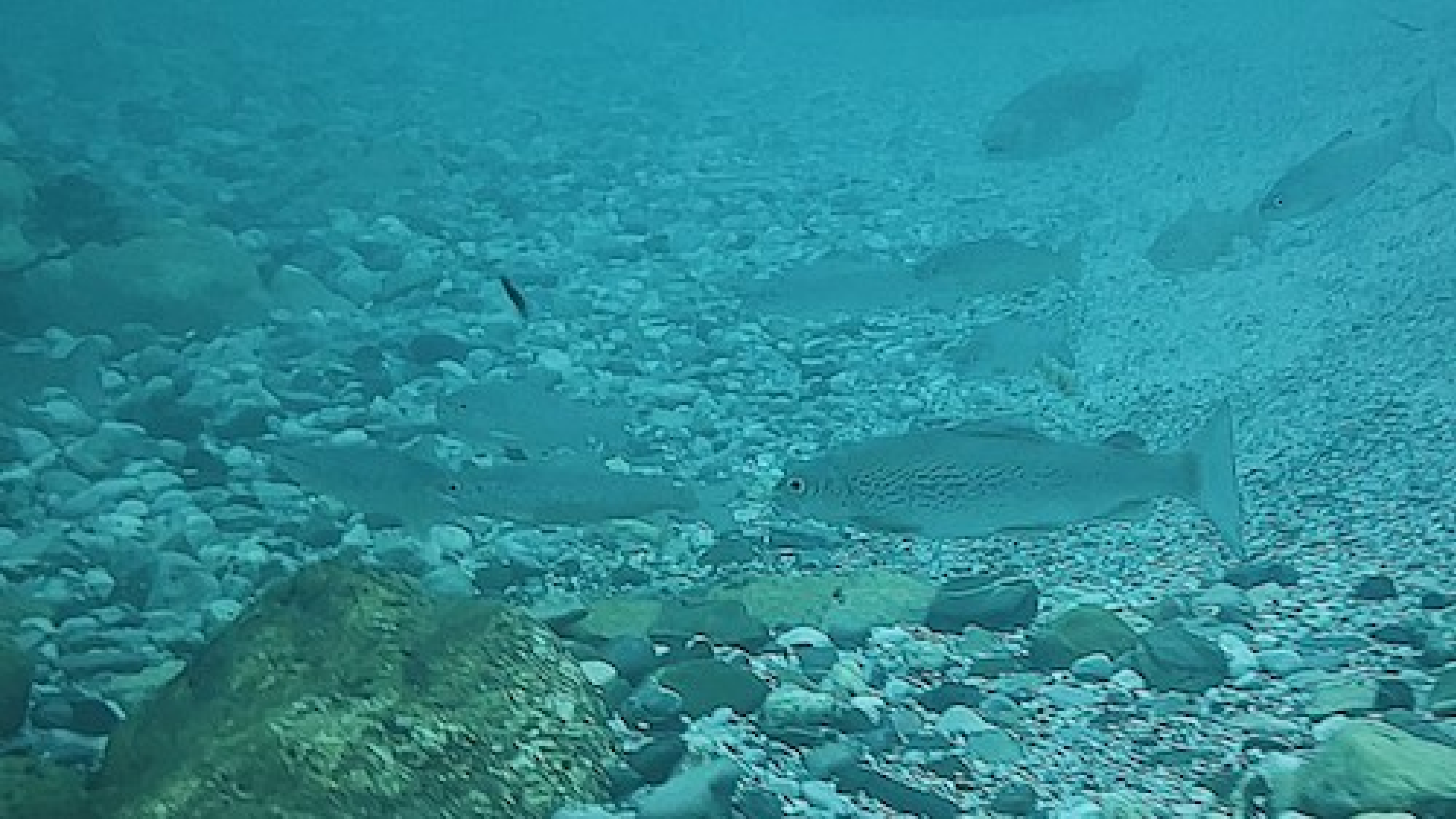
An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. A large, light-colored dam is visible in the center-left, with a road leading to it. Several winding roads are visible across the mountain slopes. The terrain is rugged with exposed rock faces and patches of green vegetation. A small body of water is visible near the base of the mountain.

72 HPPs planned or under construction in Neretva basin



SCIENTISTS
for Balkan Rivers





Successes 2022

VOĐA JE ZAKON!

110 HPPs in FBiH annulled (65 others „unlikely“)

Subsidies on hydro <10MW cancelled in RS

North Macedonian government revokes seven small hydropower plant concessions in Shar Planina National

Mavrovo NP

Press Release

🕒 10/13/2022

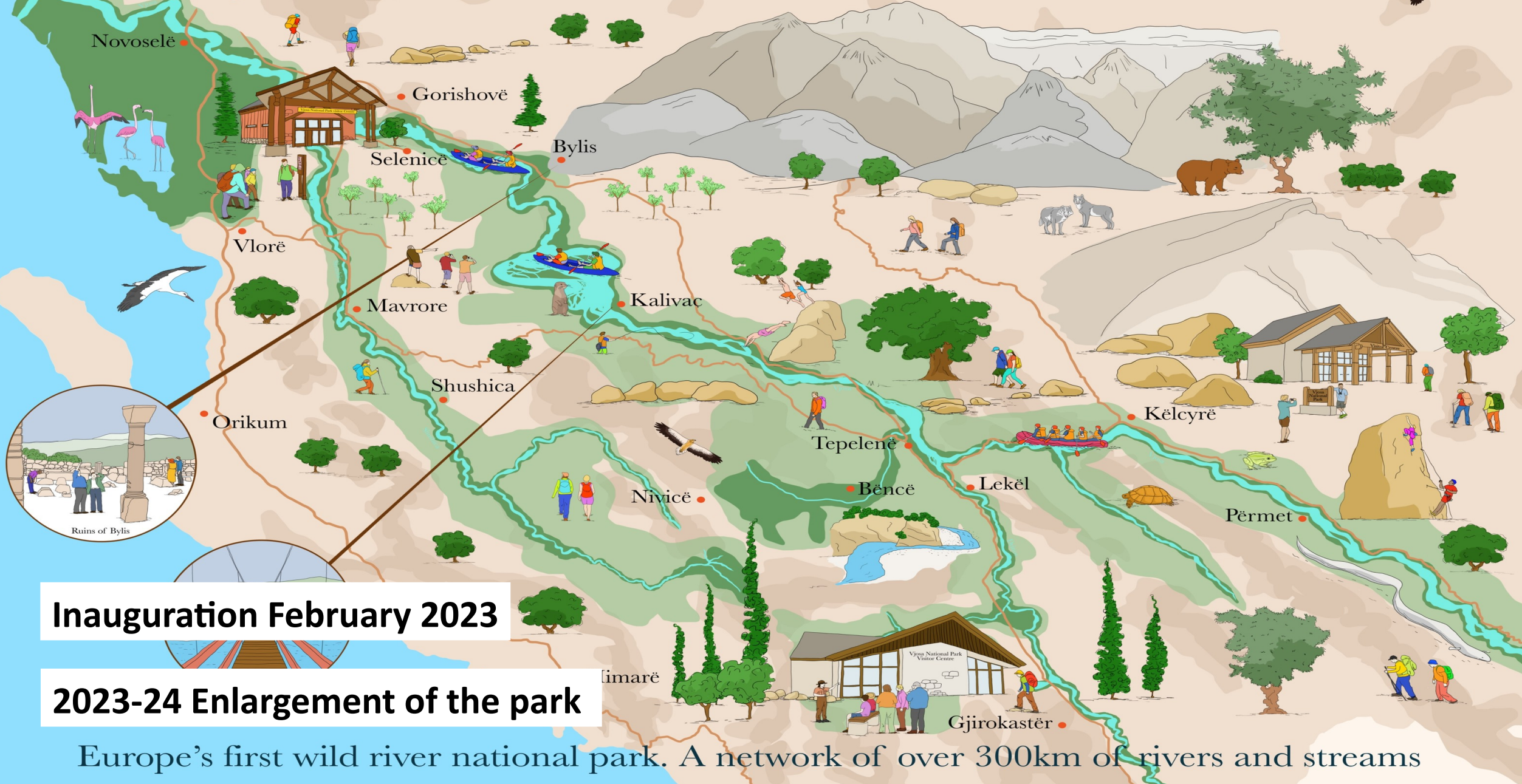


An aerial photograph of a river with a small boat on the left. The river flows between sandy and rocky banks. Large white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

VJO SA WILD RIVER NATIONAL PARK



Vjosa Wild River National Park



Inauguration February 2023

2023-24 Enlargement of the park

Europe's first wild river national park. A network of over 300km of rivers and streams

We need more Wild River National Parks!



