

Scaling up Dam Removal: implementation plan for SE Europe




MedINA
GREECE

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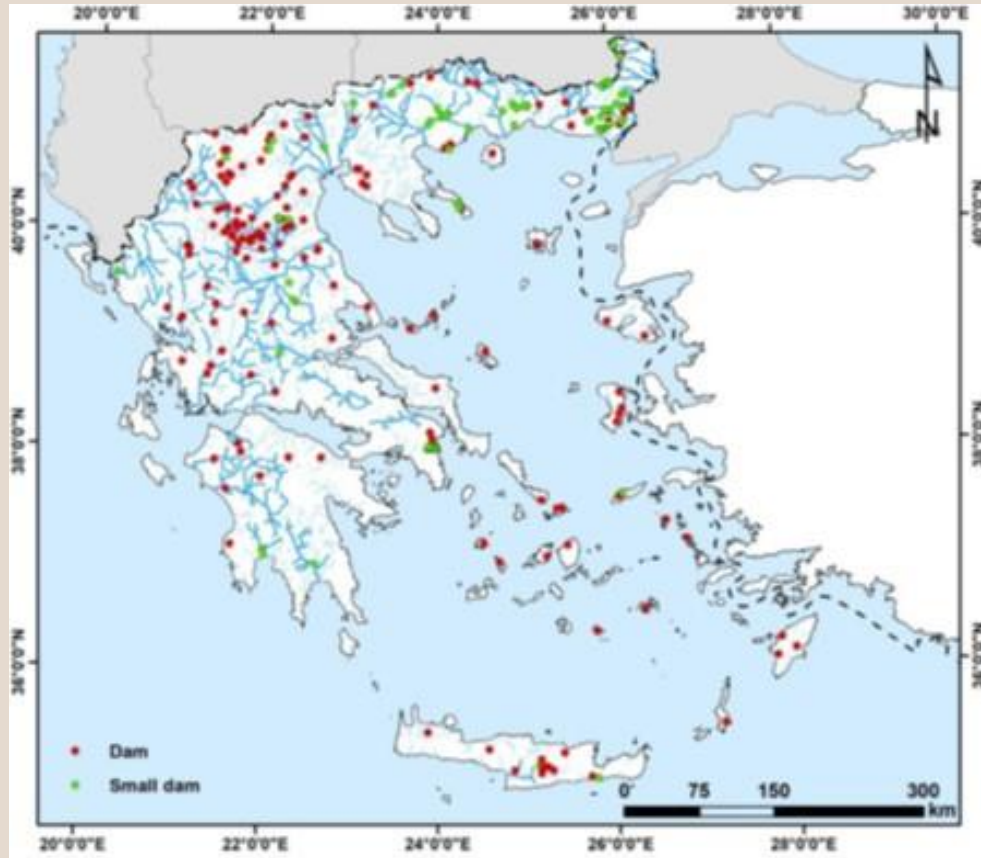
Bucharest, November 10th, 2023



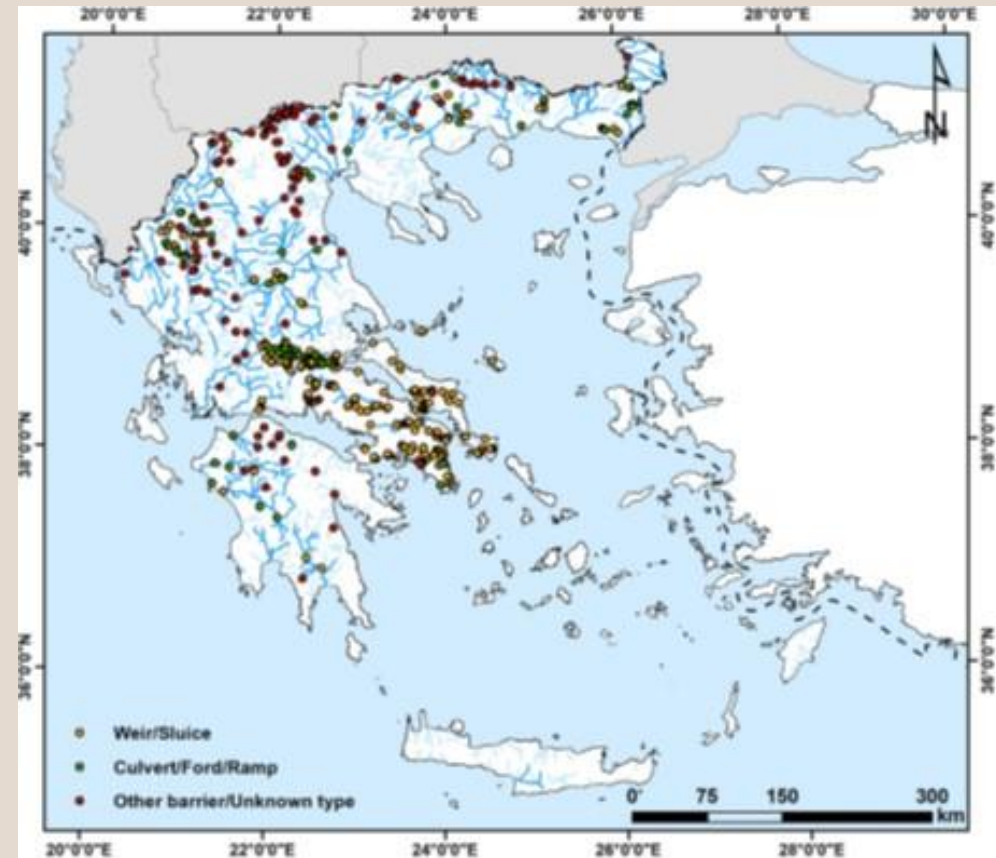
Hužava Weir © Rob Kleinjans



The situation in Greece



Map of 275 significant dam barriers in Greece: 111 small dams (green) and 164 large dams (red), **Source: A. Panagiotou, et al 2021 (HCMR).**



Initial map of 661 non-dam or lesser longitudinal barriers in Greece as they have been compiled in the EU Amber project Barrier Tracker survey, **Source: A. Panagiotou, et al 2021 (HCMR).**

25 out of 164 large dams are used for hydropower. Also, there are 118 small hydropower plants (less than 10 MW). Estimation: there are over 140 dams for power generation – 80% of which are small. **Sources: Greek Committee on Large Dams, Kagalou I. and Latinopoulos D. (2020).**

The situation in Greece

CHALLENGES

- Absence of clear and detailed inventory of dams
- Understaffed Authorities
- Absence of legal, strategic and policy framework

SOLUTIONS

- Create a Roadmap for Greece:
 - Knowledge exchange
 - Policy strategy
 - Comms/awareness strategy
- State of the art review and mapping of national legal framework on dam removal
- Meetings with relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Environment, Directorate of Freshwater, Decentralized Freshwater Management Authorities, Municipalities, Regions, Directorate of Environmental Policy, etc.)
- Proposals to change legislation and set procedures for abandoned barriers in compliance with the legal EU framework

Network – Dam Removal – Pipeline

Network

- Network: all environmental civil society organisations of Greece, national regional and local public authorities, extended list of national, regional and local journalists – members of the following freshwater networks:
 - Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands
 - Wetlands for Mediterranean Resilience
 - IUCN
 - Wetlands International Europe Association
 - Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture
 - Save the Blue Heart of Europe

Dam Removal

- Dam Removal: only this project is currently active in Greece. No actual DR currently in place or implemented at the moment, mainly because of the absence of the legal framework

Pipeline

- Current picture from Aimilia Panagiotou *et al* paper: 661 barriers (misc) and 275 large dams = 936 barriers – no info on them nor relevant legal framework
- Amber barrier tracker app: Currently, an effective tool for Greece
- Submission of a new proposal for an inventory of barriers for a specific RB in Greece – hoping that it will act as a pilot

Policy actions

- New EU Nature Restoration Law – Political trilogue November 9th
- Good Network and relationship between MedINA and the Ministry of Environment and other public authorities
- Good news: after MedINA intervention during the public consultation of the RBMP of Epirus-Western Macedonia Region we are very positive that DR / River restoration through barrier removal will be included in the next RBMP!!





Comms actions



MedINA's participation in overall
comms plan coordinated by WFMF

Dam-busters documentary screening

Social-mass media dissemination

National workshop

Celebrating the project in Greece



PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR GREECE



Thank you!

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