



Funded by  
the European Union

# **SUMMARY REPORT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY OF KOSOVA 2017-2036**



Promoting Universal  
Access to **Clean Water**

Let's do it  **Peja!**

February 2023

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its content is the sole responsibility of Let's Do It Peja, implementer of the project "Promoting Universal Access to Clean Water" and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, Office in Pristina.



**Funded by  
the European Union**

**SUMMARY OF REPORT ON  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL WATER  
STRATEGY OF KOSOVA 2017-2036**



Promoting Universal  
Access to **Clean Water**

**Let's do it**  **Peja!**

## SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Monitoring of the Strategy implementation progress

The National Water Strategy of Kosovo is the main planning document in the field of water derived from the Water Law for a period of 20 years. The purpose of this document is to provide sustainable and integrated development of the water sector by meeting the needs for: water supply, water for food production, irrigation and agriculture, industry, energy production, fishing, tourism, sports and recreation.

The Strategy defines 4 strategic objectives as follows:

**1) Water use**

"To allocate and supervise in a sustainable way the right to use Kosovo's water resources to all water users so as to guarantee access to safe drinking water for and to maximize the economic benefits from other uses of water, taking into consideration the change of hydrological regimes, the elimination of water scarcity and respecting the principle of sustainable management."

**2) Water protection**

"To regulate and supervise the activities that increase the pressure in the water environment in a proportional, efficient and effective manner, in order to achieve environmental objectives justified from the economic aspect for surface and underground water bodies while simultaneously respecting the principles of sustainable management."

**3) Protection from water**

"To achieve acceptable levels of protection of population and property from the harmful effects of water, including floods, runoff and erosion in a manner that is economically balanced and cost-effective."

**4) Governance**

"To create and maintain a water governance system that is fair, transparent, efficient, coordinated and with such professional and technical capacity as to be able to effectively support the achievement of strategic objectives for water use, water protection and protection from water, including the implementation of a water information system to monitor, assess, interpret and inform stakeholders on all aspects of this Strategy."

- The achievement of the 4 strategic objectives of the Strategy is planned to be done through 29 specific measures (10 for the first objective, 8 for the second objective, 5 for the third objective, and 6 for the fourth objective). For each of the measures, the actions for their implementation have been determined, a total of **74 actions** (31 for the first objective, 15 for the second objective, 13 for the third and 20 for the fourth objective).
- The assessment of the implementation of the Strategy was done **for each action** separately, then based on the implementation of the actions it was evaluated to what

degree the measures were implemented and finally, based on the evaluation of the implemented measures, the degree of achievement of the strategic objectives was also evaluated. The assessment was made based on the feedback to the questionnaires sent to the responsible institutions and organizations; also on the documents and reports available on the Internet of the relevant institutions (such as the Kosovo Statistics Agency, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, including the institutions that are within this Ministry such as the River Basin District Authority and the Hydrometeorological Institute, then the Water Services Regulatory Authority, Regional Water Companies, municipalities, etc.).

## Evaluation according to strategic objectives and recommendations

### (i) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: WATER USE

The evaluation of the 10 measures planned for the achievement of this strategic objective is as follows:

- Substantial progress – 3
- Partial progress – 6
- Little progress – 0
- No progress – 1

This is the strategic objective for which there has been most progress compared to other strategic objectives. The achievement of this strategic objective has been assessed with  $K=3.3^1$

**Substantial progress** has been assessed in three of the measures:

Measure 1.4: Reduction of non-payment rate for used water – RWCs have reached a 96% bill collection rate, MESPI has substantially increased the rate of water charges collection in the last two years, and Irrigation Companies have also recorded a significant increase in the revenue collection for supplied water).

Measure 1.6: Achieving compliance with the EU Drinking Water Directive – The Drinking Water Directive has been transposed into Kosovo legislation, the degree of compliance of the quality of water supplied through public water supply systems is over 98%, all RWCs have water quality laboratories - 2 of them accredited, the others in the process of accreditation);

Measure 1.7: Investment program for water supply systems (EUR 24.7 million for the period 2017-2021) – Planned investments have been exceeded since a total of about EUR 129 million has been invested (through phase VI of the RWSSP program for rural systems co-financed by the Government of Kosovo with the Swiss Government in the amount of EUR 15.75 million, through RWCs from own revenues and grants in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Coefficient K is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the degree of implementation of the measures by quantifying the progress of the implementation of the measures as follows: substantial progress-5, partial progress-3, small progress-1, no progress-0

amount of EUR 88.5 million, through municipalities about EUR 20 million, through MMPHI about EUR 5 million have been invested.).

**Partial progress** has been assessed for most of the measures of this objective (6 out of 10).

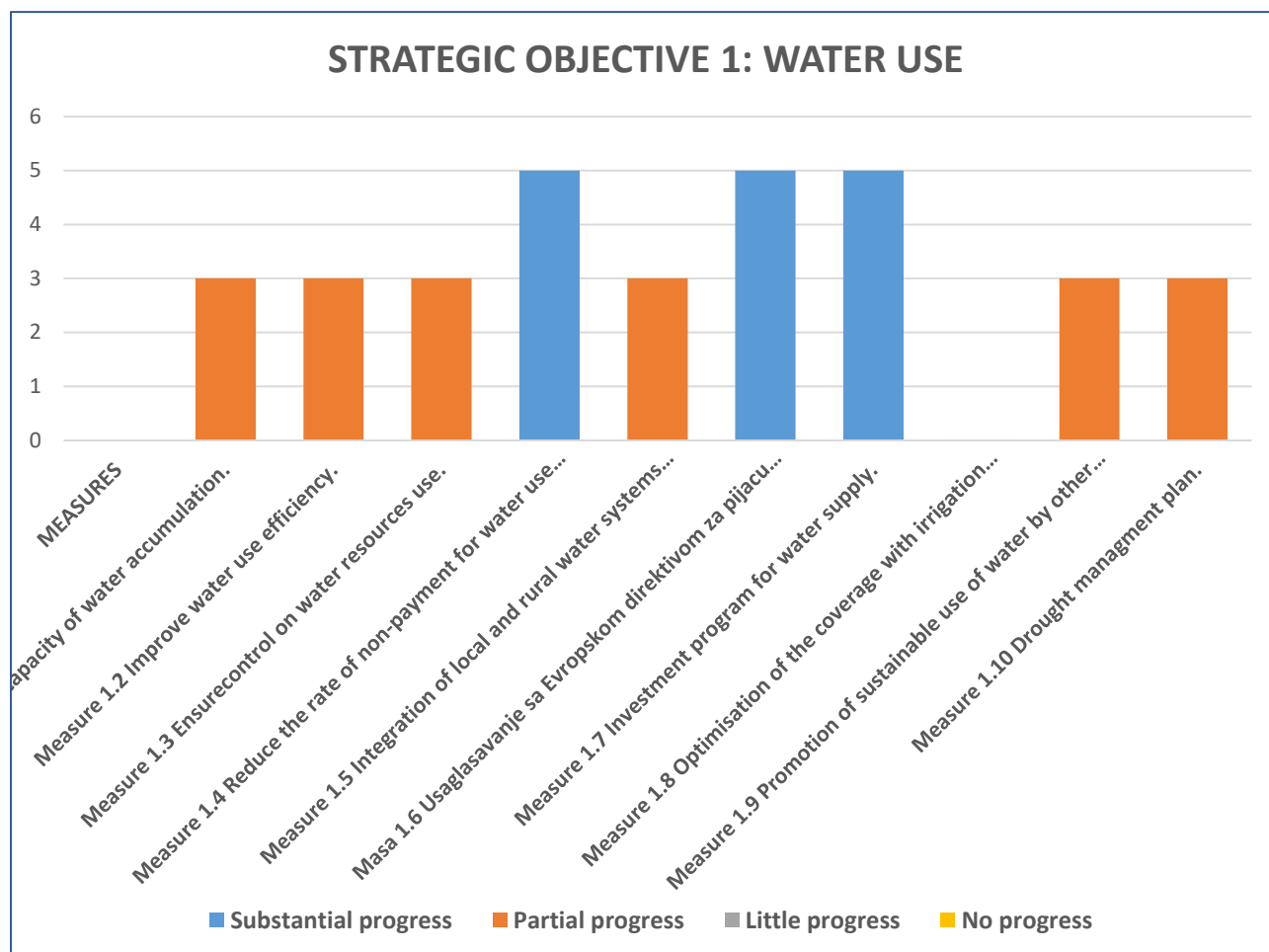
The progress in the implementation of these measures is not fully in accordance with the dynamics and planned actions, and therefore greater commitment is needed in their implementation. This is especially when taking into account the fact that these measures are essentially important for ensuring the long-term sustainable supply of water to the population and the economy (such as: Measure 1.1: Increasing capacities for the accumulation and protection of water resources, Measure 1.2: Increasing efficiency in the use of water, Measure 1.3: Ensuring control over all uses of water resources, Measure 1.5: Integration of rural and local systems in RWC, Measure 1.8: Optimization of irrigation system coverage, and Measure 1.10: Plan for the management of droughts).

**No progress** was observed in the following planned measure:

Measure 1.9: Promotion of the sustainable use of water by other users - where none of the actions planned for this measure (Preparation of the long-term plan for the use of water for tourism and recreation, Preparation of the long-term plan for the use of water for fish farms, Preparation of a strategy for the sustainable use of inerts from river basins, Issuance of water use permits for hydropower plants respecting the needs and rights of downstream users) have not been implemented.

It is **recommended** to increase with priority the work dynamics and engage the resources in the implementation of measures and actions for which there has been no progress at all or insufficient progress (partial progress). In particular, additional commitment is recommended in relation to the measures and actions related to **increasing the capacities for water storage** as well as **increasing the efficiency of water use**, when it is taken into account that: (i) Kosovo has modest water resources, (ii) the negative impact of climate change, and (iii) the essential importance of water for social and economic development.

**Figure 1: Graphic depiction of the progress in meeting strategic objective 1**



## (ii) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: WATER PROTECTION

The evaluation of the 8 measures planned for the achievement of this strategic objective is as follows:

- Substantial progress – 2
- Partial progress – 2
- Little progress – 2
- No progress – 2

The progress for this strategic objective, in the quantitative sense of the implementation of measures and actions, is smaller than the progress for strategic objective 1. [The achievement of this strategic objective is estimated with K=2.25]

**Substantial progress has been assessed in 2 of the measures:**

Measure 2.4: Implementation of wastewater treatment – The rate of wastewater treatment has increased substantially, from 1% to 11%. Wastewater treatment plants for Prizren, Peja, and Gjakova have been finalized and put into operation. Wastewater treatment plants for Prishtina (including Obiliq, Gračanica and Fushë Kosova), Gjiilan,

and Mitrovica (including Vushtrri) are in the planning and design phase (these plants are planned to be completed by 2026). The wastewater treatment plant was built in the village of Orllan in order to protect Batllava lake.

Measure 2.5 Investment program for wastewater management (46.2 mil. EUR, 2017-2021) – Investments have been made in wastewater treatment plants worth over 60 million EUR (WWTP for Prizren, Peja, and Gjakova), which exceeds the planned amount. Investment modalities have been resolved for the implementation of investments in the treatment of polluted waters in the amount of about 150 mil. EUR (WWTP for Prishtina including Obiliq, Graçanica and Fushë Kosova, Mitrovica including Vushtrri, and Gjilan).

**Partial progress** was assessed for two of the measures:

Measure 2.2: Expanding coverage with the sewerage system – Coverage with public sewage collection systems has reached 75% of the population - of which 65% are managed by RWCs (97% in urban areas and 46% in rural areas). In the period 2018-2020, 8 projects were implemented through MESP, through which the sewage systems were built for 30 villages.

Measure 2.3: Improving and maintaining the functionality of existing sewerage systems – The projects for the rehabilitation of the sewerage network supported by KfW in Prizren, Peja and Gjakova have been implemented in a total value of 17.5 million. EUR. The feasibility study for the sewerage system of the Prishtina region, supported by KfW, has been completed. The project for the improvement of the sewerage system in the region of Prishtina (municipalities: Prishtina, Fushë Kosova, Obiliq and Graçanica) is being prepared, supported by KfW in the amount of about 70 million EUR.

**Little progress** in terms of implementation has been assessed for two of the following measures:

Measure 2.1: Controlling pollutant discharges - The only progress to this extent is the legislative plan: the new Administrative Instruction no. 02/2022 on Limiting Values of Polluted Water Discharges into Water Bodies and Public Sewers, which transposed Directive No. 91/271/EEC for Urban Wastewater Treatment. On the other hand, MESPI has not yet created a complete register of industrial facilities discharging their polluted waters to water bodies and their characteristics. The RWCs, too, have not completed the registers for industrial wastewater discharges into public sewers.

Measure 2.6: Sludge management from wastewater treatment – A state-level strategy for sewage sludge management has not yet been drawn up. Instead, in 2022, the drafting of plans for the management of sludge from wastewater treatment was initiated by the decision of the Interministerial Water Council.

**No progress** was evaluated for two of the planned measures:

Measure 2.7: Management of diffuse pollution from agriculture – There has been no progress: neither the guidelines for the use of fertilizers in agriculture nor the guidelines for the use of biocides have been drawn up by the MAFRD.

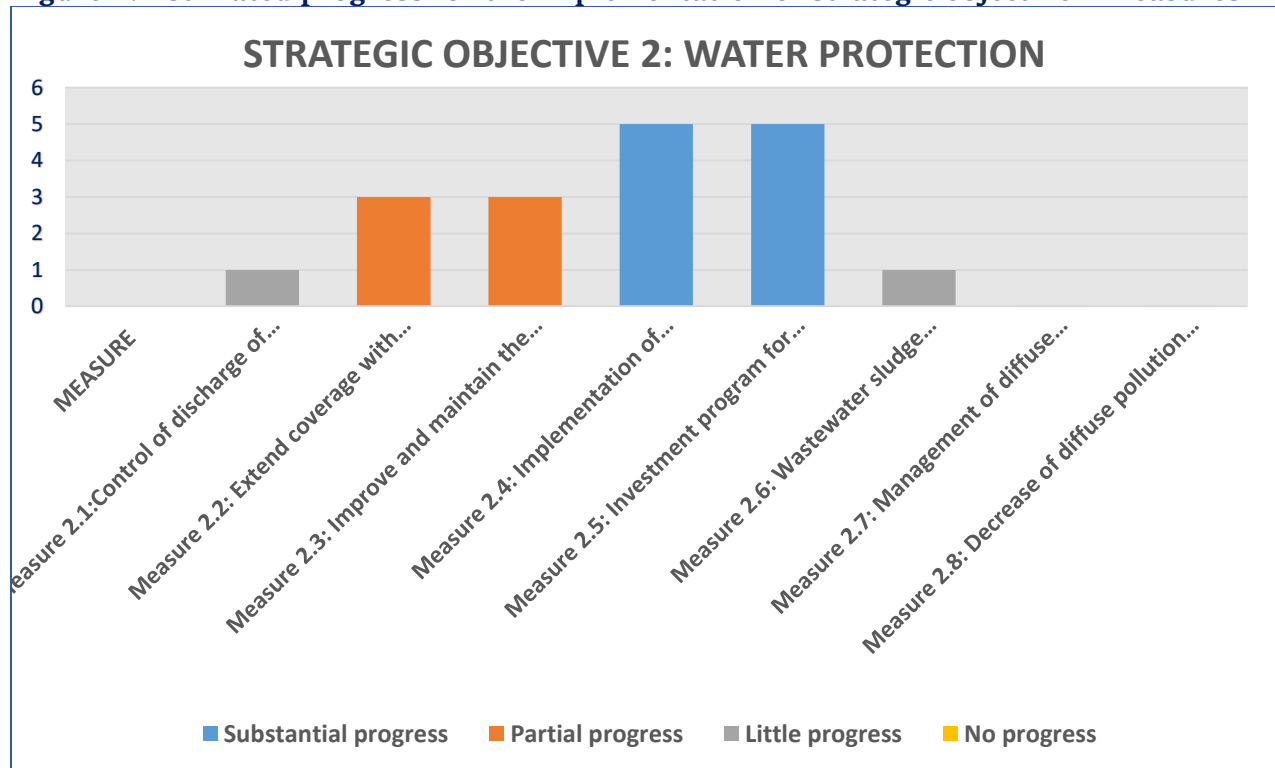


**Measure 2.8: Reduction of diffuse pollution from non-agricultural sources** – There has been no progress: neither the register of contaminated lands nor the strategy for the rehabilitation of contaminated lands has been prepared by MAFRD.

**It is recommended:**

- To continue with the planned dynamics in terms of investments in the construction of wastewater treatment plants;
- To speed up the dynamics of investments and construction of sewerage systems in rural areas;
- To treat as a matter of priority the control of pollutant discharge and the problem of sewage sludge management (including the drafting of a strategy for sludge management);
- To address the problem of diffuse pollution from agriculture and non-agricultural activities in its entirety and through inter-institutional cooperation (MESPI with MAFRD and municipalities).

**Figure 2: Estimated progress for the implementation of strategic objective 2 measures**



**(iii) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: PROTECTION FROM WATER**

The evaluation of the 5 measures planned for the achievement of this strategic objective is as follows:

- Substantial progress – 0
- Partial progress – 2
- Little progress – 2
- No progress – 1

The progress for this strategic objective, in the quantitative sense of the implementation of measures and actions, is the smallest compared to other strategic objectives. [The achievement of this strategic objective has been assessed with K=1.6]

**Partial progress** was assessed for two of the measures:

Measure 3.2: Flood warning and emergency management - Progress in the implementation of this measure is represented by the fact that the Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo has created the flood early warning system through SPI. This system should be advanced and connected to MeteoAlarm. In addition, the procedures for action in case of flooding are determined by UA no. 19/2015 for Protection from the Harmful Actions of Water.

Measure 3.4: Ensuring that all existing storage structures are safe - Dam safety has been addressed by MESPI which has implemented a dam safety and seismic risk assessment project which was implemented in 2021-2022. In the framework of this project, RWC personnel were trained for dam safety. On the other hand, in 2018, the Përlepnica dam was rehabilitated. Also, progress is represented by the issuing of Administrative Instruction No. 09/2017 on the Design, Construction and Use of Dams, which defines the institutional responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of dams, as well as the design and construction standards.

**Little progress** in terms of implementation has been assessed for two of the following measures:

Measure 3.1: Flood risk management planning - This measure envisaged the drafting of flood risk management plans and their implementation. This has not been done so far. An activity and progress has been realized since 2020 when the preliminary flood risk assessment was carried out, through a project financed by donors in the amount of 0.6 million. EUR. Also, in 2021, the project for the preparation of flood risk maps for all river basins of Kosovo was started, which were completed in 2022 (project value 2.5 million EUR).

Measure 3.3: Infrastructure for flood prevention and protection - In the period 2017-2021, significant investments were made through MESPI and in co-financing with municipalities in the regulation of rivers - 33 projects. These investments exceed the investments foreseen by the Strategy for this purpose in the period 2017-2021 in the amount of 4.3 million. EUR. No municipality has a plan for urban drainage - the atmospheric sewage system. Phase 2 investments based on the Flood Risk Management Plan could not be implemented considering that this plan has not yet been completed.

**No progress** was evaluated for one of the planned measures:

Measure 3.5: Management of erosion and torrents - Neither of the two actions planned under this measure have been implemented: Plans for the management of torrents and erosion have not been prepared and implemented.

**It is recommended:**

- To continue the activities planned with the Strategy regarding (i) dam safety, (ii) emergency warning, (iii) flood risk management;
- To start with the works in the planning and management of torrents and erosion.

**Figure 3: Estimated progress for the implementation of strategic objective 3 measures**



**(iv) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: GOVERNANCE**

The evaluation of the 6 measures planned for the achievement of this strategic objective is as follows:

- Substantial progress – 0
- Partial progress – 3
- Little progress – 3
- No progress – 0

[The achievement of this strategic objective has been assessed with K=2]

**Partial progress** was assessed for 3 of the measures:

Measure 4.2: Transition towards the transposition of EU legislation – With the Law on Water and by-laws approved by MESP during the period 2017-2019, the planning process of water resources management (RBMP, Flood Plans, deadlines and content, etc.) has been transposed. The transposition of the planning principles of water management is also evaluated as progress.

Measure 4.4: Information management – A water management information system has been created in 2021, which should be further developed and supplemented with data. The formal procedures for exchanging data relevant to water management have not been completed.

Measure 4.5: Education in water management – Through the Integrated Management of Water Resources (MIRU) program financed by the Government of Switzerland, the newsletter Kosovo Water is published, which provides information for the purpose of raising awareness about water issues. Through this program, the Master's program in water resources management within the "Hasan Prishtina" University is planned and expected to start in 2023.

**Little progress** in terms of implementation has been assessed for 3 of the following measures:

Measure 4.1: Legislation for environmental water management – Approval of each by-law is accompanied by an assessment of the costs for implementation. A significant number of by-laws required under the Kosovo Water Law have been drafted and approved - six in the period 2017-2021. A full cost estimate for the implementation of water legislation and the transposition of water directives has not been prepared. A system for supporting the implementation of legislation that would include guidelines for the implementation of all normative acts has not been completed.

Measure 4.3: Institutional strengthening – The River Basin District Authority (RBDA) has been established and since 2017 has been functioning as a department within MESPI. The personnel of RBDA has not yet been completed according to its organizational structure. There has been no proper progress in the institutional strengthening of the Kosovo Hydrometeorological Institute (KHMI): the laboratory has remained unaccredited, and the staff has not been increased. The Environmental Inspectorate has not been completed according to NWS – the number of inspectors has not been increased by 5 additional inspectors as planned. The Water Institute has not been established.

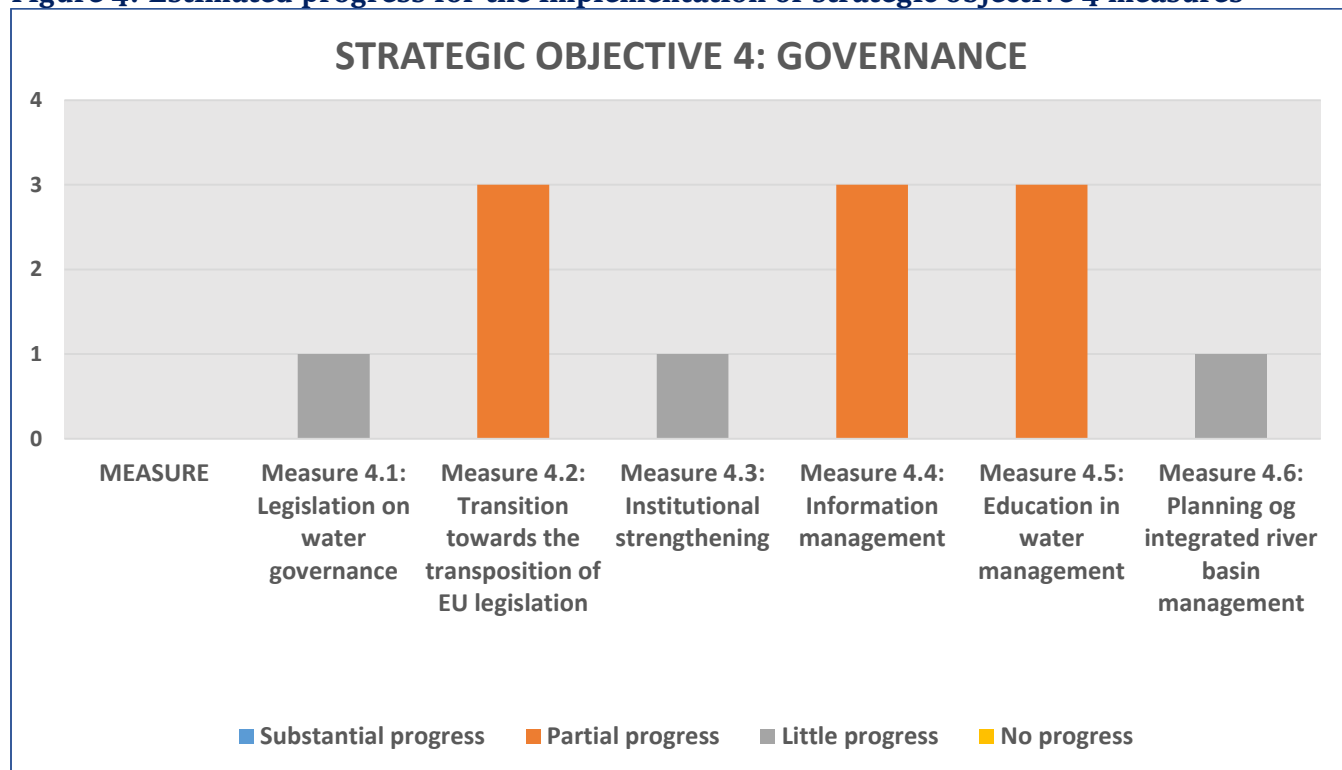
Measure 4.6: Planning for integrated management of river basins – The Drini i Bardhë River Basin Management Plan is in the finalization phase, with financial support from the Government of Sweden (SIDA). Plans for the management of three other river basins (Lepenci, Ibri and Morava e Binçës) are in the initial planning phase, with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland through the IWRM program.

**It is recommended:**

- To complete the transposition of the EU water legislation with the new Water Law and by-laws;
- To complete and advance the water information management process;

- Create a system for supporting the implementation of water legislation (guidelines for stakeholders);
- To complete the process of drafting river basin management plans and flood management plans

**Figure 4: Estimated progress for the implementation of strategic objective 4 measures**







**Funded by  
the European Union**

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its content is the sole responsibility of Let's Do It Peja, implementer of the project "Promoting Universal Access to Clean Water" and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union Office in Kosovo.

This research was carried out by the NGO Let's Do It Peja  
Address: Shtëpia e Kulturës, kati III  
30000, Pejë, Kosovë  
Email: [letsdoitpeja@gmail.com](mailto:letsdoitpeja@gmail.com)  
Tel: +383 49 124 548