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Summary of the report for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the revised water strategy 2023-2027 and the action plan 2023-2025



Promoting Universal
Access to **Clean Water**



**RILINDJA
GJELBËR**



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REPORT SUMMARY

Monitoring of the Progress of the Implementation of the Revised Water Strategy 2023-2027 and the Action Plan 2023-2025

October, 2024

Abbreviations

ARBR	Authority of the River Basin Region
WSRA	Water Services Regulatory Authority
KSA	Kosovo Statistics Agency
EU	European Union
WFD	Water Framework Directive
FLAWS	Project: Promoting and Exploiting Opportunities for Water Security
KfW	German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)
IMWC	Inter-Ministerial Water Council
RWC	Regional Water Company
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
ME	Ministry of Economy
IMWR	Integrated Management of Water Resources
MESP	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning
MESP II	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
RBMP	River Basin Management Planning
AI	Administrative Instruction
UW	Unbilled Water

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy

The National Water Strategy of Kosovo is the main planning document in the field of water derived from the Water Law No. 03/L-147 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.

Based on the provisions of the Water Law, the Strategy was revised in 2023 for the 5-year period (2023-2027), therefore, this evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy is made against the revised Strategy.

- With the Review of the State Water Strategy 2023-2027, 4 strategic objectives have been defined as follows:
 - 1) Completion of the legal framework and the consolidation of the institutional framework
 - 2) Long-term water security for users and safety of existing dams;
 - 3) Protection of water resources and protection from water, ensuring the protection of the ecosystem and the population
 - 4) Improving the reliability and quality of water services.
- Within these 4 strategic objectives, **19 specific objectives** have been defined:
 - 3 specific objectives for strategic objective 1
 - 2 specific objectives for strategic objective 2
 - 8 specific objectives for strategic objective 3; and
 - 6 specific objectives for strategic objective 4.
- To achieve each of the specific objectives, a total of **70 actions** are planned as follows:
 - **Total 14 for strategic objective 1** – 9 for specific objective 1, 3 for specific objective 2, and 2 for specific objective 3;
 - **Total 13 for strategic objective 2** – 5 for specific objective 2, and 8 for specific objective 2;
 - **Total 26 for strategic objective 3** – 2 for specific objective 1, 2 for specific objective 2, 2 for specific objective 3, 6 for specific objective 4, 4 for specific objective 5, 3 for specific objective 6, 4 for specific objective 7, and 3 for specific objective 8;
 - **Total 17 for strategic objective 4** – 2 for specific objective 1, 6 for specific objective 2, 2 for specific objective 3, 2 for specific objective 4, 2 for specific objective 5, and 3 for specific objective 6.
- The assessment of the implementation of the Strategy is done for **each action** separately, then, based on the implementation of the actions, a quantitative assessment was made of the degree to which the specific objectives for each strategic objective were achieved. The assessment was made based on the data provided by the responsible institutions and organizations in the questionnaires sent for this purpose.

Assessment according to the strategic objectives and recommendations

(i) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

COMPLETION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The assessment for the 14 planned actions within the 3 specific objectives for achieving this strategic objective is as follows:

- Complete – 2

- Substantial progress – 2
- Partial progress – 1
- no progress – 9

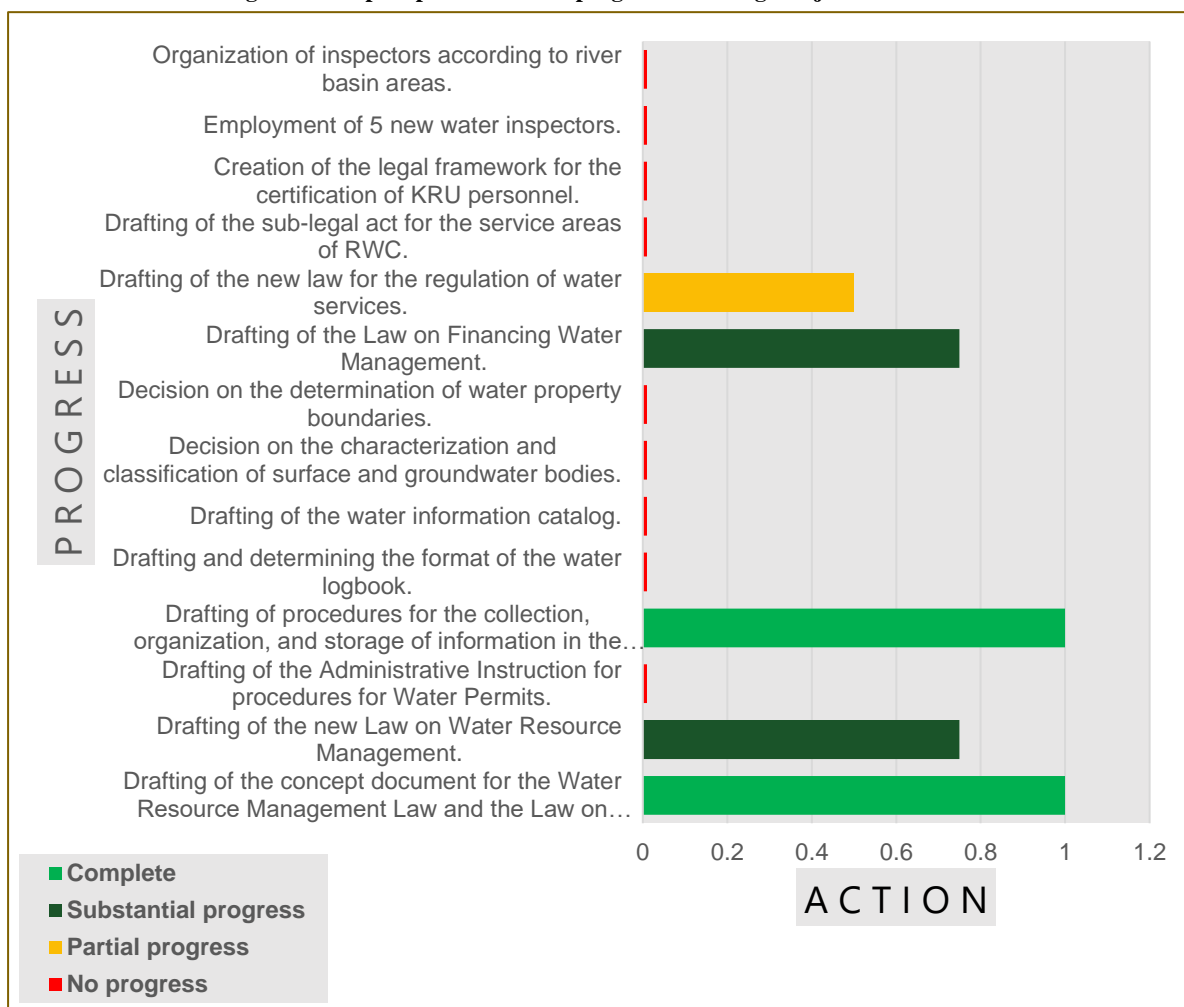
For this strategic objective, there has been less progress in terms of actions undertaken compared to other strategic objectives. The achievement of this strategic objective has been assessed with $K=0.29$.

As for the implementation of specific actions, it can be summarized as follows:

- **Competed** it has been assessed that there are 2 actions: (i) Drafting of the concept document for the new law on water resources management and the law on the financing of water management, and (ii) drafting procedures for the collection, systematization and storage of information in the water information system (SIU);
- **Substantial progress** has been assessed in 2 of the actions: (i) the Drafting of the new law for the management of water resources, and (ii) the drafting of the law for the financing of water management.
- **Partial progress** has been assessed for 1 of the actions: (i) the drafting of the new law for the regulation of water services.
- **No progress** has been assessed for 9 of the actions: (i) drafting the AI for Water Permit procedures, (ii) drafting and setting the format of the water book, (iii) drawing of the water information catalog, (iv) the decision on the characterization and classification of surface and underground water bodies, (v) the decision on determining the boundaries of the water property, (vi) the drafting of the by-law for the service areas of RWC, (vii) creation of the legal basis for the certification of RWC personnel, (viii) employment of 5 new water inspectors, (ix) organization of inspectors according to river basins.

It is recommended that the dynamics and commitment of resources in the implementation of measures and actions for which there has been no progress be increased as a priority. Believing that the primary legislation drafted and submitted to the Assembly will be approved in this legislature, additional commitment is recommended particularly concerning the issuance of normative acts that derive from these laws, as well as in strengthening institutional capacities and enhancing the capabilities of the MESP for the management of water resources, including the inspection capacities in the field of water.

Figure 1: Graphic presentation of progress in strategic objective 1



(ii) Strategic Objective 2:

LONG-TERM WATER SECURITY AND SAFETY OF EXISTING DAMS

The assessment for the 13 planned actions under the two specific objectives to achieve this strategic objective is as follows:

- Completed – 5
- Substantial progress – 1
- Partial progress – 1
- No progress – 6

This is the strategic objective for which partial progress has been made regarding the actions taken to achieve it. The level of implementation of the planned actions for achieving this strategic objective has been assessed at **K=0.48**.

Regarding the implementation of specific actions, a summary conclusion is as follows:

- **Completed:** A total of 5 actions have been evaluated as completed. Among these, 2 fall under the specific objective of Safety and Monitoring of Existing Dams:

- (i) equipping existing dams with monitoring instruments, and
- (ii) installing alarm systems for existing dams.

The remaining 3 are within the specific objective of Developing New Water Resources:

- (iii) feasibility study and environmental and social impact assessment for the Dragaçina dam,
- (iv) feasibility study and environmental and social impact assessment for the Pollata dam, and
- (v) feasibility study and environmental and social impact assessment for the Kuçica dam.

- **Substantial Progress:** There has been no substantial progress in any of the planned actions.
- **Partial Progress:** Partial progress has been observed in 2 actions, with one under the specific objective of Regular Safety and Monitoring of Existing Dams:
 - (i) bathymetry and sediment analysis of 6 existing dams;and one under the specific objective of Developing New Water Resources:
 - (ii) identification and design of the Kamenica dam.
- **No Progress:** Six actions have been evaluated with no progress, including 4 under the specific objective of Developing New Water Resources:
 - (i) preparation of the preliminary design and environmental and social impact assessment for the Firaja dam,
 - (ii) preparation of the detailed design and tender documentation for the Firaja dam,
 - (iii) application for the preliminary design and environmental and social assessment for phase two of the Lepenc system (Shtime dam and Lepenc canal), and
 - (iv) preparation of the Investment Study for Water Resources at the national level.

The remaining 2 fall under the specific objective of Regular Safety and Monitoring of Existing Dams:

- (v) safety assessment and rehabilitation of the Livoç dam, and
- (vi) operationalization of the Livoç dam.

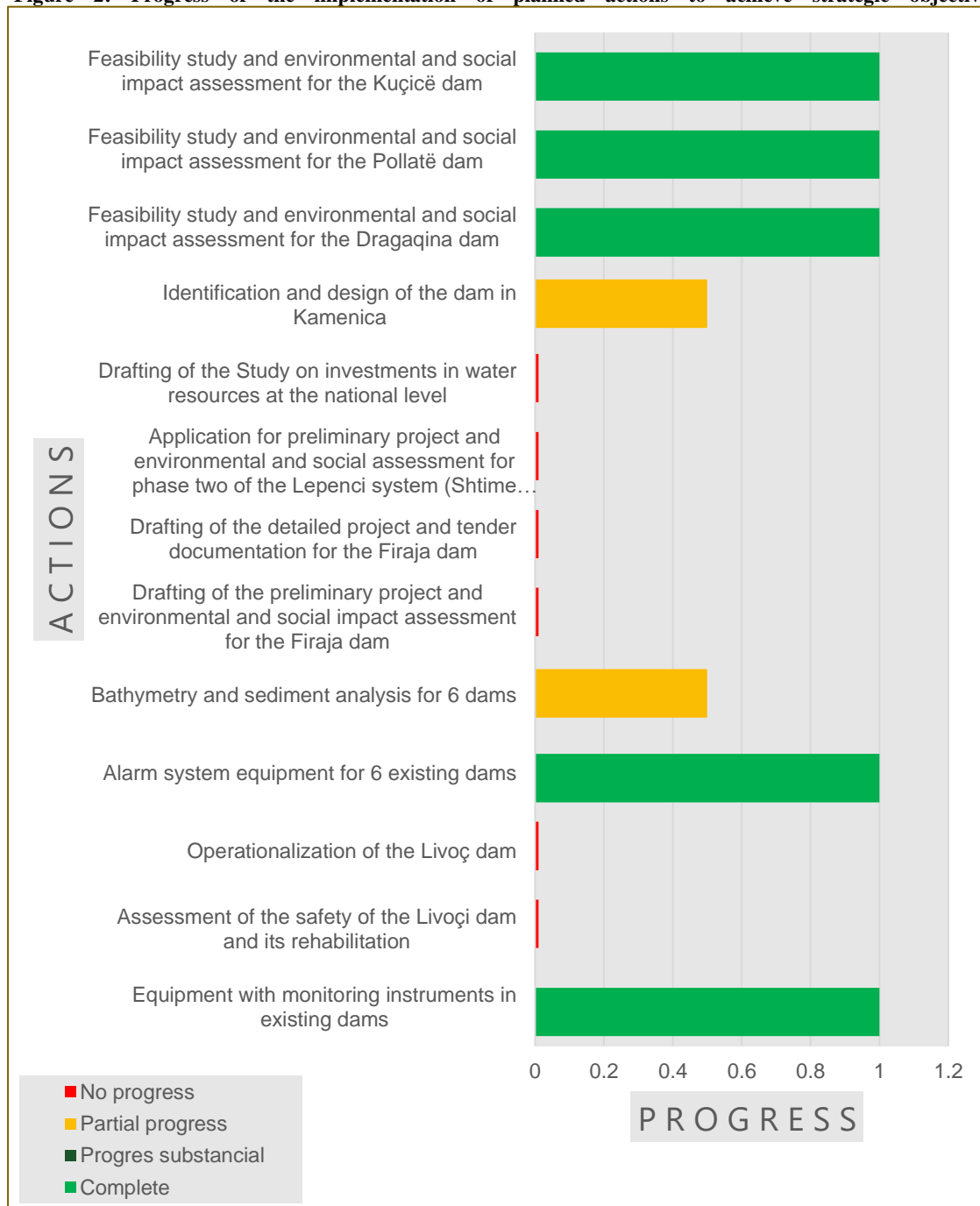
In summary, greater progress has been made toward achieving the specific objective of Safety and Monitoring of Existing Dams, where, apart from the Livoç dam, all other actions have been completed or are nearing completion.

On the other hand, concerning the development of new water resources, the planned actions for feasibility studies of the three proposed dams (Dragaçina, Kuçica, and Pollata) have been completed, and progress is underway on the Kamenica dam project.

It is recommended to prioritize increasing the momentum and commitment in implementing the planned activities for the Firaja dam, phase 2 of the Lepenci hydrosystem, and the operationalization of the Livoç dam.

The figure below graphically presents the progress in the implementation of the planned actions to achieve Strategic Objective 2.

Figure 2: Progress of the implementation of planned actions to achieve strategic objective 2



(iii) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES AND PROTECTION FROM WATERS

The assessment of the 26 planned actions to achieve this strategic objective is as follows:

- Completed – 3
- Substantial Progress – 5
- Partial Progress – 8
- No Progress – 10

Progress for this strategic objective, in the quantitative sense of the implementation of actions, is partial. The degree of implementation of the actions planned for the achievement of this strategic objective was assessed with $K=0.41$.

As for the implementation of specific actions, it can be summarized as follows:

- **Competed** it has been estimated that there are 3 actions, 2 of them within the specific objective *Groundwater monitoring*:

- (i) Functionalization of the groundwater monitoring network
- (ii) Improvement of hydrometric measurement, installation of equipment and minor civil works

and 1 within the specific objective *Flood protection*:

- (iii) Completion of hazard maps and flood risk maps

- **Substantial progress** it was estimated that there were 5 planned actions, 1 of them within the specific objective *Drafting of river basin management plans*:

- (i) Approval and implementation of Drini Bardhë PMPL

1 within the specific objective *Treatment of urban wastewater*:

- (ii) Providing financing and building the plant for the treatment of polluted water in Ferizaj,

and 3 within the specific objective *Protection of drinking water sources*:

- (iii) Inclusion of protected areas in zonal maps of municipalities
- (iv) Placement of warning signs in protected areas
- (v) Prohibiting constructions and activities with restricted decisions.

- **Partial progress** it was estimated that there were 8 of the actions, one of them within the specific objective *Drafting of river basin management plans*:

- (i) Drafting and approval of PMPLs Ibër, Morava e Binçës and Lepenc,

4 within the specific objective *Treatment of urban wastewater*:

- (ii) Construction and inauguration of the regional plant for the treatment of polluted waters of Pristina, Fushë Kosova, Obiliq and Graçanica
- (iii) Construction and inauguration of the wastewater treatment plant in Mitrovica (South Mitrovica, North Mitrovica, Vushtrri, Zveçan),
- (iv) Construction and inauguration of the plant for the treatment of polluted water in Gjilan,
- (v) Securing financing and construction of the plant for the treatment of polluted water in Podujeva,

and 3 within the specific objective *Industrial wastewater treatment*:

- (vi) Identifying and creating an inventory of all industrial dischargers in the public sewer system
- (vii) Identification and creation of inventory of all industrial dischargers in watercourses
- (viii) Implementation of the obligation to monitor the quality of discharged water

- **No progress** it was evaluated for 10 of the actions, 2 of them within the specific objective *Protection of rivers from sand and gravel exploitation*:

- (i) Drafting of the action plan for the treatment of river exploitation
- (ii) Determination by the Minister of river segments where sand and gravel extraction is permitted.

1 within the specific objective *Treatment of urban wastewater*:

- (iii) Drafting of the feasibility study for the treatment of polluted waters in Vushtrri, Malishevë, Drenas, Lipjan, Rahovec, Theranda, Viti, Istog, Deçan, Klinë and Kamenica,

1 within the specific objective *Industrial wastewater treatment*:

- (iv) Implementation of obligations for industrial wastewater treatment and pretreatment before discharge

1 within the specific objective Flood protection:

- (v) Drafting of flood risk management plans
- (vi) Determining erosive areas and setting protective measures

1 within the specific objective *Protection of drinking water sources*:

- (vii) Carrying out research works and drafting studies for the protection of drinking water sources,

and 3 within the specific objective *Regulation and supervision of water use for business purposes*:

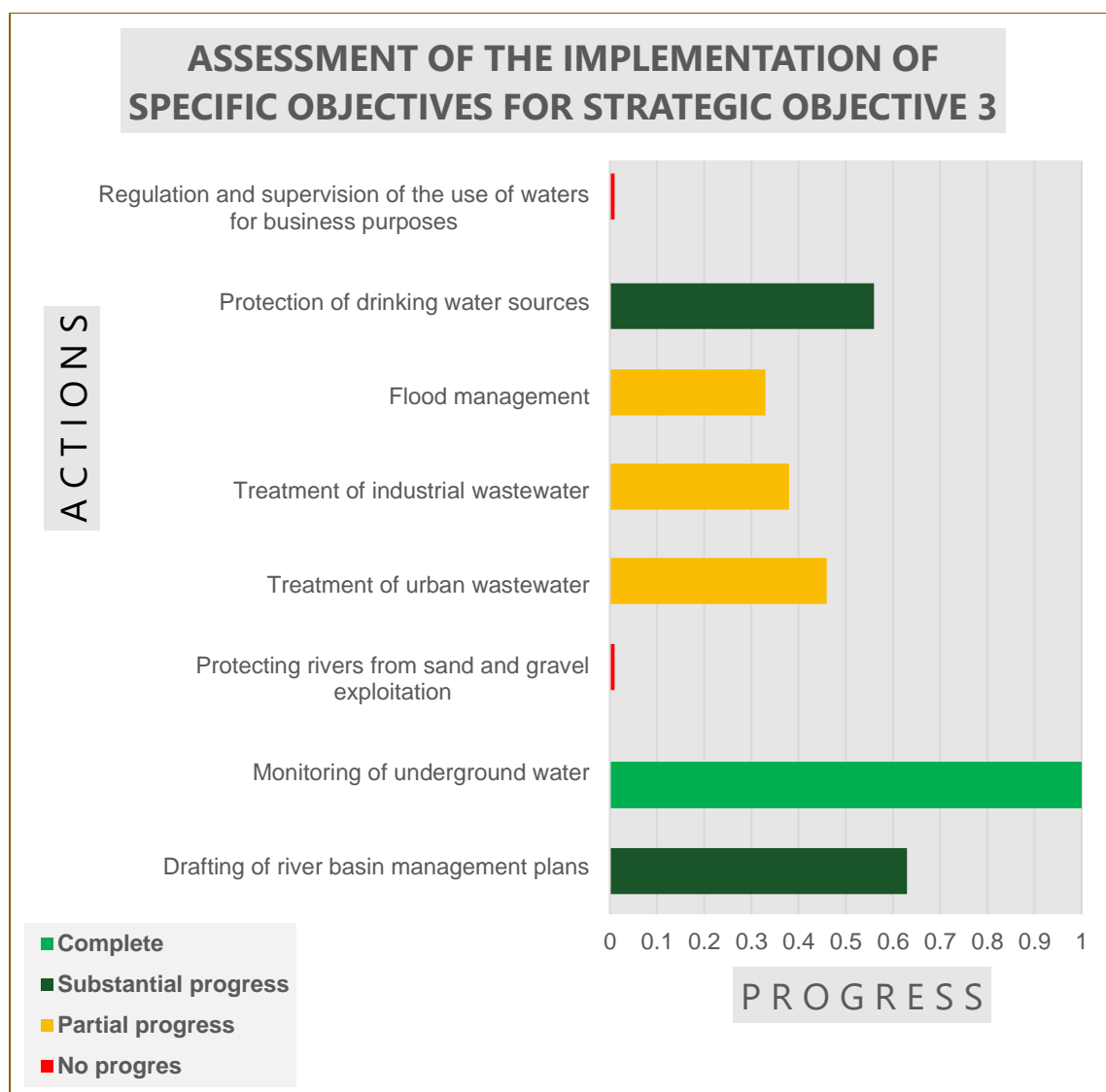
- (viii) Drafting of the UA for water permit procedures
- (ix) Drafting of the guide for the development of the concession granting process.
- (x) Administrative and inspection oversight of water use in accordance with concession contracts..

Thus, as observed, greater progress has been achieved particularly in implementing actions under the specific objective of Groundwater Monitoring, as well as in Drinking Water Source Protection and River Basin Management Planning. Modest progress has been seen in the objectives of Urban and Industrial Wastewater Treatment, and Flood Management, while no progress has been made for actions planned under the specific objectives of Regulating and Supervising Water Use for Business Purposes and Protecting Rivers from Uncontrolled Sand and Gravel Extraction

It is recommended to prioritize actions for protecting rivers from uncontrolled sand and gravel extraction and addressing water use for business purposes, as well as to increase the pace and commitment to implementing actions for flood management, urban and industrial wastewater treatment, and drinking water source protection..

The graph below shows the progress in implementing planned actions for achieving Strategic Objective 3.

Figure 3: Progress of the implementation of planned actions to achieve strategic objective 3



(iv) STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY AND QUALITY OF WATER SERVICES

The assessment for the 17 planned actions to achieve this strategic objective is as follows:

- Completed – 1
- Substantial progress – 7
- Partial progress – 6
- No progress – 3

The progress for this strategic objective, in terms of the quantitative implementation of actions, is the highest compared to other strategic objectives. The level of implementation of the planned actions to achieve this strategic objective has been assessed at K=0.56

Regarding the implementation of specific actions, the following summary can be concluded:

- **Completed:** It is assessed that there is only **1 action** within the specific objective of **Management of Wastewater Sludge:**

■

(i) Development of sludge management plans by the Water Supply and Wastewater Companies (RWC).

- **Substantial progress** is assessed to have occurred in **7 actions**, of which:

2 actions within the specific objective of **Improving the Investment Process in the Water Services Sector**:

(i) Financing of investments in water supply and wastewater infrastructure from the Kosovo budget through the Ministry of Environment (ME) and RWC;

(ii) Cessation of the practice of taking conditional loans for financing water supply and wastewater infrastructure.

2 actions within the specific objective of **Improving Water Supply in Urban Areas**:

(iii) Financing the project to increase the capacity of the drinking water facility in Pleshinë;

(iv) Financing the project (construction of the outfall) for the treatment of drinking water for the supply of Klinë.

2 actions within the specific objective of **Reducing Water Losses from Public Water Supply Systems**:

(v) Development and implementation of plans by RWC to reduce water losses;

(vi) Implementation of accountability of RWC for reducing water losses.

and **1 action** within the specific objective of **Improving Coverage with the Wastewater Network**:

(vii) Rehabilitation of the wastewater network in Prizren, Gjakovë, and Pejë.

- **Partial progress** is assessed to have occurred for **6 planned actions**, of which:

2 actions for the specific objective of **Improving Water Supply in Urban Areas**:

(i) Development of the study for the solution of water supply in Malishevë;

(ii) Rehabilitation and improvement of the water supply system in Gjilan, Kamenicë, and Viti.

2 actions for the specific objective of **Improving Water Supply in Rural Areas**:

(iii) Integration of rural systems into the management of RWC;

(iv) Completion of individual connections to the water supply networks.

and **1 action** for the strategic objectives of **Improving Coverage with the Wastewater Network** and **Management of Wastewater Sludge**:

(v) Construction of collectors and rehabilitation of the network in Prishtinë, Fushë Kosovë, Obiliq, and Graçanicë;

(vi) Investment in an incinerator.

■

- **No progress** is assessed for **3 actions**, of which:

2 within the specific objective of **Improving Water Supply in Urban Areas**:

(i) Financing the project for the rehabilitation/completion of the pipeline for the water supply from the Badovc Lake via the Ibar Canal;

(ii) Financing the project and completion of works for increasing the capacity of water sources in the municipality of Mamuša.

and **1 action** within the specific objective of **Management of Wastewater Sludge**:

(iii) Development of the national strategy for sludge management.

From the reported data results, it is evident that the most significant progress in implementing planned actions has been observed in the specific objective of improving the investment process in the water services sector and the specific objective of reducing water losses from public water supply systems. However, for the latter, there are no results demonstrating the effects of the undertaken actions.

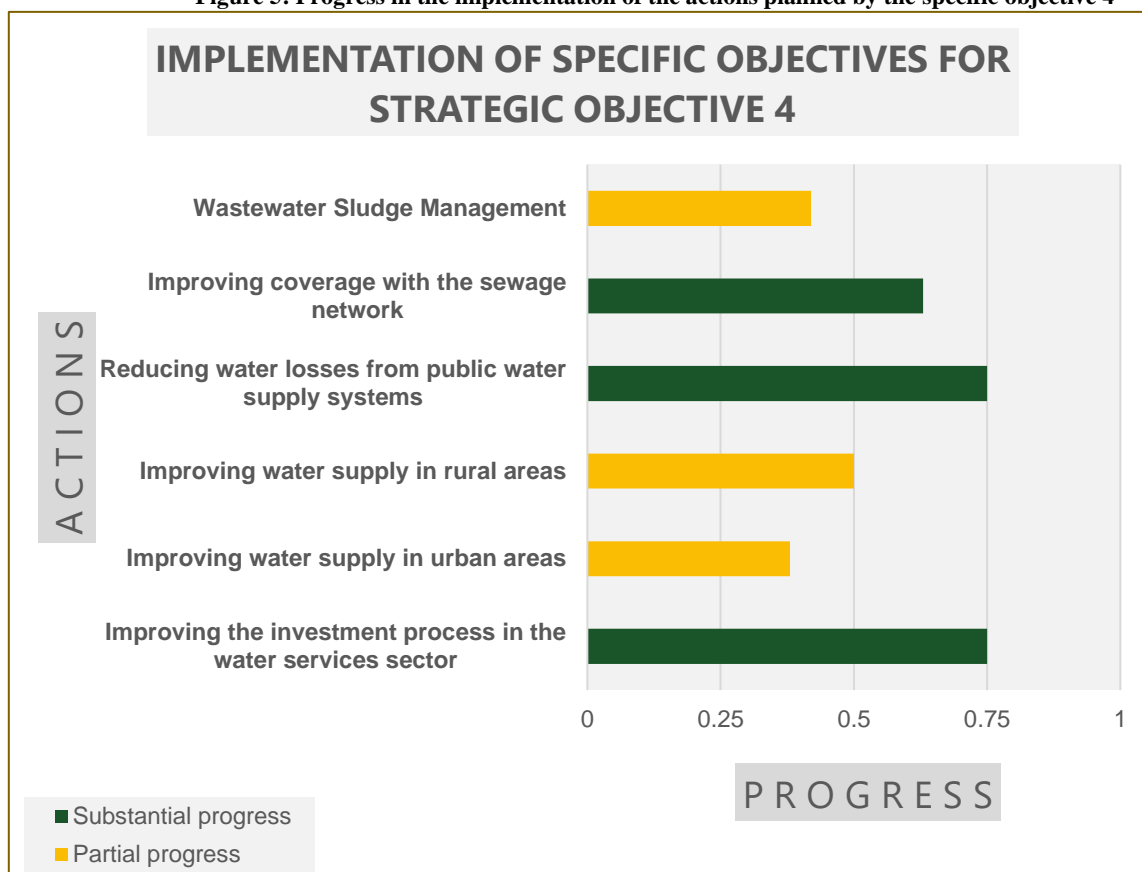
Additionally, there has been above-average progress in implementing planned actions for the specific objective of improving coverage with wastewater drainage systems, considering that the project for rehabilitating the drainage network in Prizren, Gjakovë, and Pejë is nearing completion, and preparations for initiating the drainage project for the Prishtina region are in the final stages.

Progress has been smaller regarding the specific objectives of **Improving water supply in urban areas** and **Managing polluted water sludge**.

Consequently, it is recommended that priority be given to increasing the dynamics and commitment to implementing the planned activities, especially for the Improvement of water supply in urban areas (the Badovci Filling Project, the Water Improvement Project in Mamushë, the Water Supply Improvement Project in Malishevë, etc.), and for the Management of polluted water sludge (the drafting of the strategy for sludge management). Additionally, improving water supply in rural areas, through the rehabilitation of existing systems and their integration into RWC, is recommended to be treated as a priority.

In the figure below, the progress in the implementation of planned actions to achieve strategic objective 4 is presented graphically

Figure 5: Progress in the implementation of the actions planned by the specific objective 4



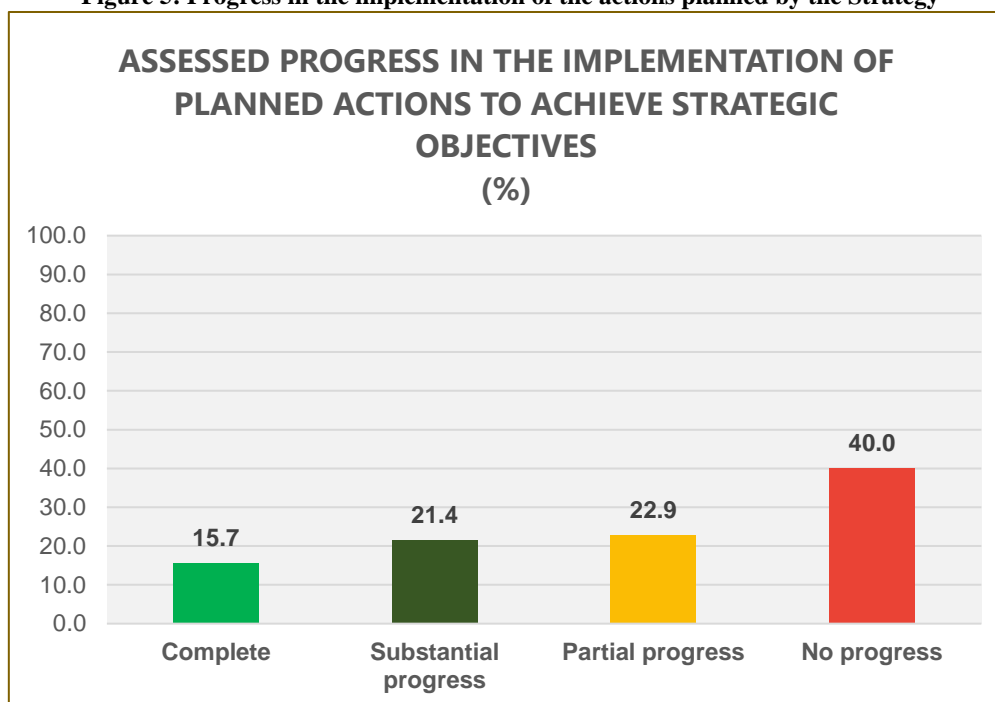
Summary Assessment

A summary overview of the assessed progress in the implementation of the planned actions for the execution of the Strategy is presented in the table below:

Table 1: Summary table of progress in the implementation of actions to achieve strategic objectives

Strategic Objectives	Complete	Substantial progress	Partial progress	No progress	Total
Strategic objective 1: Completion of the legal framework and the consolidation of the institutional framework	2	2	1	9	14
Strategic objective 2: Long-term water security for users and safety of existing dams e	5	1	1	6	13
Strategic objective 3: Protection of water resources and protection from water	3	5	8	10	26
Strategic objective 4: Improving the reliability and quality of wter services	1	7	6	3	17
Σ	11	15	16	28	70
Progress (%)	15.7	21.4	22.9	40.0	100.0

Figure 5: Progress in the implementation of the actions planned by the Strategy



As can be seen, for a significant number of actions, 28 out of a total of 70 planned - which means 40% of the actions - there has been no activity/progress at all. Considering that there are about 15 months left until the end of 2025, which is the deadline for implementing all the planned actions in the 2023-2025 Action Plan, it is difficult to expect that all these actions will be completed within the specified timeframe set by the Strategy. In this context, it is particularly important to emphasize the lack of progress in the planned actions for the Firajë Dam and the Livoç Dam, as well as for the development of a strategy for managing contaminated water sludge and for the protection of rivers from the uncontrolled extraction of gravel and sand.

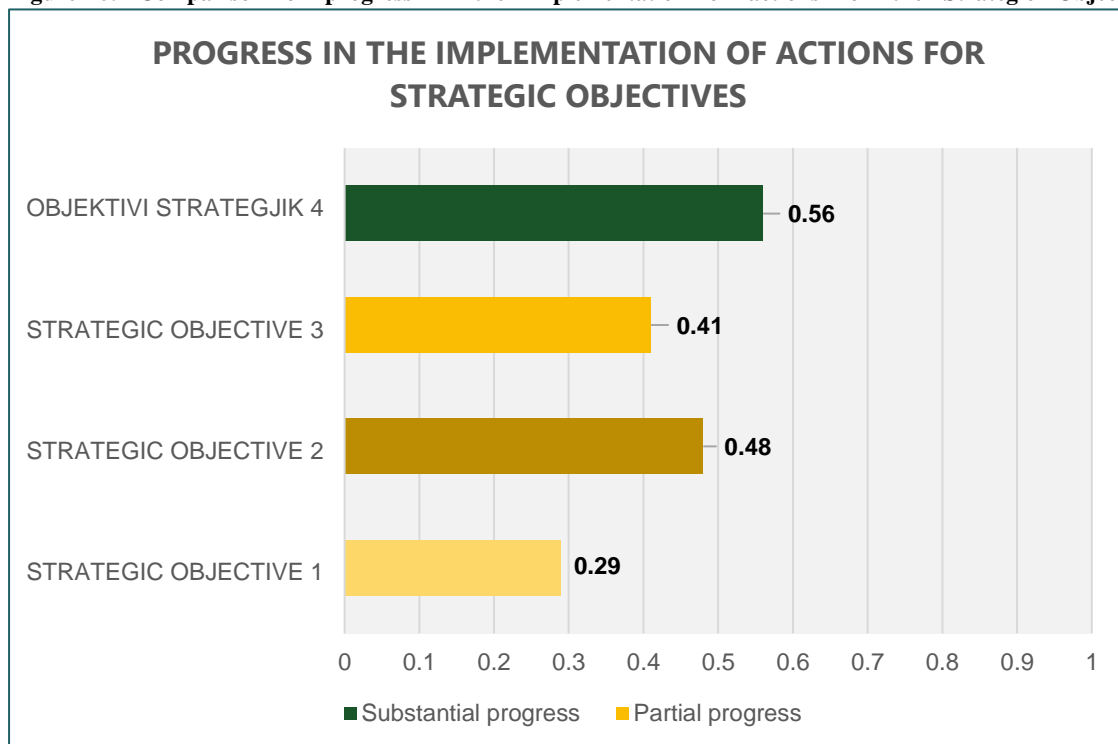
Partial progress has been made for 16 of the planned actions (about 23%). For the majority of these actions, there needs to be an increase in the pace of work and commitment in order to complete them within the planned timeframe (by 2025). This is particularly relevant for actions related to the construction of wastewater treatment plants that are planned for urban areas of Kosovo (the regions of Prishtina, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj, etc.), as well as for the monitoring and treatment of industrial wastewater, and for the planned activities to improve water supply in urban areas (Malisheva, Mamusha, Klina, Kamenica, Ferizaj, etc.) and in rural areas (rehabilitation and integration of rural water supply systems into RWC).

Substantial or fully completed progress has been reported for 26 planned actions, or over 37%. Notable activities include those developed for the development of new water resources, such as the preparation of feasibility studies for the Pollatës, Kuçicës, and Dragaqinës dams, as well as the equipping of existing dams with monitoring instruments and alarm systems, and actions for drafting legislation in the field of water – the concept document and the draft Law on Water Resource Management and the draft Law on Water Management Financing.

In the chart below, a comparative overview of the actions undertaken for the implementation of strategic objectives is presented. As can be seen, the most actions have been taken for Strategic Objective 4: Improving the Reliability and Quality of Water Services, where progress has been rated with a coefficient of 0.56 (on a scale of 0-1). This is followed by Strategic Objective 2: Development of New Water Resources and Dam Safety, with an evaluated progress coefficient of 0.48. Conversely, the lowest progress has been assessed for Strategic Objective 1: Completion of the Legal Framework and Consolidation of the

Institutional Framework, with a progress rating of 0.29. On the other hand, modest progress has been made in undertaking actions to achieve Strategic Objective 3: Protection of Water and Protection from Water, with a progress rating of 0.41.

Figure 6: Comparison of progress in the implementation of actions for the Strategic Objectives





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