

Bathing water results 2008 – Hungary

1. Introduction

This report gives a general overview of bathing water quality in Hungary during the 2008 bathing season. Hungary reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC.

During the transition period, samples of Intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli are reported under the Directive 2006/7/EC, but assessment is done according to the assessment rules of Directive 76/160/EEC. For the conversion of reported parameters under Directive 2006/7/EC, Article 13.3 of the Directive 2006/7/EC foresees that the parameter Escherichia coli, reported under Directive 2006/7/EC, is assumed to be equivalent to the parameter Faecal coliforms of Directive 76/160/EEC. The parameter Intestinal enterococci reported under Directive 2006/7/EC is assumed to be equivalent to the parameter Faecal streptococci. This means that the parameters Intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli are evaluated according to the guide and mandatory standards defined in the Annex to Directive 76/160/EEC for the parameters Faecal streptococci and Faecal coliforms respectively.

The results are classified in the following categories:

- Compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for Escherichia coli and not compliant with the guide value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for Intestinal enterococci (class CI)
- Compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for Escherichia coli and the more stringent guide values for the Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococci (class CG)
- Not compliant with the mandatory value of the Directive 76/160/EEC for Escherichia coli (class NC)
- Banned (temporarily closed) or closed throughout the season (class B)

2. Length of bathing season and number of bathing waters

In most bathing waters the bathing season opened in May or June 2008. All bathing waters closed in August or September.

A total of 256 freshwater bathing waters (26 on rivers; 230 on lakes) were reported in Hungary during the 2008 bathing season. Hungary has no coastal bathing waters. Two bathing waters were insufficiently sampled. 44 bathing waters were grouped into 19 groups including 25 contracted bathing waters, of which 20 were not monitored.

With 256 bathing waters Hungary accounts for about 1.2% of the reported bathing waters of the European Union.

The evolution of the reported number of bathing waters since monitoring of the water quality began under the Directive 76/160/EEC and Directive 2006/7/EC is presented in Table 1. The number of freshwater bathing waters fluctuates around 240 since the start of the reporting in 2004. There were 18 more freshwater bathing waters in 2008 than in the previous year: 24 new bathing waters were added to the list and six were de-listed.

3. Results of bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Hungary for the period 2004-2007 as reported in 2008 report and for the bathing season of 2008 are presented in Figure 1.

The graph shows, for freshwater bathing waters:

- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the guide values (class CG, blue line),
- The percentage of bathing waters that comply with the mandatory values (class CI, green line)
- The percentage of bathing waters that do not comply with the mandatory values (class NC, red line)
- The percentage of bathing waters that are banned (temporarily closed) or closed throughout the season (class B, grey line)

Table 1 and Table 2 show the same information in absolute numbers and in percentages for freshwater bathing waters.

Map 1 shows the location of the reported bathing waters in Hungary. The location of the bathing waters is based on the geographic coordinates reported by the Hungarian authorities.

Figure 1: Results of bathing water quality in Hungary from 2004 to 2008

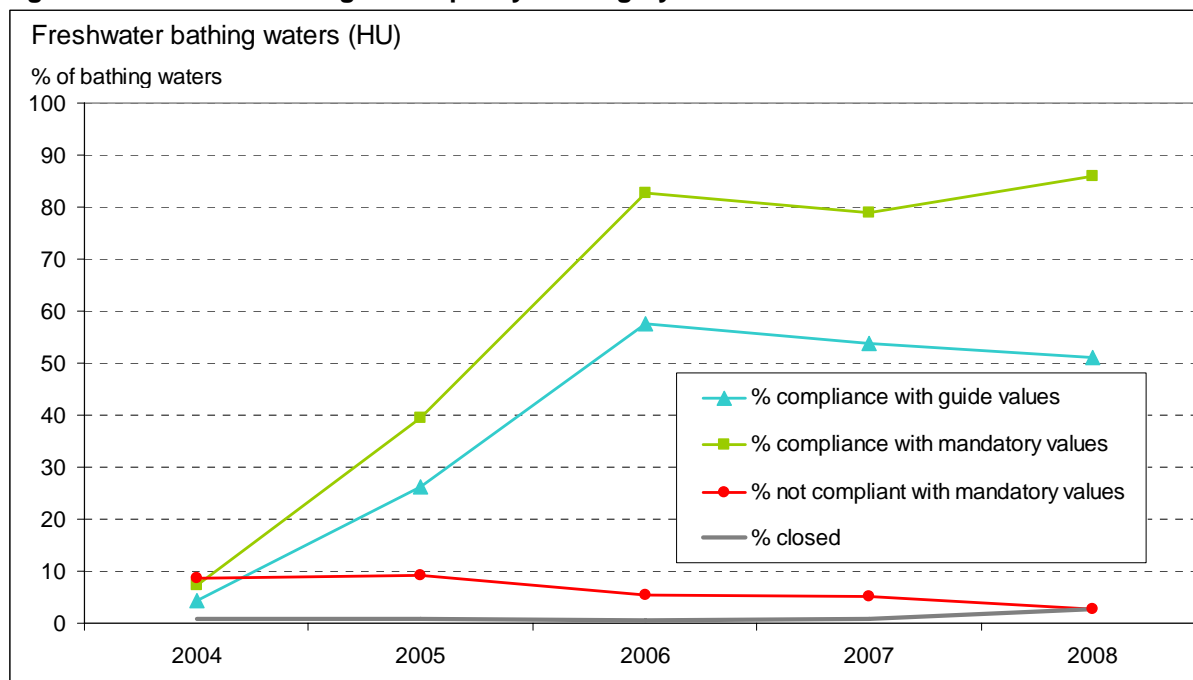


Table 1: Results of bathing water quality in Hungary from 2004 to 2008 as absolute numbers

	Year	Total number of bathing waters	Compliance with guide values	Compliance with mandatory values	Not compliant	Banned/closed throughout the season
	HU					
Fresh - water bathing waters	2004	232	10	17	20	2
	2005	259	68	102	24	2
	2006	241	139	199	13	1
	2007	238	128	188	12	2
	2008	256	131	220	7	7

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive were not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the different categories will not be equal to the total number of bathing waters.

Table 2: Results of bathing water quality in Hungary from 2004 to 2008 as percentages

	Year	Total number of bathing waters	% compliance with guide values	% compliance with mandatory values	% not compliant	% banned/closed throughout the season
	HU					
Fresh - water bathing waters	2004	232	4.3	7.3	8.6	0.9
	2005	259	26.3	39.4	9.3	0.8
	2006	241	57.7	82.6	5.4	0.4
	2007	238	53.8	79.0	5.0	0.8
	2008	256	51.2	85.9	2.7	2.7

Note: Bathing waters which were insufficiently sampled or not sampled according to the Bathing Water Directive are not included in this table. Therefore, in some cases, the sum of the percentages is not equal to 100%.

4. Development of bathing water quality

In Hungary, 85.9% of the freshwater bathing waters (220) met the mandatory water quality in 2008. This is an increase compared to the previous year (+ 6.9%). The rate of the compliance with the guide values, however, decreased by 2.6% to 51.2% of the bathing waters (131). The difference between the percentage of the bathing waters that met the mandatory values and the more stringent guide values increased, accounting for 34.8%. The number of non-compliant bathing waters and the number of bathing waters being closed for the entire season was seven, accounting for 2.7% of the bathing waters each. The percentage of not-compliant bathing waters has decreased by 2.3%.

The reduction of the compliance rate in 2007 can be explained by the higher number of insufficiently sampled bathing waters (10). The low compliance rate in 2004 and 2005 is also due to the large number of insufficiently sampled bathing waters (more than 50% in 2004). It took Hungary till the 2008 bathing season to reach a low level of non compliant freshwater bathing waters below 5%. In 2008, the percentage of closed bathing waters increased compared to the previous years, when it stayed below 1% (one to two bathing waters).

5. General information as provided by the Hungarian authorities

The designation, quality and monitoring of bathing waters (BWs) are regulated by the Government Decree No. 78/2008. (IV. 3.) which is harmonized with Directive 2006/7/EC.

The owner or operator of the BW is obliged to have it monitored. Supervision of BWs is in the competence of the public health authorities of the small regions. A lot of BWs belongs to privately owned or leased establishments and public access is restricted. The use by the public and the length of the bathing season are subject to the decision of the owner or the renter.

The report reflects the transitional state of affairs in Hungary with regard to the implementation of the Directive 2006/7/EC: the monitoring system is adjusted to the new requirements but the assessment of BWs can only be performed according to the old Directive 76/160/EEC.

The assessment of the BWs was performed manually on the basis of one season and with regard to the monitoring frequency requirements of the new Directive. Those BWs that are grouped together with other ones on the basis of close proximity and identical water quality are conferred the assessment of the whole group without regard of the exact sampling site.

The monitoring and examination of the BWs is only performed by accredited laboratories which are requested to observe the relevant ISO and EN standards. E. coli is tested acc. to EN ISO 9308:3 and intestinal Enterococci acc. to EN ISO 7899:1 or :2.

In the 2008 season the Hungarian authorities have not had recourse to "short term pollution" and didn't receive information on significant management measures. Abnormal situation occurred in one case, when a riverine BW was flooded for about two weeks and the bathing season had to be suspended.

6. More information on bathing water quality in the European Union

More information on bathing water quality in the European Member States, including the reports for 27 Member States and the EU summary report, can be found on the bathing water quality website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html).

By 2015, Member States will have to comply with the stricter and more ambitious requirements laid out in the new Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC). This Directive requires more effective monitoring and management of bathing waters, greater public participation and improved information. More information on the new Directive can be found on the bathing water quality website and on <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>.

Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden started to report according to more stringent new requirements in 2008 bathing season, while Luxembourg already started in 2007 bathing season.

WISE - Water Information System for Europe (www.water.europa.eu) is a gateway to all water related information. Among other water related data, information on individual bathing water quality can be found in the WISE Map viewer and WISE Data viewer through interactive maps and graphs (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>).

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2008 bathing season in Hungary

