

Bathing Water Directive report 2013

Albania

The report gives a general overview of information acquired from the reported data, based on provisions of the Bathing Water Directive¹. The reporting process is described below, as well as state and trends of bathing water quality in Albania.

1. BWD reporting in 2013 season

In 2013 bathing season, 73 bathing waters have been reported in Albania. For each bathing water, five groups of parameters have been delivered:

- *basic identification data* – including name, location, geographic type of bathing water and availability to bathers;
- *seasonal data* – including season start and end, national quality classification in present season, potential management measures and changes in quality;
- *monitoring results* – disaggregated numerical values of two microbiological parameters – intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli (also known as E. coli), recorded at each water sample taken;
- *abnormal situation periods* – periods of unexpected situations that have, or could reasonably be expected to have, an adverse impact on bathing water quality and on bathers' health; reporting is optional;
- *short-term pollution periods* – identifiable events that adversely affect water quality by faecal contamination; reporting is optional;

Total reported	73
Coastal	73
Inland	/
Season period	124 days
Coastal	22 May to 30 Sep
Inland	/
Samples taken	657
New BWD implemented in	2012

The authorities of Albania initiated new BWD (2006/7/EC) reporting in 2013 season. However, the 2012 season data have been also reported and will be used when four-season dataset is collected.

Altogether, **73 bathing waters** have been reported – 0.3% of all bathing waters in Europe. Out of all bathing waters in Albania, none have been newly identified in 2013 season, nor have been delisted². All bathing waters are of coastal type. **657 samples** were taken at bathing waters throughout the season – nine per bathing water on average.

¹ Available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:064:0037:0051:EN:PDF>

² Bathing waters which were identified in 2012 season, but not in 2013 season

The bathing season period was from 22 May to 30 September for coastal bathing waters, i.e. 124 days altogether. Season duration varies between different bathing waters.

2. Assessment methodology

During the bathing season, water samples are taken and analysed for two bacteria, *Escherichia coli* and intestinal enterococci which may indicate the presence of pollution, usually originating in sewage or livestock waste. The results of the analysis are used to assess the quality of the bathing waters concerned and to provide information to the public on the quality of the water in the bathing sites concerned.

According to the BWD, the bathing water sample dataset should satisfy the following conditions:

- a minimum of one sample per month³
- a minimum of four samples per season⁴
- a minimum of 16 samples in total⁵
- four consecutive seasons⁶
- a pre-season sample⁷

The monitoring took place at all identified bathing waters, likewise all bathing waters satisfied the described sampling frequency rules set by the Directive (the others are either new, with changes or sampling frequency not satisfied). Table 1 shows the share of bathing waters that did not satisfy monitoring frequency, as well as corresponding reasons.

Table 1: Number of assessed bathing waters in 2013

Total number of bathing waters in 2013	Bathing waters with sampling frequency satisfied	Bathing waters with sampling frequency not satisfied			
		Insufficiently sampled	Closed	Not sampled	Total
73	73	0	0	0	0

Since the data series of four consecutive years has not been collected yet, the assessment of bathing waters has been done according to transitional rules. This means that only the most recent season's data have been considered, while quality classification is based on criteria of the old BWD (76/160/EEC).

Bathing waters are accordingly classified to one of the BWD quality classes:

- compliant with guide values
- compliant with mandatory values
- not compliant

³ The interval between two samples should not exceed 31 + 4 days, provided that the next sampling is done according to the monitoring calendar; exception applies for temporarily closed bathing waters

⁴ Three samples if the season does not exceed eight weeks or the region is subject to special geographical constraints

⁵ 12 samples if the season does not exceed eight weeks or the region is subject to special geographical constraints

⁶ The condition does not apply if the bathing water is newly identified or any changes have occurred that are likely to affect the classification

⁷ A pre-season sample is taken into account at total number of samples per season

- banned

The classification is based on pre-defined percentile values for microbiological enumerations, falling in the certain class given in Annex I of the Directive. The Annex defines different limit values for coastal and inland waters.

3. Bathing water quality

The results of the bathing water quality in Albania for the period of 2010–2013 as reported in the past reporting years and for the bathing season of 2013 are presented in Figure 1 (for coastal bathing waters) and Figure 2 (for inland bathing waters). The previous reports are available on the European Commission's bathing water quality website⁸ and the European Environment Agency's bathing water website⁹.

3.1 Coastal bathing waters

In Albania, 91.8% of coastal bathing waters met the mandatory water quality in 2013. No bathing waters had to be closed during the bathing season. See Appendix 1 for numeric data.

3.2 Inland bathing waters

There are no inland bathing waters in Albania.

4. Information regarding management and other issues

No specific management measures have been described by national authorities.

5. Interactive information on bathing water quality in Europe

The bathing water section of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), which is accessible at the EEA bathing water website (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/interactive/bathing/state-of-bathing-waters>), allows users to view the bathing water quality at more than 22 000 coastal beaches and inland sites across Europe. Data is aggregated and visualized on national and station level. Detailed information regarding specific bathing site are given in pop-up windows (can be activated with a click on a selected bathing location) and bathing water profiles which can be opened through hyperlinks in pop-up windows.

The data on bathing water quality in 2013 and previous years can also be viewed in WISE bathing water data viewer, an application prepared by TC Vode (<http://bwd.eea.europa.eu/>). The WISE bathing water

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/index_en.html

⁹ <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water>

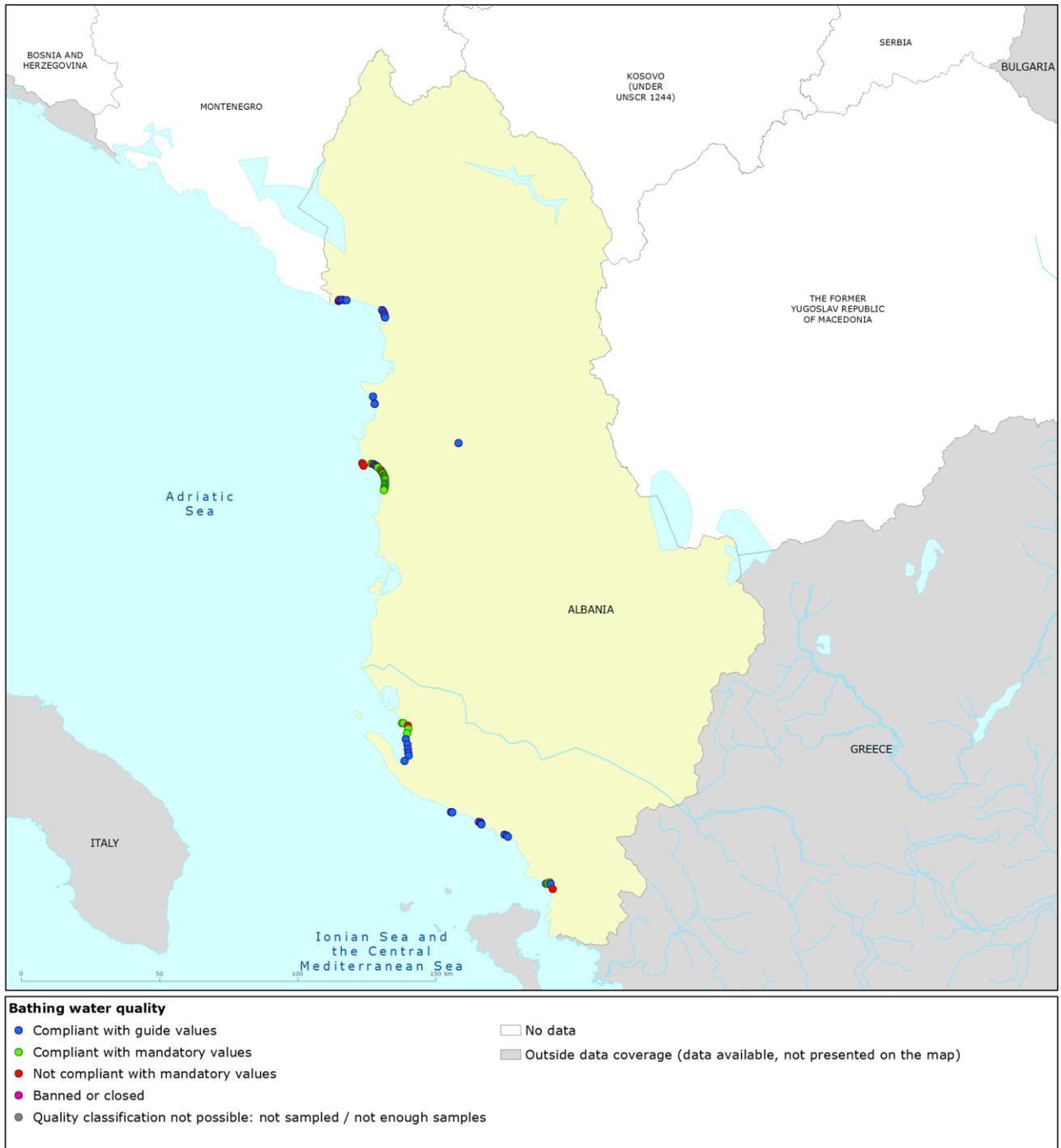
quality data viewer combines text and graphical visualisation, providing a quick overview of the locations of coastal and inland bathing waters, as well as statistics on their quality. Specific bathing water locations can be observed on Google Earth, Google maps or Bing maps.

Appendix 1: Results of bathing water quality in Albania from 2010 to 2013

Total	Excellent (compliant with guide values)		Good and sufficient (compliant with mandatory values)		Poor (not compliant)		Closed (banned)		Quality classification not possible*	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
73	37	50.7	67	91.8	6	8.2	0	0.0	0	0.0

Appendix 2: Bathing water quality map

Map 1: Bathing waters reported during the 2013 bathing season in Albania



Source: National boundaries: EEA; Large rivers and lakes: EEA, WFD Article 3; Bathing waters data and coordinates: Albanian authorities