Application of environmental flows in the region

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Purpose of e-flow

• Water flow is essential for maintenance of rivers, lakes and underground systems and water dependant ecosystems.

• E-flow is necessary for maintenance or partial revitalization of wetland characteristics of natural flow regime (like quantity, dynamics, time and duration) with aim to keep specific values of impacted ecosystems –

It is one of the most important mitigation measure.
Implementation of e-flow in the region

- **Current situation** – biological minimum – 10% of mean annual flow – often not respected
In the same time –

Hydropower boom in the region

- More than 2,500 HPPs planned in WB region
Urgent changes are needed:

- **Montenegro** – Water Act recognized e-flow from 2015, a by-law is endorsed in 2016, monitoring is also defined in 2018, but there are still issues in implementing it and in many cases is not implemented at all.

- **B&H** – FB&H had a by-law on e-flow, hydrological method chosen, in RS only biological minimum is there.

- **Croatia** – in 2019 recognized e-flow by Water Act, by-laws to be defined...

- **Serbia** – biological minimum is prescribed, although often without any baseline data on hydrology and species.

- **Albania** – minimum flow is prescribed, but often not implemented.
• Last free-flowing rivers in Europe - too much to lose
Thank you for your attention!