

"Incorporating Foresight into Environmental Reporting, a Subcomponent of the Western Balkans" – Republic of Serbia



Serbian Environmental Protection Agency

The European Environment Agency (EEA) project "Incorporating Foresight into Environmental Reporting, a Subcomponent of the Western Balkans" (2020-2022) stemmed from the need for integrated, forward-looking assessments that respond to existing and new policy frameworks and enable transformative change across Europe. Incorporating these aspects into environmental reporting will improve information and enable sustainability policy-making. Analysis of the role of drivers of change, including global megatrends, improves the understanding and characterization of sustainable transformation pathways, as well as the challenges and opportunities arising from the complex interactions between society and natural systems. Such knowledge and information must be relevant to the policy and adapted to existing policy frameworks.

Within the framework of the project, Serbia focused on three of the eleven GMTs identified by the EEA:

GMT 7: Intensified global competition for resources

GMT 8: Growing pressures on ecosystems

GMT 9: Increasingly severe consequences of climate change

For the needs of analysis of these GMTs, defining their implications, together with the description, estimated likelihood, magnitude of effect, timescales over which they may occur, with identification of possible risks and opportunities that arise from the implications, project team used 2017 EEA published toolkit "Mapping Europe's environmental future: understanding the impacts of global megatrends at the national level" - as well as the "checklist document" developed under the project "Strengthening the participation of the Western Balkans in the work of the European Environment Agency 2020-2021 actions for Water and Foresight assessments". By analyzing the existing data, organizing several meetings with a participatory approach, a chapter was prepared that includes foresight information related to selected global megatrends that will be included in the new National SoE report.

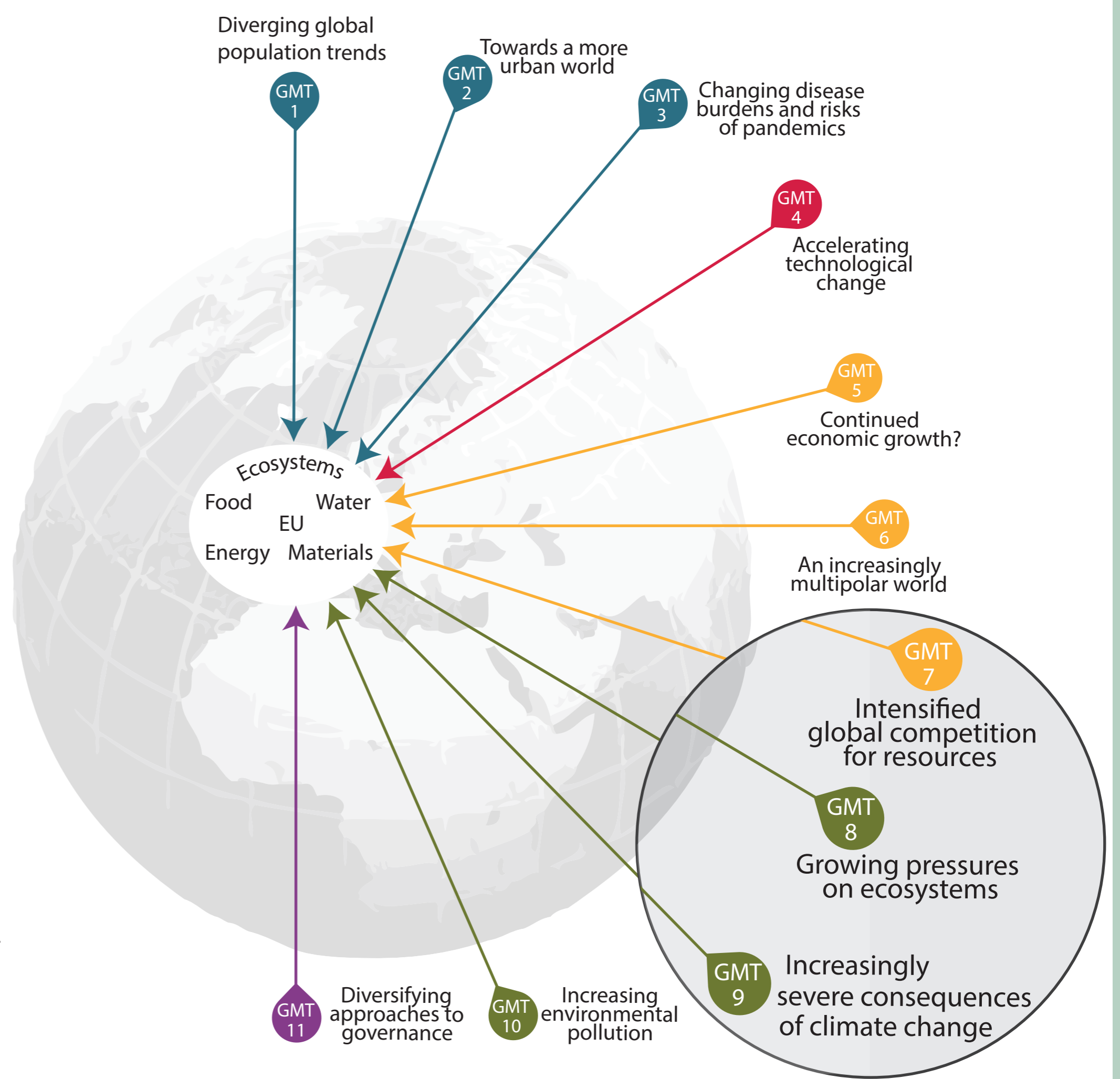
How did Eionet add value in the project?

Exchanged experience with the other countries, raised the level of knowledge in the field of foresight, raised awareness of the importance of including foresight in the National SoE report.

In charge of the project

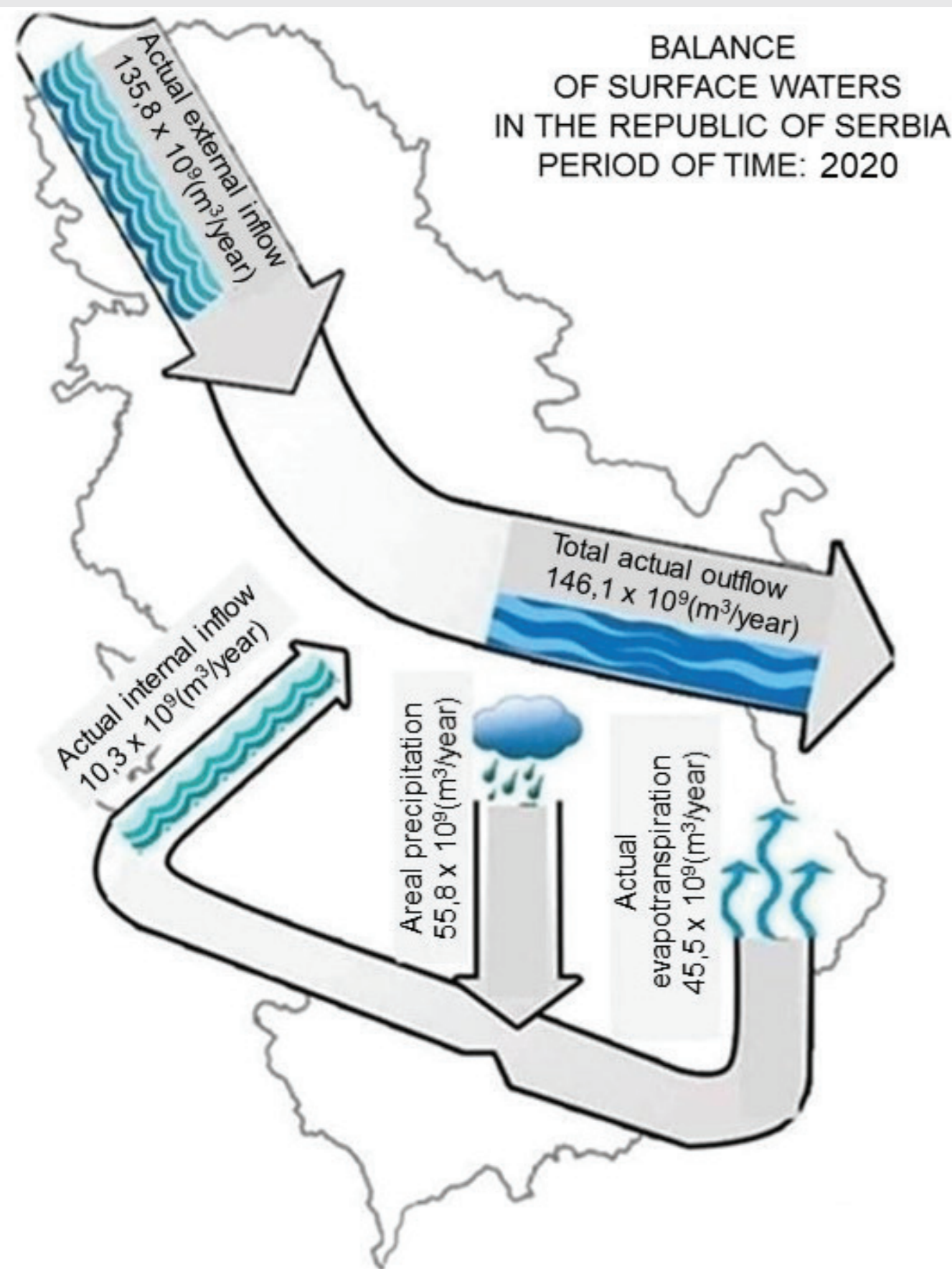
Ms Dragana Vidojevic, PhD, Head of Indicators and Reporting Section

Impacts of global megatrends on European resource systems

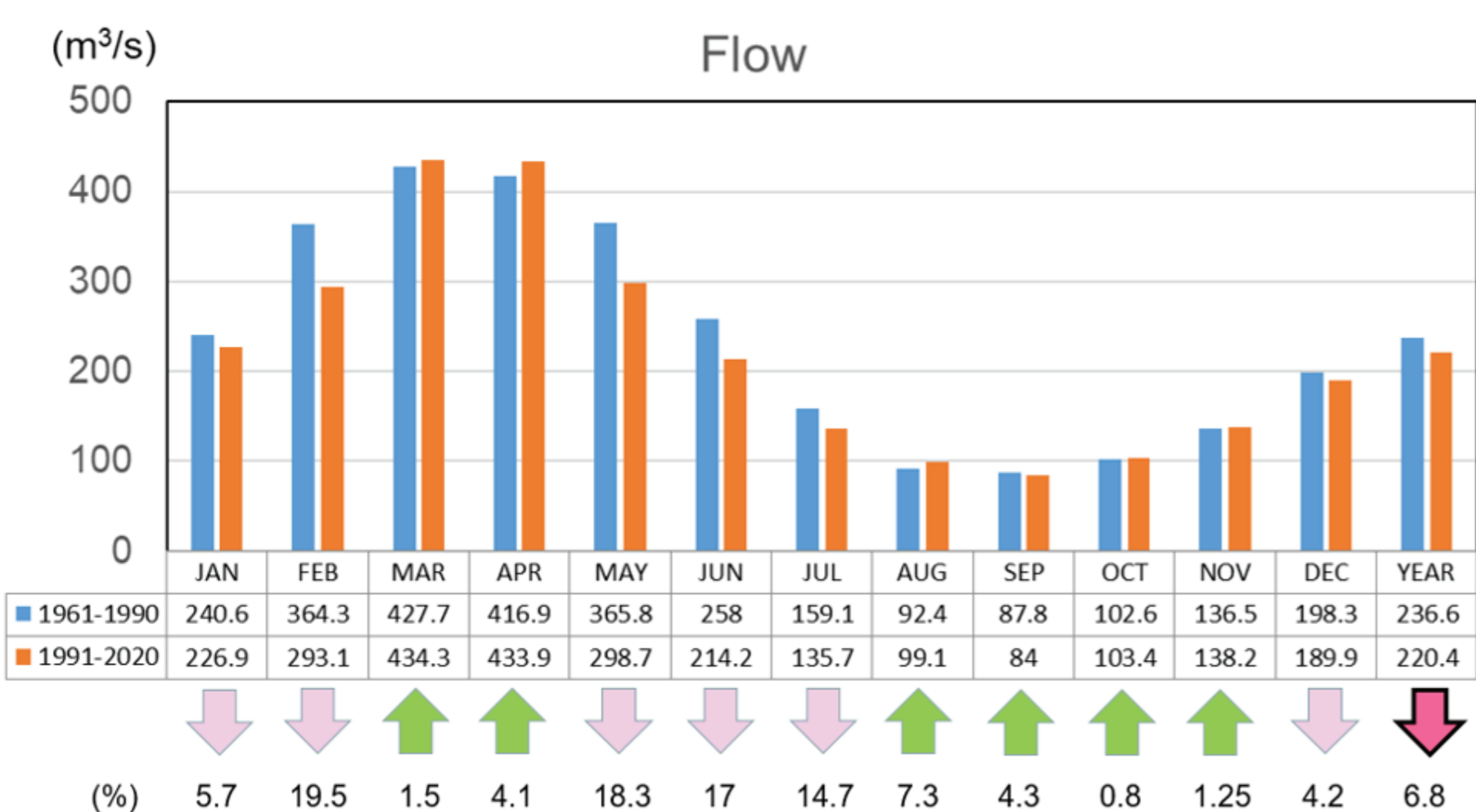


Source: EEA

Implication examples



Renewable water resources of the Republic of Serbia in 2020



Data source: Republic Hydrometeorological Institute Data analysis: Serbian Environmental Protection Agency

Trends of mean monthly river flows in the Velika Morava catchment for the periods: 1961-1990 and 1991-2020

Implication title: Water scarcity (GMT 7)		
Estimated likelihood (high/low)	Scoping result From workshop 1	Estimated likelihood (high/low)
high	high	Medium term (2025-2030)

Water scarcity severely impairs food security and economic prosperity in the country. Expected future population changes as well as climate changes will increase the pressure on available water resources.

Implication title: Expansion of urban areas / loss of ecosystem services (GMT 8)		
Estimated likelihood (high/low)	Magnitude of effect (high/low)	Timescale over which implication may occur
high	high	Short term (to 2025)

The trend of urbanization and abandonment of rural areas in the Republic of Serbia has impact on the rural environment. Despite the serious consequences that depopulation has for rural areas, Republic of Serbia must not overlook that problems also arise in cities as a result of the constant arrival of new inhabitants: Overpopulation, Price increases, Lower quality of life, Higher environmental impact. In regions with growing population, the pressure on water resources is increasing, especially water consumption.

Implication title: Expansion of areas of wild landfills and landfills along rivers (GMT 8)		
Estimated likelihood (high/low)	Magnitude of effect (high/low)	Timescale over which implication may occur
high	high	Short term (to 2025)

Expansion of areas of wild landfills and landfills along rivers threatens ecosystems and their biodiversity, and also endangers the population due to spontaneous fires and landfill gas emissions. In order to reduce the harmful effects of illegal landfills, it is necessary to develop legislation and improve control, as well as to invest in the mechanization for cleaning illegal landfills and into waste collection systems.

Implication title: Need for more water for irrigation and the energy sector (GMT 9)		
Estimated likelihood (high/low)	Magnitude of effect (high/low)	Timescale over which implication may occur
high	high	Medium term (2025-2030)

In the near future, in the case of an increase in the average annual temperatures of 2°C, it can be expected an average of 40-50% less water in rivers, compared with averages for the last 60 years.

Implication title: Uncertainty of energy efficiency in Serbia (GMT 9)		
Estimated likelihood (high/low)	Magnitude of effect (high/low)	Timescale over which implication may occur
high	high	Long term (2030 - 2050)