



**# of inhabitants** 6.4 million

**Surface area** 110 001 km<sup>2</sup>

**GDP per capita** 59 pps [1]

**Significant bodies of water (RBDs)** Black Sea; Danube; East Aegean; West Aegean

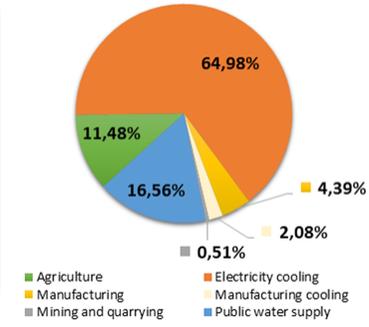
**Polity** unitary republican state

**Layers of government** central government; 6 planning regions; 28 districts; 265 municipalities

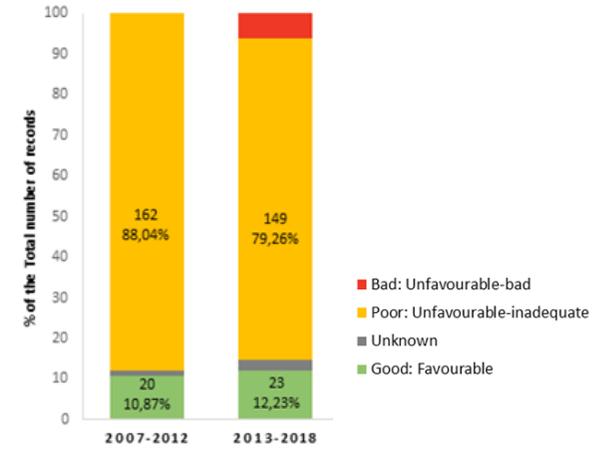
**Legislative powers at the sub-national level** No

**Decentralisation index** 1.4 (19 out of 27) [2]

**Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+)** 1.78% (2017) [3]



Water abstraction per sector in Bulgaria - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Bulgaria - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Bulgaria - Source: EEA (2021)

**Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance**

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
<b>Water</b>	Ministry of Environment and Water	Environment Agency; river basin directorates; regional inspectorates for environment and water
<b>Energy</b>	Ministry of Energy	districts and municipalities
<b>Food</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	regional directorates for agriculture
<b>Ecosystems</b>	Ministry of Environment and Water	Environment Agency; regional inspectorates for environment and water

**WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE**

**CHALLENGES**

- Assess the why and how of new modifications to water bodies
- Improve the wastewater management infrastructure
- Create a national structure for the management of the country's rich natural heritage
- Establish conservation objectives and measures for all Natura 2000 sites
- Integrate nature policy in other national plans, projects and policies

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Bulgaria's Recovery and Resilience Plan addresses climate change, biodiversity, water supply and sewerage infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture
- A new biodiversity strategy for Bulgaria has been prepared
- Mapping and assessment has been done for Freshwater Ecosystem Services (FEMA) and Wetland Ecosystem Services (WEMA).
- Bulgaria received major EU support for better management of nature protection areas in 2014-2020

More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard  
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>  
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%

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