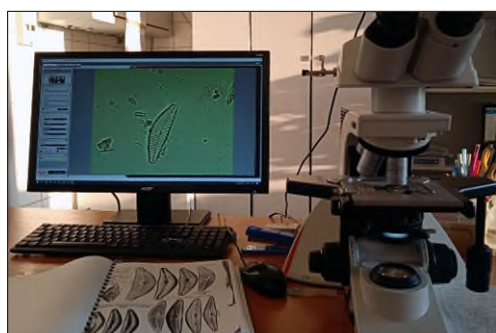


## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Hydrobiological methods to determine the ecological status of surface waters in Bulgaria

Updated: November 2024



At a microscope workstation, Microorganisms are analysed in a water sample.

Source: Executive Environment Agency

**Project country:** Bulgaria  
**Duration:** 02/2020 – 09/2026  
**Beneficiaries:** Executive Environment Agency, River Basin Directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Water  
**Implementing entities:** Jens Kroker, Dr. Maria Avramov  
**Project number:** 133742

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## Background

Water in adequate quantity and quality is an irreplaceable basis for life on earth and thus also for human existence. Water bodies are to be understood as habitats in which ecological processes take place that need to be stabilised or restored. To improve the ecological status of water bodies, the Water Framework Directive created some instruments that must be implemented and enforced with an ambitious timetable, including monitoring the quality of surface waters with the help of hydrobiological methods.

## Project details

Enforcement authorities are faced with the challenge of providing appropriate working facilities and sufficient personnel for the hydrobiological monitoring and of ensuring a smooth monitoring process across all involved actors. The object of the project with Bulgaria is to advise on how the monitoring programmes for the so-called "biological quality elements": phytobenthos, macrophytes and macrozoobenthos, can be efficiently processed. For this purpose, the increasingly abstract process from sampling to the evaluation result is jointly practiced and possibilities are sought to reliably fulfil the required quality standards with limited personnel capacities, even with large sample quantities. Planned activities are reciprocal visits of laboratories in Bulgaria and Germany as well as topic-specific workshops where methodological challenges are discussed. Proposals for organisational measures (e.g. a redistribution of tasks) and methodological training on sample preparation and taxonomic analysis will help to increase the efficiency of sample processing.

**Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)** for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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