



Good intentions, bad execution - green's not always clean

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Dataharvest,
11 November 2020

Quick intro to CEE Bankwatch Network

16 environmental groups in 14 central and eastern European countries

Working to prevent the environmentally and socially harmful impacts of international development finance, and to promote alternative solutions and public participation

Primarily watching the EIB, EBRD and EU funds, but also Chinese state banks and export credit agencies.



Tracking down subsidies for hydropower

Who pays,
who profits?

In the Western Balkans in 2018, small hydropower (<10 MW) received 70% of renewable energy incentives but generated only 3.6% of electricity.

Who is financing Balkan hydropower?

2112 greenfield plants built since 2005 or now planned (471 – operational, 915 – actively planned, the remainder - dormant)

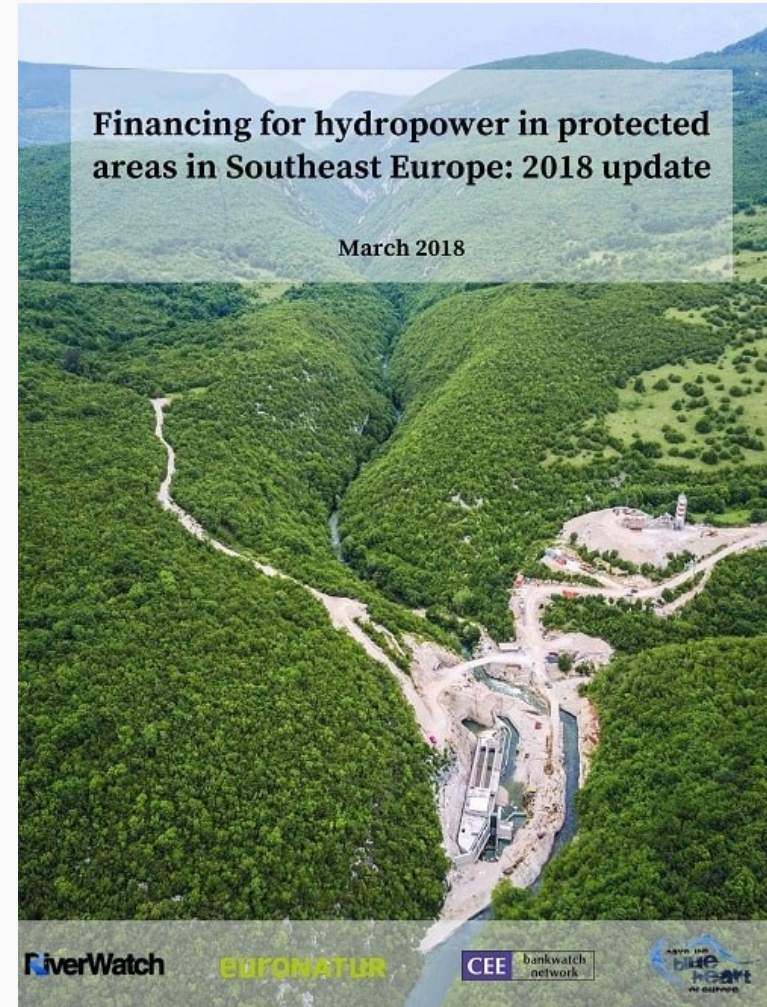
Signed financing identified for 239 greenfield projects; planned financing for 20 more. For 1119 projects, most likely no financing (yet).

For 734 greenfield projects no financing traced.

Multilateral development banks – the EBRD, EIB and World Bank Group – supported 82 hydropower plants across southeast Europe with €727 million since 2005.

158 plants with commercial bank financing - Austria's Erste and Italy's Unicredit Group - 28 loans each – **some intermediary loans.**

Most projects are by domestic companies. Of foreign companies, Austria and Italy most frequent.



Research methods

Multilateral banks' websites show larger projects but not all small ones. Some public financing facilities have dedicated websites.

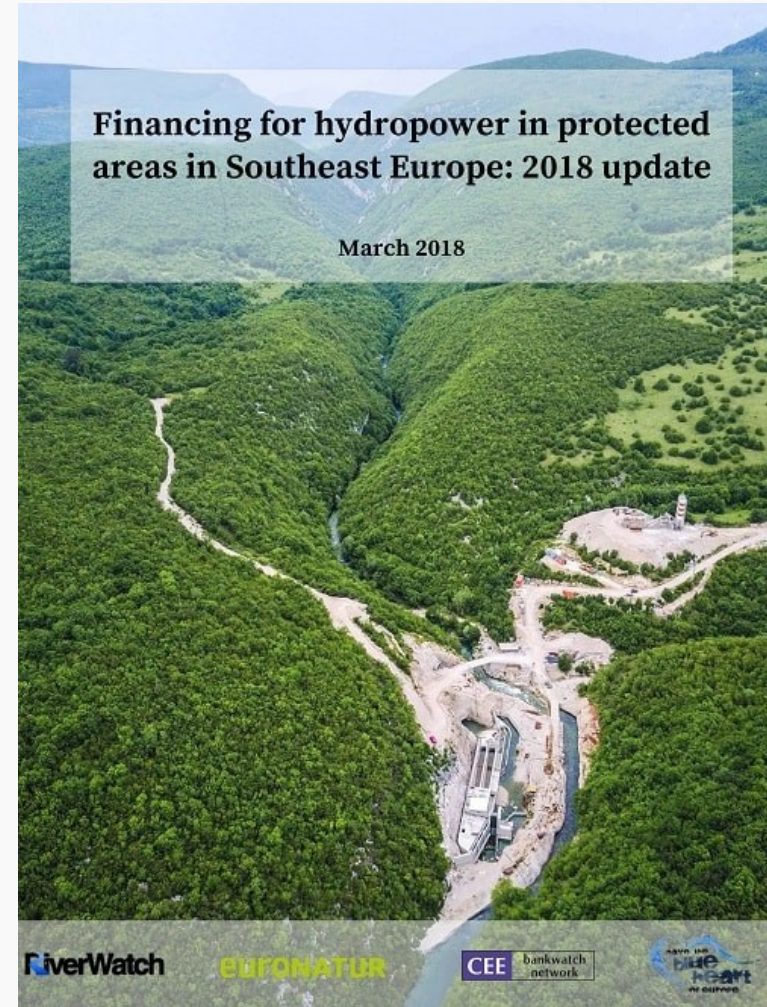
Information requests to multilateral development banks – but EIB said that it cannot disclose financial intermediary projects due to commercial confidentiality.

The EBRD said the same for years but has now changed its policy to oblige intermediaries to disclose all “high-risk” projects (inc. all hydropower).

Formal complaint to EIB resulted in disclosure of some projects but not all.

Use of pledge registries and land registries useful in some countries but not in others.

Still a huge information black hole to be filled.



Operation dust machine

Independent PM10 monitoring in selected coal spots – existing coal mines and plants

Prove the link between coal and bad air quality

Push for better monitoring of air quality by national responsible authorities

Reveal bad practices by power plant operators

Tell a regional story to the EU institutions

Lobby for air quality legislation adoption (different from power plant emissions standards)

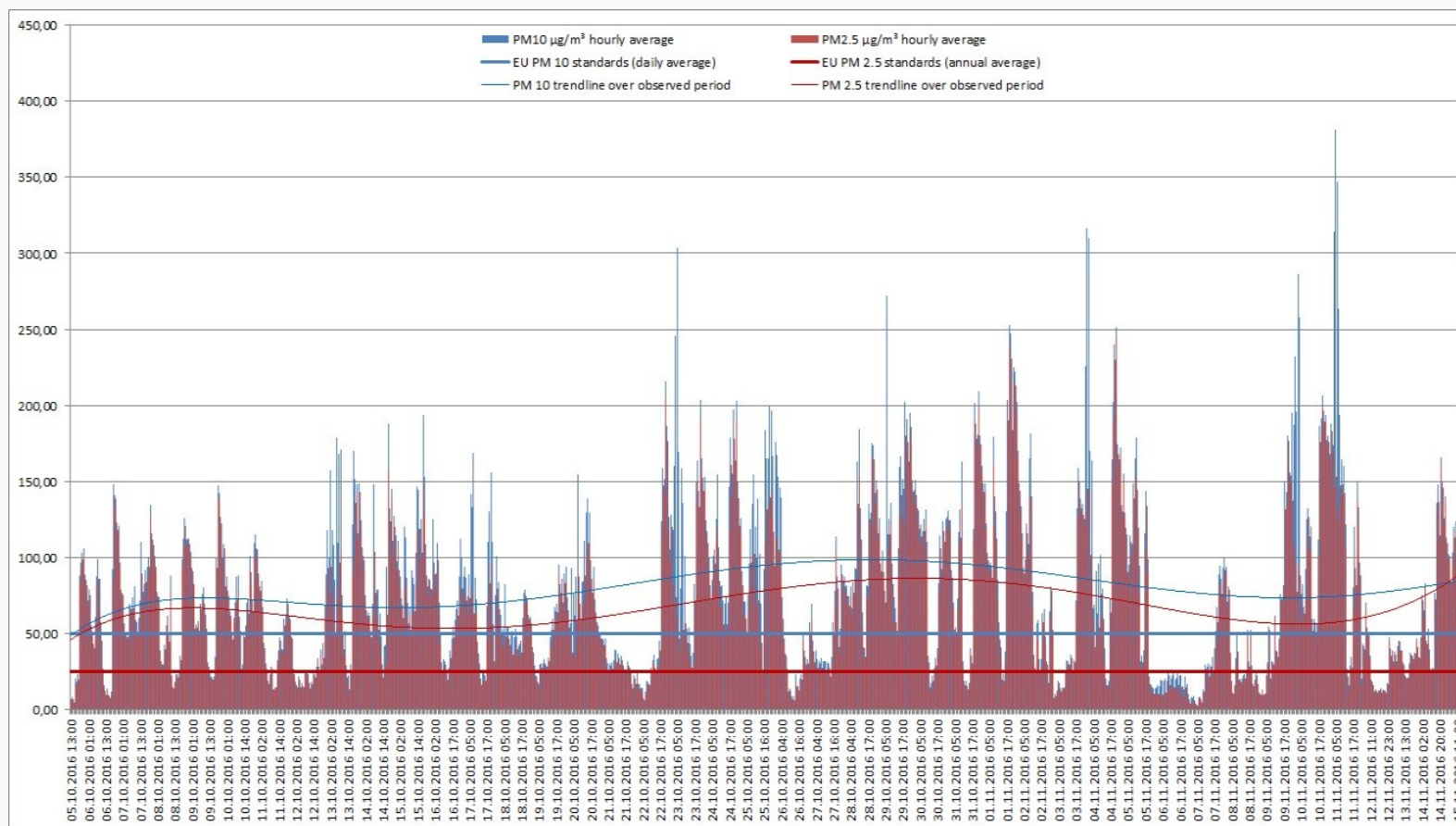
Tailored health impact analysis of exposure to air pollution

Authorities' reaction usually very negative, but in Romania our data helped to get a family resettled after years of waiting



Operation dust machine (2)

Tuzla power plant seems to be switching off filters at night?



Thanks for your attention

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