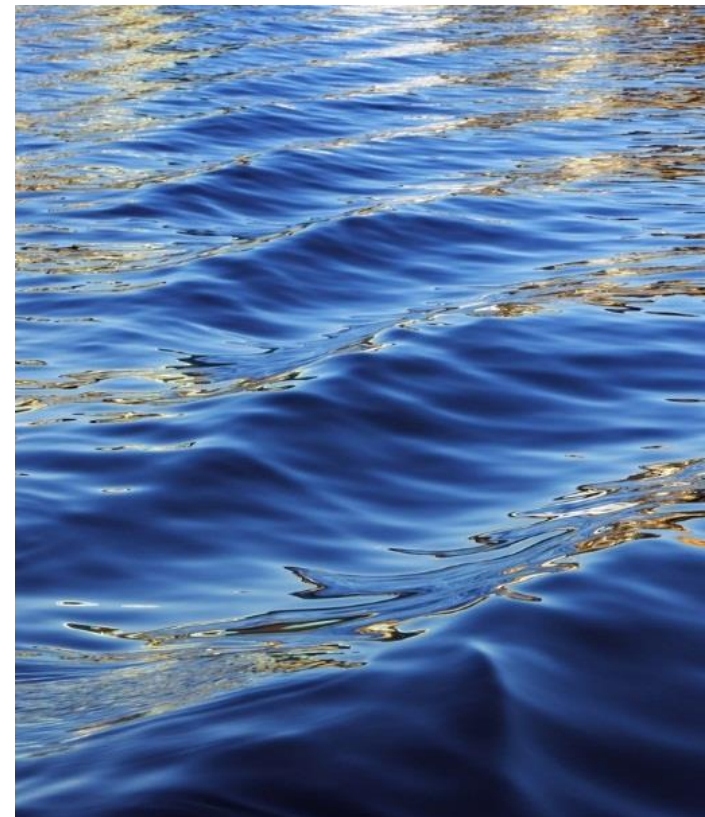


Water quality and its role in maintaining the health of the population

Slovakia-Zvolen

11-13
September 2024

Moldovan
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Importance of Water Quality

Water is a vital resource for all forms of life. Clean water is essential not only for drinking but also for agriculture, sanitation, and industrial processes. Unfortunately, water pollution has become a significant global problem, affecting both surface and groundwater sources

Vital for drinking, agriculture, and sanitation.



Affects public health and ecosystem balance.



Importance of Water Quality

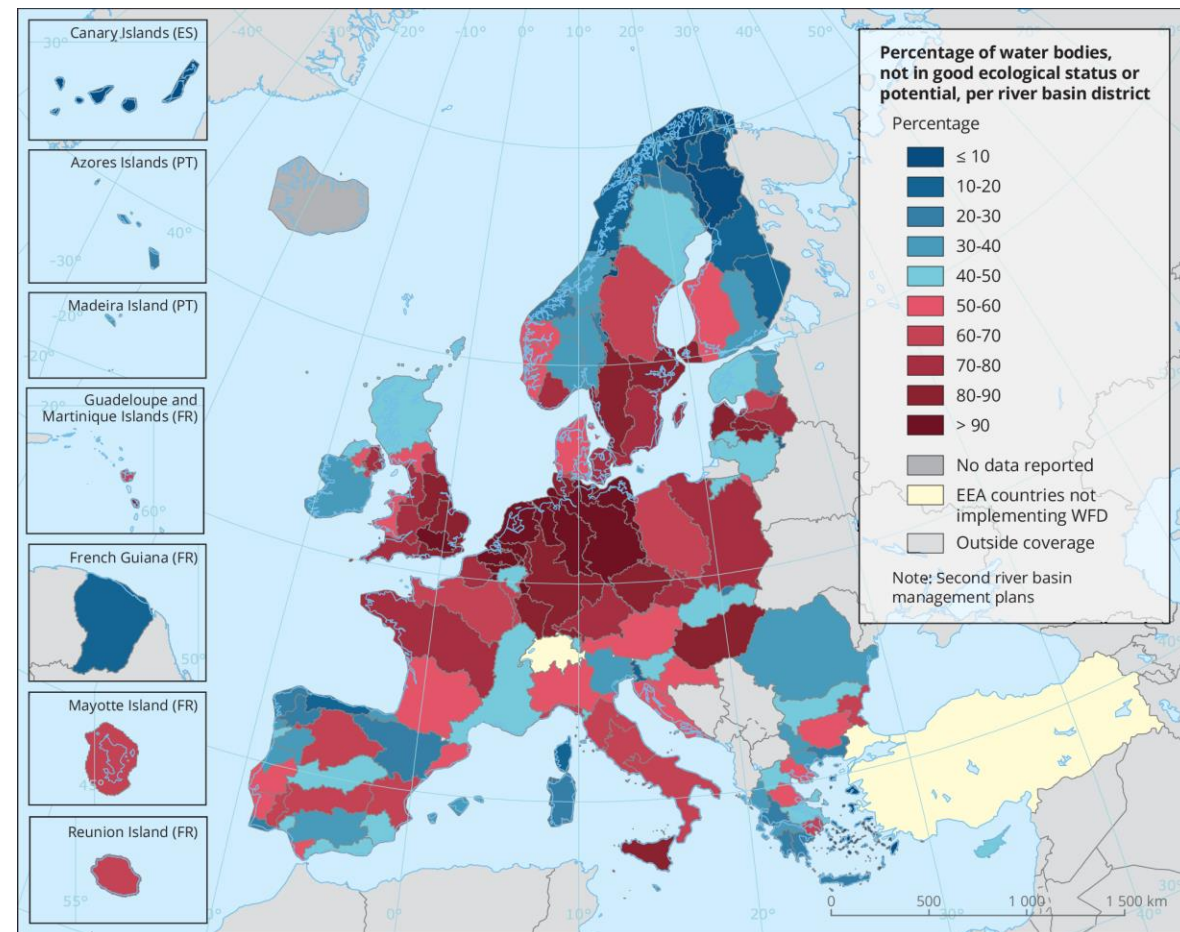
Can anyone share examples of how poor water quality has affected your local community?



EU Water Pollution Statistics

- Pollution decreased between 1990s-2010s.
- Progress slowed since 2016.
- Only 42% of surface water bodies have good chemical status.

According to the European Environment Agency, water pollution in the EU decreased between the 1990s and 2010s. However, progress has slowed, with pollution present in 58% of surface waters since 2016. Moreover, only 42% of surface water bodies and 77% of groundwater sources are rated as having 'good chemical status.'



EU Water Pollution Statistics

What measures do you think could help improve these statistics?



European Green Deal's Zero Pollution Ambition

- Introduction of the European Green Deal.
- Goal: zero pollution.
- Commission's proposal to revise pollutant lists.

As part of the European Green Deal, which aims to achieve zero pollution, the European Commission in October 2022 proposed to revise the lists of pollutants in surface and groundwater that need to be controlled and managed to protect freshwater bodies.



European Green Deal's Zero Pollution Ambition

How do you think the European Green Deal can influence water quality positively?



New Legislative Measures

- Revisions to Water Framework Directive.
- Groundwater and Environmental Quality Standards Directives.
- Better protection for human health and ecosystems.

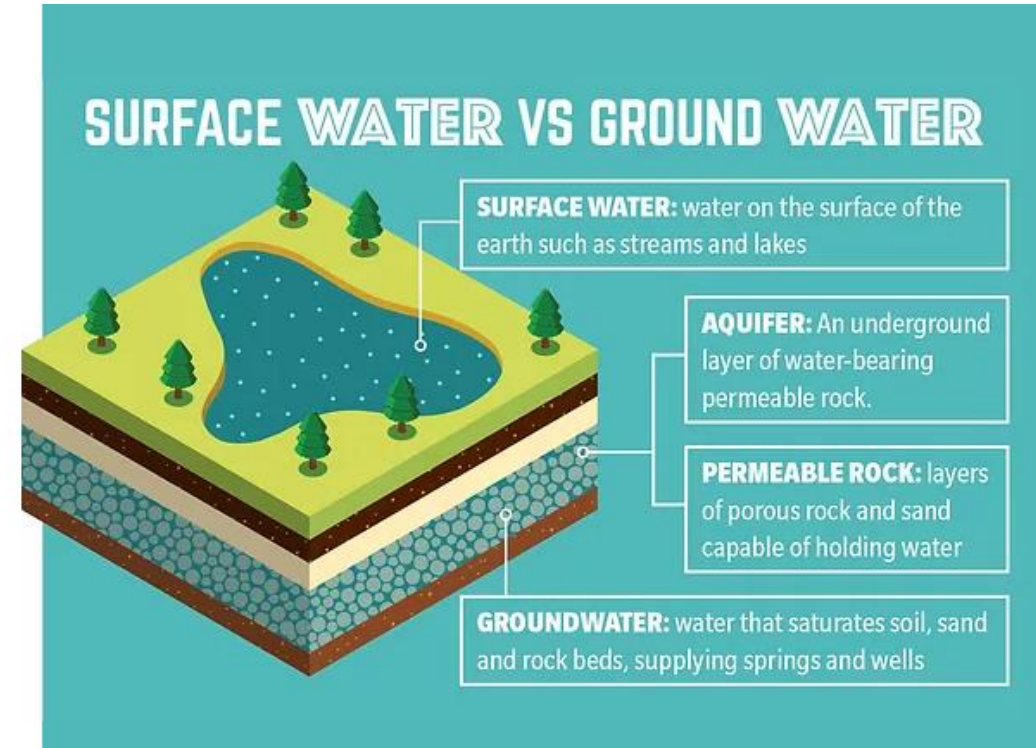
In September 2023, the European Parliament adopted its position on protecting groundwater and surface waters from pollution and improving water quality standards. The new law revises the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive, and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, aiming to better protect human health and natural ecosystems from pollutants.



Definitions

- **Groundwater:** Found underground in cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.
- **Surface water:** Any body of water above ground, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, and creeks.

Groundwater is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock, such as in artesian wells, artificial wells, and springs. Surface water, on the other hand, includes any body of water above ground, such as streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, and creeks.



Definitions

Can you think of ways in which surface water and groundwater might interact with each other?



Expanding the Pollutants Watch List

- MEPs propose a regularly updated watch list.
- Include new scientific evidence and emerging chemicals.
- Addition of substances like microplastics.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) propose that the watch list of pollutants should not be limited to a maximum number of substances, as proposed by the Commission. They want it to be regularly updated to keep up with new scientific evidence and the fast-evolving pace of emerging new chemicals, including microplastics.



Expanding the Pollutants Watch List

Why is it important to regularly update the list of water pollutants?



Preventing Groundwater Pollution

- MEPs demand stricter threshold values.
- Lower thresholds for groundwater than surface water.
- Addition of specific pollutants to the list.

To better protect groundwater, MEPs demand that threshold values for pollutants be ten times lower for groundwater than for surface water. They also want specific per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to be added to the list of groundwater pollutants, as these substances have been detected at more than 70% of the groundwater measuring points in the EU.



Preventing Groundwater Pollution

What are some sources of groundwater pollution in your area?



Polluters Should Pay

- Producers should contribute to monitoring costs.
- Encourages responsible production practices.

The report also suggests that producers of products containing polluting substances should contribute to the monitoring costs. This principle encourages producers to adopt more responsible production practices and reduces the financial burden on the public sector.



Polluters Should Pay

Do you agree that producers should pay for pollution monitoring?

Why or why not?



Urban Wastewater Treatment

- New rules approved in April 2024.
- Improved treatment and reuse of wastewater.
- Protect environment and human health.

In April 2024, the European Parliament approved new rules to improve the treatment and reuse of urban wastewater to protect the environment and human health. These rules require better monitoring of chemical pollutants, including 'forever chemicals' like PFAS, microplastics, and pathogens such as viruses and bacteria.



Urban Wastewater Treatment

What benefits do you see in improving urban wastewater treatment?



Conclusion

- Importance of clean water for health and environment.
- Need for ongoing efforts and strict regulations.

Clean water is crucial for the health of both humans and the environment. While significant progress has been made, ongoing efforts and strict regulations are needed to ensure water quality continues to improve.



Conclusion

What actions can we take in our daily lives to help protect water quality?



Thank you for attending!

Please share any questions or comments you have about preserving water quality.

