



# European Bathing Water Quality in 2020

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v1	06/05/2021	Globevnik, Snoj, Šubelj	
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<sup>1</sup> <https://portal.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/c9d1b46109df444fb027af057603a83b>

# European Bathing Water Quality in 2020

## Headline

Bathing water quality in Europe remains high. The minimum water quality standards were met at 93 % of sites!

## Key messages

- **The number of bathing waters in Europe is increasing every year.** In 2020, countries identified 22 276 bathing sites, 19 less than the previous year and 716 more than in 2015. Two thirds of bathing sites are located along the seacoasts of Europe.
- **Bathing water quality in the EU remains high.** Since the adoption of the Bathing Water Directive in 2006, the share of excellent sites has been growing continuously; in 2020, it represented 83 % of bathing sites in the EU. The minimum water quality standards were met at 93 % of sites.
- **The quality of coastal sites is generally better than that of inland sites.** In 2020, 85.4 % of the EU coastal bathing sites were classified as being of excellent quality compared to 77.5 % of inland sites.
- **The share of poor-quality sites has dropped since 2013.** In 2020, poor bathing waters constituted 1.3 % of all sites in the EU, compared to 2 % in 2013. This shows improvements in the management of poor bathing sites in Europe.
- **The quality of a number of bathing waters could not be classified due to an inadequate number of samples in relation to the restrictions caused by the epidemic.** For the season of 2020, 1 309 (6.0 %) EU bathing waters are not classified, compared to 806 (3.7 %) in 2019.



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## Bathing water quality

Few things are as enjoyable as going for a swim on a hot day. Submerging ourselves in water is something we do for leisure, sport, relaxation and health. Europe has a great diversity of beautiful beaches and bathing areas, and each year millions of Europeans spend their weekends at their local beach or on their holidays cooling off by or in the water. As this year's bathing season approaches, many citizens begin to take a keen interest in the quality of bathing waters.

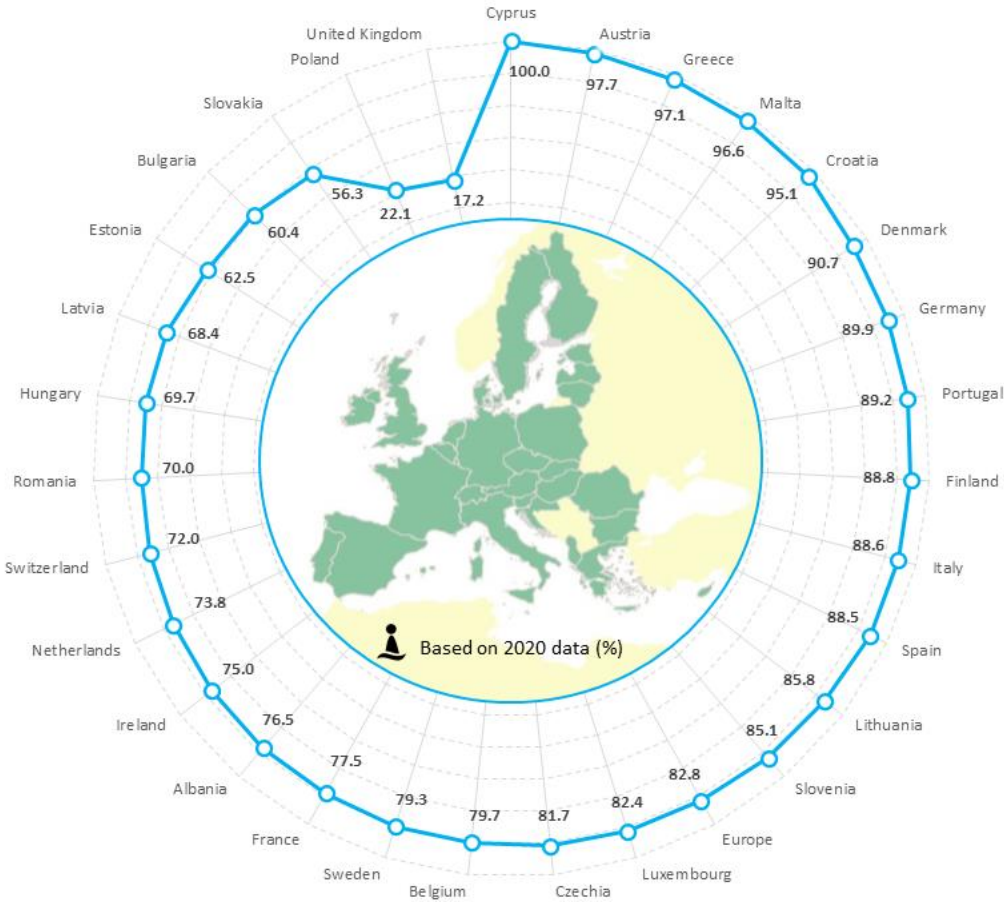
The quality of bathing water in Europe has been consistently satisfactory in previous years, and of a much higher quality than it was a few decades ago. This is due to the systematic care for the good environmental status of water, especially thanks to large investments in wastewater treatment plants, regulation of urban drainage and to sustainable solutions in the farming sector. Systematic monitoring and management introduced under the [Bathing Water Directive](#) (EU, 2006 - hereinafter referred to as 'BWD') is important for managing risks to bathers' health, encouraging targeted investments in water protection and strengthening people's confidence in European water policy.

The quality of European bathing waters is assessed based on 22 276 coastal, lake, and river bathing sites, identified and reported for the 2020 season by the Member States<sup>2</sup> of the European Union as well as Albania and Switzerland. (Table 1). 82.9 % of 21 968 bathing sites situated in the EU countries were of excellent quality (Figure 2). In five countries, 95 % or more bathing waters were of excellent quality: Cyprus (all bathing waters were of excellent quality), Austria, Greece, Malta and Croatia.

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<sup>2</sup> This briefing presents data from 2020, a transition period during which EU law continued to apply to and in the UK as if it were still a Member State, therefore data about the UK bathing waters are included under 'EU Member States'.

**Figure 1: Proportion of bathing waters with excellent quality status in Europe in 2020**



**Source:** BWD – Status of Bathing Water database (data from 2020 annual reports by EU Member States<sup>3</sup>, Albania and Switzerland).

**Note:** The assessment covers 22 276 bathing waters in Europe that were reported to the EEA for the 2020 season. In the EU Member States<sup>4</sup>, there were in total 21 968 bathing waters (Austria: 261, Belgium: 118, Bulgaria: 96, Croatia: 935, Cyprus: 112, Czechia: 153, Denmark: 1 026, Estonia: 64, Finland: 303, France: 3 328, Germany: 2 304, Greece: 1 634, Hungary: 264, Ireland: 148, Italy: 5 520, Latvia: 57, Lithuania: 120, Luxembourg: 17, Malta: 87, Netherlands: 736, Poland: 602, Portugal: 630, Romania: 50, Slovakia: 32, Slovenia: 47, Spain: 2 239, Sweden: 445, United Kingdom: 640). In Poland and the United Kingdom, only about 30 % of the national bathing waters were quality classified, which also decreases the proportion of sites with an excellent quality status in the two countries. Outside the EU, 308 bathing waters were reported (Albania: 119, Switzerland: 189).

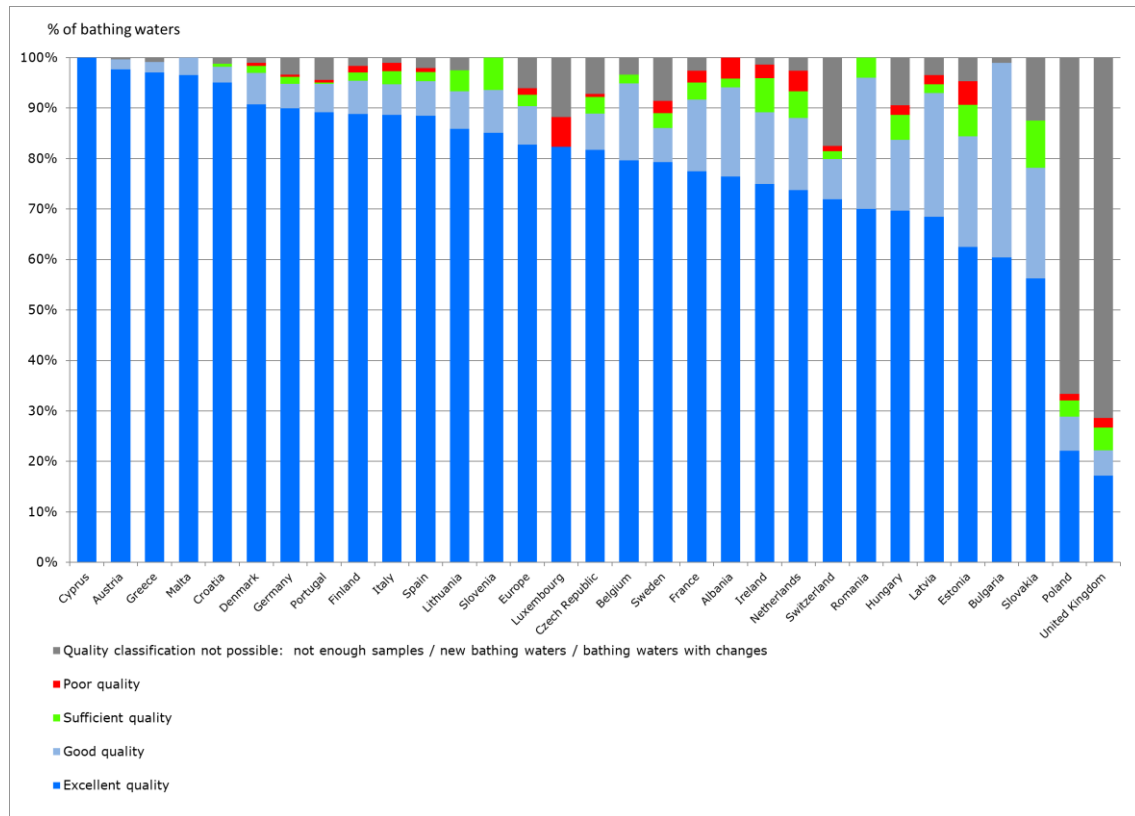
One of the main requirements of the BWD is to ensure that all bathing water sites were at least of a **'sufficient' quality** by 2015. In the 2020 bathing season, this minimum quality standard could be confirmed for 92.6 % of all European bathing water sites and 92.7 % of the bathing sites in the EU Member States. Compared to the previous season of 2019, this is a drop of 2.3 percentage points or 511 bathing waters in the EU. This can be attributed to a substantially smaller share of classified bathing waters – partly due to epidemic-related monitoring problems and partly due to the

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<sup>4</sup> See previous footnote.

identification of new bathing waters that do not have the available four-season dataset for credible quality classification. In this respect, it is important to note that, the share of **poor-quality bathing waters** that do not meet BWD standards has, in the EU, dropped from 1.4 % in 2019 to 1.3 % in 2020 (289 poor-quality bathing waters sites in 2020 and 294 in 2019, respectively).

**Figure 2: Bathing water quality in Europe in the 2020 season**



**Source:** BWD – Status of Bathing Water database (data from 2020 annual reports by EU Member States<sup>5</sup>, Albania, and Switzerland).

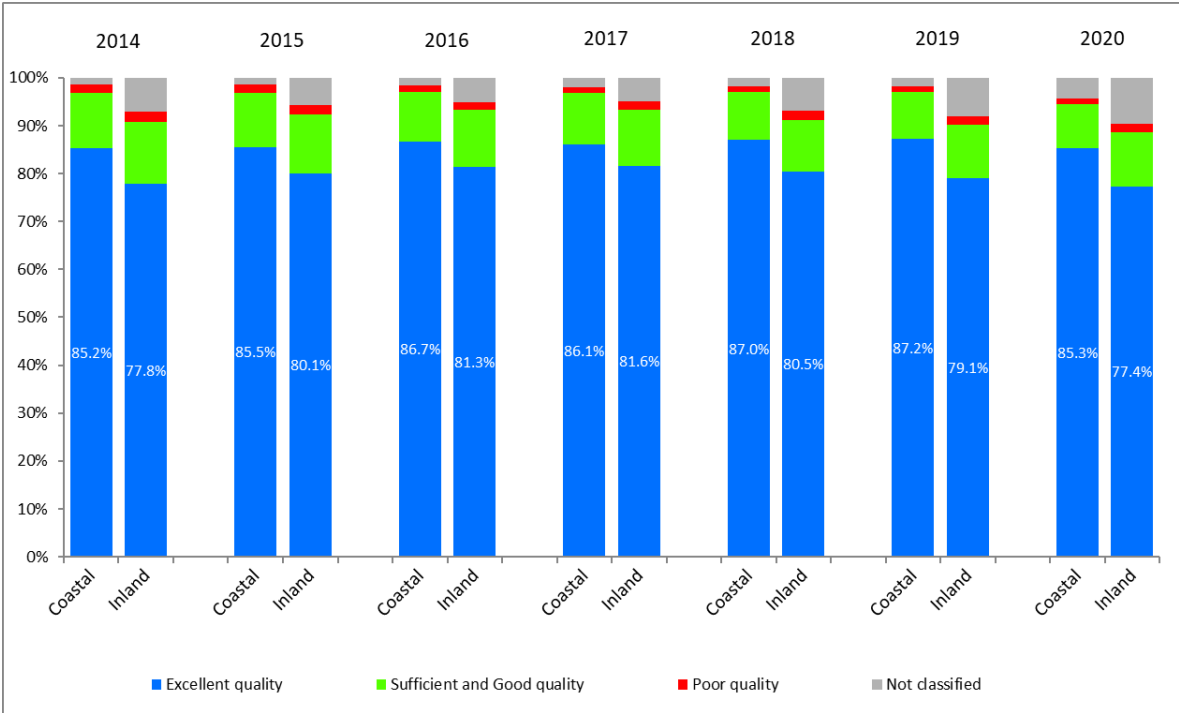
**Note:** The assessment was done under the provisions of Annex I and Annex II of the BWD and based on a set of an adequate number of samples of *E. coli* and intestinal enterococci per assessment period – the last four bathing seasons. The monitoring requirements are set in Annex IV of the BWD. For newly identified sites or sites where management measures to improve water quality were implemented, the assessment period might be shorter than four years. Bathing water sites for which the quality assessment is not possible are classified as either: ‘not enough samples’ (not enough samples were provided for the 2020 season or throughout the whole assessment period); ‘Newly identified’ (classification not possible yet because the bathing water is newly identified and a complete set of samples is not yet available); ‘Quality changes’ (classification is not possible yet after the changes affecting bathing water quality were implemented). In Poland, 401 out of 602 (70 %) of bathing waters were not classified, most of them were newly identified and do not have complete sets of samples yet. In the United Kingdom, 457 of 640 bathing waters (71 %) were not classified, mainly due to lack of samples in the 2020 season, related to measures resulting from the epidemic. The assessment covers 22 276 bathing waters in Europe that were reported to EEA for the 2020 season. Outside the EU, 308 bathing waters were reported (Albania: 119, Switzerland: 189).

In the period 2014–2020, the share of **bathing waters having an excellent status** in Europe has been stable at 85–87 % for coastal bathing waters; and at 77–81 % for inland bathing waters. The quality of coastal sites is generally better than that of inland sites due to the higher self-purification capacity of coastal areas. Moreover, many central European inland bathing water sites are situated on relatively

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small lakes and ponds as well as rivers with a low flow, which, especially in the summer, are more susceptible than coastal areas to short-term pollution caused by heavy summer rains or droughts.

**Figure 3: Coastal and inland bathing water quality in Europe between 2014 and 2020**



**Source:** BWD – Status of Bathing Water database (data from 2020 annual reports by EU Member States<sup>6</sup>, Albania and Switzerland).

**Note:** There were 14 985 coastal and 5 414 inland bathing waters in the EU in the 2020 season. Outside the EU, 113 coastal (Albania: 113) and 195 inland (Albania: 6, Switzerland: 189) bathing waters were reported. In previous years, the share of coastal and inland bathing waters was similar: two thirds were coastal and one third were inland bathing waters.

### Some water quality problems still exist

In 2020, 296 or 1.3 % of bathing water sites in Europe (289 or 1.3 % in the EU) were of poor quality (Figure 3 and Table 1). While the share of poor-quality sites dropped slightly since 2013, problems persist. It is imperative to assess the sources of pollution in their catchment area and implement integrated water management measures. For those bathing sites where it is difficult to identify the origins or causes of pollution, special studies are needed.

Swimming at bathing sites with poor water quality can result in illness. Bathing water sites classified as poor must be under bathing prohibition throughout the following bathing season and must have measures in place to reduce pollution and eliminate hazards to the health of bathers.

According to the Bathing Water Directive, bathing must be permanently prohibited or permanent advice against bathing put in place at bathing water sites that have been classified as poor for five consecutive years. In 2020, this was the case for 45 bathing waters sites in the EU: 34 in Italy, three in France, two in the Netherlands, and one in each of the following: Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Spain,

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Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Albania – not obliged to follow the provisions of the EU Directive – has three bathing waters classified as poor for five consecutive seasons.

In the 2019 season, 294 bathing water sites in the EU were of poor quality, with 177 of these remaining poor in 2020. Of the 117 remaining bathing sites, 53 improved their water quality to “at least sufficient” in the most recent season, while the remaining 64 bathing sites were either excluded from the monitoring programme or could not be assessed (due to implemented measures that may affect bathing water quality or due to the lack of a sufficient number of samples).

## **Management of bathing waters in Europe**

### ***Contribution of the BWD and its forthcoming review***

Before the BWD was originally adopted in 1976, large quantities of mostly untreated and uncontrolled wastewater and other effluents were discharged into many of Europe's surface waters. The BWD set out for the first-time, binding standards for bathing waters throughout the European Union, and contributed enormously to increasing public awareness, as bathing water quality is perceived by citizens as directly touching upon their daily life. Due to changes in science and technology as well as in managerial experience the directive was revised in 2006 (EC, 2006) and its scope extended to all surface water sites where a large number of bathers are expected during the season.

The revised BWD uses the latest scientific evidence to implement the most reliable indicator parameters for predicting the microbiological health risk of designated bathing waters and simplifies its management and surveillance methods.

As part of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) and in line with the [Biodiversity Strategy](#) the European Commission has recently launched a new [review of BWD](#). The objective is to assess whether the current rules are still fit for purpose to protect public health and improve water quality or if there is a need to improve the existing framework, notably by addressing new parameters. As a part of this process, in the coming weeks, the Commission will engage with the stakeholder community via an online public consultation on the [Have your say portal](#).

The implementation of the BWD is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). Based on an Evaluation in 2019 (EC, 2019a), it was decided that the UWWTD needs to be updated (EC, 2020a) to better address current and future challenges (EC, 2020a). This will have a positive impact on the protection of bathing sites across the EU – especially since one of the areas of improvements is storm water overflows and urban runoff. The MSFD is undergoing an evaluation process that will lead to a [review of the directive](#) at the beginning of 2023.

### ***Management of bathing waters in 2020***

During the 2020 bathing season, European countries managed their bathing waters according to the provisions set out in the BWD. Before the start of the bathing season, they identified national bathing water sites, defined the length of the bathing season for each site and established monitoring calendars in accordance with the BWD.



During the bathing season, local and national authorities took bathing water samples and analysed them for the types of bacteria that indicate pollution from sewage and livestock breeding. Polluted water can have impacts on human health, causing stomach upsets and diarrhoea if swallowed. Based on the levels of bacteria detected, bathing water quality was then classified as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor'.

### ***The number and quality of European bathing waters has increased***

Over the last 40 years there has been an increase in the number of European bathing waters that are monitored and managed under the BWD. The increase was especially pronounced in the early 1990s. Since 2004, bathing water quality has been monitored at more than 20 000 locations: in 2020 there were 22 276 official bathing waters in Europe.

In 2020, 199 new bathing sites were identified throughout Europe by as many as 19 countries – with the largest number in Poland (36 newly identified bathing waters), Germany (27), and Spain (25). It is encouraging to note that 68 % of these bathing sites are situated in rivers and lakes where the control of the water quality is very challenging.

A large number of clean bathing waters is beneficial not only for safe recreation but also for the environment and economy. EU water policy has been successful in helping to protect and improve bathing waters over the years. What is the next step? One challenge is revitalising bathing waters in cities where the complexity of urban activities and pressures makes ensuring clean and safe bathing a significant challenge.

Thanks to successful environmental policy and management measures required by the BWD, the percentage of European bathing waters achieving at least 'sufficient' quality (the minimum quality standards set out by the BWD) increased from just 74 % in 1991 to over 95 % in 2003, and has remained quite stable since then.

### ***We can swim in some of our cities again!***

Due to increased urbanisation and pollution, the traditional uses of water in towns and cities such as bathing, disappeared over the years. Large loads of wastewater flowing directly into the rivers, lakes and seas made bathing impossible in such places without threatening human health.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in improving water quality in European urban seas, rivers and lakes. This is mainly due to the result of the construction of wastewater treatment plants and the construction of sewers.

Restoring urban coasts, lakes and rivers that flow through big cities to the point at which their water quality meets the bathing water standards is becoming more and more realistic and feasible. In the last decade, the number of urban bathing sites has increased substantially.

Today, safe bathing is possible even in some European capitals: people can bathe on the banks of the River Danube in Vienna and Budapest, on the River Spree in Berlin, at numerous places in Amsterdam, on the River Daugava in Riga, in Copenhagen harbour and many other cities (EEA, 2021).



## How to address challenges?

Bathing water quality mirrors the success of implementing many water-related environmental policies. Measures have been implemented over many years and in many fields. Although the bathing water quality is increasing and bathing is possible today even in some heavily urbanised areas, there is still a need for integrated and adaptive management to mitigate both existing and emerging pressures.

The EEA report 'Bathing Water Management in Europe: Successes and Challenges' (EEA, 2021) published in 2021 presents examples of improvements in bathing water quality over the past four decades made possible thanks to the BWD. The report aims to celebrate the value and importance of bathing waters in the lives of the European citizens; and to outline how we might protect and restore bathing sites for decades to come, taking into account emerging pressures such as climate change and plastic pollution.

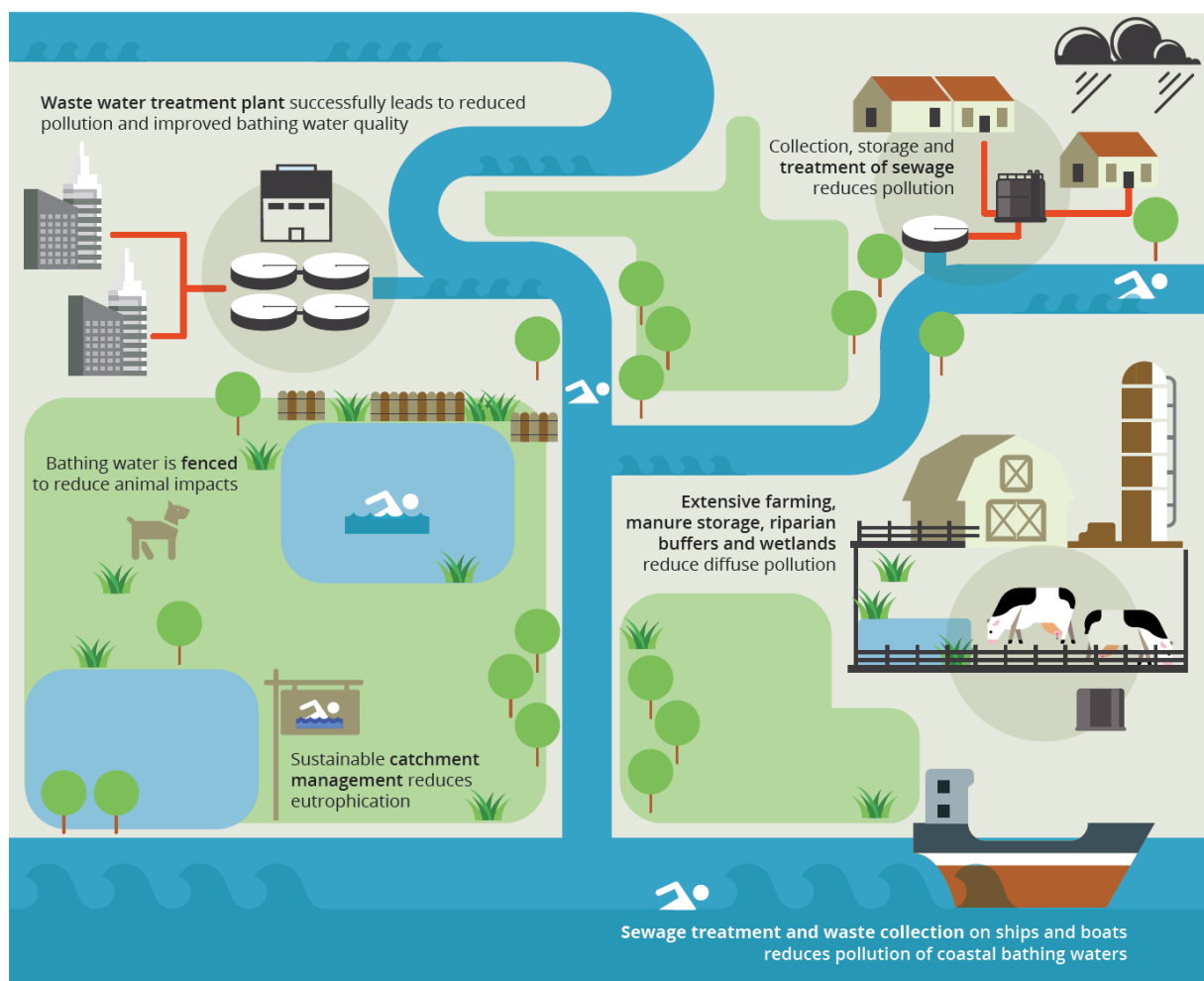


Figure 4: Management measures to reduce pollution and improve bathing water quality

### *Faecal bacteria: an invisible health risk*

The major sources of faecal bacteria pollution come from untreated wastewater, insufficient wastewater treatment plants, animals (e.g. birds and dogs at beaches). The presence of faecal bacteria can lead to poor bathing water quality. Pollution from sewage is often the result of storm water overflows of sewage, agricultural run-off or from poorly maintained cesspits and septic tanks.

Badly connected plumbing — where, for example, water from toilets directly enters surface waters — constitutes another potential source of microbiological pollution (EEA, 2018).

### How has it been managed?

Today, almost all significant discharges of sewage from households and industry undergo collection and treatment before they are released into seas, rivers and lakes. Implementing the UWWTD has successfully led to reduced pollution and improved water quality at numerous bathing water sites of a previously low quality (EEA, 2019). If microbiological pollution causes poor bathing water quality, the sources and extent of the pollution have to be assessed. Bathing water sites classified as poor have to be closed throughout the following bathing season, and measures must be put in place to reduce pollution and eliminate hazards to bathers' health (EEA, 2021).

### Extreme weather and other events

After heavy rain, a mixture of surface water and sewage is sometimes discharged into bathing waters or their vicinity affecting bathing water quality by introducing bacteria that can harm human health (EEA, 2021). Such pollution events are often of a short duration — potentially up to 72 hours but often significantly shorter — and have identifiable causes. The number of such events is increasing; in the last 4 years, more than 4 000 short-term pollution events were reported throughout Europe. This may also be an indication of management measures being more frequently applied. In contrast, some inland bathing sites may lack water as a result of drought or even water abstraction for hydropower generation, cooling and irrigation. Because of low flow and a weak dilution of pollutants, deterioration in water quality is observed at such sites (EEA, 2021).

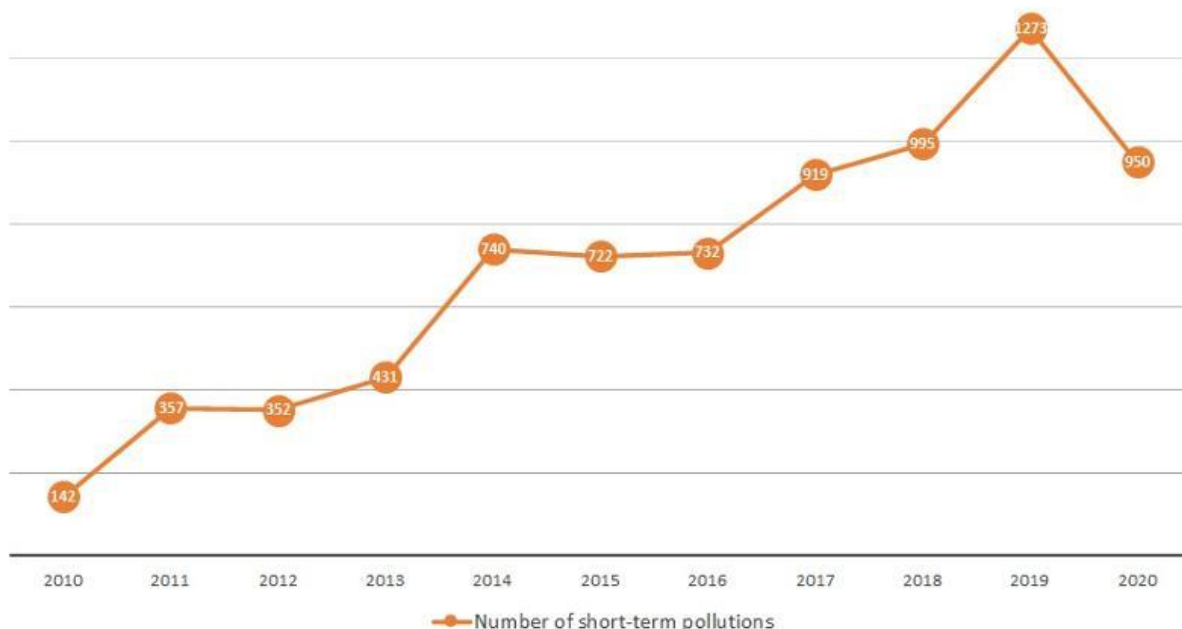


Figure 5: Number of short-term pollution events impacting European bathing waters

### *How has it been managed?*

Sewage overflows across Europe are being managed using various measures such as installing equipment for monitoring spills to the environment, constructing storage tunnels and tanks to reduce storm overflows and creating nature-based retention basins (EEA, 2021). The ongoing [revision of the UWWTD](#) is assessing how, across the EU, better action can be taken to deal consistently with sewage overflows, especially in light of climate change impacts.

### ***Eutrophication as a health risk***

The nutrient over enrichment (mostly from inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus) of seas, lakes, rivers and streams from land-based sources, marine activities and atmospheric deposition can result in a series of negative ecological effects known as eutrophication (EEA, 2019). Increased nutrient concentrations can alter aquatic ecosystems to such an extent that they become unsuitable for drinking and bathing. The main sources of nitrogen pollution are surpluses of mineral fertilisers and manure, which are washed out of agricultural soil to groundwater, rivers and seas by the rain. Most phosphorous pollution comes from households and industry (EEA, 2021).

### *How has it been managed?*

The implementation of the UWWTD, has reduced releases of nutrients to fresh and coastal bathing waters, diminishing public health risks in some regions of Europe. Other mitigation measures include reducing the use of fertilisers, changing land use to reduce nutrient emissions and providing an advisory service to farmers. As part of the ongoing revision of the UWWTD, it will be assessed how better management of urban wastewaters can contribute to the reduction of eutrophication across the EU (EC, 2020a).

### ***Cyanobacteria***

Cyanobacteria can be harmful if swallowed and can cause skin rashes. Proliferations of cyanobacteria can occur when environmental conditions are favourable, such as when there are high levels of nutrients in the water, the water column is very stable and temperatures and light are favourable and conditions are calm and windless (Sanseverino, et al., 2017).

### *How has it been managed?*

To minimise the health risks due to cyanobacteria blooms, phosphorous concentrations should be kept below a 'carrying capacity' threshold. In particular, nutrient inputs from agricultural run-off can in many cases be reduced by decreasing the application of agricultural fertilisers or protecting the shoreline from erosion by planting trees and other vegetation along the shoreline to create 'buffer strips' for pollutants (Sanseverino, et al., 2017).

### ***Plastic litter in bathing waters: an emerging issue***

Almost 80 % of all litter on European beaches is made of plastic (Addamo, et al., 2017). Marine litter is the result of mismanaged plastic waste and a linear economy in which products are often thrown away

after one use. Beach litter at bathing water sites can fracture into micro-pieces in the water where swimmers can accidentally ingest it. Accumulation of such 'microlitter' — particularly microplastics — in the human body may adversely affect health (EC et al., 2019).

Marine animals can become entangled in beach, sea floor and floating litter items and can also mistake marine litter for food. Entanglement can be fatal for animals; compromising their ability to capture and digest food, sense hunger as well as escape from predators (Thompson, et al., 2014). In addition to its environmental and health impacts, marine litter also has socio-economic costs, mostly affecting coastal communities. The median litter abundance in the EU is in the order of 150 items per 100 m of beach (Hanke, et al., 2019).

#### *How has it been managed?*

The Single-Use Plastics Directive (EU 2019) introduced a set of ambitious measures such as a ban on selected single-use products made of plastic (including cutlery, plates, straws, cups), measures to reduce consumption of plastic food containers and beverage cups, and specific marking and labelling of certain products.

To help achieve the objectives of the Single-Use Plastic Directive, in September 2020, EU Member States agreed on a [threshold value to keep Europe's beaches clean](#) (EC, 2020b). To stay under the threshold a beach will need to have less than 20 litter items for every 100 metres of [coastline](#).

The EEA has developed Marine Litter Watch to strengthen Europe's knowledge base and thus provide support to European policymaking.

Do you want to know more about how we care for bathing waters in Europe? What are the major present and future bathing water management threats and challenges? Read the full report on bathing water successes and challenges! [Link to full report](#)

#### **Box 1: European bathing waters in the period of COVID-19 pandemics**

##### **How did the pandemic affect the European bathing water management and use?**

Several countries have reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic bathing water management has been impacted. Overall, the impact was reported for more than one thousand bathing waters. The most profound effect can be seen at all bathing waters of England and Scotland: they could not be monitored and quality-classified due to the imposed COVID-19 measures. Altogether, a lack of sampling caused at least 470 bathing waters in Europe to be unclassified. A shorter bathing season due to the measures was reported for the whole or parts of countries by Cyprus, Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain. Additionally, there have been disruptions in bathing water operation due to hindered public transport, cancelled festival activities, etc.

##### **What is the risk of being infected by COVID-19 while swimming in European bathing waters?**

According to [WHO guidance](#) the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from fresh and coastal water contaminated with faeces is very low. However, the risk of transmission of the virus increases where bathers and people visiting beaches are in small, crowded conditions including in changing rooms, toilets and showers, restaurants and kiosks. As a result, WHO recommends hand hygiene, physical distancing and the use of face masks when appropriate in such settings.

## Requirements for management

People appreciate greater opportunities for bathing in natural waters in local environments, as well as improvements of quality at existing sites. The quality of newly identified bathing sites is determined only when enough samples are available. This can happen as early as the first year of operation if the monitoring frequency is high enough.

Bathing water quality mirrors the success of implementing many water-related environmental policies. Measures have been implemented over many years and in many fields, e.g. in the management of waste water from settlements and industry and the control of pollution from agricultural activities. The pressures on bathing waters by wastewater is substantially lower today than in the past, with the share of European population and industry connected to wastewater treatment rising in many regions of Europe, as well as a share of treated water receiving tertiary treatment (EEA, 2017).

### **Box 2: Monitoring requirements as set out by the BWD**

Member States establish their respective monitoring calendars which must follow the provisions of Annex IV of the Bathing Water Directive:

- one pre-season sample is to be taken shortly before the start of the bathing season;
- no fewer than four samples (including the pre-season sample) are to be taken and analysed in the most recent season;
- an interval between sampling dates should not exceed one month.

If all three requirements are fulfilled, the monitoring calendar status is considered as 'implemented'. In 2020, full monitoring requirements were implemented at 94 % of European bathing waters, which is a lower share compared to the previous seasons, owing to the pandemic measures. In Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, and Slovenia the monitoring calendar was fully implemented at all reported bathing waters.

## Find your local beach

Member States are required by the BWD to use 'appropriate media technologies, including the Internet' to actively disseminate information. Today, countries maintain [national or local websites](#) with detailed information on each bathing water site. These websites generally include a map-search function and allow a user to see monitoring results, both in real time and for previous seasons.

At the European level, bathing water information is made available to the public through the [EEA's bathing water web pages](#). Users can check bathing water quality on an [interactive map](#), download data and individual [country reports](#), explore details through a link to the national online bathing water profile and make comparisons with previous years.

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**Table 1: Bathing water quality, monitoring calendar implementation, and management status in 2020**

Country	Total number of bathing waters	Quality										Monitoring calendar implemented	Management	
		Excellent		Good		Sufficient		Poor		Not classified			New sites 2018-2020*	Quality changes
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%			
AT (Austria)	261	255	97.7	5	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	100.0	1	0
BE (Belgium)	118	96	81.4	16	13.6	2	1.7	0	0.0	4	3.4	100.0	3	2
BG (Bulgaria)	96	58	60.4	37	38.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0	100.0	1	1
CY (Cyprus)	112	112	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100.0	0	0
CZ (Czechia)	153	125	81.7	11	7.2	5	3.3	1	0.7	11	7.2	96.1	3	0
DE (Germany)	2 304	2 072	89.9	113	4.9	31	1.3	11	0.5	77	3.3	98.0	49	6
DK (Denmark)	1 026	931	90.7	64	6.2	14	1.4	6	0.6	11	1.1	99.8	29	2
EE (Estonia)	64	40	62.5	14	21.9	4	6.3	3	4.7	3	4.7	100.0	1	0
EL (Greece)	1 634	1 586	97.1	34	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.9	99.9	39	0
ES (Spain)	2 239	1 981	88.5	153	6.8	39	1.7	18	0.8	48	2.1	98.7	57	3
FI (Finland)	303	269	88.8	20	6.6	5	1.7	4	1.3	5	1.7	99.7	5	1
FR (France)	3 328	2 578	77.5	473	14.2	113	3.4	78	2.3	86	2.6	93.8	52	12
HR (Croatia)	935	889	95.1	29	3.1	6	0.6	0	0.0	11	1.2	99.0	12	0
HU (Hungary)	264	184	69.7	37	14.0	13	4.9	5	1.9	25	9.5	95.5	14	0
IE (Ireland)	148	111	75.0	21	14.2	10	6.8	4	2.7	2	1.4	100.0	7	0
IT (Italy)	5 520	4 891	88.6	337	6.1	143	2.6	93	1.7	56	1.0	94.8	38	7
LT (Lithuania)	120	103	85.8	9	7.5	5	4.2	0	0.0	3	2.5	95.8	7	0
LU (Luxembourg)	17	14	82.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.9	2	11.8	100.0	5	0
LV (Latvia)	57	39	68.4	14	24.6	1	1.8	1	1.8	2	3.5	98.2	1	0
MT (Malta)	87	84	96.6	3	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100.0	0	0
NL (Netherlands)	736	543	73.8	105	14.3	39	5.3	30	4.1	19	2.6	99.7	27	12
PL (Poland)	602	133	22.1	41	6.8	19	3.2	8	1.3	401	66.6	99.3	389	0
PT (Portugal)	630	562	89.2	35	5.6	2	0.3	3	0.5	28	4.4	98.1	30	0
RO (Romania)	50	35	70.0	13	26.0	2	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100.0	0	0
SE (Sweden)	445	353	79.3	30	6.7	13	2.9	11	2.5	38	8.5	96.2	12	0
SI (Slovenia)	47	40	85.1	4	8.5	3	6.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	100.0	0	0
SK (Slovakia)	32	18	56.3	7	21.9	3	9.4	0	0.0	4	12.5	90.6	0	0
UK (United Kingdom)	640	110	17.2	32	5.0	29	4.5	12	1.9	457	71.4	17.3	5	2
<b>EU</b>	<b>21 968</b>	<b>18 212</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>1 657</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1 309</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>48</b>
AL (Albania)	119	91	76.5	21	17.6	2	1.7	5	4.2	0	0.0	0.0	17	0
CH (Switzerland)	189	136	72.0	15	7.9	3	1.6	2	1.1	33	17.5	71.4	14	0
<b>Europe</b>	<b>22 276</b>	<b>18 439</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>1 693</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1 342</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>48</b>

**Notes:** \* If a bathing water site was newly identified during the last assessment period and before the complete four-year dataset of 2017–2020 could be collected – i.e. identified not earlier than 2018 – it is counted as “newly identified”; this is also true if enough samples were collected in a shorter period. \*\* If a bathing water was subject to changes described in BWD Article 4.4.b within the last assessment period, it is assigned the management status “Quality changes”. Such a status is assigned until the complete four-year dataset of samples taken after changes took effect is available.