

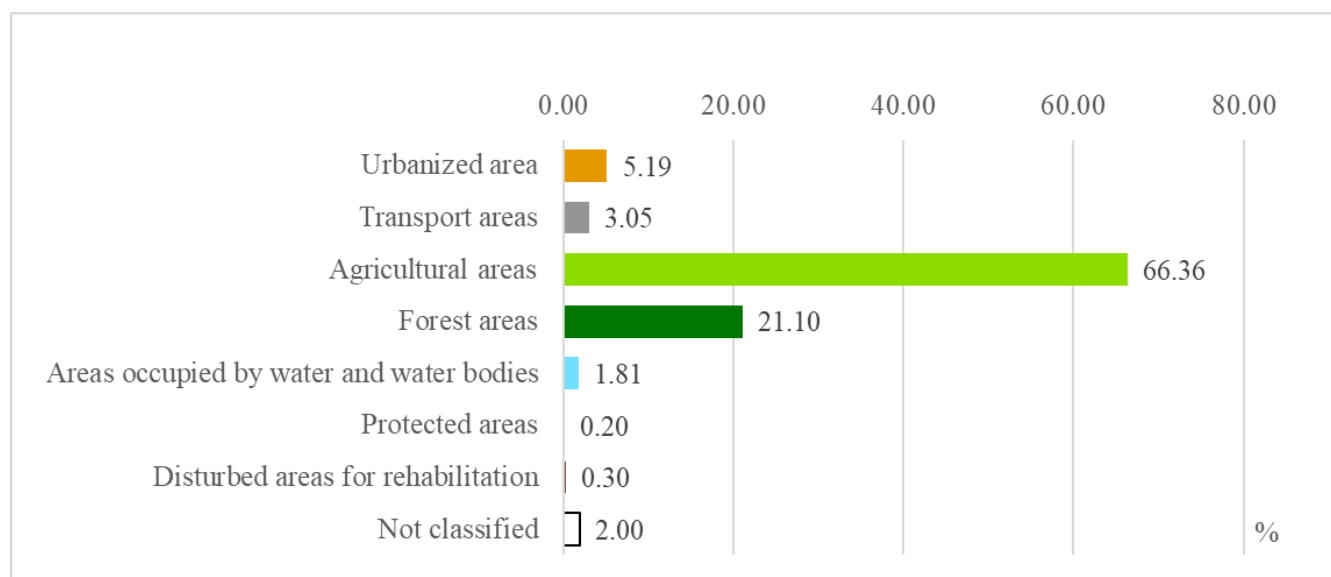
LAND USE DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AS OF 31.12.2021

As of 31 December 2021 the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, computed by the National Statistical Institute using the digital models of the cadastral map of the country, is 110 996.84 sq. km. According to the types of durable land use (specific purpose of use) of the land properties, the largest area is occupied by agricultural areas - 54.60% and forest areas - 33.13% of the total area of the country. Urbanized areas cover nearly 5 133.2 sq. km or 4.62% of the country's territory.

1. Land use distribution of the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31.12.2021

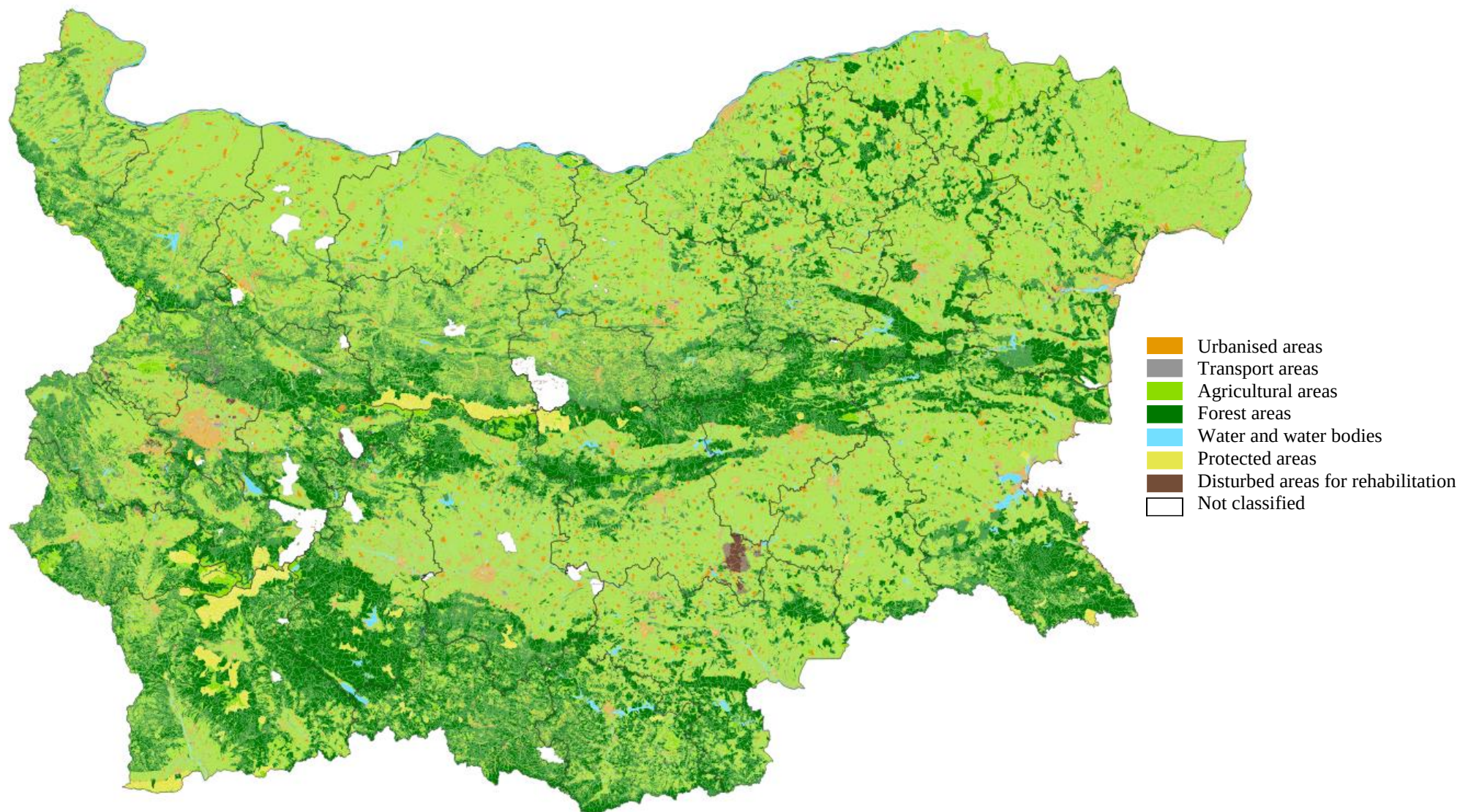
Land use type	Sq. km	Ha	%
Total	110996.84	11099684.00	100.00
Urbanized areas	5133.16	513315.86	4.62
Transport areas	2975.79	297578.86	2.68
Agricultural areas	60598.78	6059877.73	54.60
Forest areas	36773.08	3677308.38	33.13
Areas occupied by water and water bodies	2074.57	207457.29	1.87
Protected areas	1545.98	154597.75	1.39
Disturbed areas	470.56	47055.50	0.42
Not classified ¹	1424.93	142492.62	1.28

Figure 1. Land use distribution of the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31.12.2021



¹ Not classified - areas for which there is no information in the digital cadastral map or individual land properties that are not classified by types of durable land use and by main land use type at the date of the survey.

Figure 2. Land use distribution of the Republic of Bulgaria by type of durable land use of the land properties as of 31.12.2021





2. Land use distribution by districts according to the type of durable land use of the land properties as of 31.12.2021

UCATTU ²	Districts	Total	Urbanized areas		Transport areas		Agricultural areas		Forest areas		Areas occupied by water and water bodies		Protected areas		Disturbed areas		Not classified	
		sq. km	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%
BG	Bulgaria	110996.84	5133.16	4.62	2975.79	2.68	60598.78	54.60	36773.08	33.13	2074.57	1.87	1545.98	1.39	470.56	0.42	1424.93	1.28
BLG	Blagoevgrad	6459.19	138.95	2.15	103.48	1.60	2194.91	33.98	3325.04	51.48	64.20	0.99	591.98	9.16	6.87	0.11	33.76	0.52
BGS	Burgas	7741.70	301.85	3.90	191.70	2.48	3786.35	48.91	3169.32	40.94	182.94	2.36	90.14	1.16	19.39	0.25	0.00	0.00
VAR	Varna	3818.67	268.16	7.02	134.65	3.53	2158.74	56.53	1111.75	29.11	75.73	1.98	28.87	0.76	19.42	0.51	21.36	0.56
VTR	Veliko Tarnovo	4658.85	237.30	5.09	143.96	3.09	3053.44	65.54	1089.74	23.39	97.93	2.10	4.82	0.10	10.94	0.23	20.72	0.44
VID	Vidin	3039.14	137.66	4.53	82.60	2.72	1909.68	62.84	799.02	26.29	78.61	2.59	23.69	0.78	7.47	0.25	0.41	0.01
VRC	Vratsa	3623.02	211.00	5.82	94.66	2.61	2496.64	68.91	535.82	14.79	65.07	1.80	25.07	0.69	7.86	0.22	186.90	5.16
GAB	Gabrovo	2022.26	95.84	4.74	57.24	2.83	912.90	45.14	659.24	32.60	17.62	0.87	1.27	0.06	2.32	0.11	275.83	13.64
DOB	Dobrich	4714.39	261.74	5.55	115.44	2.45	3728.29	79.08	572.59	12.15	16.58	0.35	12.73	0.27	7.02	0.15	0.00	0.00
KRZ	Kardzhali	3210.59	84.90	2.64	41.25	1.28	1232.86	38.40	1738.66	54.15	73.46	2.29	9.05	0.28	4.35	0.14	26.05	0.81
KNL	Kyustendil	3058.88	98.37	3.22	65.68	2.15	1454.25	47.54	1285.80	42.03	33.03	1.08	90.92	2.97	20.58	0.67	10.26	0.34
LOV	Lovech	4134.61	148.93	3.60	106.43	2.57	2028.28	49.06	1481.14	35.82	46.10	1.12	276.36	6.68	6.54	0.16	40.82	0.99
MON	Montana	3637.17	162.43	4.47	95.63	2.63	2426.95	66.73	844.25	23.21	99.74	2.74	2.83	0.08	4.26	0.12	1.07	0.03
PAZ	Pazardzhik	4458.49	137.71	3.09	108.85	2.44	1505.71	33.77	2447.42	54.89	119.35	2.68	61.45	1.38	18.74	0.42	59.25	1.33
PER	Pernik	2396.79	119.20	4.97	56.62	2.36	1173.13	48.95	962.39	40.15	31.35	1.31	3.88	0.16	23.02	0.96	27.20	1.13
PVN	Pleven	4652.53	254.58	5.47	156.57	3.37	3717.29	79.90	340.49	7.32	155.48	3.34	19.58	0.42	8.50	0.18	0.04	0.00
PDV	Plovdiv	5961.19	327.47	5.49	204.30	3.43	3149.98	52.84	1950.34	32.72	169.01	2.84	31.85	0.53	10.07	0.17	118.17	1.98
RAZ	Razgrad	2411.61	124.17	5.15	70.31	2.92	1649.54	68.40	540.87	22.43	17.05	0.71	5.74	0.24	3.92	0.16	0.00	0.00

² Unified Classifier of Administrative-Territorial and Territorial Units (UCATTU).



2. Land use distribution by districts according to the type of durable land use of the land properties as of 31.12.2021

(Continued and end)

UCATTU	Districts	Total	Urbanized areas		Transport areas		Agricultural areas		Forest areas		Areas occupied by water and water bodies		Protected areas		Disturbed areas		Not classified	
		sq. km	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%
RSE	Ruse	2859.16	169.61	5.93	102.31	3.58	2067.89	72.33	416.73	14.58	79.38	2.78	7.91	0.28	15.33	0.54	0.00	0.00
SLS	Silistra	2845.28	140.69	4.94	78.15	2.75	2135.23	75.04	415.10	14.59	55.43	1.95	9.23	0.32	11.45	0.40	0.00	0.00
SLV	Sliven	3541.56	161.20	4.55	92.68	2.62	1684.25	47.56	1501.00	42.38	65.68	1.85	16.11	0.45	13.59	0.38	7.05	0.20
SML	Smolyan	3205.48	74.78	2.33	40.50	1.26	766.22	23.90	2227.53	69.49	24.05	0.75	19.42	0.61	2.72	0.08	50.26	1.57
SFO	Sofia	7071.43	244.20	3.45	128.39	1.82	2782.96	39.35	3255.37	46.04	51.18	0.72	55.29	0.78	29.11	0.41	524.93	7.42
SOF	Sofia (stolitsa)	1343.44	255.66	19.03	88.44	6.58	463.44	34.50	442.24	32.92	51.60	3.84	13.62	1.01	19.26	1.43	9.18	0.68
SZR	Stara Zagora	5147.99	270.12	5.25	152.66	2.97	2672.30	51.91	1631.38	31.69	121.83	2.37	126.86	2.46	172.58	3.35	0.26	0.01
TGV	Targovishte	2708.44	155.30	5.73	78.34	2.89	1707.93	63.06	713.54	26.35	39.83	1.47	0.68	0.03	3.35	0.12	9.48	0.35
HKV	Haskovo	5529.55	221.82	4.01	177.81	3.22	3201.22	57.89	1790.13	32.37	128.43	2.32	1.18	0.02	8.13	0.15	0.84	0.02
SHU	Shumen	3392.70	176.03	5.19	99.60	2.94	2034.65	59.97	1015.75	29.94	51.01	1.50	6.90	0.20	7.87	0.23	0.88	0.03
JAM	Yambol	3352.70	153.49	4.58	107.53	3.21	2503.76	74.68	510.44	15.22	62.90	1.88	8.55	0.26	5.86	0.17	0.18	0.01

Figure 3. Urbanized areas

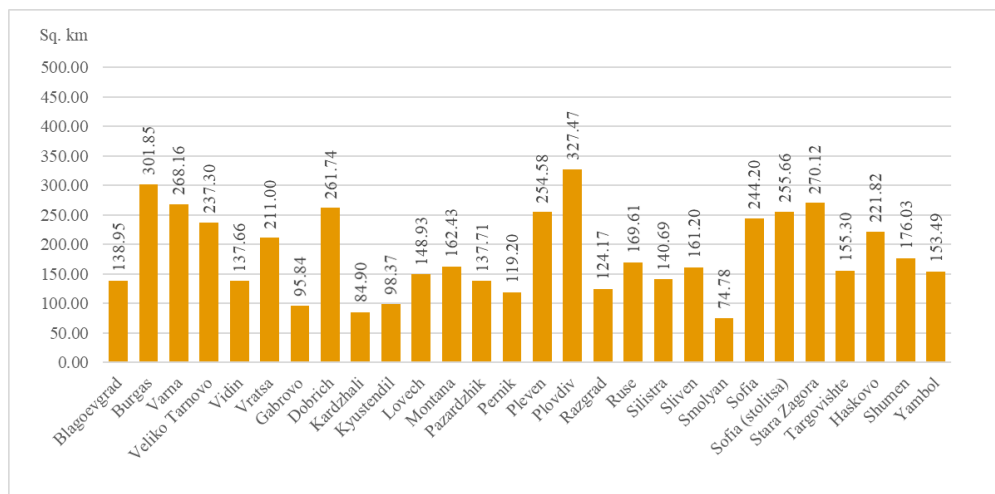


Figure 4. Transport areas

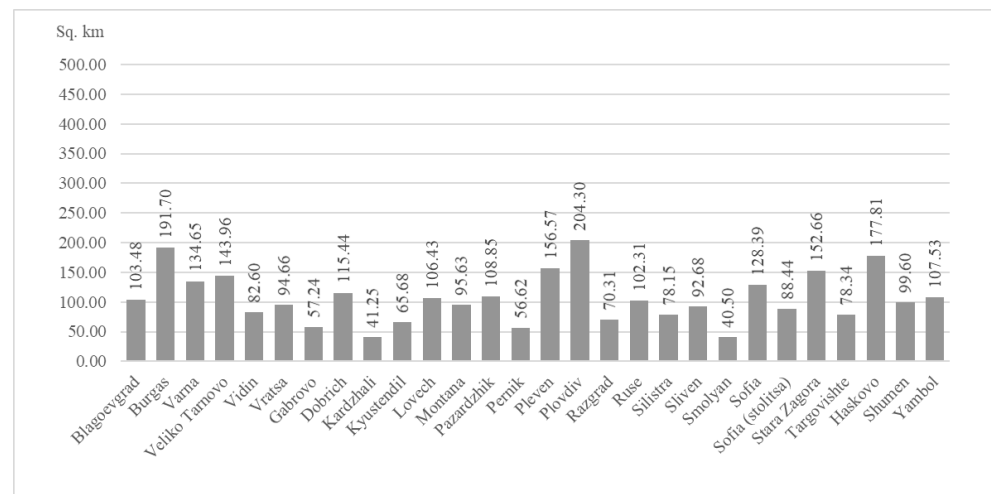


Figure 5. Agricultural areas

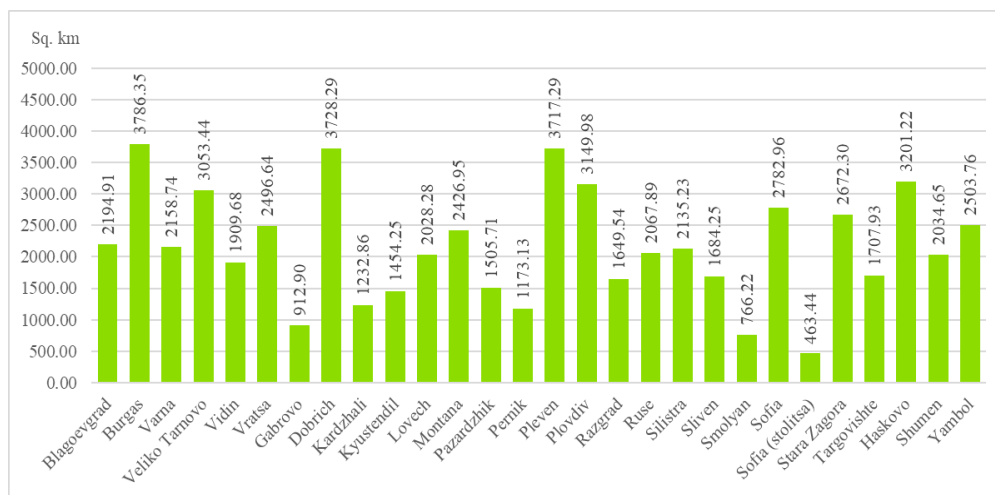


Figure 6. Forest areas

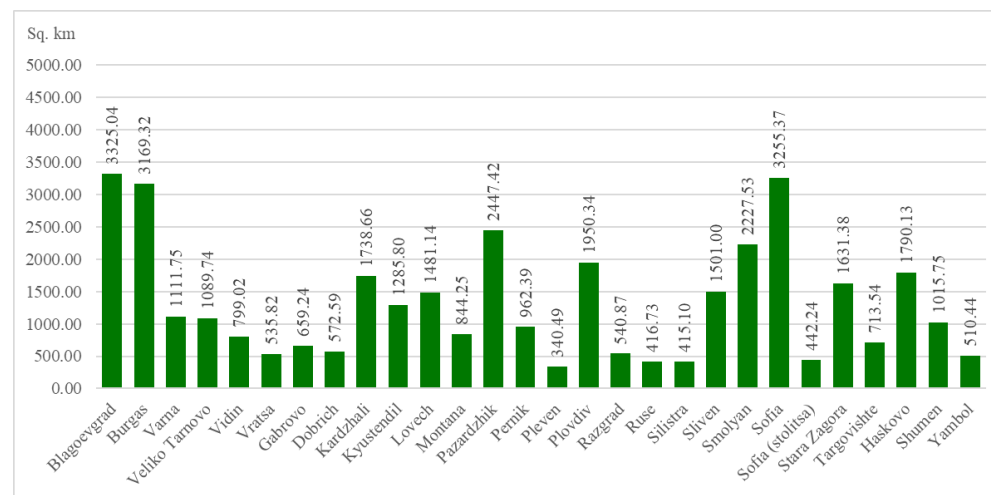




Figure 7. Areas occupied by water and water bodies

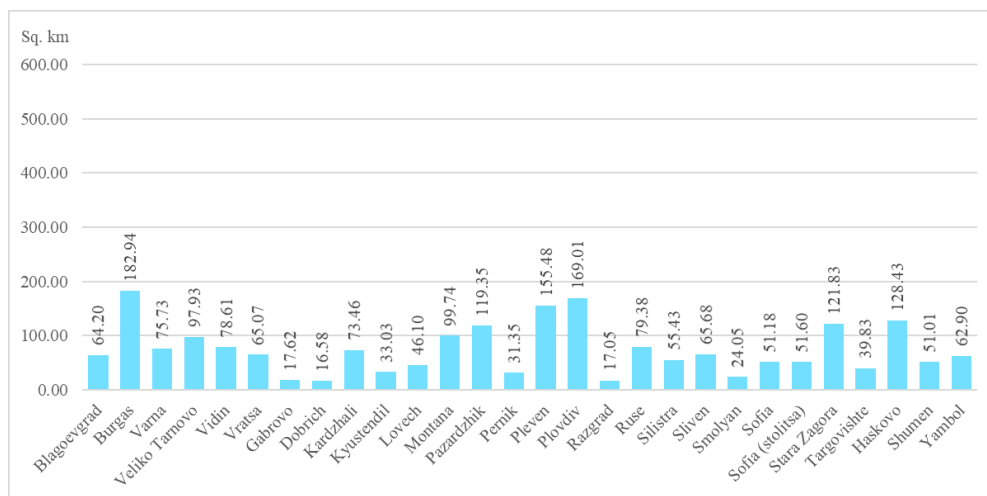


Figure 8. Protected areas

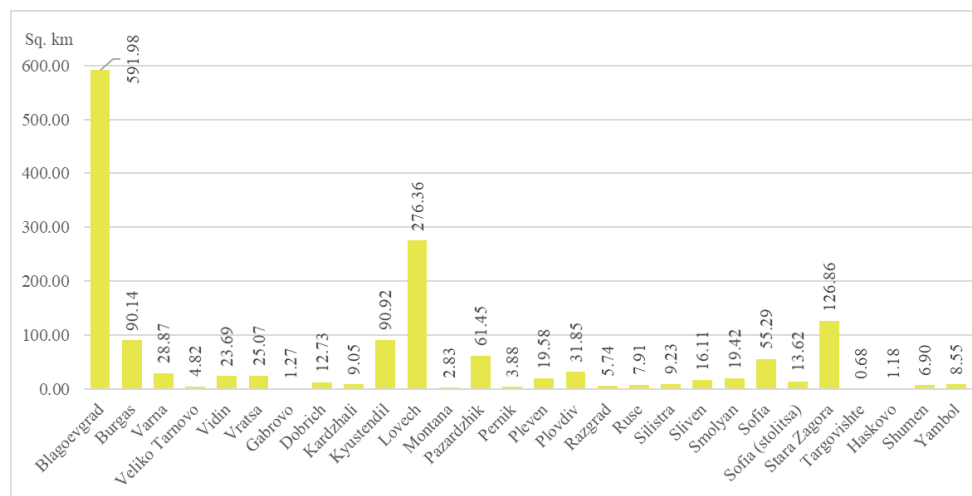


Figure 9. Disturbed areas

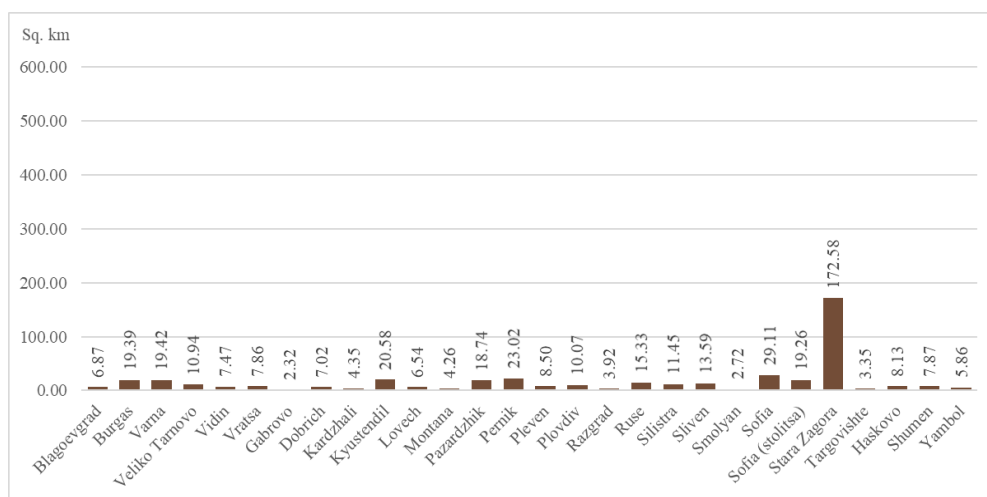
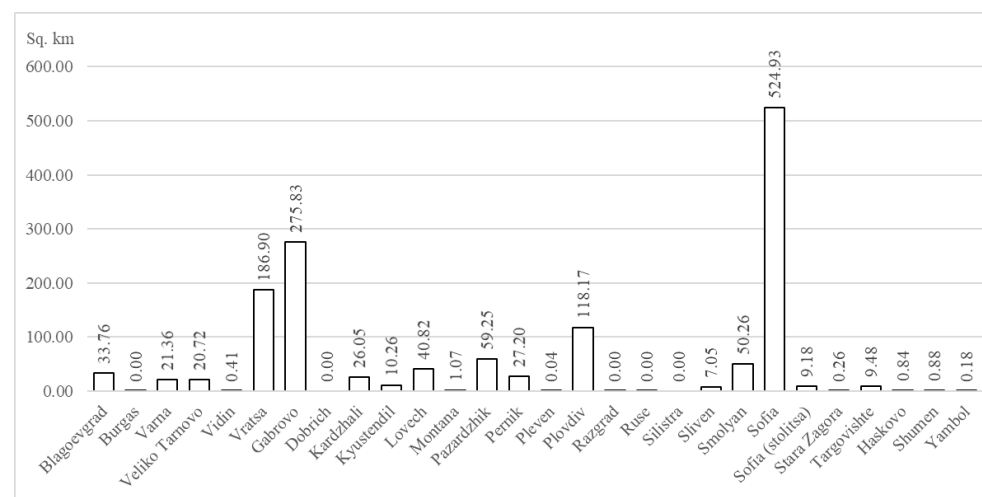


Figure 10. Not classified



3. Land use distribution by statistical zones (NUTS1) and statistical regions (NUTS2) according to the type of durable land use of the land properties as of 31.12.2021

NUTS	Statistical zone Statistical region	Total	Urbanized areas		Transport areas		Agricultural areas		Forest areas		Areas occupied by water and water bodies		Protected areas		Disturbed areas		Not classified	
		sq. km	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%	sq. km	%
BG0	Bulgaria	110996.84	5133.16	4.62	2975.79	2.68	60598.78	54.60	36773.08	33.13	2074.57	1.87	1545.98	1.39	470.56	0.42	1424.93	1.28
BG3	Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria	68301.79	3430.10	5.02	1960.48	2.87	42674.10	62.48	17348.15	25.40	1328.90	1.95	667.35	0.98	327.70	0.48	565.02	0.83
BG31	Severozapaden	19086.47	914.61	4.79	535.90	2.81	12578.84	65.90	4000.71	20.96	445.00	2.33	347.53	1.82	34.64	0.18	229.24	1.20
BG32	Severen tsentralen	14797.16	767.61	5.19	451.98	3.05	9818.99	66.36	3121.68	21.10	267.41	1.81	28.97	0.20	43.97	0.30	296.55	2.00
BG33	Severoiztochen	14634.20	861.22	5.89	428.03	2.92	9629.60	65.80	3413.62	23.33	183.14	1.25	49.18	0.34	37.67	0.26	31.73	0.22
BG34	Yugoiztochen	19783.96	886.65	4.48	544.57	2.75	10646.67	53.81	6812.14	34.43	433.35	2.19	241.66	1.22	211.42	1.07	7.50	0.04
BG4	Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria	42695.05	1703.06	3.99	1015.31	2.38	17924.68	41.98	19424.93	45.50	745.67	1.75	878.63	2.06	142.86	0.33	859.91	2.01
BG41	Yugozapaden	20329.74	856.38	4.21	442.60	2.18	8068.69	39.69	9270.84	45.60	231.37	1.14	755.69	3.72	98.84	0.49	605.34	2.98
BG42	Yuzhen tsentralen	22365.31	846.69	3.79	572.71	2.56	9855.99	44.07	10154.10	45.40	514.30	2.30	122.94	0.55	44.01	0.20	254.57	1.14

Figure 11. Severozapaden (BG31)

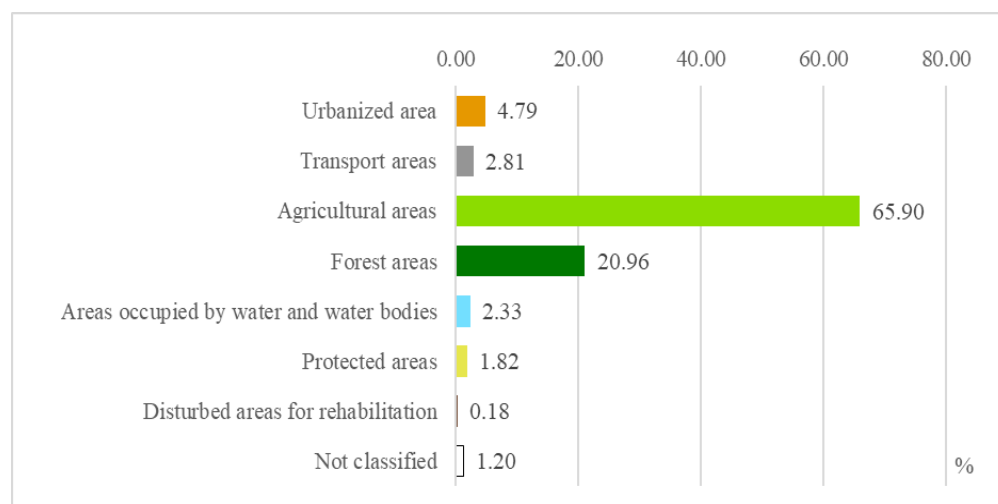


Figure 12. Severen tsentralen (BG32)

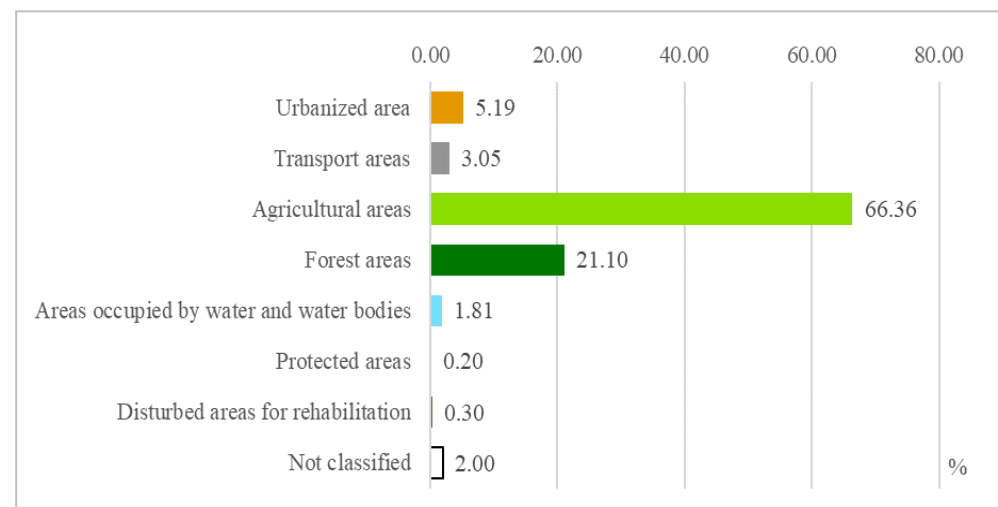


Figure 13. Severoiztochen (BG33)

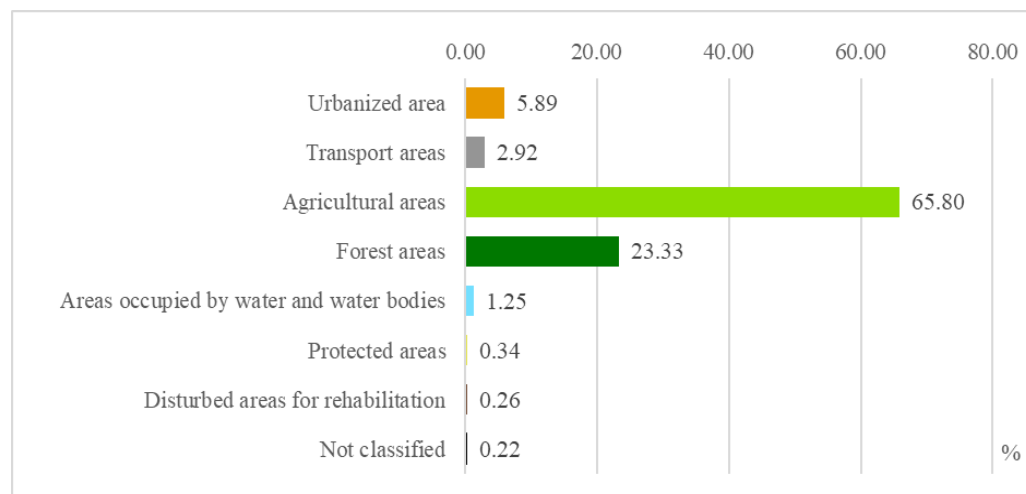


Figure 14. Yugoiztochen (BG34)

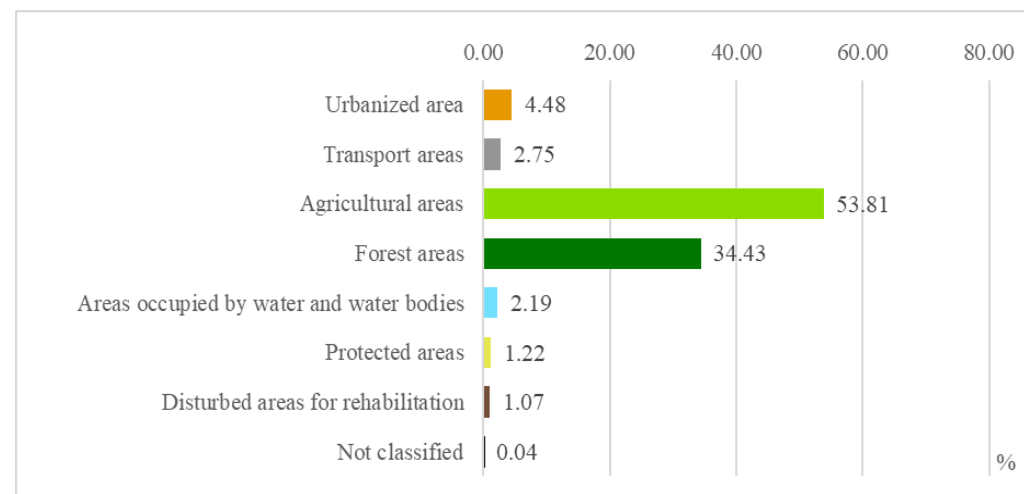


Figure 15. Yugozapaden (BG41)

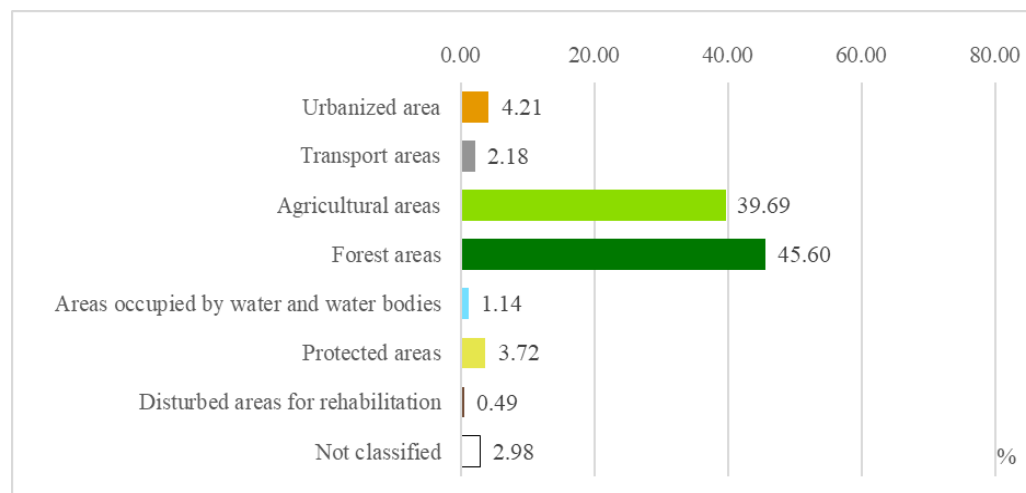


Figure 16. Yuzhen tsentralen (BG42)

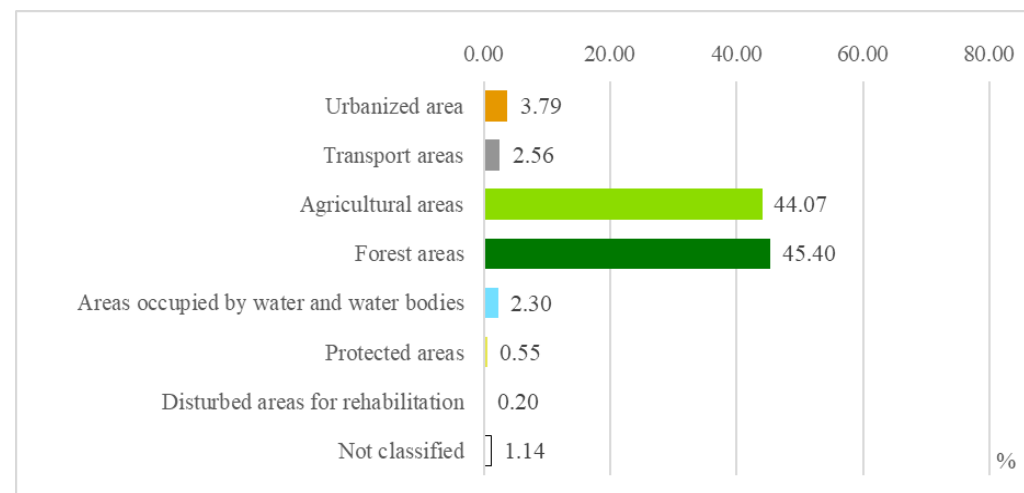


Figure 17. Severozapaden (BG31)

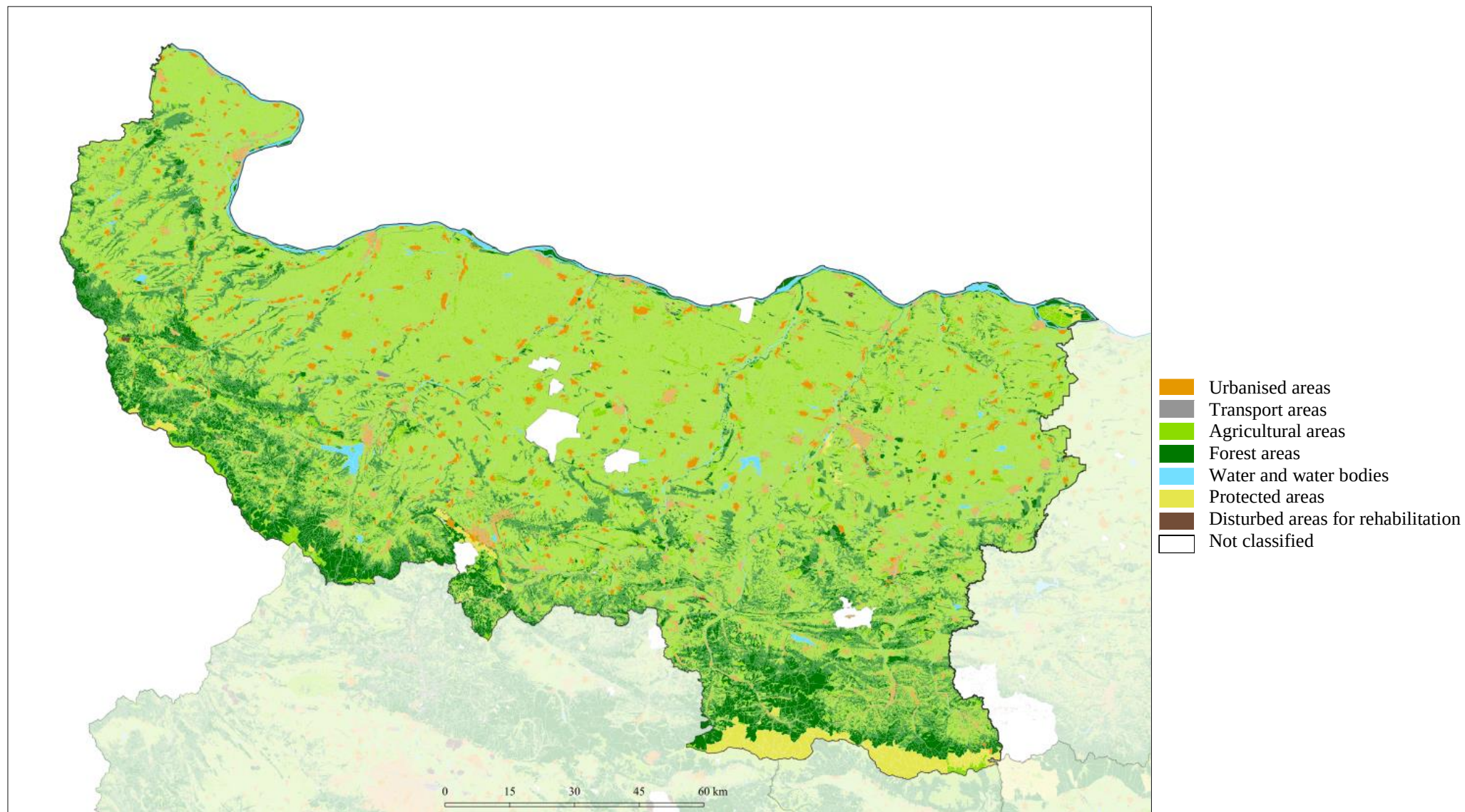


Figure 18. Severen tsentralen (BG32)

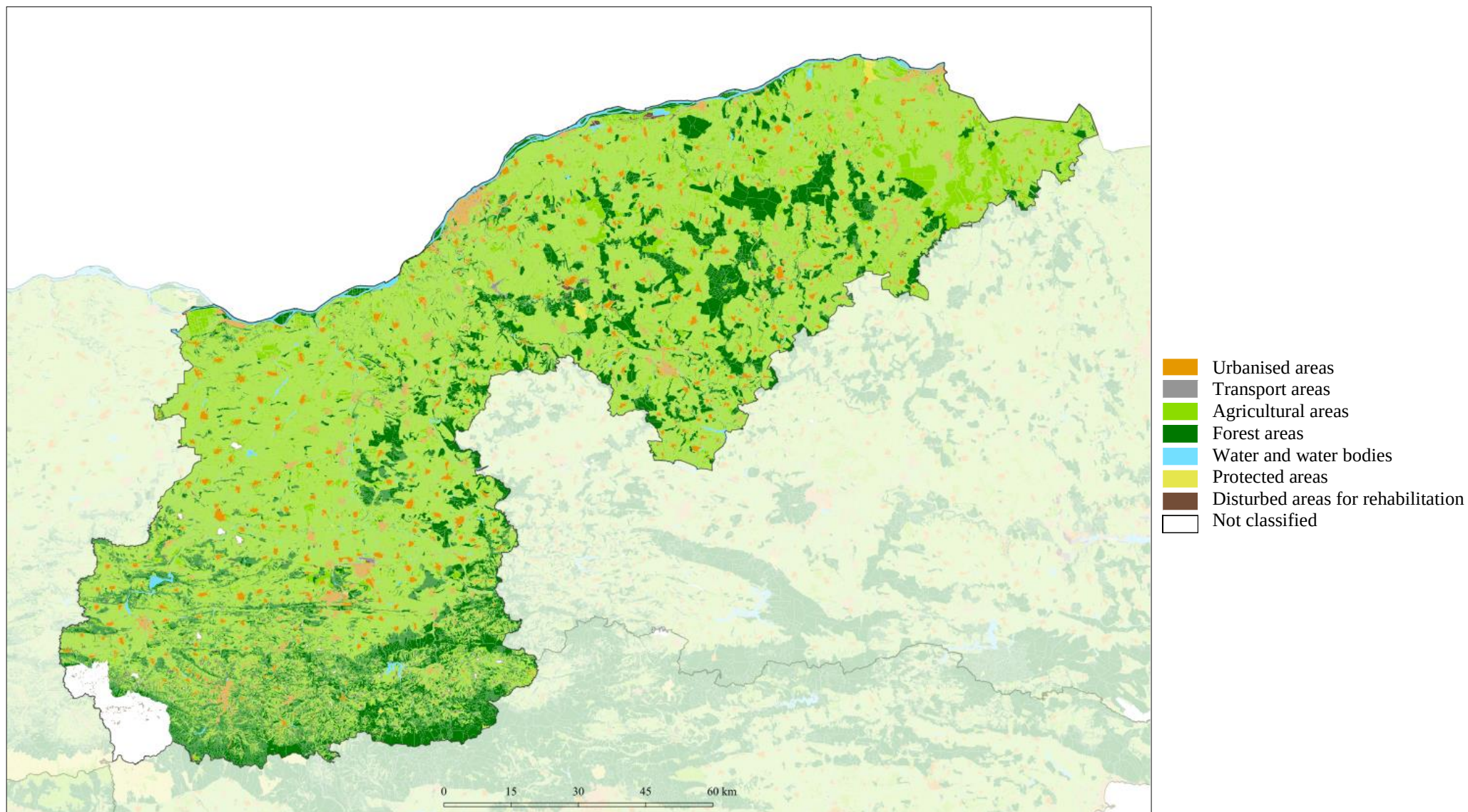


Figure 19. Severoiztochen (BG33)

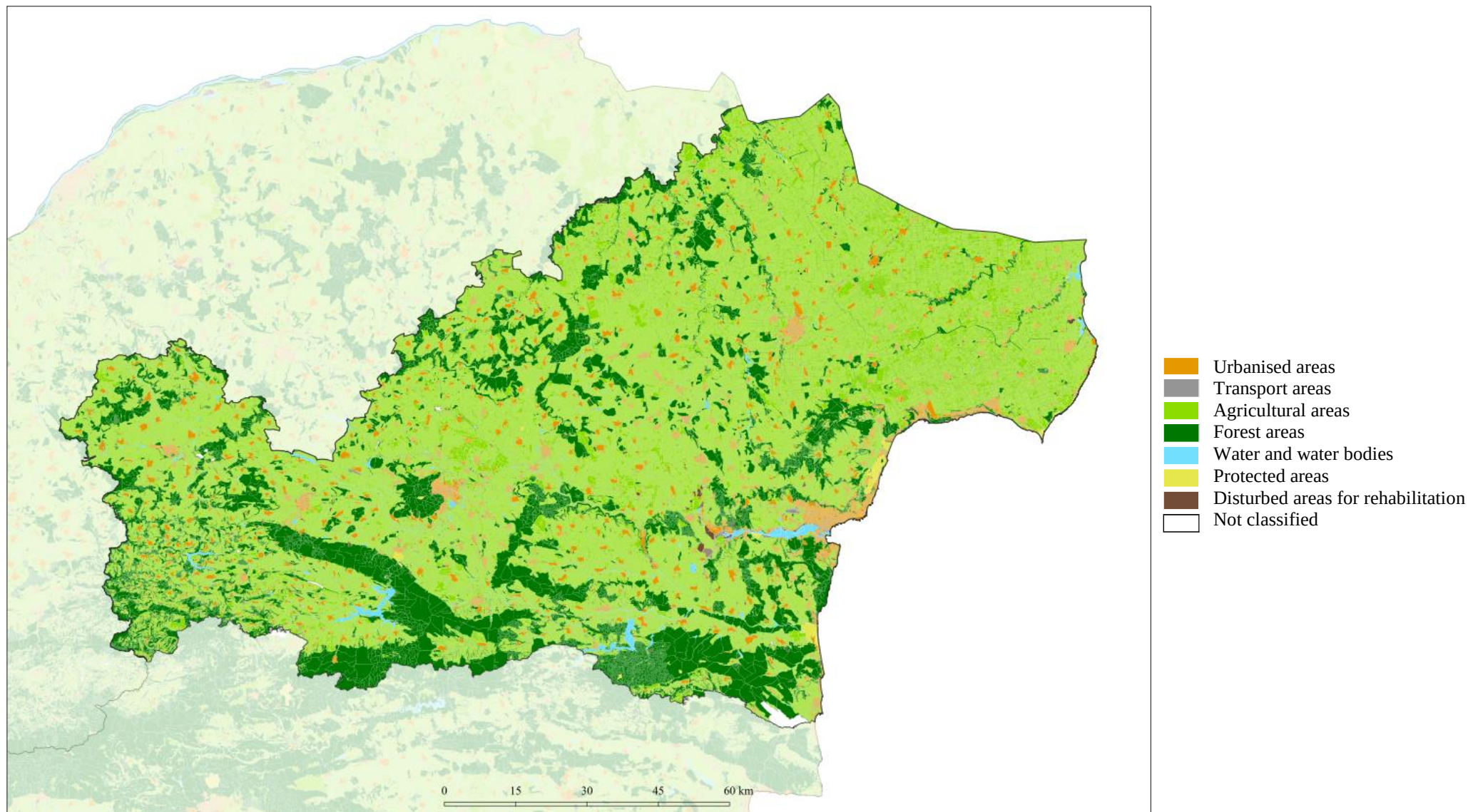


Figure 20. Yugoiztochen (BG34)

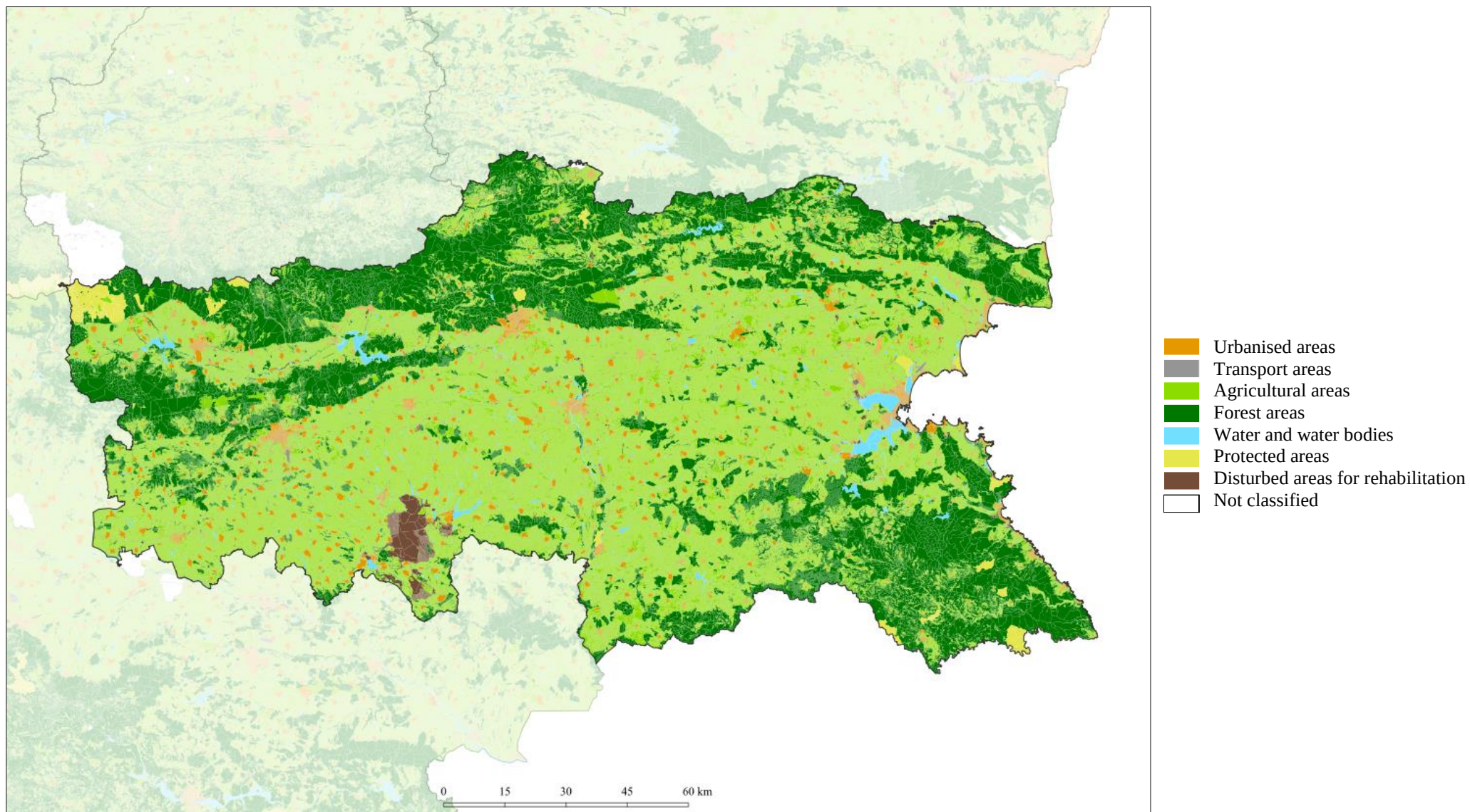


Figure 21. Yugozapaden (BG41)

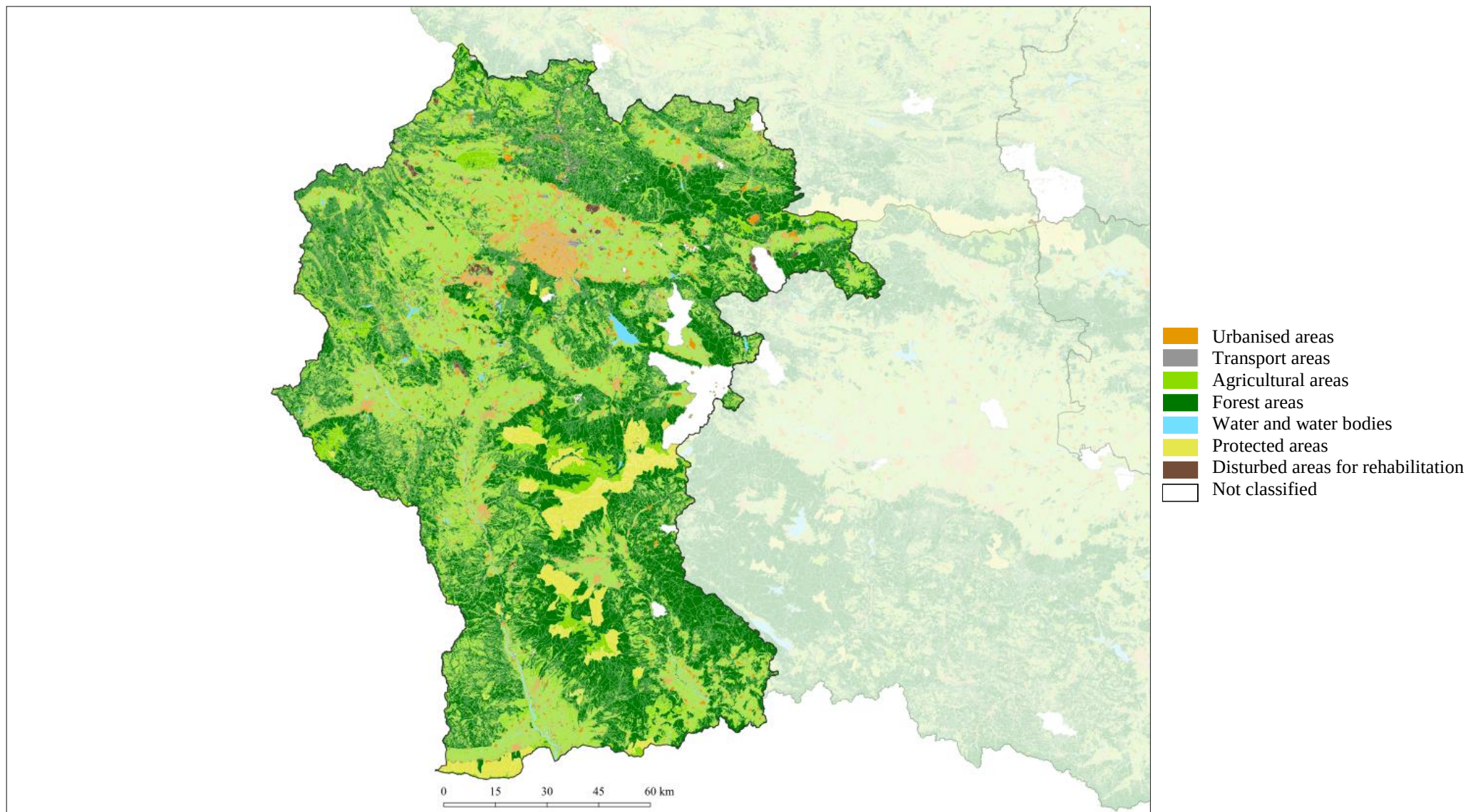
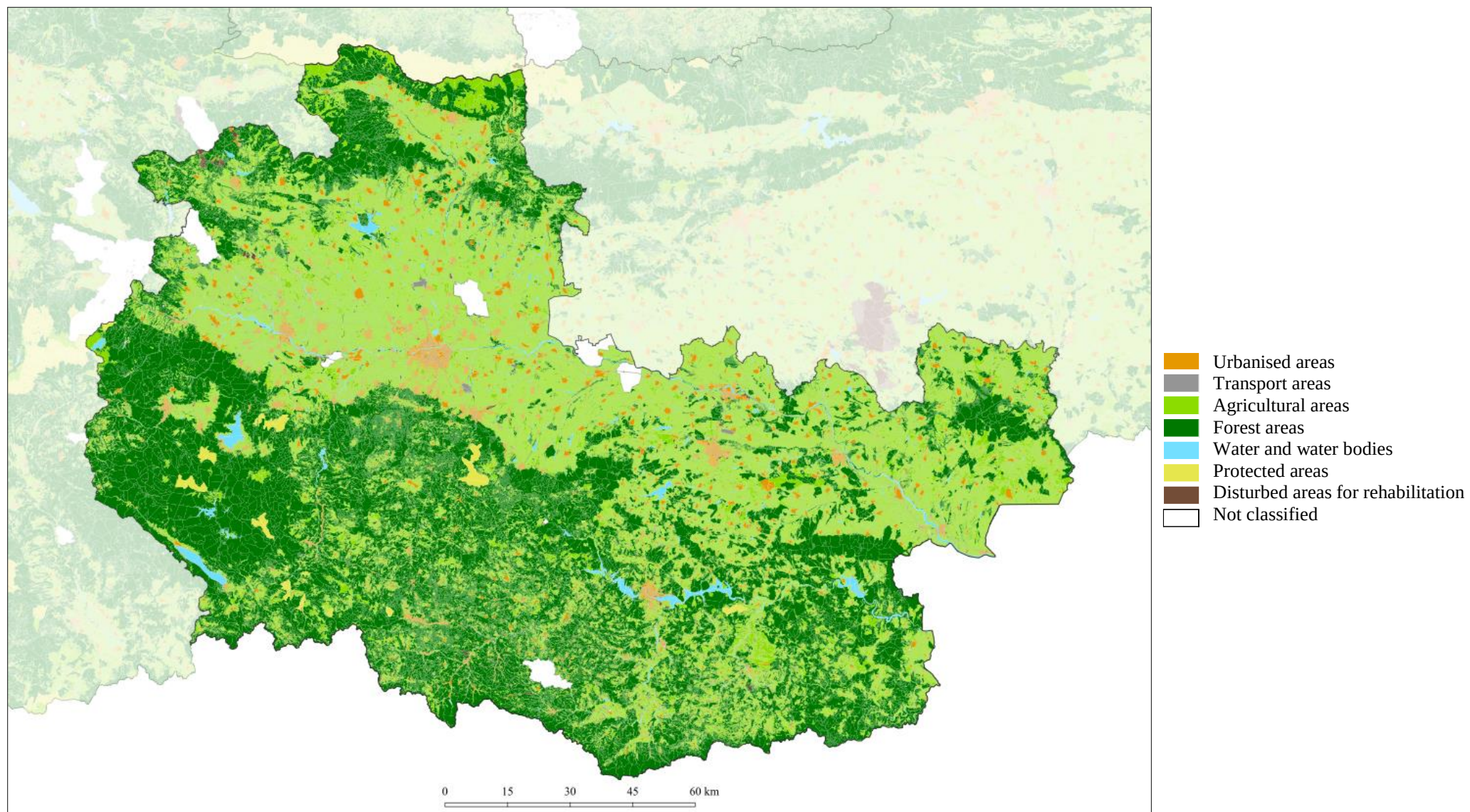


Figure 22. Yuzhen tsentralen (BG42)



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The aim of the statistical survey on the land use distribution (land use balance) is to provide up-to-date information on the structure of land use at the national and regional level, and in long term to enable monitoring of changes in the structure of the main land use types.

The source of the data, on the basis of which the survey was conducted, is the current digital cadastral map and the cadastral registers at the end of the reference year.

The unit of observation is the land property, together with the main cadastral data on the durable land use of the land property and the purpose of use of the territory, recorded in the cadastral registers.

Land property - part of the territory, including areas permanently covered by water, defined by boundaries in conformity with the right of ownership.

Durable land use (specific purpose of use) of the land properties shall be determined by the relevant detailed plan and recorded in the cadastral registers.

The classification of the durable land use of the land properties as well the relevant codes are determined in Annex 3 of Regulation No. RD-02-20-5 of 15 December 2016 on the content, creation and maintenance of the cadastral map and cadastral registers, issued by the Minister of the Regional Development and Public Works.

The area of the land property shall be assigned to the territory of one of the main classes of land resources (land use types), according to the durable land use of the land property.

The results of the survey are presented at a national level, statistical zones, statistical regions, districts and municipalities according to the current administrative-territorial division as of 31.12.2021 and according to the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS).

Main land use types

Urbanized areas include land properties for residential use, public buildings and complexes, greened areas and sports facilities, resort and recreational facilities, production and storage facilities as well as land properties with a special purpose and use.

Transport areas include land properties for traffic and transportation facilities and land properties for conduit facilities.

Agricultural areas include land properties - crop fields, permanent crops, meadows and pastures.

Forest areas include land properties - wood producing and non-wood-producing forest areas.

Areas occupied by water and water bodies include land properties for watercourses, water bodies and facilities.

Protected areas include land properties for a protected natural environment and for cultural heritage sites. In this category, by type of durable land use, includes mainly land properties that are state owned.

Disturbed areas include land properties for mineral extraction sites, land properties, occupied by industrial and municipal waste, degraded land.

Not classified - This category includes all areas without digital cadastral map coverage. It also includes individual land properties from the cadastral map for which there is no value for the durable land use and for the purpose of use of the territory.

Data sources

The data source of the spatial data layers is the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency

- Layer with data for the land properties;
- Layer with boundaries of municipalities.

Computation method

The calculations of the area size of different land use types were carried out on the spatial data from the cadastral map, using GIS tools and the BGS2005 UTM35N coordinate system.

Initially, an analysis to determine the size and the administrative-territorial belonging of the land for which there is no coverage in the digital cadastral map was carried out. These areas have been assigned to the category “Not classified”. As a next step, the durable land use values of the land properties are recoded with main land use type codes. Land properties without defined specific economic use, such as rocks, sands, sandbanks, gullies, ravines, washes and pits, as well as those with mixed or undefined durable land use, have been recoded using the purpose of use values, in order to assign them to the appropriate land use type. The area of the land properties is summed by main land use type for each of the territorial levels.

Recoding of the values for durable land use with codes for main land use type

Main categories for durable land use	Code for durable land use	Code for main land use type	Main land use type
1. Land properties for residential use	1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050	1	Urbanised area
2. Land properties for public buildings and complexes	1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210	1	Urbanised area
3. Land properties for greened areas	1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370	1	Urbanised area
4. Land properties for sports facilities	1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500	1	Urbanised area
5. Land properties for resort and recreational facilities	1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1685, 1690	1	Urbanised area
6. Land properties for production and storage facilities	1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930	1	Urbanised area
7. Land properties for cultural heritage sites	2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040	6	Protected area
8. Land properties for traffic and transportation facilities	2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310	2	Transport area

Recoding of the values for durable land use with codes for main land use type

(Continued and end)

Main categories for durable land use	Codes for durable land use	Code for main land use type	Main land use type
9. Land properties for conduit facilities	2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2471, 2472	2	Transport area
10. Land properties - crop fields	2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580	3	Agricultural area
11. Land properties – permanent crops	2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660	3	Agricultural area
12. Land properties – meadows	2700, 2710, 2720, 2730	3	Agricultural area
13. Land properties – pastures	2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840	3	Agricultural area
14. Land properties – wood-producing forests	2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950	4	Forest area
15. Land properties – non-wood-producing forests	3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060	4	Forest area
16. Land properties for watercourses, water bodies and facilities	3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3245, 3246, 3250, 3260, 3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304	5	Area occupied by water and water bodies
17. Land properties for a protected natural environment	3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3431, 3432, 3440, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3450, 3460	6	Protected area
18. Land properties for mineral extraction sites	3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560	7	Disturbed area
19. Land properties, occupied by industrial and municipal waste	3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680	7	Disturbed area
20. Land properties for degraded land	3700, 3710, 3720, 3730	7	Disturbed area
21. Land properties with a special purpose and use	3800, 3810	1	Urbanised area
22. Land properties without defined specific economic use	3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 4000, 4100	1 - 7	According to the basic purpose of use of the territory of the land property

Legal references

- [Statistics Act](#)
- [National Statistical Programme](#)
- [Administrative and Territorial Structure of the Republic of Bulgaria Act](#)
- [Spatial Development Act](#)
- [Cadastre and Property Register Act](#)
- [Regulation № 02-20-5 from 15 December 2016 for the content, development and maintenance of the cadastral map and the cadastral registers \(BG version only\)](#)