

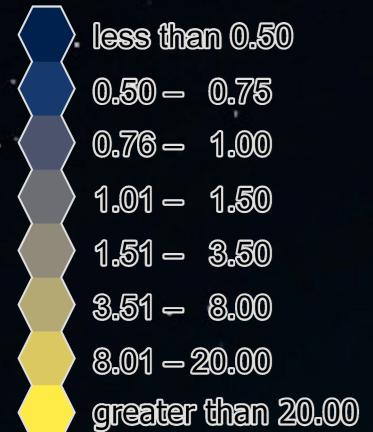
# Light Pollution in Europe

## What is light pollution?

Light pollution is the excessive or misdirected artificial light that brightens the night sky, reducing visibility of stars and disrupting natural ecosystems.

It is caused by artificial sources such as streetlights, buildings, and signage that unnecessarily emit light upwards or stay illuminated. Light pollution not only affects astronomical observations but also impacts wildlife behaviour and human health by disturbing natural sleep cycles. Reducing it involves using properly shielded lighting and minimising unnecessary night-time illumination.

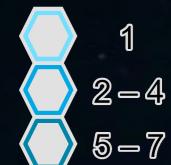
Radiance Levels  
[nW cm<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>] – 2024



Difference in Night Sky  
Radiance [nW cm<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>]:  
2014 to 2024



Number of Observatories  
in the Area



One Hexagon  
Equals 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Country Border

0 250 500 1,000 km

1:12,500,000

