4 Water withdrawal intensity

Water (Efficiency)

SDG related 6.4.2
MSSD related No. 12

1 Freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (also known as water withdrawal intensity)

Definition and scope
Updated until 2017, this indicator as defined by SDGs measures the ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by all major sectors (as defined by ISIC standards: agriculture; forestry and fishing; manufacturing; electricity industry; and services) and the total renewable freshwater resources, after taking into account environmental water flow requirements. The indicators under Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and Target 6.4 (By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity) is a key indicator, thus essential for the environment, society and economy needs.

More information:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-04-02.docx

Factsheet rationale

Provides an indication of the pressure placed on the renewable water resources by a country's economic activities. As described by SDG 6, the indicator shows to what extent water resources are already used, and signals the importance of effective supply and demand management policies. It indicates the likelihood of increasing competition and conflict between different water uses and users in a situation of increasing water scarcity. Increased water stress, shown by an increase in the value of the indicator, has potentially negative effects on the sustainability of the natural resources and on economic development. On the other hand, low values of the indicator indicate that water does not represent a particular challenge for economic development and sustainability.

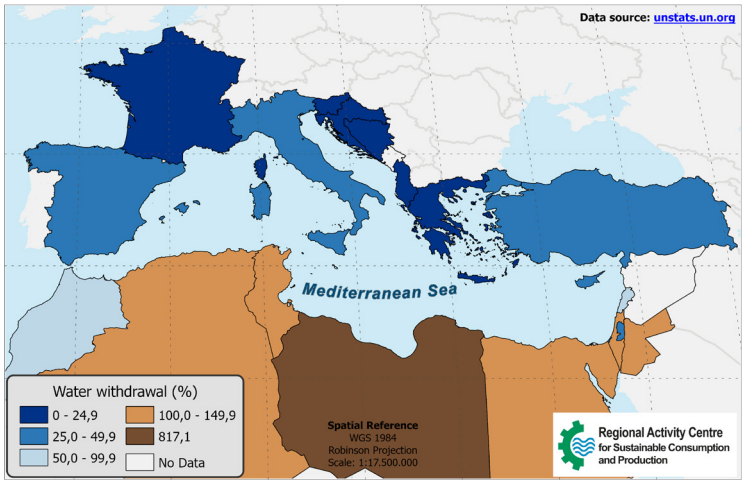
Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

There is a clear impact of the geographical climate conditions among the Mediterranean region for this indicator, markedly, between northern and southern countries and therefore the impact of the water withdrawal intensity differs depending on the total renewable freshwater resources available. The trends are steady but might be worsening due to both internal (consumption and production) and external (environmental and climate change). In any case, the water policy management should be maintained and improved, as well as the promotion of sustainable use of this resource.

Key message

Despite the climate differences between Mediterranean countries, temperate and desert zones, water is still a vital resource that needs increased protection both in the northern and southern regions.

Water withdrawal intensity (2017)



Click here to go to the interactive MapX version

Sources
1:UN SDG - FAO Aquastat

Links
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database
(http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/data/query/index.html?lang=en)

the Switchers Policy Hub
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Funded by the European Union

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of SCP/RAC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.