

2 Water productivity or water use efficiency

Definition and scope

This indicator measures the change in water use efficiency over time (CWUE). It consists of the change in the ratio of the value added to the volume of water use, over time. It's related to the SDG Indicator 6.4.1 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). It is measured as GDP in constant USD prices divided by annual total water withdrawal. The Water Use Efficiency (\$/m³) from SDG 6.4.1 is updated up to 2017; whilst the equivalent Water Productivity (\$/m³) term originates from the World Bank.

More:
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-04-01.docx>

Factsheet rationale

Provides a measure of the efficiency a country's economy has in using water for production activities, i.e. value added generated by the use of water in the main sectors of the economy, and distribution network losses. However, as countries have different economic structures, a country's sectorial activities and natural resource endowments (i.e. SDG indicator 6.4.1 – Water withdrawal intensity) should be taken into account when interpreting the indicator. Further, the rationale behind this indicator consists in providing information on the efficiency of the economic and social usage of water resources.

Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

Over the last 10 years of data from the Mediterranean countries (2007-2017) shown in the Figure there are very slight changes in Water productivity-efficiency use improvements that can be observed. On the contrary, some countries show losses on the efficiency use of their water resources such as Cyprus, Greece and Libya. It is clear that also the water resources available and the sustainable consumption and production practices at societal and economical levels affect clearly this indicator which allows to track progresses towards ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water.

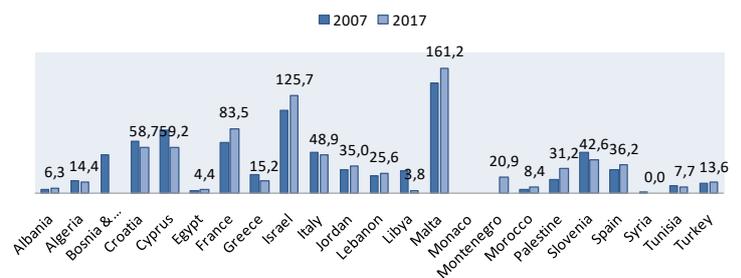
Sources
 2: UN SDG – World Bank World Developments Indicators

Links
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>
<http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/3.5>

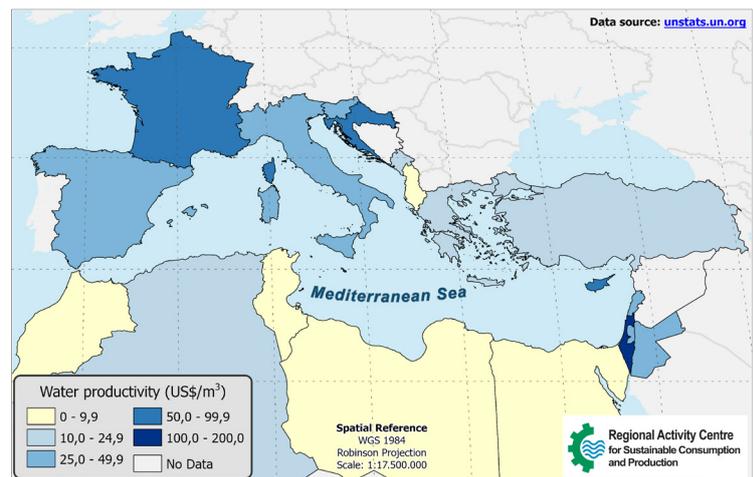
Key message

Water efficiency plans in the Mediterranean countries should be a must have for a sustainable consumption and production aligned with their natural water resources and withdrawal intensities.

Water productivity change (2007-2017)



Water productivity (2017)



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