5 Proportion of wastewater safely treated (Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows (%))

Definition and scope
This indicator measures the share of the total wastewater, generated by households (sewage and faecal sludge) and economic activities (based on ISIC categories, International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities Revision 4), that is safely treated. Note that, though the indicator description refers to all economic sectors, the monitoring will focus on wastewater generated from industries defined as hazardous according to the relevant ISIC categories). Wastewater generated from types of sanitation facilities or types of industries will be aggregated to obtain national and regional estimates.

However, the dataset from SDGs to date refers to the proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows (%). This indicator corresponds to Indicator 6.3.1, Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated under Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), and SDG Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

More:
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-03-01.docx

Factsheet rationale

It addresses the requirements of SDG Target 6.3 for reducing water pollution, minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and increasing treatment and reuse. In other words, the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated should increase rather than decrease over time at the country level and, combined with infrastructures information, could indicate sustainable and alternative national production and consumption processes beyond national water treatment technologies.

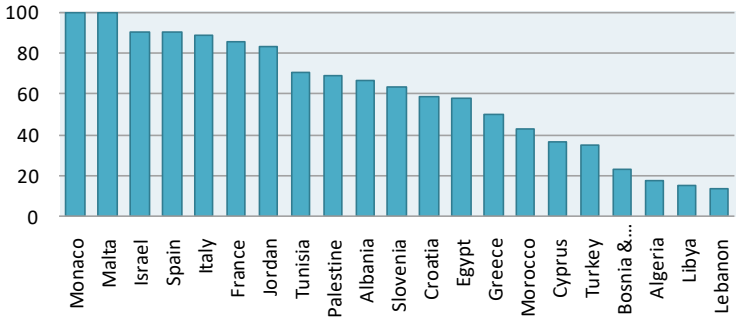
Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

Despite the lack of data for some countries, the indicator sums up the proportions of treated domestic wastewater flows. Higher percentages are shown for countries in the northern part of the Mediterranean region, where specific EU policies apply. Notably, in the eastern part of the region, Israel also shows a high percentage of safely treated wastewater.

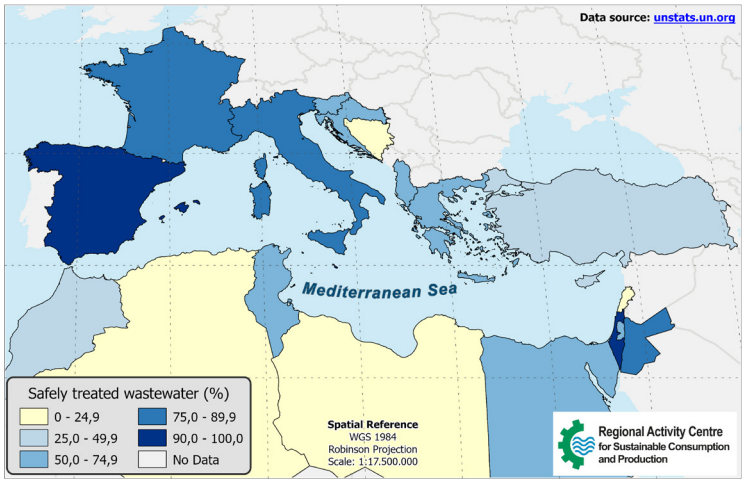
Key message

Safe systems for the treatment of household wastewater before these water flows are released into the environment remain limited.

Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows



Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater (2018)



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Sources
UN SDGs

Links
https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/

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