What is the added value of the Atlas?

• The Atlas is a harmonized platform containing data from global and regional monitoring systems in water, sanitation and health, a combination which is not available from other presentations.

• The Atlas facilitates dissemination of data and offers analytical tools for country-specific information retrieve and informed decision making.

• The Atlas allows tracking progress and visualizing trends over time.

• The Atlas can be used as an online visualization service and thereby supports electronic reporting.

• The Atlas serves as complementary information source for the countries in setting targets under the Protocol on Water and Health and a good tool to communicate and present achievements.

• The Atlas contributes to monitoring implementation of the Regional Priority Goal I on improving access to water and sanitation of the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health.

The Atlas was developed and updated by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication at the University of Bonn in collaboration with the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health.

The update of the Atlas on Water and Health is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Health and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.
The Atlas presents data on four main themes: country background, water and sanitation as well as health-outcome data.

Data are available in a yearly resolution. The time span covered by the Atlas is 1980 – 2012, depending on the availability of data.

Data can be presented in the form of maps complemented with different types of graphic representations.

The first version of the Atlas has been launched at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health held in Parma, Italy, in 2010.

The second, updated version has a number of improved features and tools. It is now available at www.waterandhealth.eu.

What information can you find in the Atlas?

- The Atlas provides country-specific data for 244 countries. The database focuses on the WHO European Region.

The Atlas addresses different target audiences. The “expert version” provides an advanced tool for professional users.

- The Atlas solely relies on existing public data sources which have established mechanisms of data collection, such as WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and Centralized Information System for Infectious Diseases (CISID). The Atlas database is updated regularly from these sources.

What is the Atlas on Water and Health?

- The Atlas on Water and Health is a data management tool that aims to serve as a one-stop information source on water, sanitation and water-related diseases.

- The Atlas brings together water, sanitation and health data available from various information sources and supports analysis and presentation of data by applying geographic information systems (GIS) techniques.

The Atlas combines various data sources into one platform.

- In addition to visual presentation, the Atlas includes explanatory texts in order to support easy understanding and informed judgement.