

C-4: Household water use per capita

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1) General description

1.1) *Brief definition*

The quantity of water used to cover the household and related utility needs of the population through the water supply industry and self-supply, calculated as a total and per capita.

1.2) *Units of measurement*

Volumes of water used by households in total and per capita are measured in cubic metres.

1.3) *Context*

Relation to other indicators from the Guidelines - This indicator relates to indicators “C-3: Total water use”, “C-5: Public water supply” and “C-6: Connection of population to public water supply”.

2) Relevance for environmental policy

2.1) *Purpose*

The indicator provides a measure of the pressure on the environment in terms of water abstraction from different water sources through household use.

2.2) *Issue*

The availability of water for meeting basic human needs is a prerequisite for life, health and economic development. This indicator is important for defining the level of development of water economy services and the degree of water accessibility to cover all household needs of the population. The indicator also helps to identify trends in household water use in a particular country.

2.3) International agreements and targets

a) Regional level

The ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

b) Subregional level

In the European Union, the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) obliges the Member States to promote the sustainable use of available water resources based on long-term protection and to ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of water with the aim of achieving a “good water status” by 2015. Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption sets drinking water quality standards and obliges the Member States take the measures necessary to ensure that water intended for human consumption is healthy and clean.

3) Methodology and guidelines

3.1) Data collection and calculations

Household water use can be determined based on the measured volume supplied mainly through the water supply industry. The indicator is based on data submitted by associations, enterprises and organizations supplying households with water and by local public administration bodies. Use of water by the population not supplied by the water supply industry needs to be calculated based on estimations of per capita water use by households supplied by self supply. Households’ water use per capita is calculated by dividing total water consumption in the country by the number of its population.

3.2) Internationally agreed methodologies and standards

International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS), United Nations 2012

4) Data sources and reporting

In countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, data collection on freshwater use are based on annual data reported to state statistical services. In many countries, data on household water use are still frequently collected by the government branch dealing with housing and municipal services. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been collecting estimates of national average figures of household water use from governments as part of its water supply and sanitation monitoring activities.

5) References at the international level

- Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption
- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive): http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
- ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992): <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/pdf/watercon.pdf>; amendment 2003: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2004/wat/ece.mp.wat.14.e.pdf>
- Environmental Indicator Report 2012, EEA 2012
- European Commission – Water Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm
- European Environment Agency (EEA): <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water>
- Europe's Environment, The fourth Assessment, EEA 2007
- Eurostat: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/sdi/indicators>
- Global water information system of the Food and Agriculture Organization (AQUASTAT): http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/aglw/aquastat/water_res/waterres_tab.htm
- International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS): <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/irws/irwswebversion.pdf>

- Protocol on Water and Health to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2000/wat/mp.wat.2000.1.e.pdf>
- The European Environment: State and Outlook 2010: Synthesis, EEA 2010
- The Protocol on Water and Health: Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting, ECE/WHO 2010: http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/guidelines_target_setting.pdf
- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD): <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/>
- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (2013): <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/questionnaire2013.html>
- World Health Organization (WHO): <http://www.euro.who.int/en/home>
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO): www.wmo.ch.