Glossary and abbreviations

**Glossary:**

Population equivalent (1 p.e.): The organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) of 60 g of oxygen per day

Primary/mechanical wastewater treatment: Treatment of wastewater by a physical and/or chemical process involving settlement of suspended solids, or other process in which the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) of the incoming wastewater is reduced by at least 20% before discharge and the total suspended solids of the incoming wastewater are reduced by at least 50%. To avoid double counting, water subjected to more than one type of treatment should be reported under the highest level of treatment only.

Secondary/biological wastewater treatment: Post-primary treatment of wastewater by a process generally involving biological or other treatment with a secondary settlement or other process, resulting in a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) removal of at least 70%. To avoid double counting, water subjected to more than one type of treatment should be reported under the highest level of treatment only.

Tertiary/advanced wastewater treatment: Treatment (additional to secondary treatment) of nitrogen and/or phosphorous and/or any other pollutant affecting the quality or a specific use of water: microbiological pollution, colour etc. The different possible treatment efficiencies ('organic pollution removal' of at least 95% for BOD5, 85% for COD, 'nitrogen removal' of at least 70%, 'phosphorus removal' of at least 80% and 'microbiological removal') cannot be added and are exclusive. To avoid double counting, water subjected to more than one type of treatment should be reported under the highest level of treatment only.
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**Abbreviations:**

AQUASTAT: FAO’s global information system on water and agriculture

ECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

EEA: European Environment Agency

EU: European Union

Eurostat: European Union Statistical Office

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

IRWS: International Recommendations for Water Statistics

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PCWWT: Population connected to wastewater treatment

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNCSD: United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development

UNSD: United Nations Statistics Division