



EU work on water balances

**Kick-off meeting "Desertification
grants 2012-2013"**

5 February 2014



Link to the Blueprint

Quantitative aspects – a real challenge for water managers

- **Water accounts at river basin & sub-catchment level – the basis for action**
- **Water efficiency targets – all the main water using sectors & link to the good ecological status**

Commission to develop

- **CIS Guidance on water accounts (and ecological flow) – 2014**
- **CIS Guidance on target-setting – 2014**





EU water balances project (2011/12)

Contract for DG ENV with technical support from EEA in the context of the Blueprint

- Based on UN SEEA-W methodology
- Shift from Year /country to Month /sub-basin...
- Use of already reported water data +specific data collection
- Calculation based on an average 8 years input data
- >180.000 functional elementary catchments basis for disaggregation/aggregation of data

Complemented by similar exercises at basin level

- Grants 2011



Main data gaps

River discharge gaps is the major issue

- Jeopardising the whole exercise in many basins, in East and South-East Europe

Groundwater quantitative status

Divergent reporting quality across member states

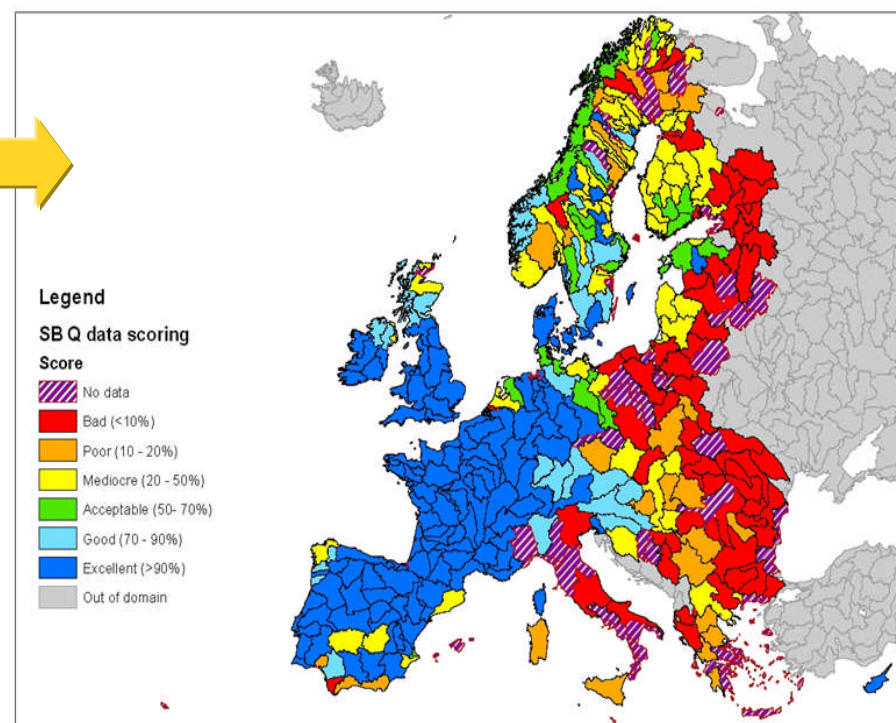
- e.g. waste water treatment

Lack of geo-localisation (national data) or geolocated databases lacking data on water use

- e.g. PLATTS or E-PRTR

Uncertainty on % consumptive use

- Irrigation, cooling, etc.





Lessons learned – 2011 water accounts

- **WB at sub-catchment levels with monthly resolution, under the SEEAW enhanced methodology, are technically feasible and affordable**
- **WB tells very important information on water resource issues (for uses and ecological support) and their diversity across EU**
- **Current data flows not adapted to the production of water balances**





Call for Proposals 2012-2013

- **The core objective – building water accounts at local level**
- **Complementing EU water resource balances with local data**
- **Identifying management, technological & economic measures to set up optimal water management in the pilot river basins**
- **Benefits of producing/using water balances in river basin management planning**





Follow-up

Need for further bilateral coordination with MS and sectors

- delineation of sub-catchments, better understanding water use, access to river flow data
- Better integration into WFD-CIS work: link with indicators, e-flows, economic analysis, target setting

In-depth study on water use in nuclear/thermal power plants and industrial cooling installations

Production of revised and complete EU water balance (EEA/JRC)

Setup of a permanent and cost-effective process (link with reporting and statistical data flows)

