On-going development of EEA's water resource efficiency indicators

Emission intensity indicators

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Resource efficiency

- Resource efficiency is a measure of how much resources is required and how much environmental impact is generated to achieve a required outcome (production, service).
- Assessment of effectiveness (are we doing right? Are we meeting targets) is not enough.
- Assesment of efficiency indicates how well we are doing and thus showing directions for further improvement.



Elements of resource efficiency





Decoupling concept

 Term decoupling describes a situation where a growth of environmental pressure/impact is less than growth of a given economic driving force (e.g. in GDP)



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Decoupling (resource efficiency) indicators

- ⁻ use of resources for goods and services
- ⁻ emission intensity of goods and services
- ⁻ energy intensity of goods and services



Examples of EEA's resource efficiency indicators



Water productivity

- Water Productivity (€/m3) in EU countries, depicting the economic activity (GDP/capita) and the resource use (total annual water abstraction/capita), ranked from high to low productivity.
 - Total Annual Abstraction/capita (m3) GDP/capita (thousand €) 1400 80 70 1200 Total Annual Abstraction/capita (m^3) 60 GDP/capita Water Productivity (in €/m³⁾ 1000 50 800 (in thousand 40 600 30 400 20 ₾ 200 10 0 0 LU DK IE EE SE CY CH SK DE CZ UK* FR AT BE NL FI LV SI ES PL IT GR HU RO PT LT BG
- Data source: Eurostat

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■ Water Productivity (€/m3)

Water productivity- agriculture

Water Productivity (€/m3) in agriculture, forestry and fishing (Nace A) in EU countries, depicting the economic activity (GVA of Nace A/capita) and the resource use (total annual water abstraction for Nace A/capita), ranked from high to low productivity



Emission intensity- agriculture

Changes in Nitrogen balance and GVA of agriculture in Europe 2000-2008 (EU-24 +Norway) Data source: Eurostat

Emission intensity- agriculture

Changes in Phosphorus balance and GVA of agriculture in Europe 2000-2008 (EU-21 +Norway) Data source: Eurostat

Emission intensity -industry

- Heavy metal emission intensity of manufacturing industries in Europe 2004-2010 (EU 22+Norway and Switzerland)
- Data source: E-PRTR, Eurostat

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Emission intensity -industry

- Decoupling of heavy metal emissions from gross value added in industries in Europe between 2004 and 2010.
- Data source: E-PRTR, Eurostat

- Nitrogen emission intensity of household sector in period 1990, 2000,2008 in 23 European countries
- Data source : Eurostat, UWWTD DB

- Decoupling of nutrient emissions from population growth in household sector in Europe between 1990 and 2008.
- Data source: Eurostat

Shortcomings

- Current values reflect the infrastructure in place, not the actual performance (based on discharged load)
- Possible solution:
 - use of the data reported under the UWWTD
 - Calculation of "emission factors per treatment type " based on the reported data analysis
 - Or
 - Use of the data from alternative sources (e.g. data from utilities)

 Comparison of emission intesity calculated from different data sources

Emission intensity – household (way forward)

• Data improvement

- Data on emission loads (N, P)- wider coverage within EU
- Info on the share of load from industry treated in UWWTPs

- Knowledge exchange
 - information on specific policies (Ms specific, or RBD specific) that may have impact on the emission loads (e.g ban of specific detergents, nutreints recovery, etc.)

