

Indicator	
16	Quality of bathing water
Measurement	
16.1	Bathing waters compliant with the guide value of the EU Bathing Water Directive
What should the measurement tell us?	
<p>We want to know the proportion of designated bathing waters in an area that comply with the mandatory standard of cleanliness specified by an EU Directive and the proportion that comply with the guide standard, which is around twenty times stricter. The measurement should tell us about any changes in cleanliness that have occurred during the past twenty years or so in order for us to assess the effect on water quality of improvements in wastewater treatment plants.</p>	
Parameters	
(i)	Percentage of designated coastal bathing waters compliant with the guide value of the European Bathing Water Directive.
(ii)	Percentage of designated coastal bathing waters compliant with only the mandatory value of the European Bathing Water Directive.
Coverage	
Spatial	Temporal
Sampling points in designated bathing waters	Annually from 1992 but if possible from the mid-1980s
Data sources	
<p>Member states submit results from sampling designated coastal bathing waters annually to the European Environment Agency which posts them on its web site http://europa.eu.int/water/water-bathing/report.html Data are posted for every sampling point together with sub-regional, regional, national and all of Europe summaries. To access a specific country, click on its national flag and then click on 'Atlas'. Select a region, click on each progressively lower level until the results for each sampling point are displayed. (From 2005, information is available from newly acceded countries but it is of a variable nature.)</p> <p>Information dates back to 1992 but data for earlier years can be obtained from the organisation in each country responsible for sampling and data collection. Links to those organisations are displayed on the opening page of the website.</p>	

Methodology		
	Steps	Products
1	Record the number of sampling points in each category for the required level (local, sub-regional, regional, national)	Number of sampling points (i) compliant with the guide value [blue]; (ii) compliant with the mandatory value [green]; (iii) banned [grey]; (iv) not complying with the mandatory value [red]; and (v) with inadequate sampling frequency [orange].
2	Divide the total number of sampling points (all colours) in each year by the number compliant with the guide value (blue) and multiply the product by 100.	<u>Percentage of designated coastal bathing waters compliant with the guide value of the European Bathing Water Directive.</u>
3	Divide the total number of sampling points (all colours) in each year by the number compliant with the mandatory value (green and blue) and multiply the product by 100. ⁽¹⁾	<u>Percentage of designated coastal bathing waters compliant with only the mandatory value of the European Bathing Water Directive.</u>
Presentation of the data		
Maps	None.	
Graph 1	100% stacked column for each year showing the number of sampling points compliant with the mandatory and guide values as a percentage of the total number of sampling points. A reference value such as the percentage of compliant sampling points for the wider region or the country as a whole should be included.	
Adding value to the data		
Aggregation and disaggregation		
Data in the atlas can be aggregated at sub-regional, regional, national and European levels using the same formula as shown in Steps 2 and 3.		

Notes

- ⁽¹⁾ Sampling points attaining the guide value must also have attained the mandatory value. Hence the number of sampling points compliant with the Mandatory value in any particular year is the sum of all green and blue-coloured points.