

4th DECEMBER 2025

Brussels

WAREG  
European Water Regulators

# EFRWS

REGULATING FOR RESILIENCE:  
SECURING EUROPE'S WATER FUTURE



# Introduction of common performance indicators among European WSS authorities

**Ivaylo Kastchiev, PhD, MBA**  
Energy and Water Regulatory Commission of Bulgaria  
WAREG Vice-president

### **DIRECTIVE (EU) 2020/2184 (recast):**

- Assessment of water leakage levels / potential for improvements in water leakage reduction - infrastructural leakage index (ILI) or another appropriate method.
- Assessment of relevant public health, environmental, technical and economic aspects
- Cover at least WSOs supplying at least 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> per day or serving at least 50 000 people.

### **DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/3019 (recast):**

- Monitoring discharges from urban wastewater WWTPs;
- Monitoring amounts, composition and destination of sludge;
- Monitoring GHGs, including at least CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, emitted from urban WWTPs of 10 000 p. e. and above;
- Monitoring energy used and produced by the owners / operators of urban WWTPs treating a load of 10 000 p. e. and above;
- Performing energy audits of urban WWTPs and collecting systems, achieving energy neutrality.

### **BOTH:**

- Risk assessment and risk management: catchment areas for abstraction water points ↔ water supply systems ↔ domestic distribution systems ↔ receiving groundwater / surface water body
- Information to the public: quality of water intended for human consumption ↔ compliance of the collection and treatment of urban wastewater ↔ household consumption ↔ operator ownership structure ↔ overall performance of water system / loads treated in WWTPs ↔ cost and price structures for W and WW ↔ risk assessment of water system / investment plans for WW infrastructure ↔ consumer complaints ↔ etc...

# Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- ❑ Essentially systematic and consistent ways of **measuring an organization's performance / efficiency** against their strategic objectives and targets AND others in the same industry AND set targets by legislation / regulator;
- ❑ Provide detailed information and quantitative analysis which permit organizations to make **sound business decisions** and **monitor their progress** AND permit **comparison** of an organization's performance against its peers;
- ❑ **Used by regulatory bodies** to analyse and review organization's performance AND benchmark AND measure **progress** (☺) or **regress** (☹) against set **targets** AND potentially link it to tariff setting mechanisms.

Various performance indicators and benchmarking platforms exist in the water industry, with lack of consistency in the definitions, descriptions, application and methodologies and approaches.

These are designed with different objectives and are not free of access.

## What are Key Performance Indicators?

What they are:	What they are not:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quantifiable/measurable and actionable</li><li>Measure factors that are critical to the success of the organization</li><li>Tied to business goals and targets</li><li>Limited to 5-8 key metrics</li><li>Applied consistently throughout the company</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Metrics that are vague or unclear</li><li>"Nice-to-know's" or metrics that are not actionable</li><li>Reports (e.g., top search engines, top keywords)</li><li>Exhaustive set of metrics</li><li>Refutable</li></ul>

KPIs	Metrics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All KPIs are Metrics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All Metrics are not KPIs</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>KPIs give a holistic view of the performance of different functions in your organization</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Metrics give you a picture of how different individual activities rolled out within the functions are progressing</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>KPIs tell you where exactly your teams stand with respect to the overall business goals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Individual Metrics do not give any insights on their own</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Examples: Pre-sales KPIs, Email Marketing KPIs, Customer Success KPIs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Examples: Open Rate, Conversations in the last 2 weeks, Deals lost last quarter</li></ul>

# Benchmarking challenges

## National level:

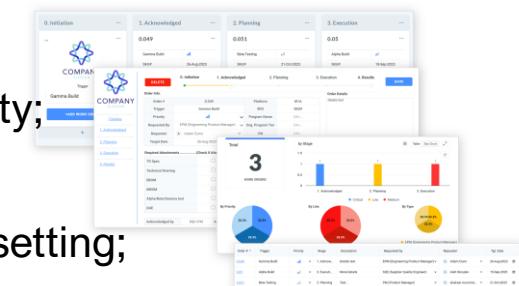
- ❑ Data is generated **inside** companies;
- ❑ Difficult / impossible to **verify** with external sources;
- ❑ Reporting can be **manipulated or mistaken** either on purpose or unintentionally;
- ❑ **Insufficient** regulatory powers / capacity / budget / independence to check, inspect, validate and verify reported data from WS operators;
- ❑ Lack of **support** from external authorities during the regulatory overview (asset owner, operator's owner, others).
- ❑ More and more regulators issue **specific requirements** for WSOs internal information systems, in order to improve reliability of reported information



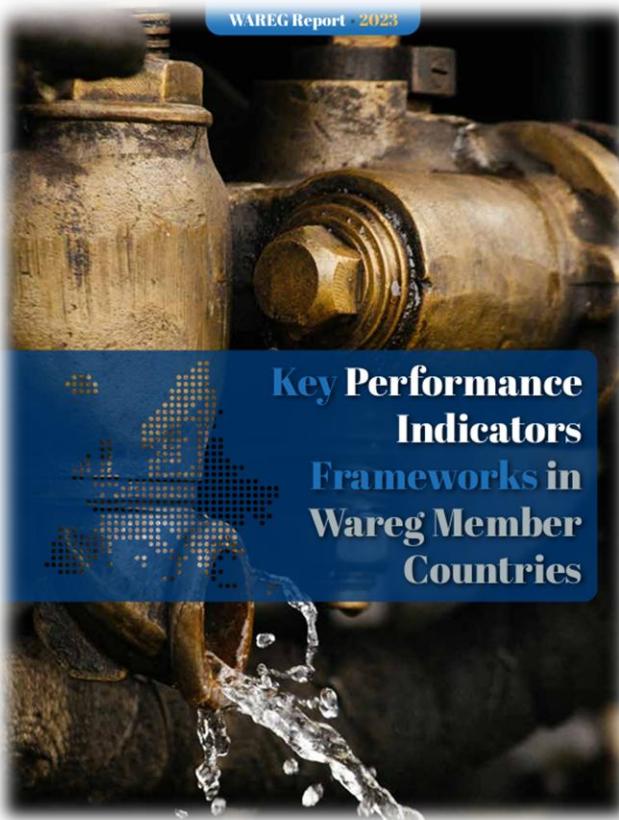
## International level:

### Significant differences between WAREG members:

- ❑ Scope of competences;
- ❑ Data collection process;
- ❑ Data validation and verification;
- ❑ Setting KPIs targets to operators;
- ❑ Assessing data quality and reliability;
- ❑ Monitoring performance;
- ❑ Reflection of KPIs levels into tariff setting;
- ❑ Powers to approve business plans;
- ❑ Powers to issue/revoke license to the operator;
- ❑ Methodologies, definitions and units of KPIs in usage;



# Benchmarking challenges



KPIs CATEGORY	KPIs SUB-CATEGORY	NUMBER OF KPIs	SHARE
Service coverage	Water coverage	19	4,5%
	Sewer coverage	17	4,0%
	WW treatment coverage	6	1,4%
	New connections	7	1,6%
Service quality	Water quality	23	5,4%
	Water continuity and bursts	29	6,8%
	Water pressure	2	0,5%
	Sewerage flooding and bursts	20	4,7%
	Complaints and communication	25	5,9%
Environment	WW quality	21	4,9%
	WW discharge	4	0,9%
	Sludge	8	1,9%
Asset efficiency	Asset Management	33	7,8%
	Asset capacity	24	5,6%
	Electricity	31	7,3%
	Non-Revenue Water	30	7,1%
	Meters and reading	12	2,8%
Economic efficiency	Billing and consumption	9	2,1%
	Debt collection	11	2,6%
	Affordability	4	0,9%
	Cost unit/coverage/efficiency	45	10,6%
	Personnel	39	9,2%
	Revenue and profit	6	1,4%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

**ASSET MANAGEMENT KPIs (10 members)**

- Level of pipe rehabilitation / replacement / renewal (17 KPIs);
- New asset (4 KPIs);
- Asset inspection / monitoring (3 KPIs);
- Infrastructure asset management (2 KPIs);

**Water service continuity (13 KPIs):**

Per zone / properties / individual interruptions / days restricted / customers affected / etc...

**Bursts on water network (12 KPIs):**

+/- hidden leaks; +/− length of service connections; different units...

**Non-Revenue**

m3/km/d (6 KPIs);

**Real losses:**

(3 KPIs)

**Infrastructure Leakage Index (3 KPIs)**

**Energy efficiency kWh/m<sup>3</sup>**

water supply (8 KPIs) / collected wastewater (3 KPIs) / treated wastewater (6 KPIs)

**Level of electricity produced from own sources**

(biogas, solar power) used for water and wastewater services in kWh/kWh (4 KPIs)

**Other:** energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (2 KPIs); energy costs (2 KPIs); bought energy (2 KPIs).

**ASSET CAPACITY KPIs (10 members)**

Water/wastewater capacity (tanks / treatment plants (7 KPIs)

Treatment plants / reservoirs – new / upgraded / overloaded (5 KPIs);

Collected / treated / infiltration / reuse (10 KPIs)

# WAREG Common Indicators - concept

- Analysed 425 indicators demonstrate **differences** not only in the types and categories of the indicators used, but also **contrasts and distinctions** in the methodologies used to calculate similar KPIs (like those for monitoring water loss and network bursts).
- It would be efficient to proceed with certain categories that are with **similar** methodologies and are applied by **as many** WAREG members and/or such indicators that WAREG members have **collected** required information, and **can calculate** national level.

Suggested methodology provides briefly the following concept:

- Common indicators methodology, including formula and methodology for calculation, description of variables, units of variables and of the indicator;
- Sources of information for calculation;
- Estimation reliability of data for variables, and respectively for calculated KPI level.

## Suggested approach:

WAREG members can calculate on national level the following indicator:

**(NRW) Non-Revenue Water in %** with the following formula and sources of data:

$$NRW (\%) = \frac{(NRW) System input - Billed Authorized Consumption (m3)}{(SY) System Input (m3)}$$

## Data sources:

**NRW** – information is provided from data bases (water volumes, billing systems, else) of regulated water providers;

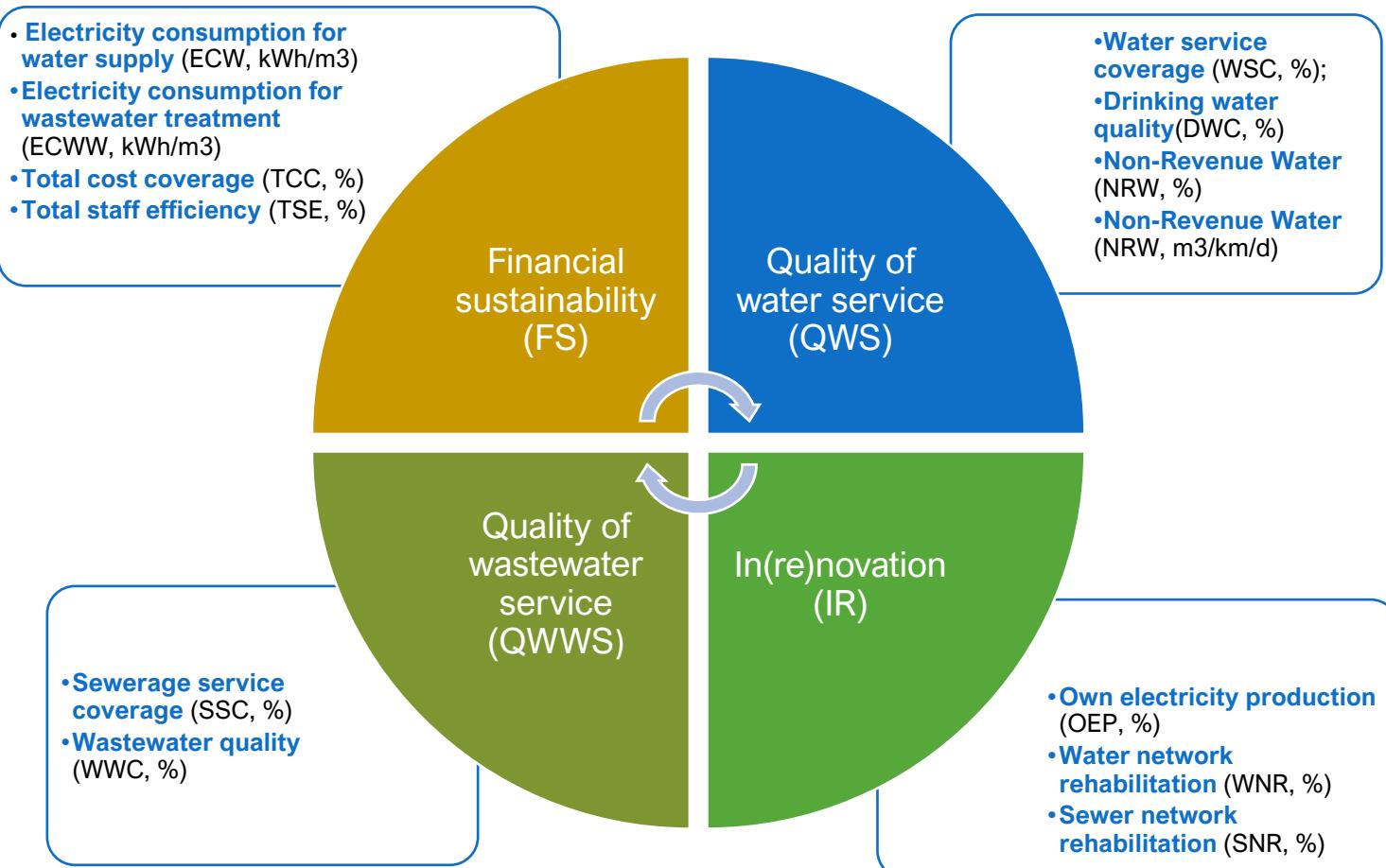
**SY** – information is provided from data bases (water volumes) of regulated water providers (*all water abstracted from water sources*);

## Data reliability (1 – high, 2 – medium, 3 – low):

Variables are reported from different sources with different data reliability.

Therefore, data reliability should be assessed for each variable, and for final KPI level.

# WAREG Common Indicators



## Suggested list of categories:

- Service coverage;
- Water quality;
- Network renewal;
- Non-Revenue Water;
- Electricity consumption;
- Cost coverage and efficiency

## Suggested list of KPIs:

- Water service coverage (WSC, %);
- Sewerage service coverage (SSC, %)
- Drinking water quality (DWC, %)
- Wastewater quality (WWC, %)
- Water network rehabilitation (WNR, %)
- Sewer network rehabilitation (SNR, %)
- Non-Revenue Water (NRW, %)
- Non-Revenue Water (NRW, m3/km/d)
- Electricity consumption for water supply (ECW, kWh/m3)
- Electricity consumption for wastewater treatment (ECWW, kWh/m3)
- Own electricity production (OEP, %)
- Total cost coverage (TCC, %)
- Total staff efficiency (TSE, %)

2023 data

<b>TPws</b>	Total number of population that receives public water supply	Number
<b>TPc</b>	Total number of population in the country	Number
<b>WSC</b>	<b>Water Service Coverage</b>	%
<b>TPs</b>	Total number of population connected to public sewerage	Number
<b>TPc</b>	Total number of population in the country	Number
<b>SSC</b>	<b>Sewerage Service Coverage</b>	%
<b>DWTSc</b>	/ Number of samples / Number of analysis of drinking water that are in compliance with legal standards	Number
<b>DWTAc</b>		
<b>DWTS / DWTA</b>	Total number of samples / Total number of analysis of drinking water	Number
<b>DWQ</b>	<b>Drinking water quality</b>	%
<b>WWTSc</b>	/ Number of samples / Number of analysis of wastewater that are in compliance with legal standards	Number
<b>WWTAc</b>		
<b>WWTS / WWTAA</b>	Total number of samples / Total number of analysis of wastewater	Number
<b>WWC</b>	<b>Wastewater quality</b>	%
<b>WNRa</b>	Annual length of reconstructed water network	km
<b>WNt</b>	Total water network	km
<b>WNR</b>	<b>Water Network Rehabilitation</b>	%
<b>SNRa</b>	Annual length of reconstructed sewer network	km
<b>SNt</b>	Total sewer network	km
<b>SNR</b>	<b>Sewer Network Rehabilitation</b>	%
<b>SY</b>	System input	m³
<b>BAC</b>	Billed authorized consumption	m³
<b>NRW</b>	Non-revenue water	m³
<b>WNt</b>	Total water network	km
<b>NRW</b>	<b>Non-revenue water</b>	%
<b>NRW</b>	<b>Non-revenue water</b>	m³/km/d

## WAREG Common Indicators

2023 data

<b>ECw</b>	Electricity consumption for water supply	kWh
<b>SY</b>	System input	m³
<b>ECW</b>	<b>Electricity consumption for Water Supply</b>	kWh/m³
<b>Ecww</b>	Electricity consumption for wastewater treatment	kWh
<b>WWe</b>	Sum of wastewater volumes at all WWTPs entries	m³
<b>ECWW</b>	<b>Electricity consumption for Wastewater treatment</b>	kWh/m³
<b>EPr</b>	Own production of electricity, used for regulated activities	kWh
<b>ECT</b>	Total electricity consumption for regulated activities	kWh
<b>OEP</b>	<b>Own electricity production</b>	%
<b>TRC</b>	Total costs for regulated WSS services	Eur
<b>TRR</b>	Total revenues from regulated WSS services	Eur
<b>TCC</b>	<b>Total cost coverage</b>	%
<b>TSr</b>	Total number of staff for regulated activities	Number
<b>TPc</b>	Total number of population in the country	Number
<b>TSE</b>	<b>Total staff efficiency</b>	%

Legend											
		Note	Official KPI	Data reliability	2021	2022	2023	Calculation	Comment on KPI	Comment variables	
		Fill data only in yellow color cells	Yes - used by the member with this methodology	1 - High				Yes - KPI calculated according to this methodology	Comment only for KPI: answered with No	Comment only for variables: answered with No on column F	
			No - not used by the member, or not with this methodology	2 - Medium				No - calculated with different data	Comment only for variables: answered with No on column K		
				3 - Low							
Area Variable Definition Unit Guidance Official KPI Data reliability 2021 2022 2023 Calculation Comment on KPI Comment variables											
WATER SERVICE COVERAGE	TPws	Total number of population, that receives public water supply	Number	Information from WSOs billing systems. Estimated number of people billed for water service		Yes	3	6 926 178	6 646 257	6 486 550	
	TPc	Total number of population in the country	Number	Information from national statistics			1	6 948 177	6 674 167	6 512 443	
SEWERAGE SERVICE COVERAGE	TPs	Total number of population connected to public sewerage	Number	Information from WSOs billing systems. Estimated number of people billed for sewer service		Yes	3	5 073 867	4 819 593	4 702 079	
	TPc	Total number of population in the country	Number	Information from national statistics			1	6 948 177	6 674 167	6 512 443	
DRINKING WATER QUALITY	DWTSc / DWTAc	Number of samples / Number of analysis of drinking water that are in compliance with legal standards	Number	Information from WSOs internal database - all samples / analysis conducted during reported year that are in compliance with legal standards		No	2	363 711	357 271	358 249	EWRC monitors drinking water quality in separate for large and small water zones, not total like this one
	DWTS / DWTa	Total number of samples / Total number of analysis of drinking water	Number	Information from WSOs internal database - all samples / analysis conducted during reported year			2	366 950	360 441	362 793	
WASTEWATER QUALITY	WWTSc / WWTAc	Number of samples / Number of analysis of wastewater that are in compliance with legal standards	Number	Information from WSOs internal database - all samples conducted during reported year that are in compliance with legal standards		Yes	2	7 257	7 003	6 989	Number of samples
	WWTS / WWTa	Total number of samples / Total number of analysis of wastewater	Number	Information from WSOs internal database - all samples conducted during reported year			2	8 254	7 870	7 849	
Numbers could present data for samples or analysis, for calculation of the respective KPI											
WATER NETWORK REHABILITATION	WNRa	Annual length of reconstructed water network	km	Information from WSOs internal database - total length of water mains that were reconstructed, replaced, rehabilitated, excluding length of service connections and network extension		Yes	2	510	451	541	Rehabilitated water network only by the WS operators, not entire rehabilitated network
	WNt	Total water network	km	Information from WSOs internal database - total length of water mains in service, excluding length of service connections			2	73 511	74 126	74 477	
SEWER NETWORK REHABILITATION	SNRa	Annual length of reconstructed sewer network	km	Information from WSOs internal database - total length of sewers that were reconstructed, replaced, rehabilitated, excluding length of service connections and network extension		No				EWRC does not collect data for sewerage rehabilitation, and does not monitor it through KPI	
	SNt	Total sewer network	km	Information from WSOs internal database - total length of sewers in service, excluding length of service connections			2	12 476	12 469	12 609	
NON-REVENUE WATER	SY	System input	m³	Information from WSOs internal database - all water abstracted from water sources during the reported year		X	2	825 426 188	845 427 191	841 143 807	
	BAC	Billed authorized consumption	m³	Information from WSOs billing system - all water billed to customers during the reported year		X	2	331 898 904	329 916 738	331 256 568	
	NRW	Non-revenue water	m³	Difference between SY and BAC		X	2	493 403 147	515 603 135	506 160 827	

## Data collection

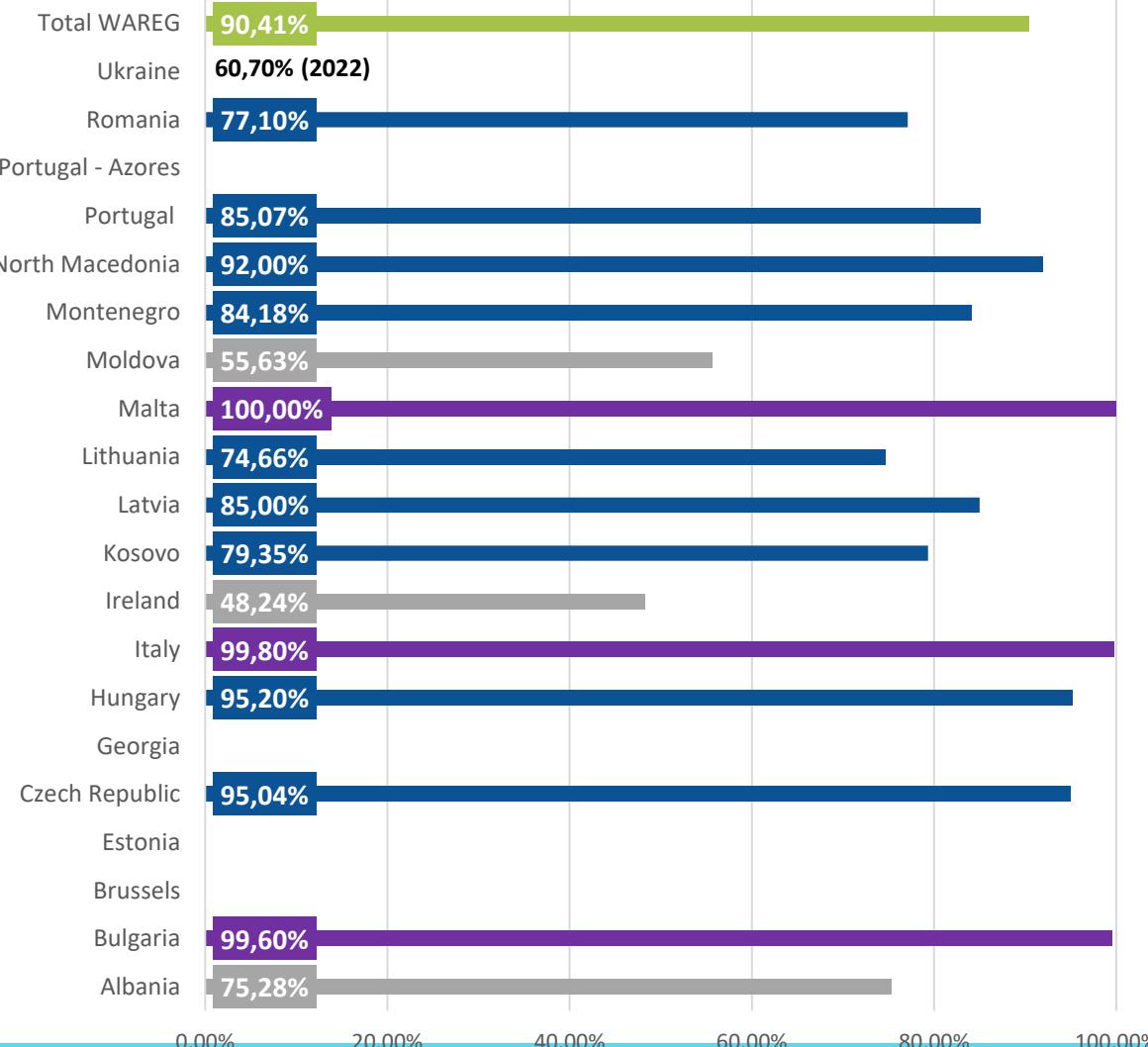
### 20 Members:

- Albania**
- Bulgaria**
- Brussels**
- Estonia**
- Czech republic**
- Georgia**
- Hungary**
- Italy**
- Ireland**
- Kosovo**
- Latvia**
- Lithuania**
- Malta**
- Moldova**
- Montenegro**
- North Macedonia**
- Portugal**
- Portugal – Azores**
- Romania**
- Ukraine**

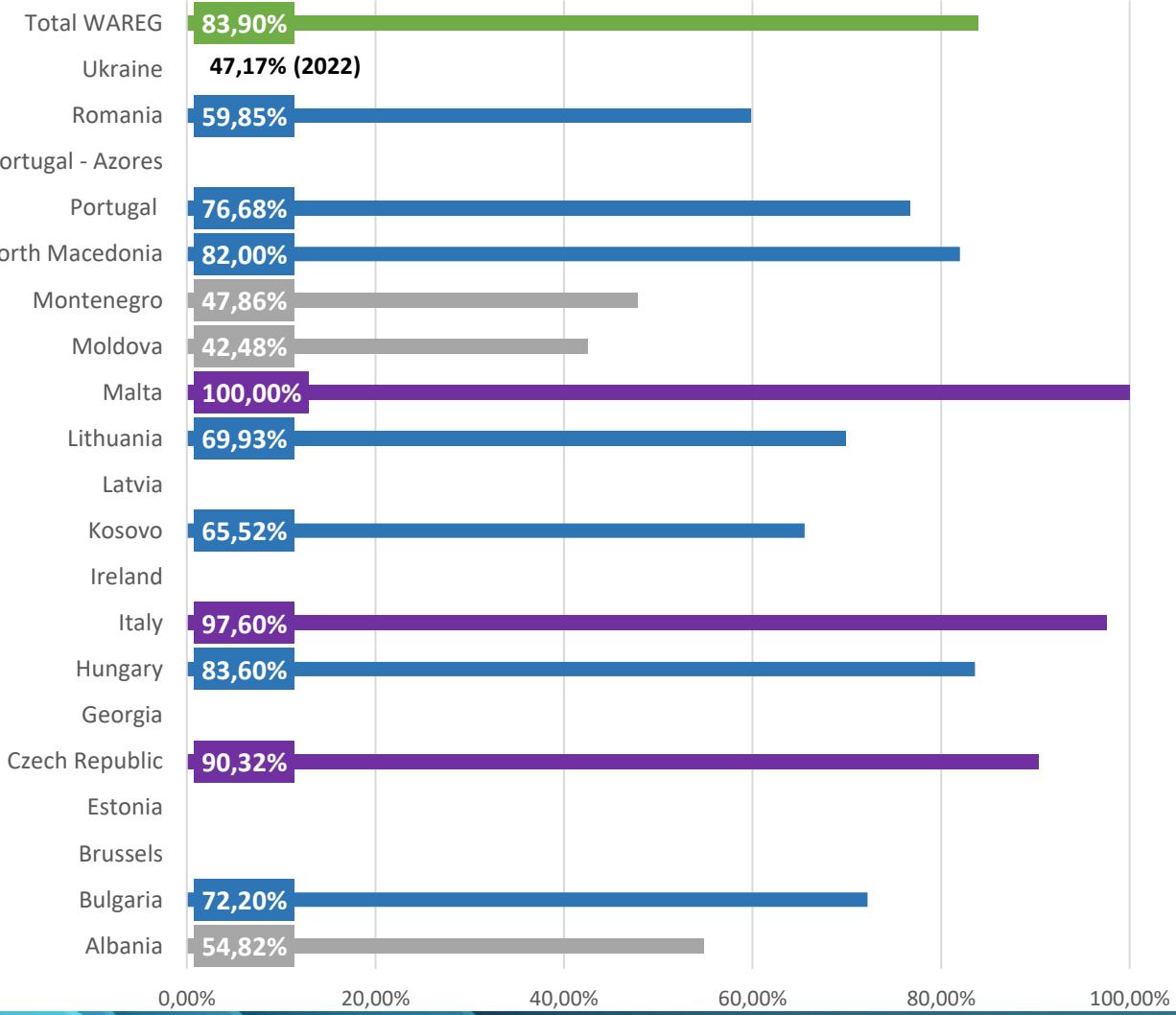
## Data results

	2023 data			Total WAREG	Countries KPIs calculated	KPIs *	KPI min	KPI max
WSC	Water Service Coverage	↑	%	90,41%	15	4	48,24%	100,00%
SSC	Sewerage Service Coverage	↑	%	83,90%	13	3	42,48%	100,00%
DWQ	Drinking water quality	↑	%	96,57%	13	2	75,88%	100,00%
WWC	Wastewater quality	↑	%	90,15%	7	2	27,72%	98,48%
WNR	Water Network Rehabilitation	↑	%	1,05%	8	3	0,41%	2,16%
SNR	Sewer Network Rehabilitation	↑	%	0,58%	6	3	0,03%	0,97%
NRW	Non-revenue water	↓	%	43,77%	18	2	6,09%	68,59%
NRW	Non-revenue water	↓	m <sup>3</sup> /km/d	12,74	18	3	0,003	59,44
ECW	Electricity consumption for Water Supply	↓	kWh/m <sup>3</sup>	0,62	14	2	0,18	3,38
ECWW	Electricity consumption for Wastewater treatment	↓	kWh/m <sup>3</sup>	0,42	11	3	0,23	0,69
OEP	Own electricity production	↑	%	7,83%	9	1	0,11%	17,04%
TCC	Total cost coverage	↑	%	105,12%	16	4	57,07%	156,02%
TSE	Total staff efficiency	↓	%	0,17%	14	7	0,05%	0,36%

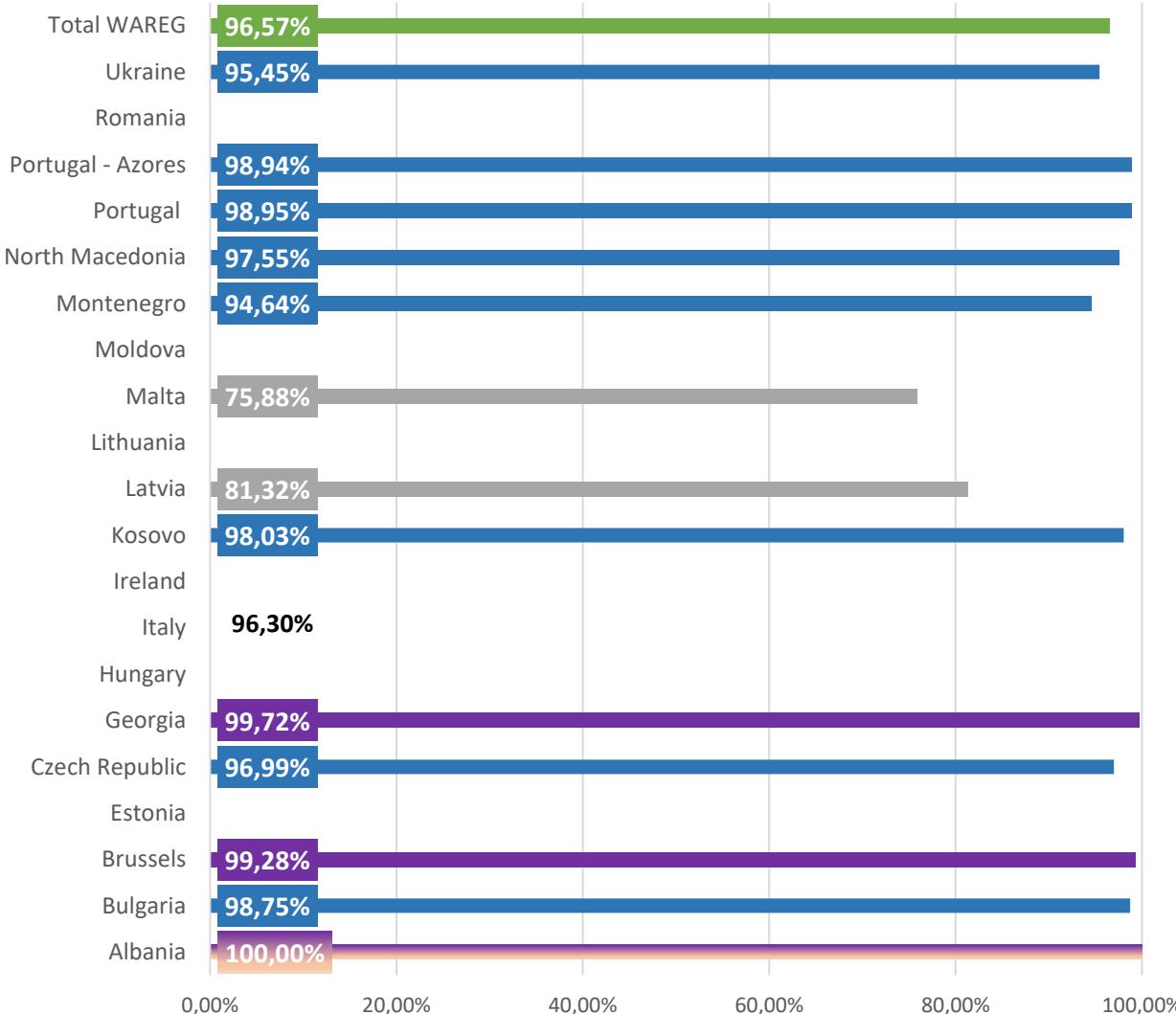
Water Service Coverage (WSC) - 15 KPIs calculated, 4\*



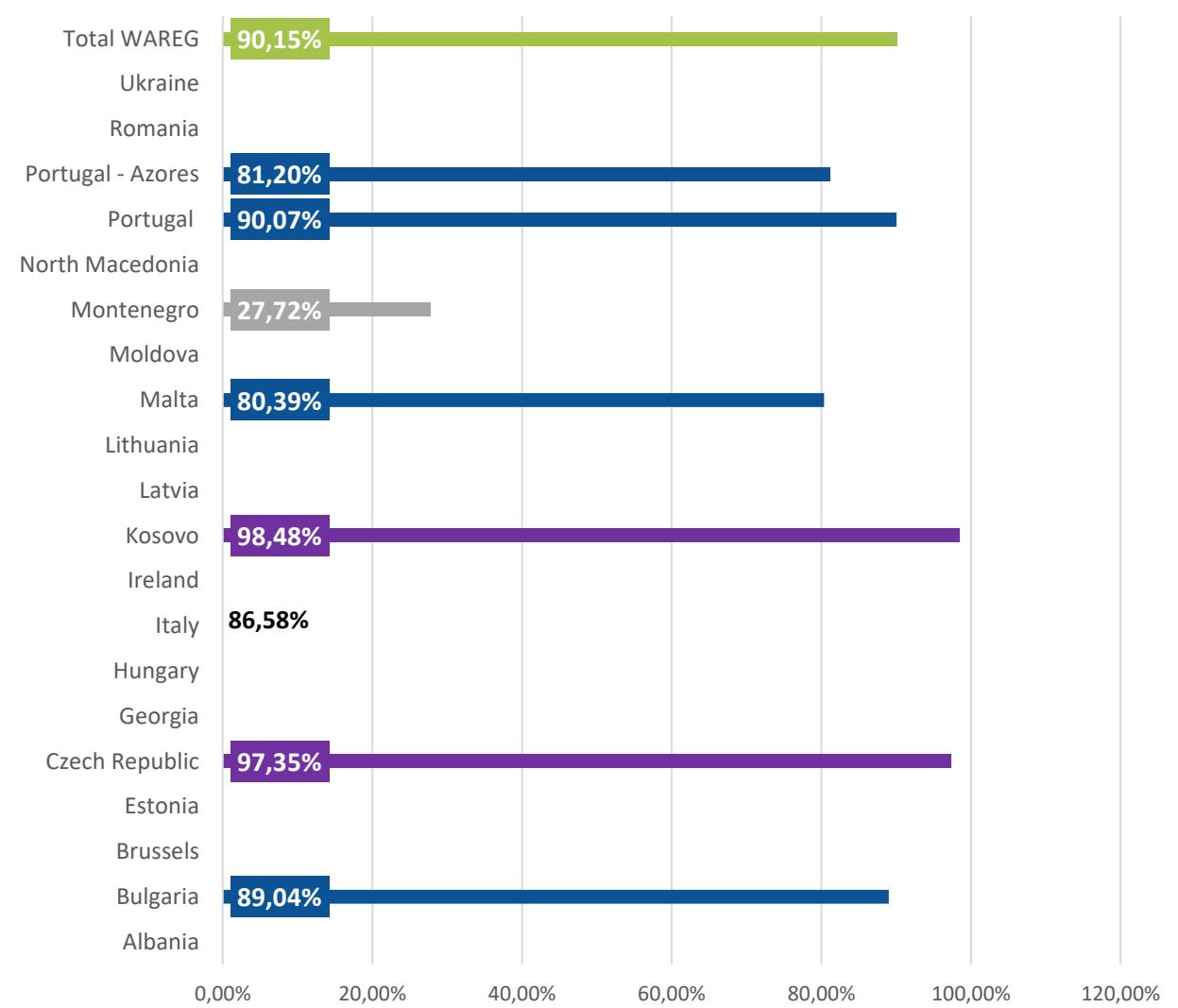
Sewer Service Coverage (SSC) - 13 KPIs, 3\*



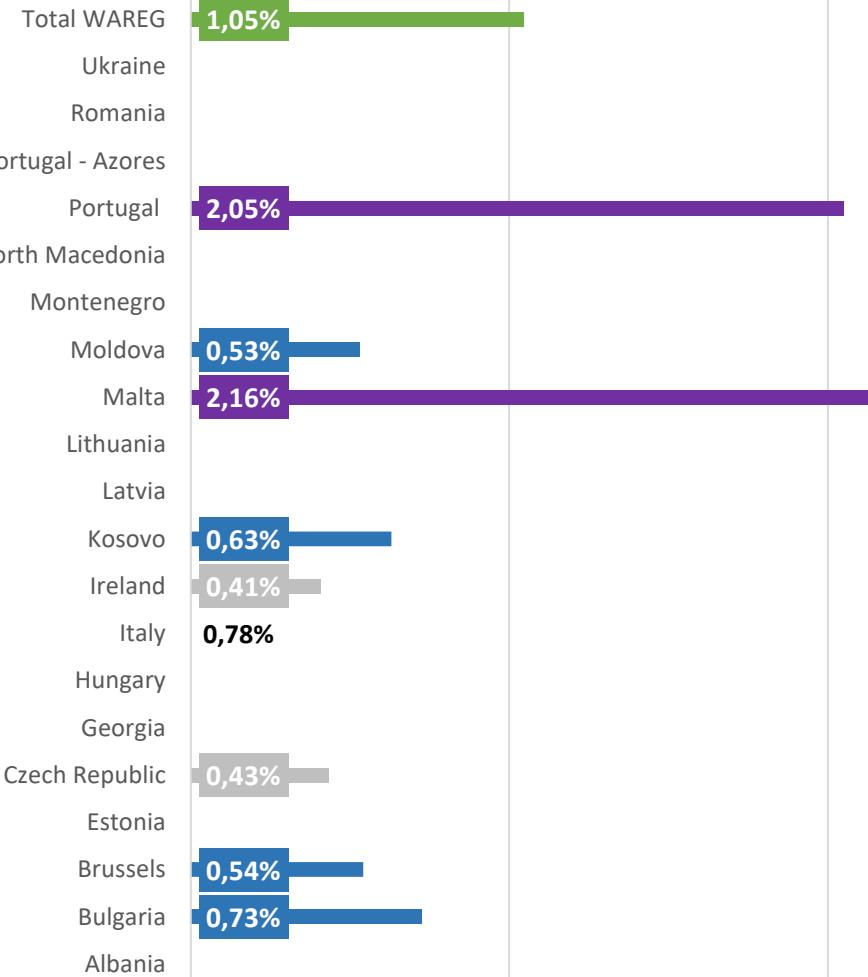
Dinking Water Quality (DWQ) - 13 KPIs, 2\*



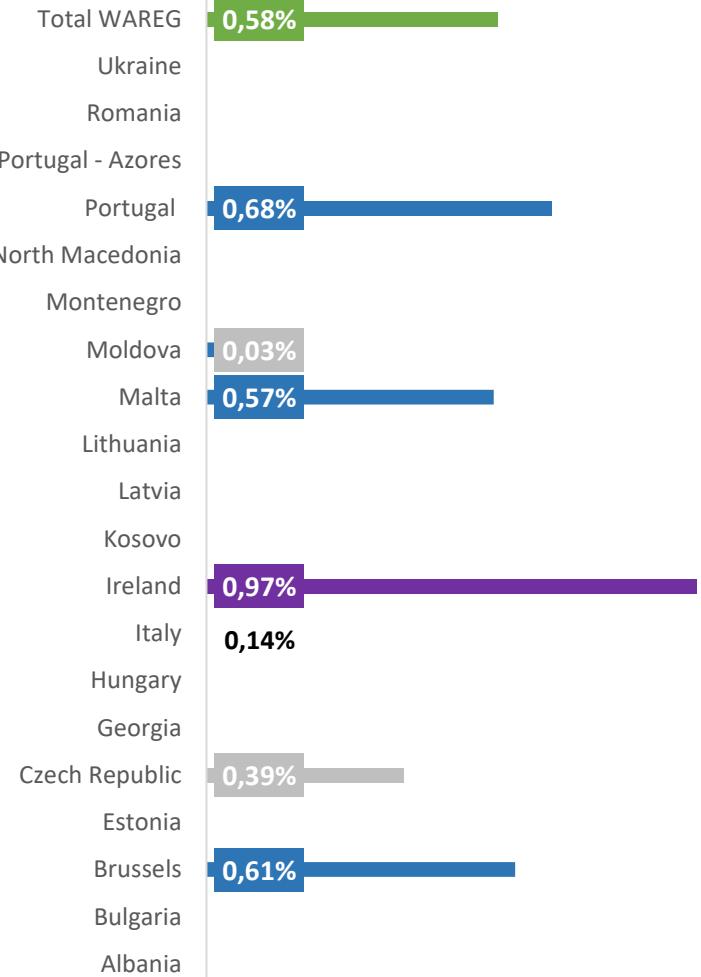
WasteWater Quality (WWQ) - 7 KPIs, 2\*



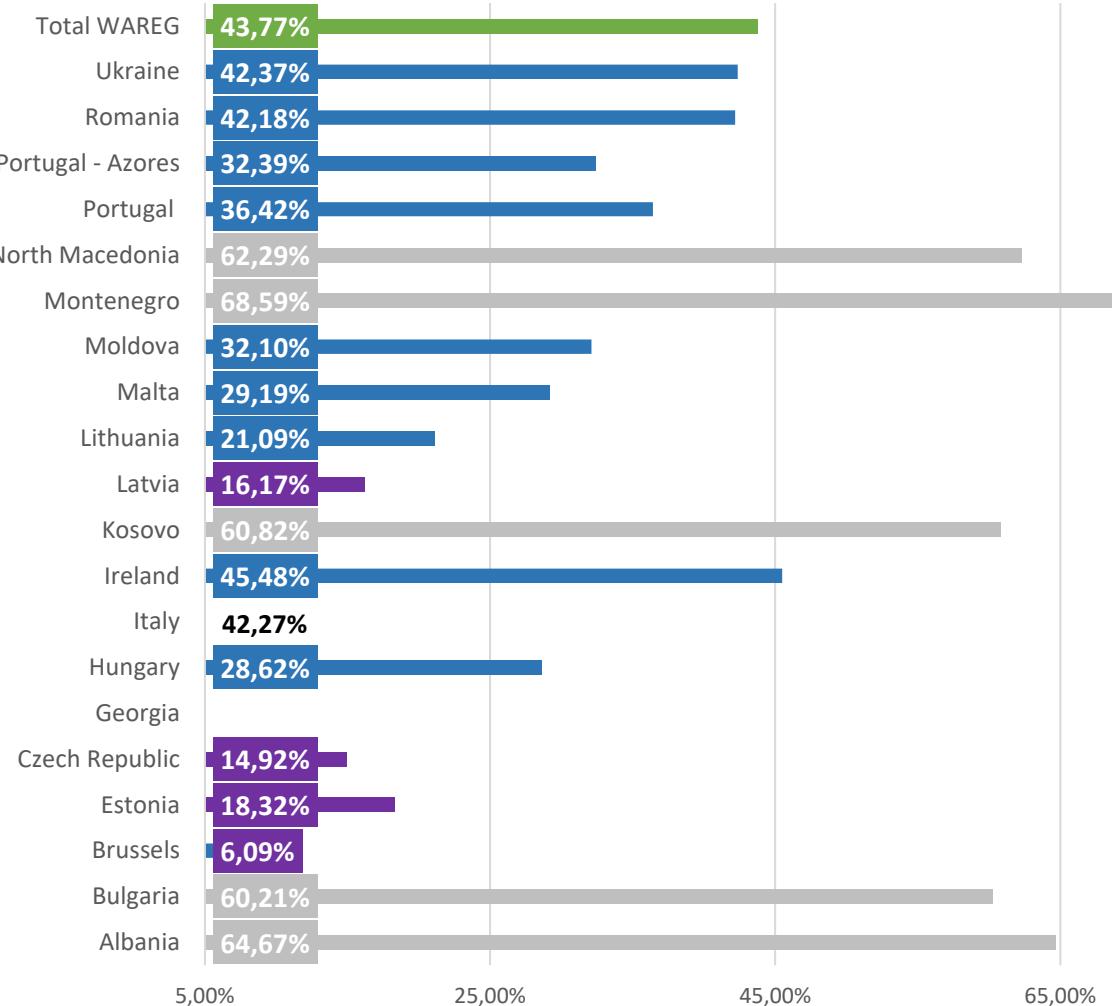
**Water Network Rehabilitation (WNR) - 8 KPIs, 3\***



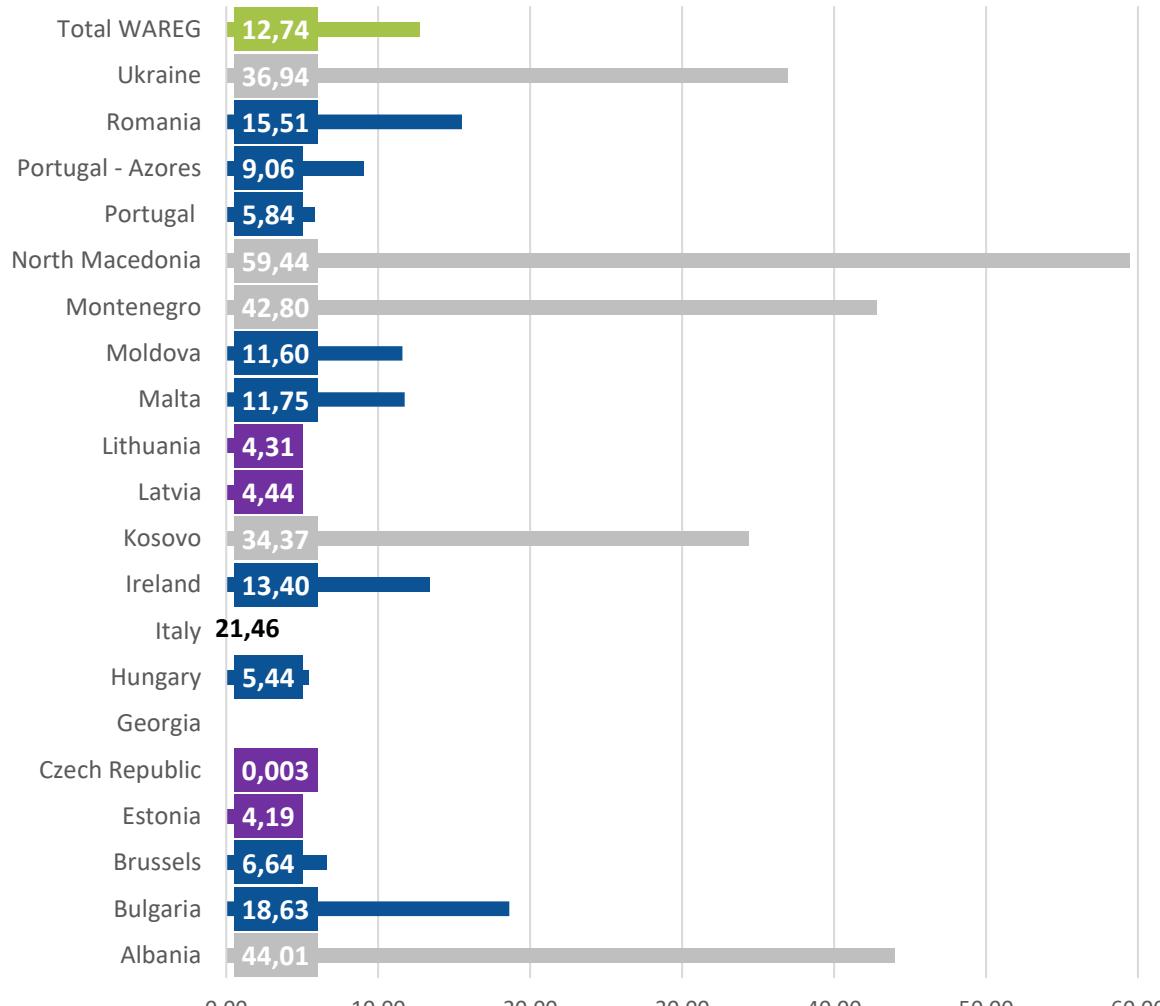
**Sewer Network Rehabilitation (SNR) - 6 KPIs, 3\***



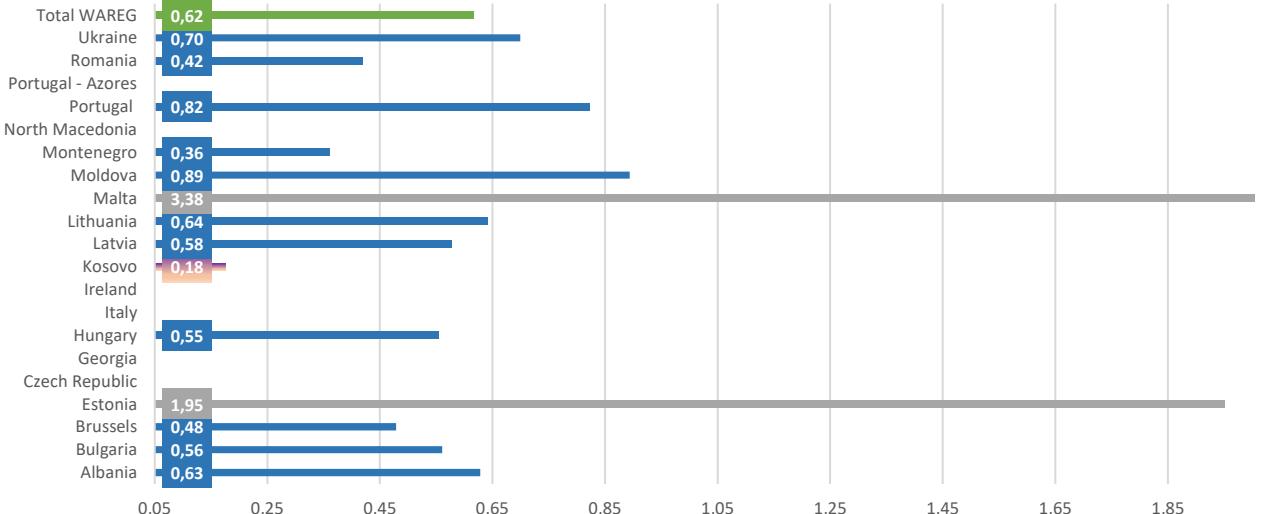
Non-Revenue Water,% (NRW) - 18 KPIs, 2\*



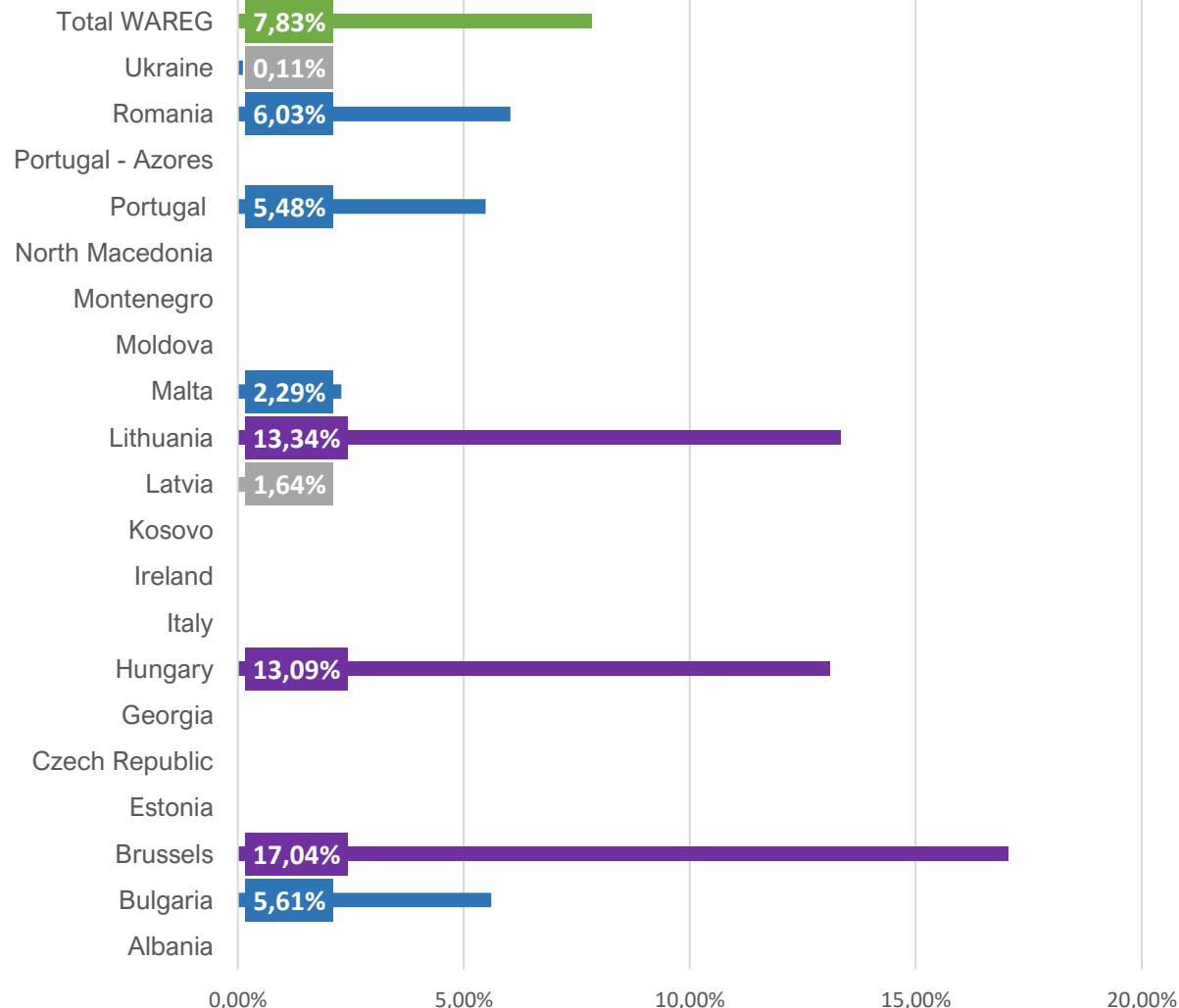
Non-Revenue Water,m3/km/d (NRW) - 18 KPIs, 3\*



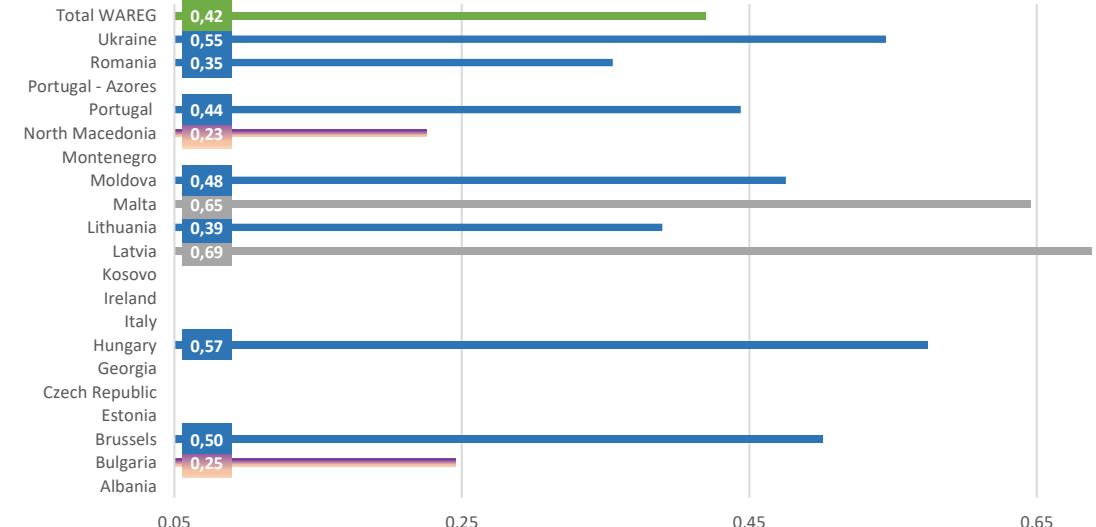
Electricity consumption for Water Supply (ECW), kWh/m<sup>3</sup> - 14 KPIs, 2\*



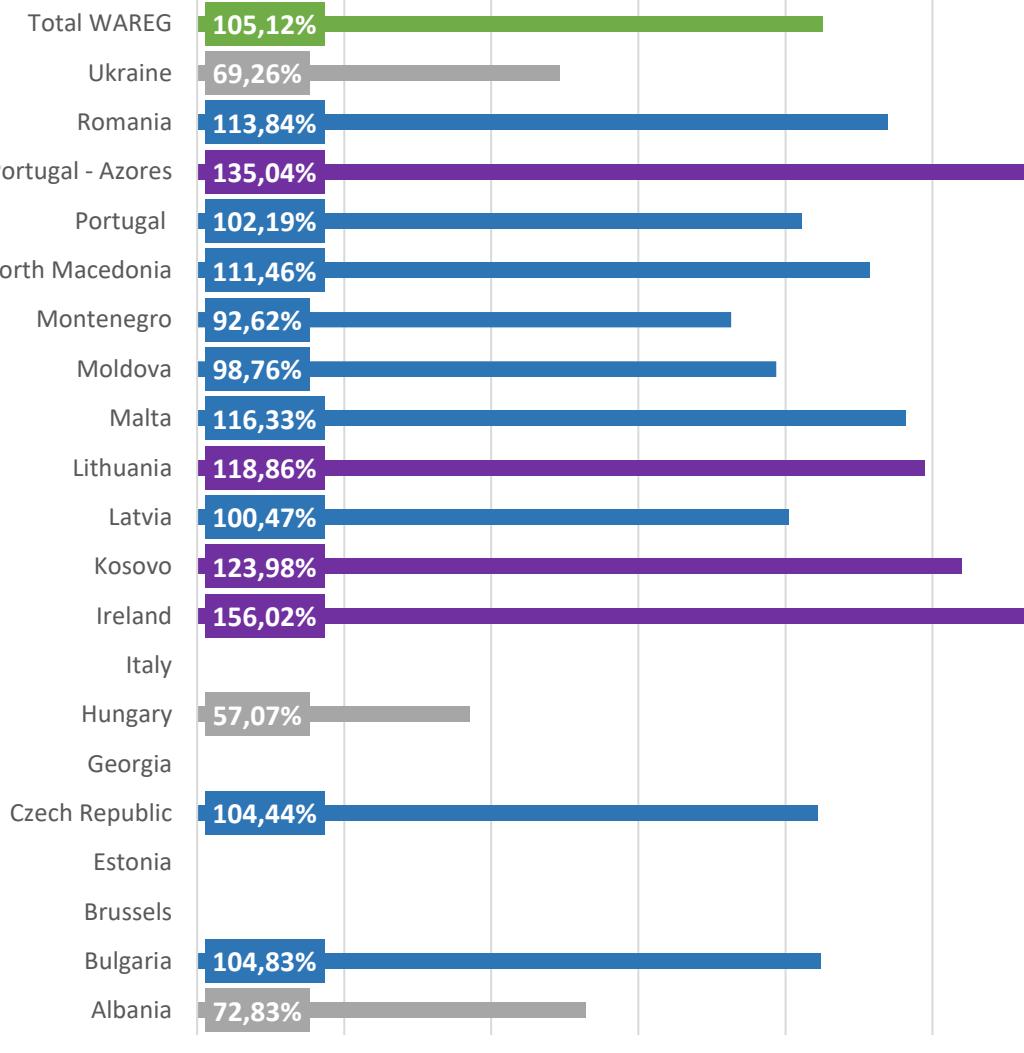
Own Electricity Production (OEP), % - 9 KPIs, 1 \*



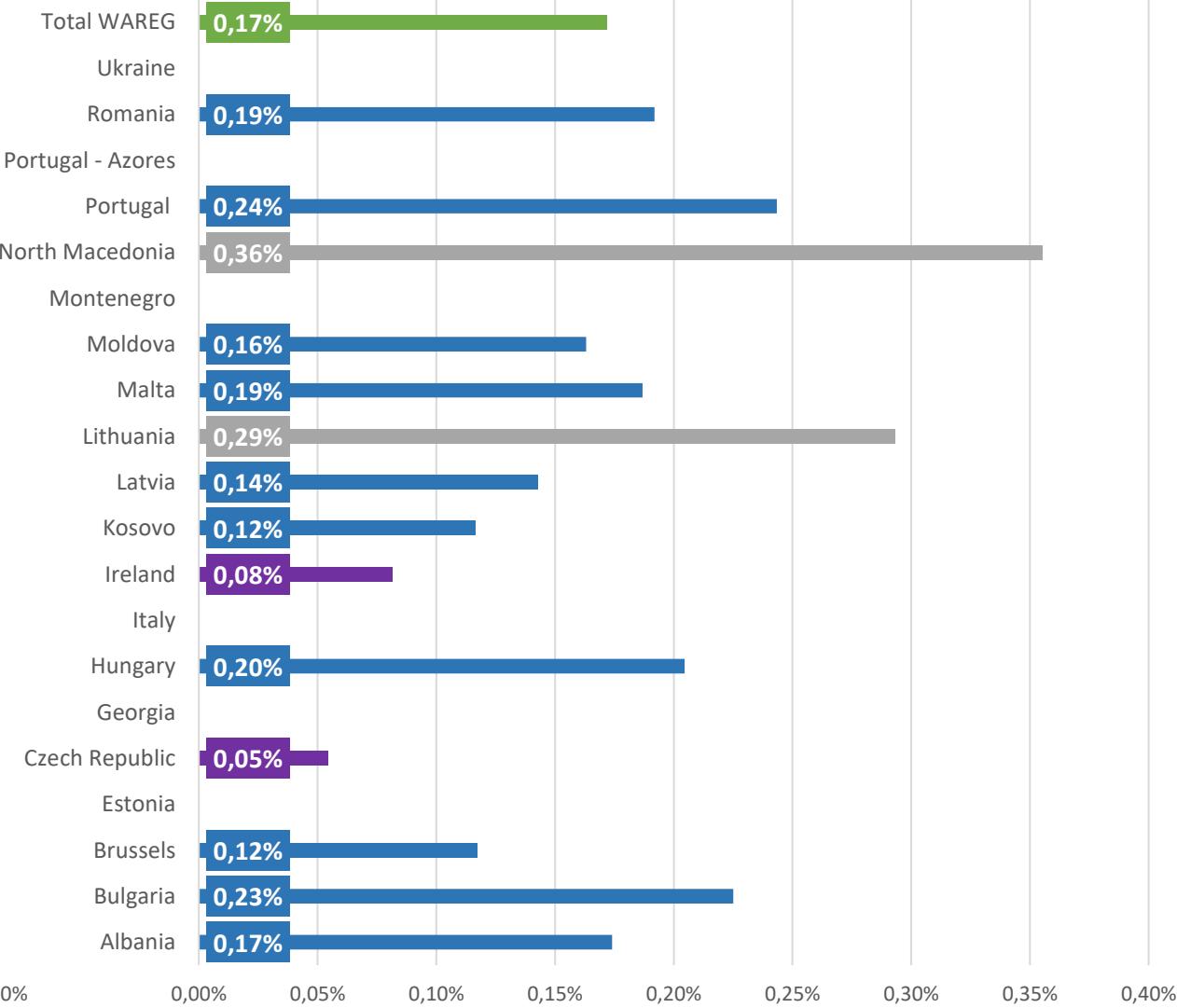
Electricity consumption for Wastewater treatment (ECWW), kWh/m<sup>3</sup> - 11 KPIs, 3\*



**Total Cost Coverage (TCC), % - 16 KPIs, 4 \***



**Total Staff Efficiency (TSE), % - 14 KPIs, 7 \***



# Conclusions

Introduction of common KPIs is **difficult process**:

- ❑ Authorities not always have **whole / right** data required to calculate indicators following the methodology;
- ❑ Data is available but is assessed with **lowest data quality / data reliability**.
- ❑ Data is available but is not allowed for **publishing**.



✓ **Service coverage:**

number of population ↔ number of households ↔ number of households with effective service;

✓ **Water / wastewater quality:**

lack of data for number of samples/analysis ↔ limited for calculating compliance;

✓ **Network rehabilitation:**

lack of data for rehabilitated networks ↔ data provided from some of regulated WSOs ↔ different methodologies (rehabilitated / cleaned ↔ limited period of time);

✓ **Non-Revenue Water:**

different approaches of IWA water balance;

✓ **Energy consumption for W/WW:**

lack of data for energy consumption ↔ lack of data for whole W / WW service;

✓ **Economic and staff efficiency:**

lack of data for OPEX / CAPEX / number of staff.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

[www.wareg.org](http://www.wareg.org)

Email:  
[secretariat@wareg.org](mailto:secretariat@wareg.org)

Institutional Office:  
**Avenue des Arts, 46/14, Brussels, Belgium**

Headquarters & Secretariat Office:  
**Piazza Cavour 5, Milan, Italy**

**WAREG**   
European Water Regulators

