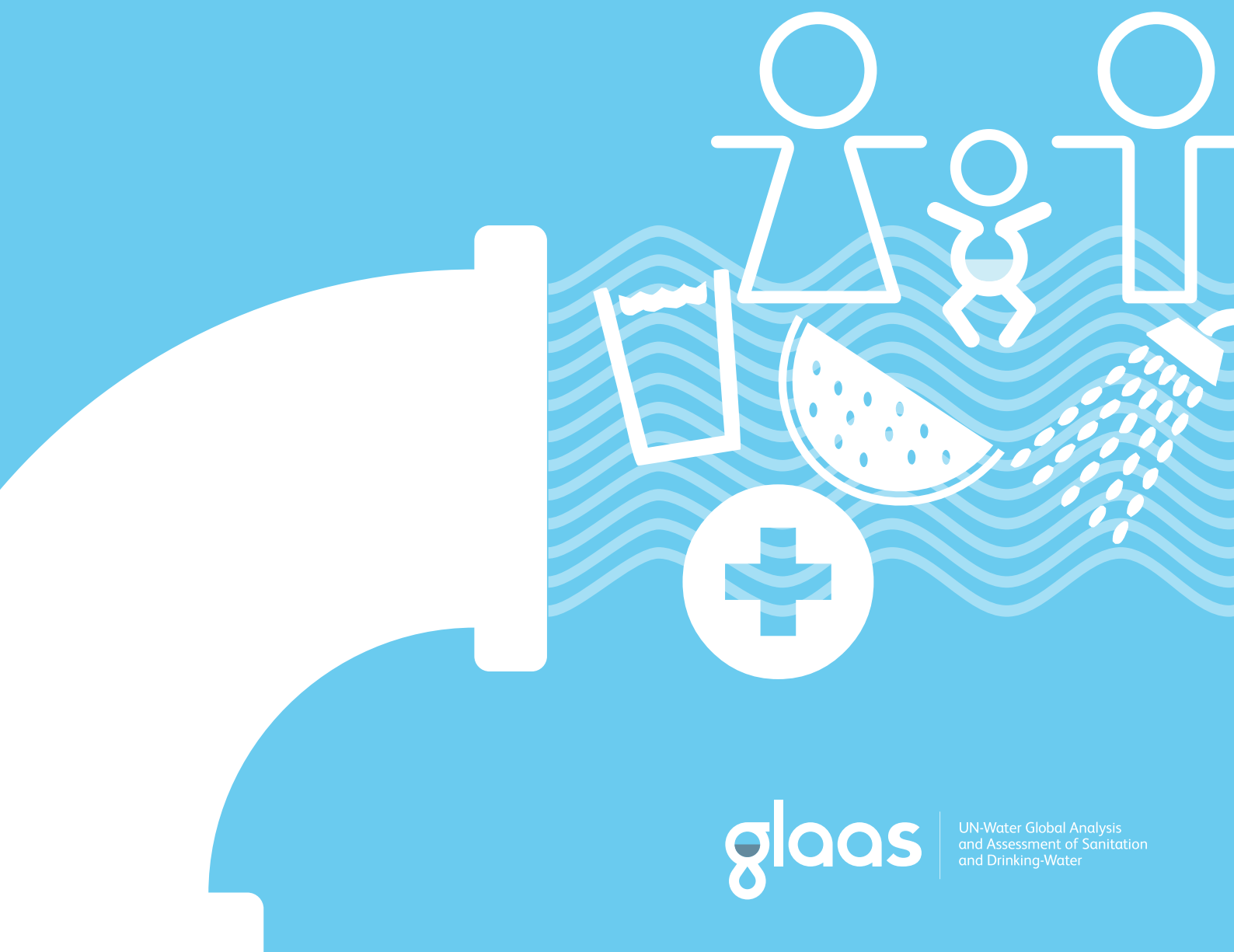


INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION: INCREASING ACCESS, REDUCING INEQUALITIES

GLAAS 2014 findings —
Highlights for the European Region



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Drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene overview

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), implemented by WHO, monitors the efforts and approaches to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services. It provides a global update on four key areas: policy framework, monitoring, human resources base, and international and national finance streams in support of drinking-water and sanitation.

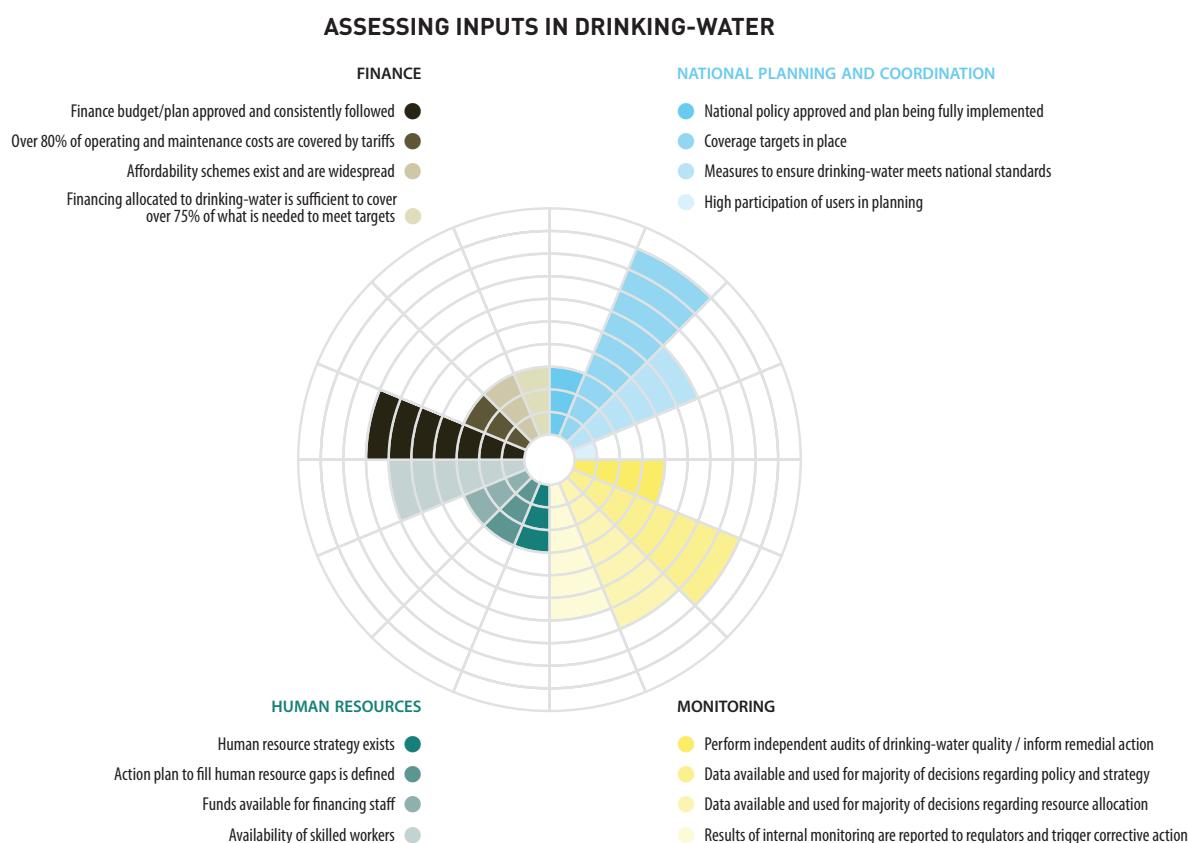
Twelve countries¹ with a total population of 118 million in the WHO European Region participated in the GLAAS 2013/2014 reporting cycle. Overall, access to improved drinking-water and sanitation services in these countries was 93 and 94 per cent in 2015, respectively. More than 2 million people gained access to an improved drinking-water source and nearly 3 million people gained access to improved sanitation in the 2005 to 2015 time period.² However, there were still 6.8 million people without improved sanitation, and 7.6 million without access to an improved drinking-water source in 2015.

Despite service improvements, there is a substantial need to further strengthen government commitments and actions to implement national policies and plans for the provision of safe and sustainable water and sanitation services, with a particular focus on rural areas. As shown by Figure 1 and Figure 2, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including:

- Geographic and economic inequalities in access to water and sanitation,
- Building capacity for surveillance of water supplies,
- Developing and implementing strategies for human resources, and
- A need to establish a comprehensive national system for planning and implementing WASH sector financing.

Figure 1

Overview of policy, monitoring, human resources and financing in drinking-water (percentage of countries with the given indicator in place both for urban and rural areas)



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

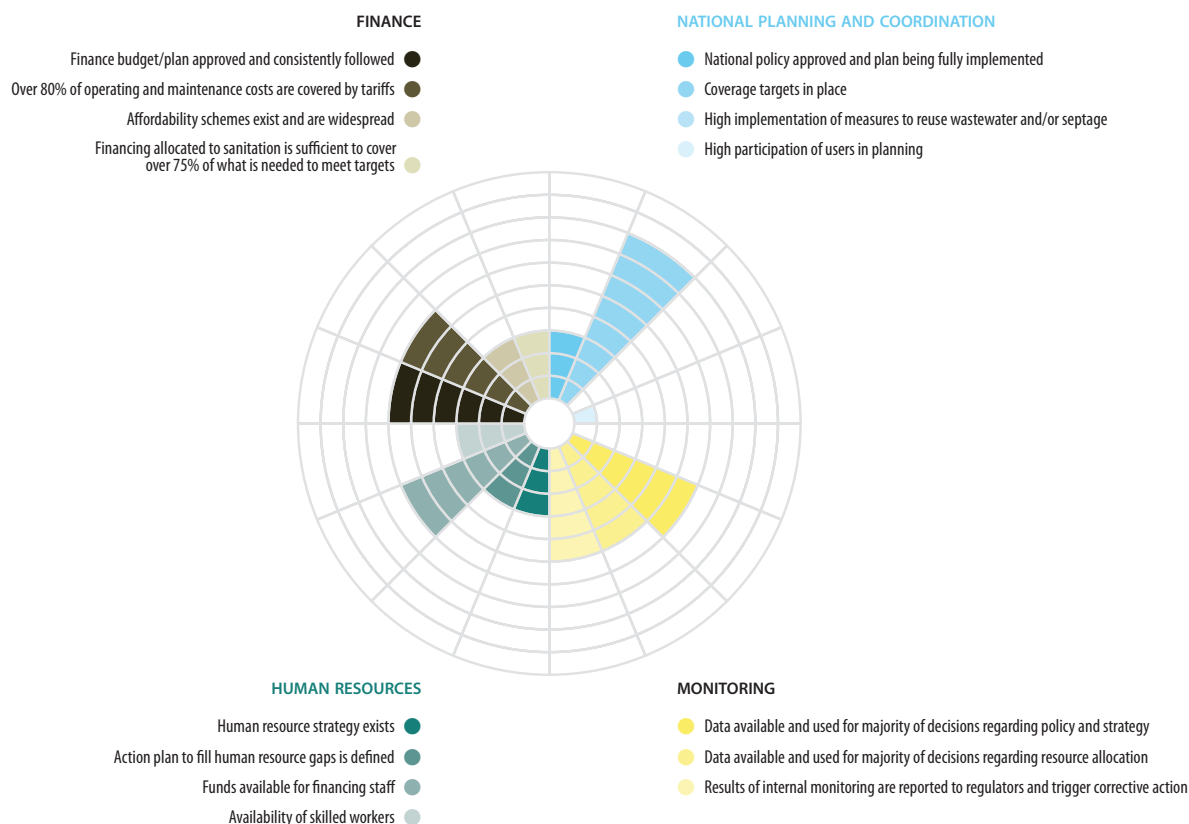
¹ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine

² WHO/UNICEF (2015) Progress on sanitation and drinking-water—2015 update and MDG assessment. Geneva, World Health Organization.

**Figure
2**

Overview of policy, monitoring, human resources and financing results in sanitation (percentage of countries with the given indicator in place both for urban and rural areas)

ASSESSING INPUTS IN SANITATION



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

National policy and implementation

National policies for sanitation and drinking-water exist in each of the 12 respondent countries, however, the level of implementation of these policies is low. Only four to five countries indicate that policies are fully implemented in each subsector (Figure 3).

Improved coordination across different stakeholders and more participatory planning are needed to strengthen the implementation of national commitments.

Figure 3

National policy implementation in drinking-water (12 country respondents)



- Plan is fully implemented with funding and regularly reviewed for both urban and rural areas (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan)
- Plan is fully implemented with funding and regularly reviewed for urban areas only (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- Policy and plan are costed and being partially implemented for both urban and rural areas (Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan)
- Policy and plan are costed and being partially implemented for urban areas only (Ukraine)
- Implementation plan is developed based on approved policy for both urban and rural areas (Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania)
- National policy is formally approved and communicated through public announcement for both urban and rural areas (Georgia)
- Not applicable
- Data not available

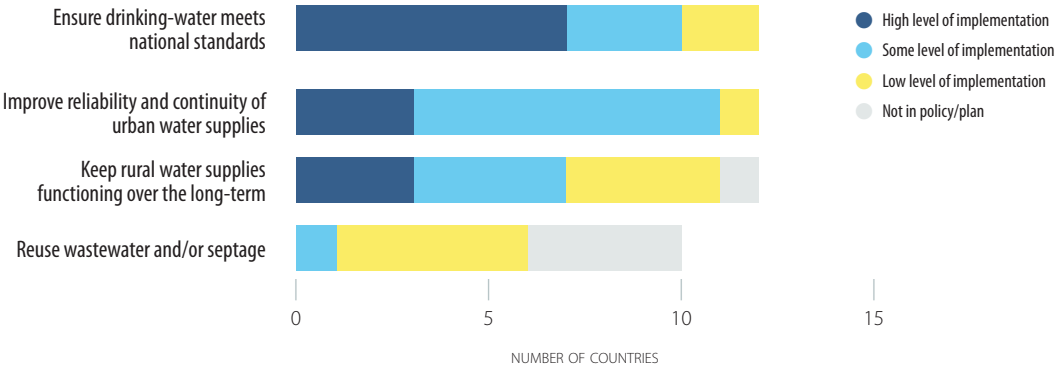
Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

DRINKING-WATER QUALITY - A moderate to high level of monitoring and enforcement measures to ensure drinking-water quality are reported to be in place in 10 out of 12 countries (Figure 4).

SUSTAINABILITY - All countries report to be implementing measures to improve the reliability and continuity of urban water supplies, however, measures to ensure the functioning of rural water supplies are less robust. Five countries indicate a low level of implementation to ensure the sustainability of rural water services over the long-term (Figure 4).

WASTEWATER REUSE - Only Kazakhstan reported a moderate level of reuse for treated wastewater and/or septage.

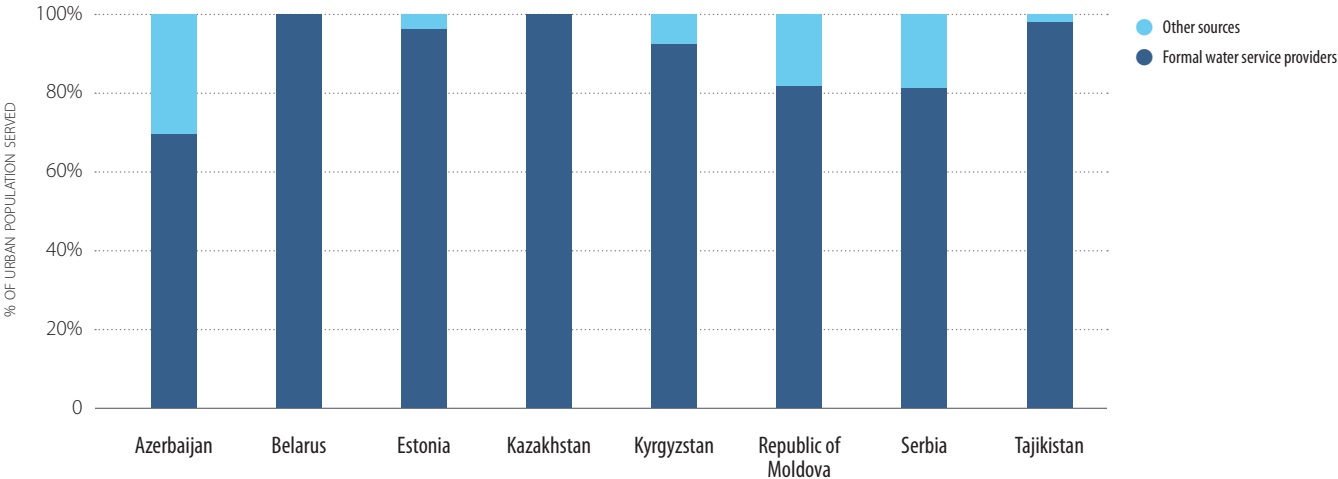
Figure 4 Number of countries with specific measures to improve and sustain services and the level of implementation of these measures



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Whilst the majority of the urban populations in the participating European countries report to be served by formal service providers, there is still a considerable number of people served by other means—examples of sources of drinking-water cited as used by European countries were springs, rivers and wells (Figure 5).

Figure 5 Percentage of population in urban areas being served by formal service providers (data available for eight respondent countries)



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Equity measures lacking in several countries

Although three quarters of the respondent countries recognize the human right to water and sanitation, gaps remain in establishing equity measures to reach disadvantaged populations.

A majority of respondent countries have legislation in place that outlines user participation in WASH planning. However, the extent of user participation remains limited with only one country reporting to have a high level of user-involvement in WASH planning.

Table 1

Indicators of policies and measures to ensure equity in WASH services by country

✓ Most (more than 50% of the population served) ● Some (between 25–50% of the population served) ✗ Few (less than 25% of the population served)

COUNTRY	Human right recognized in law		Specific measures are included in national plan to reach disadvantaged groups		Participation procedures are defined in law or policy		Extent to which service users participate in planning				Existence of a public complaint mechanism for populations served			
	Drinking-water	Sanitation	Drinking-water and sanitation	Drinking-water and sanitation	Drinking-water*	Sanitation*	Drinking-water		Sanitation		Drinking-Water		Sanitation	
	National	National	National	National	National	National	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
			Populations living in slums or informal settlements	Populations living in remote or hard to reach areas										
Azerbaijan	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belarus	Yes	Yes			No	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Estonia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Georgia	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate		Moderate		✓	●	✓	●
Kazakhstan	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	High	High	High	High	✗	●	✗	●
Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes			Yes	No	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lithuania	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Moldova	No	No	No	No	No	No	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Serbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	✓	●	✓	✗
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					✓	✓	✓	✗
Tajikistan	Yes			No	Yes	Yes	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	✓	✓	✓	●
Ukraine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Low	Low	Low	Low	✓	✓	✓	✓

* No difference between urban and rural areas apart from Georgia (only in urban areas).

Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Monitoring of drinking-water and sanitation

Oversight and operational monitoring of drinking-water and sanitation services (e.g. quality, cost recovery, line breaks, affordability, costs) are conducted to ensure the continuity of service, inform decision-making for implementing improvements, provide accountability to the public, and ensure services meet expected standards.

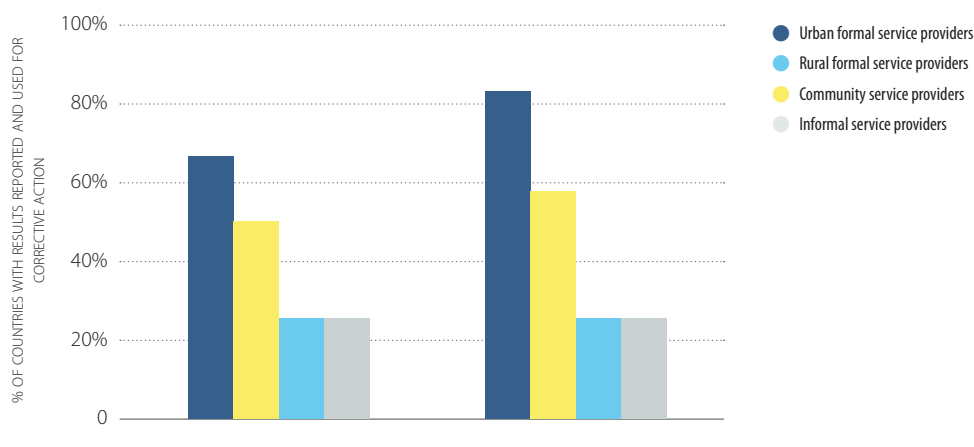
In over 80% of surveyed European Region countries (10 out of 12), formal service providers in urban areas provide the results of their internal (operational) monitoring to regulatory authorities for comparison against required service standards, and are subject to corrective action as needed. However, there is no well-established mechanism of reporting by informal service providers (Figure 6).

Service standards for drinking-water monitored by service providers in the European Region include quality and pressures, however, the exact requirements vary between countries. For sanitation, service requirements include percentage of wastewater collected and treated.

Overall, more European countries have developed a full cycle of monitoring, reporting and corrective action for drinking-water than for sanitation (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Monitoring of service standards by type of service provision. The percentage of countries in which monitoring results are reported to regulatory authorities and used to trigger corrective action is indicated (12 respondent countries)



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