



CAP CONTEXT INDICATORS

2014-2020

20. IRRIGATED LAND

2017 update

CONTEXT INDICATOR 20: IRRIGATED LAND

Irrigated area gives an indication of the pressure of agriculture on water resources. As opposed to irrigable area, which is the area equipped for irrigation and does not show much variation from year to year, irrigated area can in fact vary significantly due to meteorological conditions or the choice of crop, for instance.

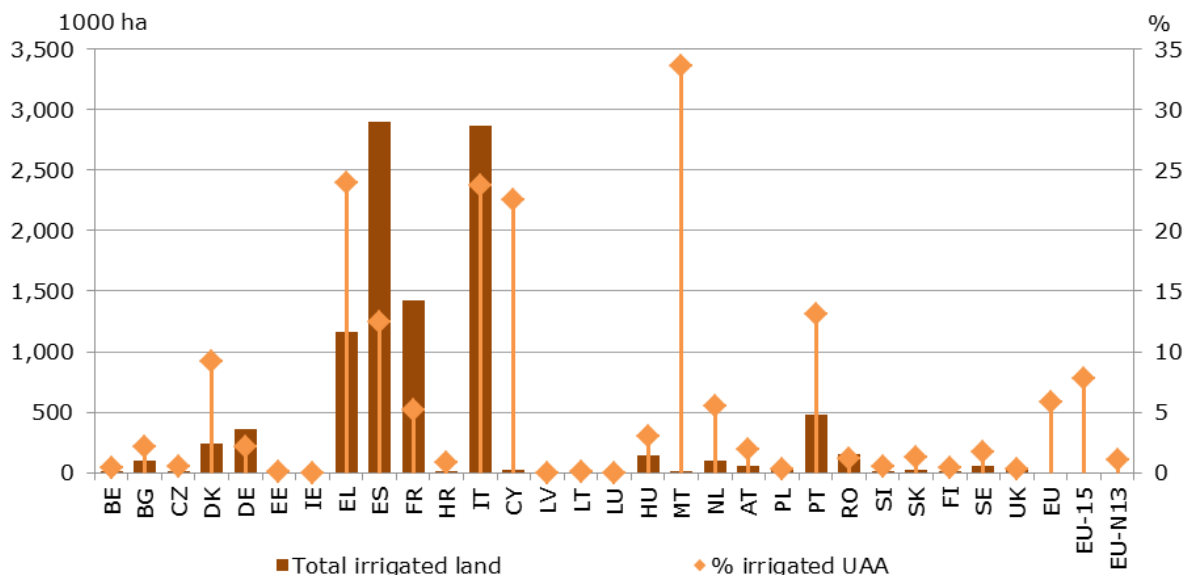
In 2013 the total irrigated area in the European Union was 10.3 million hectares, accounting for 5.8% of the total Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA). There is a wide imbalance between old and new Members States since the former account for 95% of the total irrigated area (9.7 million hectares). This difference is reflected by the share of irrigated area in total UAA, with the old Member States accounting for 7.8% of their total UAA whilst the new ones register a much lower 1%.

Southern European countries like Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Portugal show the highest amounts of irrigated land. Together, these countries account for 86% of the total. As regards the share of UAA, Malta (33.6%) show the highest percentages followed by Greece (23.9%), Italy (23.6%), Cyprus (22.5%), Portugal (13.1%) and Spain (12.4%).

Denmark (9.2%) and the Netherlands (5.5%) are the only exceptions among northern European countries, where the share of irrigated UAA is well below 3%.

Southern European countries account for the highest amount of irrigated lands both in absolute terms and as a share of total UAA

Graph 1 - Total irrigated land (ha) and irrigated land as a share of UAA (%), 2013



Between 2007 and 2013 the share of UAA actually irrigated decreased by 1.1 percent

Between 2007 and 2013, irrigated UAA decreased by 1.1 percent at European level. The old Member States experimented a decrease of 1.37 percent of their irrigated land whilst the new Member States registered an increase of 3.2 per cent. The largest negative change was registered for the United Kingdom (-64.4%), the Netherlands (-49.6%), Slovakia (-37%), Poland (-36.8%) and Latvia (-33.8%). Significant increases were registered for Hungary (+61.1%), Lithuania (+60%), Slovenia (+56.8%), Croatia (+55.8%), Bulgaria (35.8%) and Malta (30.2%).

Graph 2 - Change in the share of irrigated UAA, 2007 to 2013

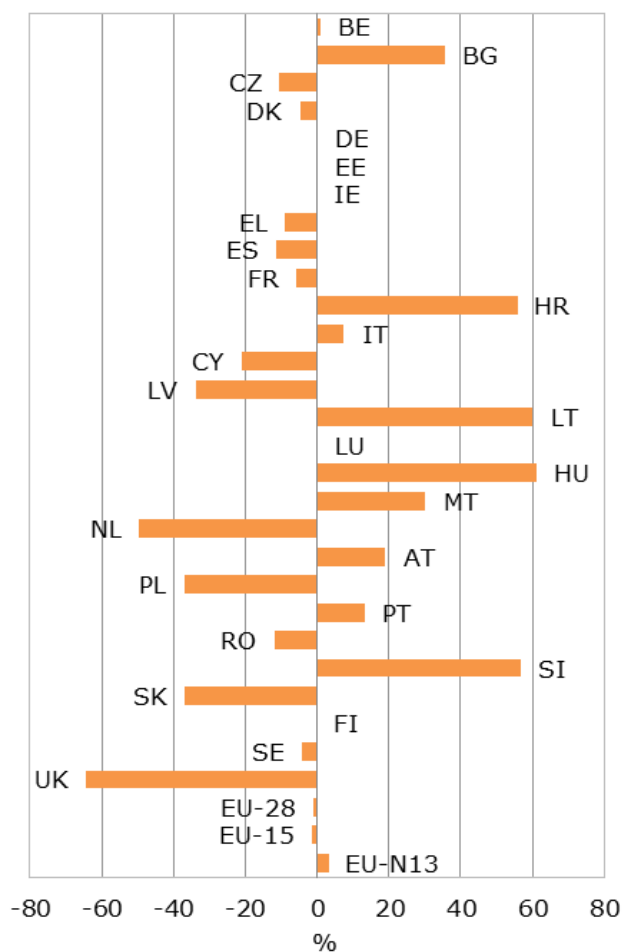
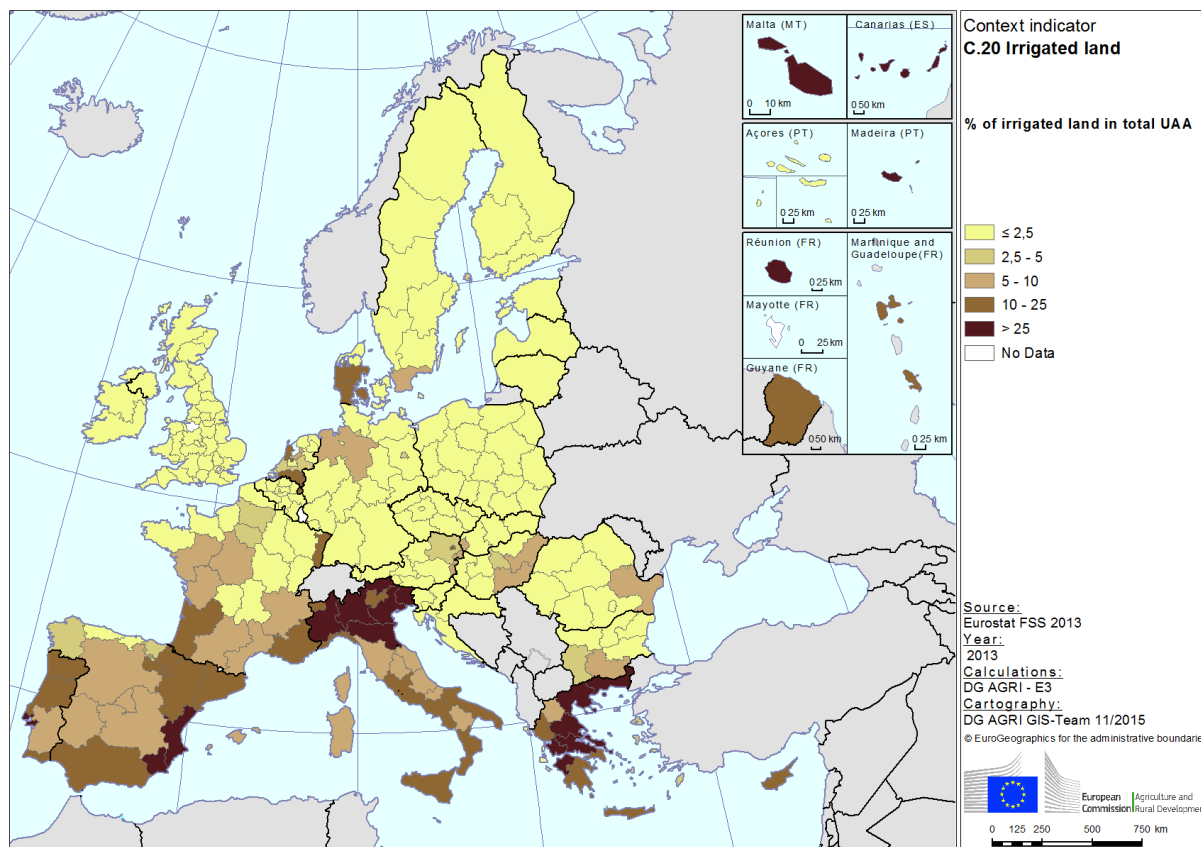


Table 1 – Irrigated land

Indicator	C.20 Irrigated land		Change of irrigated land
	Measurement	Total irrigated land	
Source	Eurostat - Farm Structure Survey		Eurostat - SAPM
Year	2013		2007-2013
Unit	ha	%	%
Country			
Belgium	5,740	0.4	1.1
Bulgaria	98,670	2.1	35.8
Czech Republic	17,840	0.5	-10.4
Denmark	241,980	9.2	-4.8
Germany	365,590	2.2	:
Estonia	310	0.0	:
Ireland	0	0.0	0.0
Greece	1,164,620	24.0	-9.0
Spain	2,898,970	12.4	-11.2
France	1,423,640	5.1	-5.8
Croatia	13,430	0.9	55.8
Italy	2,866,330	23.7	7.5
Cyprus	24,670	22.6	-21.1
Latvia	410	0.0	-33.9
Lithuania	1,600	0.1	60.0
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	141,190	3.0	61.1
Malta	3,660	33.6	30.2
Netherlands	101,770	5.5	-49.7
Austria	51,680	1.9	19.0
Poland	45,550	0.3	-36.8
Portugal	477,160	13.1	13.2
Romania	152,840	1.2	-11.9
Slovenia	2,540	0.5	56.8
Slovakia	24,600	1.3	-37.1
Finland	9,510	0.4	:
Sweden	51,870	1.7	-4.2
United Kingdom	49,130	0.3	-64.4
EU-28	10,235,300 exc. LU	5.9	-1.1
EU-15	9,707,990 exc. LU	7.8	-1.4
EU-N13	527,310	1.1	3.3

Note: EU aggregates are calculated on the basis of data available.

Map 1 - Share of irrigated UAA, 2013



Context indicator	20 - Irrigated land
Comments on methodology and data	Last update done in 2015; no more recent data available.