



**# of inhabitants** 58.9 million

**Surface area** 297 825 km<sup>2</sup>

**GDP per capita** 96 pps [1]

**Significant bodies of water (RBDs)** Alpi Orientali; Appennino Settentrionale; Padono et al

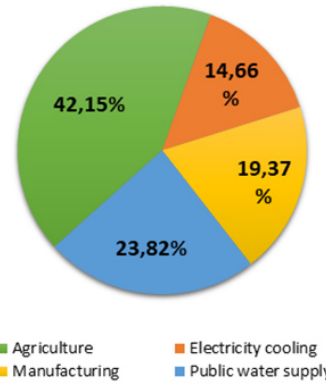
**Polity** democratic republic with a bicameral parliamentary system

**Layers of government** central government; 20 regions; 2 self-governing provinces; 110 provinces; 15 metropolitan areas; 7 960 municipalities

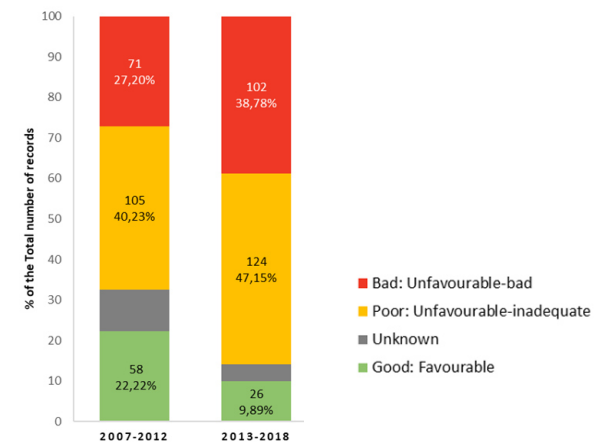
**Legislative powers at the sub-national level** No

**Decentralisation index** 1.7 (13 out of 27) [2]

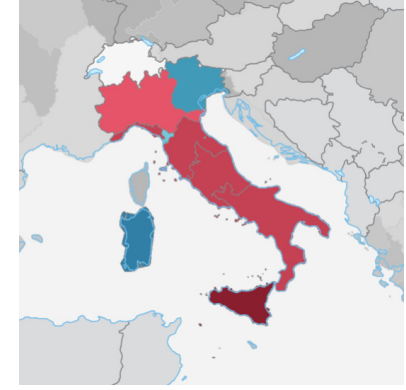
**Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+)** 15.58% (2017) [3]



Water abstraction per sector in Italy - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Italy - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Italy - Source: EEA (2021)

**Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance**

NEXUS PILLARS	POLICY MAKING	POLICY EXECUTION
<b>Water</b>	Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security	Italian Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (ARERA); regional and local authorities
<b>Energy</b>	Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security	Italian Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (ARERA)
<b>Food</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry	Provinces
<b>Ecosystems</b>	Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security	Italian Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (ARERA)

**WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE**

**CHALLENGES**

- Establish conservation objectives and measures for all Natura 2000 sites
- Improve wastewater management infrastructure
- Reduce leakages in water distribution system
- Reduce nitrates pollution from agriculture and clean up nitrates hotspots
- Address high water consumption in Southern regions, particularly from agriculture

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- The Ministry of Ecological Transition was formed in 2021, combining environmental and energy responsibilities plus an Interministerial Committee for Ecological Transition (CITE).
- Italy aims for a strong focus on policy coherence for sustainable development and a culture of sustainability through education, training, information and communication
- The Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan supports improved water management by reducing leakages in the water distribution system and investing in urban wastewater treatment

More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard  
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>  
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%

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