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Hydrology and Earth System Sciences
Discussions

# *Interactive comment on* "Mapping current and future European public water withdrawals and consumption" *by* I. Vandecasteele et al.

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The paper address a relevant scientific issue on spatial differences in water abstractions for public water supply and makes a forecast for water abstractions by 2030.

However, the assumptions behind the projection of water abstraction by 2030 is questionable by keeping the water withdrawal (abstraction) per capita constant. Many European countries had an over the last 10-20 years a reduction in specific water abstraction due to efficiency improvement, leakage reduction and higher water prices. By keeping the specific water abstraction constant the only results that are illustrated are projections in population density.

The spatial mapping of the water abstraction at NUTS3 level by using per country specific abstractions and distribute it by population (density) should have been discussed.



For several (most) European countries water abstraction data are available by administrative regions (NUTS2/NUTS3 level) and these data could have been used to discuss the results.

Several of the cited references are missing from the reference list, some references does not cover the subject. For example, Wriedt et al. 2008 is on water requirement for irrigation while cited as dissagregating "water withdrawals to regional levels".

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 10, 9889, 2013.