

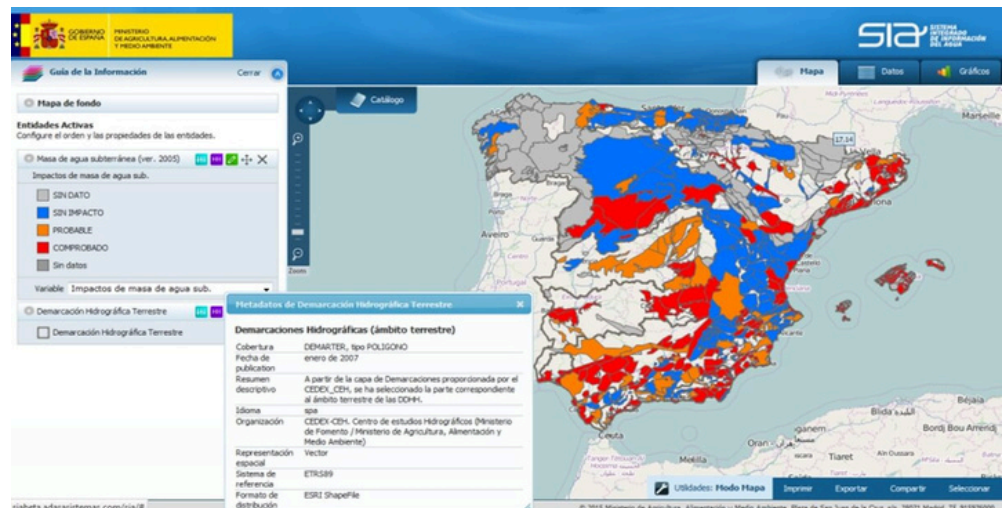
NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM: IMPROVING NATIONAL WATER POLICY AND TRANSPARENCY THROUGH STANDARDISED, MANAGED AND ACCESSIBLE DATA

CHALLENGE

In 2000, the European Parliament passed the Water Framework Directive which set out a timetable for European countries to improve water quality, manage water through basin plans and involve citizens more closely.

To add urgency, Spain suffered its worst drought since 1947 in the years 2004-2005.

The Spanish government realised that nationally comprehensive, reliable and consistent data on water quality and quantity was required.



Adasa has consolidated all water-related information into a single database.

A national Water Information System would allow the implementation of the Directive, ensure the efficient exchange of data across the different levels of government, improve planning and decision making and provide free access to information for public participation.

ADASA'S SOLUTION

Adasa won the contract to **develop the first national database able to integrate and cross-relate all relevant data** on water management in Spain.

Technically challenging, information is **automatically drawn from many dozens of local authorities and water providers** in as many different formats and cadences, processed and stored into a common data model that ensured data consistency and so allowed for aggregation and comparison.

The model **controlled the state of each data source**, its origin and characteristics that would guide its publication.

Four portals were also developed to provide different views of the data, from a summary public view, to more expert geo-spatial presentations.



The Directorate General for Water publishes through the WIS the water data in Spain by means of the 4 tools designed by Adasa.

RESULT

Today, **Spain has a standardised, well managed and easily accessible source** of national water resources and their quality.

Not only does Spain comply with Water Framework Directive, it **has been possible to respond to the changing European information requirements** in a timely and orderly fashion.

The **WIS is an indispensable tool that provides a common source of truth for policy development** and implementation and the coordination between the different competent bodies responsible for managing water in Spain.

And what is especially satisfying for the Water Directorate, the **WIS provides a level of transparency and public accountability** that is the hallmark of modern democratic nations.

CLIENT

The Water Directorate of the Ministry of Environment is the department of the Spanish responsible for resource planning, policy and regulation for water, energy and the environment.

With a Mediterranean climate of hot, dry summers and a history of droughts, Spain is the most arid country in Europe.

With 1230 large dams, it has been said to have more per head of population than any country in the world.