

The European Environment Agency



who we are | what we do | how we do it



Mission

The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public.



Members

Membership of the EEA is comprised of EU Member States; it is also open to countries that are not Member States of the European Union. There are now 32 member countries: the 27 EU Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have applied jointly for membership and have already been cooperating with the EEA for several years.



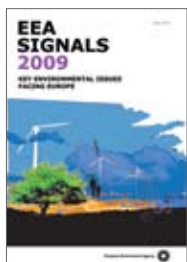
Clients and target groups

The EEA's main stakeholders are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union — addressing in particular the needs of the changing EU presidencies — and the EEA member countries.

In addition to this core group of European and national policy actors, the EEA works with EU institutions including the Economic and Social

Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the EU agencies. Outside the EU framework, the business community, academia, non-governmental organisations and other parts of civil society are also important target groups.

The EEA aims to achieve a two-way dialogue with its clients and target groups in order to identify their information needs correctly and ensure that they can understand and use the information provided by the EEA.



EEA Information Centre

The EEA's Information Centre gives individual responses to external requests for information and is open to the general public every working day.

EEA website

eea.europa.eu is one of the most comprehensive public environmental information services on the internet and the EEA's busiest information channel. The full texts of all reports, summaries and articles are posted on the website for downloading free of charge. Data and information supporting the reports are also available. Increasingly, multimedia content is used to facilitate communication and reach a wider audience.

EEA outputs

The EEA provides assessments and information in the form of reports, short briefings and articles, press material and online products and services. The material covers the state of the environment, current trends and pressures, economic and social driving forces, policy effectiveness, and identification of future trends, outlooks and problems, using scenarios and other techniques.

Summaries of major reports and various articles and press releases are often translated into the official languages of EEA member countries.

Ordering EEA products

Hard copies of EEA sales publications can be ordered from bookshops, from the national sales agents of the EU Publications Office (http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index_en.htm) or from their online bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>). For an up-to-date overview of available publications, please consult the 'products/publications' section on our website.

Please subscribe to the EEA's RSS streams or the notification service to receive an e-mail when new reports are uploaded to the website.

For hard copies of free-of-charge material, please use the request form for enquiries to the EEA Information Centre.

European Shared Environmental Information System

In February 2008, the European Commission proposed to establish a European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) — a web-based system where public information providers share environmental data and information. SEIS will bring together existing data flows and information related to EU environmental policies and legislation and make it easily accessible to both policy-makers and citizens. A major challenge will be to develop SEIS as a platform for two-way communication, enabling users to upload and share information.

Over the coming years, EEA and Eionet will work together with the European Commission and other stakeholders to implement SEIS. We will do this by building on existing reporting systems and tools (Reportnet), initiatives related to e-Government, the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE), Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

'The public, policy-makers, the scientific community and politicians are all benefactors of work carried out by the EEA, and this trend is set to increase; climate change, biodiversity loss, water and air quality are all issues that invoke heated debate. I appreciate that this will only continue if at its heart is a forward-looking EEA, which over the next five years is providing innovative information which is timely, relevant and robust.'

Chairman of the EEA Management Board, Dr Karsten Sach

Organisation

The European Community adopted a regulation establishing the EEA and its European environment information and observation network (Eionet) in 1990, and the EEA began its work in earnest in 1994.

Drawn from across the organisation's 32 member countries, EEA personnel are primarily located at the organisation's headquarters in Copenhagen. Staff members include experts in the fields of environment and sustainable development, information management and communication. Together they work to gather, analyse and interpret information from member countries and disseminate it to stakeholders and citizens within the EU system and beyond.

To support data collection, management and analysis, the EEA has established and manages European topic centres (ETCs) covering the major environmental and operational areas of the EEA's work programme. The topic centres are distributed across the EEA member countries.

Management Board

Chairman
32 country representatives
Two members designated by the European Parliament
Two members representing the European Commission
Observer: Chairman of the Scientific Committee

Scientific Committee

A maximum of 20 scientists designated by the Management Board and covering a range of different environmental topics

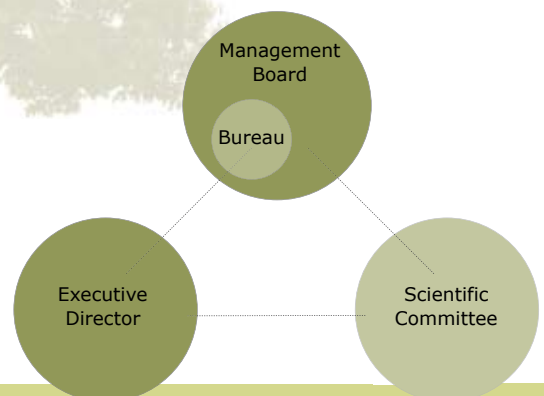
Governance

The EEA Management Board consists of one representative of each of the member countries, two representatives from DG Environment and DG Research of the European Commission and two scientific experts designated by the European Parliament. Among its tasks, the Management Board adopts the EEA's work programmes, appoints the Executive Director and designates the members of the Scientific Committee. The Committee is the advisory body on scientific matters to the Management Board and the Executive Director.

The Executive Director is responsible to the Management Board for implementing the work programmes and for the day-to-day running of the EEA.

The EEA organises its activities in yearly work programmes, overarched by a five-year strategy and multiannual work programme. The current strategy covers the period 2009–2013.

EEA governance



Areas of activity

The EEA aims to:

- support the information requirements of EU and international environmental legislation;
- make assessments of the European environment and evaluate policy effectiveness;
- improve the coordination and dissemination of environmental data and information about Europe.

'Robust, far-sighted policy requires better, more detailed information. We have made a lot of progress in this direction. But we are only beginning to realise the full potential of environmental information. The EEA seeks to drive technology, particularly the internet, in new directions in terms of its interaction with the environment through the Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS).'

Professor Jacqueline McGlade,
EEA Executive Director

Eionet and other EEA partners

The information provided by the EEA comes from a wide range of sources. A network of national environmental bodies was set up to work with the EEA — the European environmental information and observation network (Eionet) — which involves more than 300 institutions across Europe. The EEA is responsible for developing the network and coordinating its activities. To do this, we work closely with national focal points (NFPs) — typically national environment agencies or environment ministries in member countries. They are responsible for coordinating the activities of Eionet at national level.

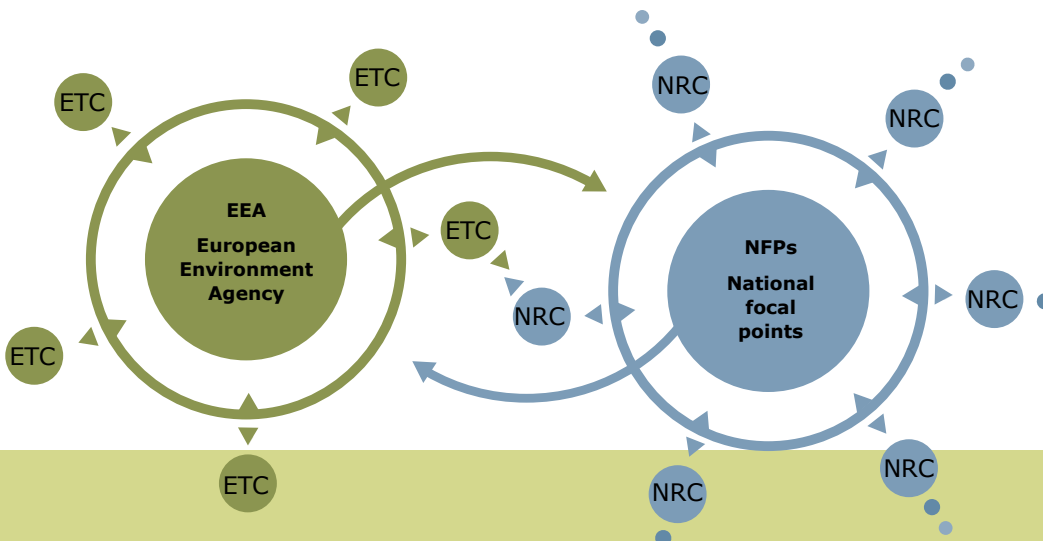
The main tasks for the national focal points are to develop and maintain the national network, identify national information

sources, capture and channel data and information from monitoring and other activities, help the EEA analyse the information collected and assist in communicating EEA information to end-users in member countries.

Other important partners and sources of information for the EEA are European and international organisations, such as the Statistical Office (Eurostat) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The EEA cooperates closely with these organisations in producing information and assessments for its clients and target groups.

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)



'Our goal at the EEA is to provide European decision-makers and citizens with access to timely and relevant information and knowledge to provide a sound basis for environmental policies, to help answer their questions about the environment in their daily lives and to ensure that environmental thinking and education is brought into the mainstream of decision-making.'

EEA Strategy 2009–2013

България Belgique/België Česká republika Danmark Deutschland Eesti Ελλάδα España France Ireland Ísland Italia Κύπρος Latvija Liechtenstein Lietuva Luxembourg Magyarország Malta Nederland Norge Österreich Polska Portugal Romania Slovenija Slovenská republika Suomi/Finland Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera Sverige Türkiye United Kingdom България Belgique/België Česká republika Danmark Deutschland Eesti Ελλάδα España France Ireland Ísland Italia Κύπρος Latvija Liechtenstein Lietuva Luxembourg Magyarország Malta Nederland Norge Österreich Polska Portugal Romania Slovenija Slovenska republika Suomi/Finland Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera Sverige Türkiye United Kingdom България Belgique/België Česká republika Danmark Deutschland Eesti Ελλάδα España France Ireland Ísland Italia Κύπρος Latvija Liechtenstein Lietuva Luxembourg Magyarország Malta Nederland Norge Österreich Polska Portugal Romania Slovenija Slovenská republika Suomi/Finland Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera Sverige Türkiye United Kingdom

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