



# **European Environment Agency**

## **Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2017**

June 2018



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## MANAGEMENT BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The EEA Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2020 — *Expanding the knowledge base for policy implementation and long-term transitions* <sup>(1)</sup> sets out the overall objectives for the work of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Observation and Information Network (Eionet) in line with the provisions of the EEA/Eionet Regulation <sup>(2)</sup>.

The MAWP is delivered through annual work programmes. This Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2017 (CAAR 2017) documents the delivery of the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for the year 2017, which is included in the Agency's Programming Document 2017-2019 <sup>(3)</sup>.

The EEA Management Board welcomes this third CAAR, in accordance with Article 47 of the EEA Financial Regulation <sup>(4)</sup> and the Commission guidelines on the template to be used by decentralised agencies for their CAAR (CAAR guidelines) <sup>(5)</sup>. The CAAR 2017 provides for the EEA's annual activity report, including comprehensive information on the implementation of the Agency's work programme, budget, staff policy plan, and management and internal control systems.

The EEA Management Board analysis and assessments follows the structure of the EEA CAAR 2017:

- Part 1: Achievements of the year
- Part 2:
  - (A) Management
  - (B) External evaluations
- Part 3: Assessments of effectiveness of the internal control systems
- Part 4: Management assurance

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/multiannual-work-programme-2014-2020>.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:126:0013:0022:EN:PDF>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/programming-document-2017-2019>.

<sup>4</sup> Financial Regulation of the European Environment Agency (005/EEA/MB-WP-ADM(FinReg)2014) of 23 April 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission on the guidelines for programming document for decentralised agencies and the template for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for decentralised agencies, C(2014) 9641 final.



## ANALYSIS FROM THE EEA MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board analysis of the EEA's Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2017 (CAAR 2017) includes observations relevant to all parts of the Agency's CAAR 2017.

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### PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

The Board welcomes the comprehensive account of the activities carried out by the EEA in 2017, as well as the overview of performance against the expected outputs defined in EEA's Annual Work Programme for 2017 (AWP 2017).

The Board made the following observations:

- Overall, the EEA delivered well on the targets set out in the AWP 2017, which included a considerable number of high quality deliverables across the EEA's four strategic areas defined in the MAWP 2014–2020.
- The overall delivery rate in 2017 was good, in particular for some strategic areas that were previously challenging. The Board understands that some activities could not be (fully) delivered in 2017 due to a number of circumstances such as limited staff resources, the late delivery of input data, delays in formal reporting by countries, and in a small number of cases not sufficient consultation in defining an achievable product, notably with Commission services. The CAAR 2017 documents sufficiently the internal and external factors causing the delays or partial deliveries, and the Board concluded that the overall performance was high.
- The work delivered included also specific areas of work mainly financed through non-core funds, namely contributions under the Copernicus Programme, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) under Horizon 2020.
- As a networking organisation in the field of environmental information and knowledge, the EEA continued effective cooperation with the Eionet, which includes 33 member and six cooperating countries; as well as extensive cooperation with EU institutions, including the European Commission (EC) and the European Parliament.
- The EEA continued investing in further developing the shared knowledge-base of the EEA and its stakeholders through various initiatives, including active involvement in the Environmental Knowledge Community (EKC), Joint EEA-Scientific Committee seminars on EEA priority areas, and the EEAcademy.



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## PART 2 (A) MANAGEMENT

### **Management Board**

The governance processes ensure an effective functioning of the Management Board and Bureau in line with their mandate set out in the EEA/Eionet Regulation and the EEA Financial Regulation.

In December 2017, the EEA Management Board initiated a review of functioning of the EEA Board and Bureau, in particular in relation to efficiency and strategic impact of the two governance bodies, which is foreseen to be finalised by the end of 2018. It includes a review of the Rules of procedure of the EEA Management Board and Bureau (RoP), established in 2015.

The Board appreciates the transparent and effective governance process applicable to the formal interactions between the Board/Bureau and EEA's senior management team, while also recognising the added value of frequent informal interactions.

The Board is satisfied with its role in the establishment of the EEA's annual and multiannual work programming, which is based on a balancing of the interests of the various stakeholders against the EEA's mandate and available resources for the EEA and Eionet partners.

### **Major developments**

The Board agrees with the future role of the EEA and Eionet in relation to '*Energy Union Governance*', '*Monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Heavy Duty Vehicles*', and the Commission's '*Actions to Streamline Environmental Reporting*'; and welcomes the decision from the Budgetary Authority to make available additional resources to the EEA in relation to the proposed new tasks, following proposals by the European Commission.

EEA has respected the objectives of staff reduction and budget stabilisation foreseen in the 2013 Communication on the programming of human and financial resources for decentralised agencies under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020 <sup>(6)</sup>. The EEA has done it without disrupting any major activity in support of policy development and implementation at EU and national levels. However, the EEA is now facing the impossibility to accept any new task without additional resources.

### **Budgetary, financial and human resources management**

The Board notes that the Agency's initial core budget for 2017 amounted to EUR 41 560 793. The initial budget was reduced by an amendment in relation to adjustments to contributions from European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and member countries of EUR –128 513.

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<sup>6</sup> Communication COM(2013) 519 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Programming of human and financial resources for decentralised agencies 2014-2020, of 10 July 2013, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2013:0519:FIN>.

The Board congratulates the EEA with its budget monitoring efforts resulting in a 99.9 % budget implementation rate of the available core-budget appropriations (EU subsidy and contributions from EFTA, Turkey and Switzerland in 2017).

The non-core budget for 2017 amounted to EUR 29 061 000. The initial budget included resources for HBM4EU and Copernicus Programme activities. A budget amendment related to the Copernicus delegation agreement with DG GROW as part of the implementation of the EUR 87 000 000 over the period 2014–2020 was made later in the year to include additional funding. In December, an amendment to include a new grant – IPA 2018 – was approved.

The Board notes that the Agency achieved an occupancy rate for officials and temporary agents of 99.2 % with 126 staff against 127 posts available and takes note that the last post is reserved for known reduction in the establishment table in 2018.

### ***Audit results and follow-up on recommendations***

The Board is satisfied with the level and frequency of information provided by the EEA's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) to the EEA's Management Board and Bureau.

The Board takes note of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan produced by the Internal Audit Service (IAS)

The Board takes note of the positive opinion from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in relation to the 2016 Annual Accounts.

The Board is pleased with the decision of the European Parliament, as the Discharge Authority, to grant the discharge in respect to the EEA budget, including the decision on the closure of the EEA accounts related to 2015.

The Board is satisfied with the independent assurance provided by the auditors, while noting with concern the resource intensity of the auditing in the Agency.

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## **PART 2 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS**

The Board welcomes the Commission led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet Regulation under the Better Regulation guidelines, which was initiated in 2016 and is foreseen to be finalised by the second half of 2018. The ongoing evaluation differs from former EEA reviews, which were Management Board led.

The Board is satisfied with the Commission's approach regarding the Board's involvement in the Commission led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet Regulation under the Better Regulation guidelines, during 2017.

The Board encourages the Commission to continue its efforts in ensuring that member countries' views and priorities are taken into account, in building on the findings of the 2013 EEA evaluation and in ensuring a thorough analysis of all elements of relevance.



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## PART 3 ASSESSMENTS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

### ***Risk management***

The Management Board notes that appropriate measures are in place to identify, monitor and manage risks.

The external risks in relation to the continuous decrease of core resources, in particular staffing, as well as the uncertainty in relation to the future resource allocations to EEA; are of increasing concern for the Board. The Management Board also notes that resources assigned to the EEA do not always reflect the additional work for the EEA agreed by the European institutions.

The Board recognises that the Agency has been effective in adjusting to the decreasing resources, but that its capacity to further respond adequately to policy developments will depend on an increase in allocated core resources or the discontinuation of present core tasks.

In relation to the Eionet reporting platform Reportnet, the Board welcomes the initiative of the EEA to adjust the e-Reporting platform, Reportnet to the recent reporting evolutions, leading to the significantly increased complexity and volume of the data reported.

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## PART 4 MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

The Management Board takes note of the systems in place to support the Executive Director's declaration of assurance and takes note of the declaration of assurance of the Agency's Executive Director.

The Management Board takes note of the fact that no reservations were made.

## CONCLUSIONS FROM EEA'S MANAGEMENT BOARD

In assessing the CAAR 2017, the Management Board concludes the following:

- The overall performance of the EEA is in line with the objectives included in the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for 2017.
- Sufficient clarity is provided regarding outcomes foreseen in the Agency's AWP and/or Publication Plan for 2017, but which were not, partially or not timely delivered during 2017.
- The consistency between the Agency's corporate planning and reporting documents could be further improved, in particular regarding the EEA Consolidated Annual Activity Report, Programming Documents and publication plan.
- The cooperation with Eionet, including the European Topic Centres (ETCs), has been at the core of the EEA's achievements for 2017.
- The Management Board foresees to increase its engagement with the EEA senior management to ensure the provision of appropriate guidance regarding the Agency's future resource programming and priority setting, in particular in light of the constraints and uncertainty faced by EEA beyond 2018. These include the end of the 7th Environmental Action



Programme, the end of the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework, the end of the current Copernicus Programme, the insecurities of the consequences of the 'Brexit', the outcome of the Commission led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet in terms of impacts on strategic direction and priority setting.

- While the governance processes ensure an effective functioning of the Management Board and Bureau, the Board recognises the need for a review of the respective roles of both governance bodies, in particular in relation to efficiency and strategic impact of the two bodies. The Board initiated such a review at the end of 2017, which is foreseen to be finalised by the end of 2018.
- The ongoing policy development in relation to the Energy Union, opens an opportunity for the EEA and Eionet to engage further on the integration and assessment of climate mitigation and energy work.
- The Board welcomes the Commission funding of the enhanced e-Reporting platform Reportnet 3.0, in the context of the Commission's 'Actions to Streamline Environmental Reporting'; which will significantly enhance the data reporting and sharing for EEA and Eionet.
- The continued reduction in EEA staff resulting from the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014–2020 poses a risk for the Agency to deliver its MAWP 2014–2020 to the full, while also limiting the EEA's capacity to respond to policy developments.
- The budgetary, financial and human resources management during 2017 have been assessed as an example of sound management.
- The Internal Audit Capability has managed all EEA audit activities adequately and informed the Board appropriately on audit outcomes.
- The Commission led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet Regulation under the Better Regulation guidelines constitutes an opportunity for all stakeholders to engage in informed reflection on key elements of importance for further strategic orientation of the Agency.
- Overall, the EEA has appropriate measures in place to identify, monitor and manage risks, although the risks associated with the continued decrease in resources have become increasingly difficult to manage.
- EEA systems are in place to support the Executive Director's declaration of assurance and no reservations were made.

Finally, the members of the EEA Management Board would like to thank all EEA staff for their efforts over the course of the year, as well as EEA stakeholders for assisting the EEA in the delivery of its work programme, and in particular:

- all partners in the Eionet network in the member and cooperating countries, including the National Focal Points (NFPs), national reference centres (NRCs), and the six European Topic Centres (ETCs) in the areas of air and climate change, biological diversity, climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, water, land use and spatial information and analysis, and waste and materials in a green economy;

- the EEA Scientific Committee members; and
- all thematic experts and bodies providing support to the work of the EEA and Eionet.

Adopted by the Bureau by Written Procedure on 8 June 2018

*[Signed]*

Laura Burke  
Chair, EEA Management Board



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goals of the EEA are to provide European decision-makers and citizens with access to timely and relevant information and knowledge to provide a sound basis for environmental policies.

Structuring this work were the pillars of EU and international legislation, agreements and aspirations, such as the 7th EAP *Living well, within the limits of our planet*, which is the EU's framework for a sustainable future.

In this context, the EEA's activities in 2017 are clearly represented in the examples below, which illustrate the unique position that the EEA and Eionet occupy in the science-policy arena and in the wider community. From putting air quality information at Europe's fingertips to providing a range of mapping applications and an overview of 25 years of land cover change to a thesaurus and explaining environmental phrases, the Agency again strengthened its role as a committed knowledge actor contributing to supporting policy implementation towards systemic, long-term solutions.

Indeed, a recurring theme of 2017 was the provision of unique views of the European environment and its status in innovative ways that match the needs of our users. This can range from the groundbreaking to the mainstream as we continue to keep Europe updated on the state of our environment.

In January, for example, EEA media activities around the report *Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe* resulted in more than 1 000 news articles. The event was livestreamed via our social media channels.

In November, the European Air Quality Index (<http://airindex.eea.europa.eu/>), launched at the Clean Air Forum in Paris, began to provide citizens and public authorities with an easy way to check the current air quality across Europe's cities and regions.

The Index is based on up-to-date air quality data, which are officially reported every hour by the EEA's member countries from more than 2 000 air quality monitoring stations and complemented — as necessary — by modelled air quality data from the EU's Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS). The Index incorporates data for up to five important air pollutants and uses a simple 'traffic light' code to present a qualitative measure of the overall air quality at the individual station level. A more detailed picture of the current measured values for the pollutants of interest can also be accessed, along with a historical picture of air quality over the previous 100 days at each measurement station.

Following its launch, the Air Quality Index received significant media and public attention. The EEA's website experienced its highest peak of visits and hits recorded to date, while a number of months on from the launch, around 10 000 unique visitors were visiting the Index each week. The Index also provides user-friendly access to other air quality information published by the EEA, including updated country fact sheets that describe the general air quality picture in the corresponding member countries.



Our success at making data available in forms that our users need was clearly demonstrated in 2017, as the data and maps section became the most visited section of the EEA website with 829 000 sessions. The EEA web map servers (DiscoMap) received more than 175 000 000 requests to view maps produced by the EEA.

The marine part of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE-Marine), launched in October by Commissioner Vella, is another infrastructure for sharing information on the marine environment at the European scale in support of ocean governance and ecosystem-based management.

The EEA Scientific Committee, which assists the Management Board and the Executive Director of the EEA in providing advice on scientific matters of relevance to the Agency's work, held a seminar on Chemicals for a Sustainable Future at the EEA in Copenhagen. The seminar focused on the knowledge base for identifying, assessing and governing impacts of chemicals on humans and the environment. Participants engaged in a discussion on current and anticipated chemical risks and hazards across society and how these can be minimised. In doing so, the expectation was to guide the EEA on where to focus knowledge developments in this domain in the coming years.

This seminar was developed under the umbrella of the EEAcademy, a learning hub for EEA staff and Eionet partners, together with the EEA Scientific Committee and EU institutional partners, interested in developing competencies on environmental sustainability issues at the European and international levels. The academy once again offered a range of presentations in 2017.

As well as innovating, the EEA is very careful to ensure continuity through its work. In this way, the report *Landscapes in transition — an account of 25 years of land cover change in Europe* highlights our work with the Corine (Coordination of Information on the Environment) programme, which has been running since 1985.

The *Landscapes in transition* report shows how the study of land use changes, especially changes in land cover, provides clues to the drivers of the transitions that landscape is currently going through. New data on land cover change in Europe up to 2012 show that total land cover change increased between the periods 2000-2006 and 2006-2012.

The *Environmental indicator report 2017* published at the end of the year provided an overview of the EU's progress towards 29 environmental policy objectives that are linked to the three key priority objectives of the 7th EAP.

This balance of curating our knowledge resources while continually co-developing information and analysis increasingly occurs via networking activities such as the EKC, whereby key European institutional actors cooperate and develop knowledge innovation projects (KIPs).

This type of cooperation is at the heart of what we do, and the AWP 2017, which underpinned efforts to achieve our goals in 2017, was undertaken successfully thanks to the efforts of our Eionet partners (national focal points, national reference centres and European topic centres), cooperating countries and a wide range of partner institutions, including the European Commission's directorate-generals, government departments and agencies, international conventions, UN bodies, the scientific technical and research communities, the private sector and civil society.

Further details of the 2017 achievements are listed in Part 1 for each of the four strategic areas (SAs) of the Agency's Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2020.



## INTRODUCTION

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND ITS MISSION

#### BACKGROUND — EEA/EIONET REGULATION

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union (EU). The Agency's main task is to provide sound, independent information on the environment. The Agency is a major information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy and also for the general public.

The [EEA/Eionet Regulation](#) establishing the EEA was adopted by the EU in 1990 <sup>(7)</sup>. It came into force in late 1993, immediately after the decision was taken to locate the EEA in Copenhagen, where it has been operational since 1994. The EEA's founding regulation also established the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet). The EEA's mandate established in the EEA/Eionet Regulation is:

- to help the European Community and the EEA member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability;
- to coordinate Eionet.

#### KEY GOALS 2014-2020

The nature of environmental challenges has evolved over decades, requiring parallel adaptations to information flows and their assessment. Looking ahead at the challenges Europe is likely to face in the coming decades, there is a need to maintain and improve the knowledge base that supports established and developing policies across the policy cycle, while speeding up the adaptation of environmental information flows and assessments in order to support transition objectives.

Continuously emerging, new and updated scientific insights into environment and climate issues improve the knowledge base for environment and climate policies. To fulfil its science-policy interface role, the EEA is working closely with the Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation (RTD), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the EEA's Scientific Committee and others seeking to help inform decisions made in relation to the EU framework research programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020 and earlier), which will play a major role in developing such insights.

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(7) The EEA was formally established in 1990 by Council Regulation No 1210/90. This regulation was subsequently amended by Council Regulation No 933/1999 and then again by Regulation No 1641/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council. In the interests of clarity and rationality, the regulation was codified by Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009.

Based on this and the mandate set out in the EEA/Eionet Regulation, the key goals of the EEA for the period of the Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2020 are as follows:

- to be the prime source of knowledge at the European level for informing the implementation of European and national environment and climate policies;
- to be a leading knowledge centre for the knowledge needed to support long-term transition challenges and objectives;
- to be the lead organisation at the European level that facilitates knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in the field of the environment and climate change.

To secure the knowledge and evidence-base for the developing EU policy framework, the MAWP is structured around the following four strategic areas (SAs):

- Strategic area 1: Informing policy implementation (SA1);
- Strategic area 2: Assessing systemic challenges (SA2);
- Strategic area 3: Knowledge co-creation, sharing and use (SA3);
- Strategic area 4: EEA management (SA4).

## EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### EIONET — COOPERATION ACROSS EUROPE

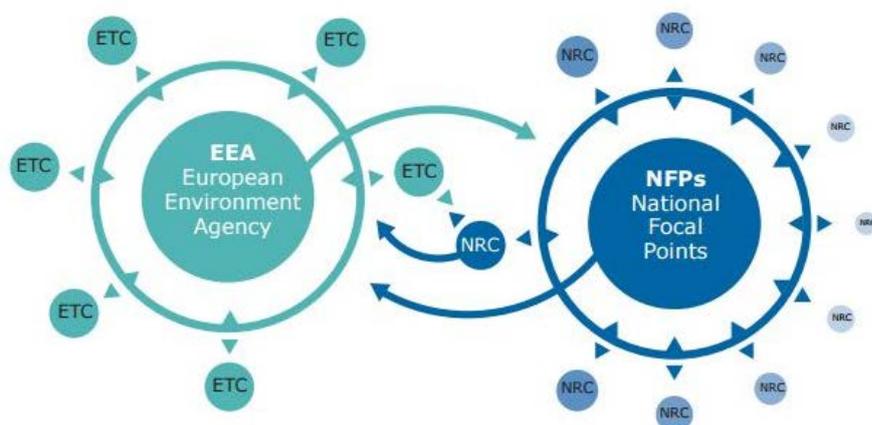
The European Environment Information and Observation Network ([Eionet](#)) has its origins in the EEA/Eionet Regulation. Eionet is a partnership network of the EEA and its member and cooperating countries.

Eionet consists of the EEA itself, six European topic centres (ETCs) and a network of around 1 500 experts from 39 countries <sup>(8)</sup> in up to 400 national bodies that deal with environmental information. Country experts are designated as national focal points (NFPs), typically national environment agencies or environment ministries, and national reference centres (NRCs).

Through the EEA/Eionet Regulation, the EEA was established as a network organisation, which is responsible for developing the network and coordinating the network's activities.

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<sup>(8)</sup> The 33 member countries include the 28 European Union Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The six cooperating (West Balkan) countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99. See also the [EEA's web page on 'Countries and Eionet'](#).



The six ETCs cover the following areas:

- Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation (ETC/ACM);
- Biological Diversity (ETC/BD);
- Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA);
- Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters (ETC/ICM);
- Urban, Land and Soil Systems (ETC/ULS);
- Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE).

More information on the network is available on the EEA's web page on 'Countries and Eionet' and in the brochure *Eionet connects – Sharing environmental information in Europe*.

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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Most environmental issues are of a transboundary nature and many have a global scope. They can be addressed effectively only through international cooperation. The tasks of the EEA include promoting the incorporation of European environmental information into international environmental monitoring programmes, cooperating with regional and international bodies and programmes and with countries. In 2016, the EEA adopted a Framework for International Engagement to facilitate planning and carrying out its international activities.

### **Regional cooperation**

The EEA cooperates with various regional processes and bodies that cover geographical areas with close or transboundary geographic or geo-political links to the EU, and where there are well-defined EU policies.

In addition to the cooperation within the Eionet network, the EEA also cooperates and fosters partnerships with its neighbours and other countries and regions in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), supported through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). In particular, two multiannual projects (2016-2020) underpin the EEA's activities with the six Eastern Partnership and nine Southern Mediterranean partner countries to support environmental protection and strengthening of environmental governance. The ENI activities in 2017 successfully



continued in line with the EEA Framework for International Engagement and in close cooperation with key international partners and organisations.

Cooperation at the regional level includes the following organisations: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

### ***Cooperation with international organisations***

The EEA also cooperates with international organisations at global and regional levels, in areas of common interest and in the context of the EEA's MAWP 2014-2020.

Cooperation at the global level includes the following organisations: United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the secretariats of global conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), the framework for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is now being made more concrete at the national, regional and global levels. The EEA has a particular role to play at the regional level in contributing to the monitoring and review work, including the monitoring of the SDGs at the EU level. This work is being carried out in close cooperation with the European Commission and EU Member States.

## CONDITIONS AND CHALLENGES UNDER WHICH THE EEA OPERATES

### CONDITIONS

The following section includes a concise summary of the main conditions for the Agency's operation, as defined in the EEA/Eionet Regulation.

The EEA is a decentralised agency of the EU. The Agency is set up as an independent body with its own legal personality and for an indefinite period. EEA funding consists of an EU subsidy (subject to authorisation by the budgetary authority) and payments for services rendered. The EU Financial Regulation (FR) (and its Rules of Application) and the Framework Financial Regulation apply to the Agency. The European Parliament is the Agency's discharge authority.

With respect to human resources, the Staff Regulations define the overarching principles for EEA staff, and implementing provisions have to be adopted in agreement with the European Commission. Furthermore, the establishment and mandate for both the EEA Management Board and the Scientific Committee are defined, as well as the responsibilities and accountability of the Executive Director as the legal representative of the Agency.

Finally, the EEA's founding regulation includes the provision that the Agency is open to countries that are not members of the EU, but for which there are agreements with the EEA in the context of Article 300 of the Treaty.

## CHALLENGES FOR 2017

### ***Misalignment between the estimated budget used as a basis for activities set in the Programming Document (PD) 2017-2019 and the adopted EEA budget***

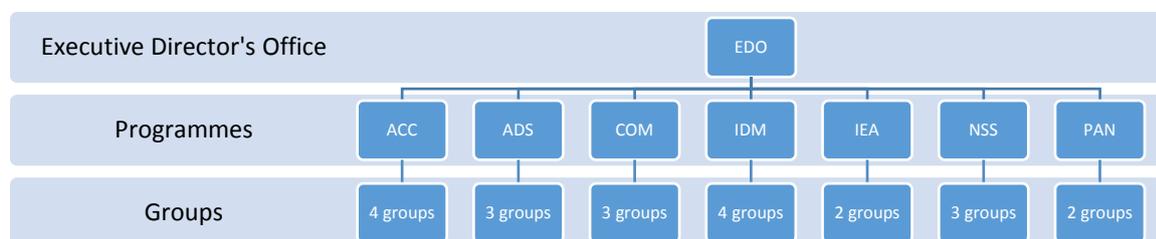
The establishment of the EEA budget for 2017 followed the procedures laid down in the Financial Framework Regulation for decentralised bodies (FFR). This includes the sending of a provisional draft estimate of its revenue and expenditure by 31 January 2016. The final EEA budget, including the amount of the EU contribution, and the establishment plan were adopted by the budgetary authority by the end of 2016. The revenue decreased by EUR 126 704 and staffing was reduced by three temporary agent posts.

In 2017, it was particularly challenging to keep the operational budget at the same level as in the previous year. Despite the reduction in the establishment table, the salary adjustments for the years 2016 and 2017 exceeded what was used as the basis for the EU subvention request. Furthermore, the EEA staff population is on average gaining seniority (and hence there is an increase in average salary), as most of the vacant temporary agent posts are used to meet the reduction target. These two factors required an extraordinary effort to follow up on staffing/recruitment throughout the year.

## ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

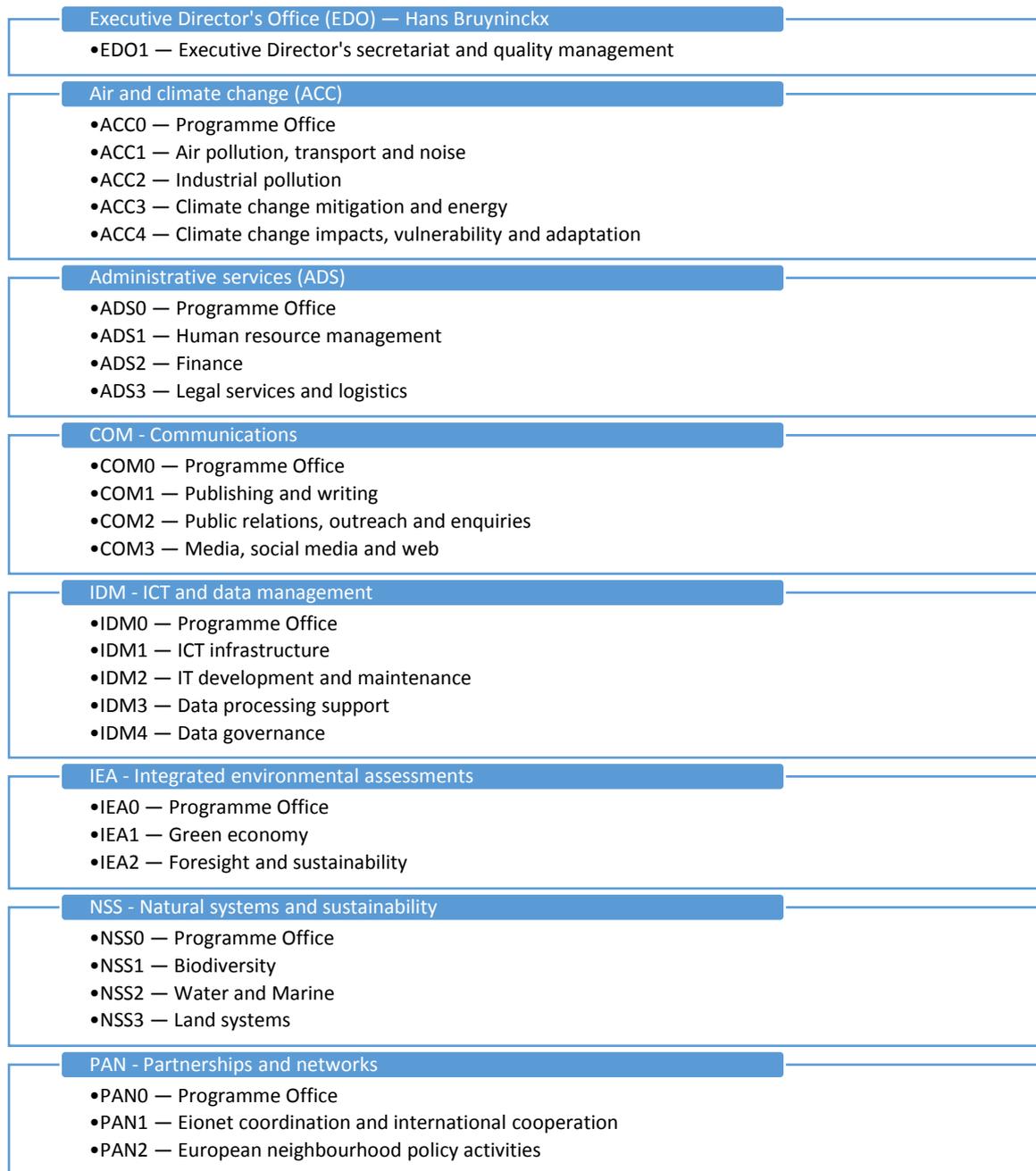
The EEA's organisational structure includes three hierarchical levels:

- Executive Director's Office (EDO), led by the EEA Executive Director;
- seven programmes, led by Heads of Programme;
- 22 groups (of which one is under EDO), led by Heads of Group.



Staff members reporting directly to the Executive Director or a Head of Programme, and who are not line managers, are included in the EEA's organigram (see also Annex 3) in the relevant Programme Office.

The organisation structure within the Executive Directorate's Office and the programmes is as follows



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

In 2004, the EEA developed an environmental management system to manage its own impact on the environment. It was verified by external auditors for the first time in the spring of 2005. Detailed information is published on the EEA web page on environmental management (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/emas>).



## PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

Part 1 of this Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) for 2017 provides an overview of the achievements in 2017 and is structured around the Agency's four strategic areas (SAs), as set out in the EEA's MAWP 2014-2020. The achievements for 2017 are placed into the context of the multiannual goals, key objectives and performance indicators from the MAWP 2014-2020 and are reported in comparison with the key activities and expected outputs defined in the EEA's Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2017.

### 1.1 INFORMING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION (SA1)

#### ***Multiannual goal***

Improve the content, accessibility and use of European-level environmental information by providing policy-relevant feedback to long-established and emerging policy frameworks, objectives and targets through reporting on progress in recognised environmental themes across the driving forces-pressures-state-impact-responses (DPSIR) assessment chain.

#### ***Multiannual key objectives***

- Tailor, harmonise and speed up data flows (including near-real-time where appropriate), and their integration into information systems for the production of indicators and assessments, in order to be relevant and up to date by, in particular, providing targeted technical and methodological assistance to reporting obligations and information requirements under the legislative processes and related Structured Implementation and Information Frameworks (SIIFs).
- Timely provision, analysis and dissemination of data sets, indicators and assessments across the policy cycle for the themes and sectors of most relevance for achieving environmental policy implementation and effectiveness analysis at different geographical scales.
- Close important information gaps by further developing concepts, analytical methods and indicators to better understand the inter-linkages between different themes and sectors in support of enhanced policy coherence.
- Mainstream new data and information needs through incorporating the outcomes of the EU Framework Research and Innovation Programme for 2007-2013 (EU-FP7) and Horizon 2020 research projects, as well as those of similar ventures at national and international levels.
- Continuous active engagement with stakeholders as a policy-science interface across themes and sectors to ensure that relevant findings are taken up and used, thereby contributing to the achievement of a significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment.

***Multiannual key performance indicators***

- Measurable uptake of EEA findings in policy documents.
- Measurable and acknowledged contribution to reporting processes under EU comitology and multilateral agreements.
- Timely and reliable delivery of annual briefings and workshops as well as assessments, indicators, databases and information services based on a timetable agreed with EEA stakeholders.

***Key activities 2017***

- Continue support and update assessments on air pollution.
- Support the further streamlining of reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in the context of better regulation.
- Publish updated assessments on renewable energy, energy efficiency and progress by the EU Member States and EEA member countries towards meeting climate mitigation and energy targets in support of the developing Energy Union Framework.
- Update and improve the European Climate Change Adaptation platform to support the European Commission's 2017 review of the 2013 EU climate change adaptation strategy.
- Prepare and publish 2017/2018 EEA State of Water reports supporting the second round of evaluation of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive.
- Report on the potential ecological coherence of marine protected areas in support of the Marine Framework Strategy Directive's implementation agenda.
- Operationalise the SEBI 2020 (Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators) to support the review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and continue support to the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) activity.
- Publish the first European accounts on the extent and conditions of ecosystems, and contribute further to the Knowledge Innovation Project on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting (KIP-INCA).



## AIR POLLUTION, TRANSPORT AND NOISE (SA1.1)

### **Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the areas of air pollution, transport and environment, and noise by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Data reported by EEA member countries collected, processed, quality-assured, stored and disseminated according to agreed deadlines in a timely manner.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of reported information and with direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy effectiveness assessments, of air pollution, transport and environment and noise, of interactions between various environmental areas and policies, and of impacts on health, the environment, climate change and the economy.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Air quality in Europe 2017 report	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Air Quality, and Mitigation of Air Pollution and Climate Change, DG ENV, WHO	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC), National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284)	Done
Annual Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism report (TERM)	Reports and assessments	EP, DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Environment and Transport	Transport White Paper (COM/2011/0044); other relevant Regulations and Directives	Done
Noise in Europe 2017 report	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Noise, DG ENV, WHO	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Done. Published as an ETC/ACM technical paper



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual reports: reporting status under NEC Directive; EU emissions inventory report under LRTAP Convention	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG ENV, MS	National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284); LRTAP Convention and its protocols	Done
Annual reports: Monitoring CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars and vans; Fuel Quality Directive reporting	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, MS	Regulations on CO <sub>2</sub> from passenger cars (No 443/2009) and vans (no 510/2011); Fuel Quality Directive (2009/30/EC)	Done
Technical studies supporting air pollution, transport and noise assessment reports	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC), Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Done
Updated country fact sheets on air pollution and noise	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Air Quality, and Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG ENV	EC Air quality package, Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284), Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Done
Updated indicators at European level on air pollutant emissions, air quality, noise, transport and environment	Indicators	Eionet NRCs Air Quality, Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, Environment and Transport, and Noise, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG AGRI LRTAP Convention CCE, WHO	EEA, Europe 2020 Semester; resource efficiency scoreboard; EU SDS	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated compilations of air quality data sets, including for cities	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Air quality, MS, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, DG REGIO	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), Air Quality Implementing Decision (2011/850/EU)	Done
Updated compilations of air pollutant emission data	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, MS, DG ENV, DG JRC, EMEP, CEIP	National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284), LRTAP Convention and its Protocols	Done
Updated compilations of data of CO <sub>2</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from new cars and vans	Data and maps	MS, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC	Regulations on the monitoring of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars and light-duty vehicles (443/2009, 510/2011), Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284)	Done
Updated compilations of noise data	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Noise, MS, DG ENV	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Done
Updated air quality maps for EEA member countries	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Air quality, DG ENV, EMEP	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	Done
Annual Eionet workshops on air pollutant emissions, on air quality, on transport and environment, and on noise	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Air quality, Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, Environment and Transport, Noise	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Partially done. All planned meetings were held except for Eionet NRCs on environment and transport which was cancelled due to the mid-year departure of the staff member leading this network



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Provision of policy support	Contributions and joint products	European Parliament, European Commission (DG ENV, DG CLIMA), LRTAP Convention, EEA member countries	Air Quality Directives and implementing provisions, National Emission Ceilings Directive, LRTAP Convention and its protocols, Environmental Noise Directive, Regulations for monitoring of CO <sub>2</sub> from new passenger cars and light-duty vehicles etc.	Done
Cooperation with Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS), including CAMS input into an online European Air Quality Index and participation in relevant CAMS meetings	Contributions and joint products	CAMS/ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts)	Copernicus Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.1)**

#### **Air pollution**

A priority in 2017 was the ongoing support provided to countries and the European Commission with data reporting obligations, i.e. the submission of data and information under the EU Air Quality Directives (via the air quality, AQ, e-Reporting system), the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

A series of new online air pollution data viewers was released, providing users with improved access to air quality and emissions data, including details of air quality management plans and programmes.

To further improve public access to air quality information, a new European Air Quality Index was launched at the Clean Air Forum in November 2017. A joint development with the European Commission, the index allows users to check the current air quality across Europe's cities and regions based on measurements from more than 2 000 air quality monitoring stations and data from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS).

The annual report, *Air quality in Europe – 2017 report*, presenting the latest information on Europe's air quality status and including impacts on health and the environment, was launched at



the European Week of Regions and Cities at an event co-hosted with the European Committee of the Regions. The report was complemented by new online air pollution country fact sheets.

The annual *EU CLRTAP emission inventory* report highlighted the increase in ammonia emissions again, already reported by several countries in 2015. The inventory was provided to the European Commission for onward official submission to the UNECE LRTAP Convention. A briefing on the annual NEC Directive reporting status focused on the attainment of the 2010 national emission ceilings by Member States.

The EEA continued to support the implementation of legislation across a number of areas, including support to the European Court of Auditors in its examination of the effectiveness of EU air policy, and through regular participation at meetings of the Air Quality Expert Group, CLRTAP/European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) Steering Body and Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, Sixth WHO Ministerial meeting on Environment and Health, and the expert networks FAIRMODE and AQUILA. Meetings of the Eionet NRCs for air quality and NRCs for mitigation of air pollution and climate change were held during the year.

## Transport

The EEA's annual *Transport And Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) report* provides a transitions-based assessment of two transport modes important to the functioning of Europe's mobility system — international aviation and shipping. A new separate TERM briefing provided an indicator-based assessment to track the progress of the transport sector in meeting its related policy targets and objectives.

The report *Monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars and vans in 2016* provided an overview of the performance of car and van manufacturers with regard to meeting their CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction commitments. The average collective CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from cars and vans registered in 2016 were well below the respective 2015 and 2017 targets, although it is now widely accepted that the laboratory-based measurements on which official reporting were based do not accurately reflect real-world driving performances. The report *Fuel quality in the EU in 2016* provided the annual summary of the volume and quality of road transport fuels sold in the EU.

## Noise

Noise activities in 2017 focused on supporting countries with the third reporting round of strategic noise maps under the Environmental Noise Directive.

Updated estimates of the number of people exposed to environmental noise pollution in Europe were published in a web briefing and presented at the European Commission's 'Noise in Europe' conference in April 2017. This was accompanied by a series of updated country fact sheets on noise, presenting key statistics about environmental noise reported by EEA member countries. As a result of incomplete reporting, it was not possible to prepare a fact sheet for all EEA member countries. A new data viewer facilitating public access to noise exposure maps reported by countries was published.



The Eionet NRC Noise meeting in 2017 focused on providing participants with an update of European and international developments, as well as exchanging information on national studies and projects being undertaken at the local level to abate noise pollution.

## 2017 publications (SA1.1)

### Air pollution

EEA Report No 9/2017; *EU emission inventory report 1990-2015 under the UNECE Convention on LRTAP*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/annual-eu-emissions-inventory-report>

EEA Report No 13/2017; *Air quality in Europe — 2017 report*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2017>

EEA Briefing No 5/2017; *NEC Directive reporting status 2017 — The need to reduce air pollution in Europe*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/nec-directive-reporting-status-2017-1>

Joint report; *Annual joint EMEP/EEA inventory review report*;  
[http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip\\_home1/ceip\\_home/review\\_proces\\_intro/review\\_reports/](http://www.ceip.at/ms/ceip_home1/ceip_home/review_proces_intro/review_reports/)

Country fact sheets; *Air pollution* (33 country fact sheets);  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/country-fact-sheets>

### Transport

EEA Report No 19/2017; *Monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars and vans in 2016*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/co2-emissions-new-cars-and-vans-2016>

EEA Report No 22/2017; *Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism report (TERM) 2017: aviation and shipping — Impacts on Europe's environment*  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/term-report>

EEA Report No 24/2017; *Fuel quality in the EU in 2016*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/fuel-quality-in-the-eu>

EEA Briefing No 11/2017; *Monitoring progress of Europe's transport sector towards its environment, health and climate objectives*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/transport/term/monitoring-progress-of-europes-transport>

### Noise

EEA Briefing No 1/2017; *Managing exposure to noise in Europe*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-exposure-to-noise-in-europe>

Country fact sheets; *Noise in Europe* (26 country fact sheets);  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/noise/sub-sections/noise-fact-sheets/noise-fact-sheets-1>



## INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION (SA1.2)

### **Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of emissions from industrial sources by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Data reported by EEA member countries (and/or economic operators) collected, processed, quality assured, stored and disseminated according to agreed deadlines in a timely manner.
- EEA member countries and industry assisted effectively in their data reporting towards the European Commission, international bodies and the EEA; reporting consolidated and streamlined where possible; support for capacity-building provided as needed.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of reported information and with direct policy support.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy effectiveness assessments, of industrial pollution and impacts on the environment, health and economy and of co-benefits of policy measures undertaken in these areas.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual internal EU reports (confidential) on ODS and F-gases, EU submission on ODS to the Montreal Protocol	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, single contact points in Member States (MS), companies	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol	Done
Annual technical reports on the trade and production of ODS and F-gases	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, single contact points in MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol	Done
Annual technical report on the application of the EU ETS in Member States	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, MS	EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC)	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated indicators at European level on ODS and F-gases, revision of indicator on F-gases and further development of the industrial pollution indicator framework	Indicators	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, MS, Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, Montreal Protocol, relevant industry stakeholders	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol, Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), Large Combustion Plant Directive (2001/80/EC), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), industrial emissions policy area	Done
Country fact sheets on environmental pressures from industry	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution and other relevant thematic NRCs, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, MS, relevant industry stakeholders	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), Large Combustion Plant Directive (2001/80/EC), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), industrial emissions and relevant thematic areas (such as air pollution, water, waste, policy energy)	Done
Updated compilation and publication of E-PRTR data sets (including publication on E-PRTR website hosted by EEA)	Data and maps Information systems	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, MS, E-PRTR Committee members, UNECE PRTR Secretariat, OECD PRTR Task force	E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Updated compilation and publication of LCP data	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, MS	LCP Directive (2001/80/EC)	Done
Updated (confidential) compilation ODS and F-gases provided	Data and maps	DG CLIMA, single contact points in MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC)	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to development of IED reporting framework and integrated E-PRTR & LCP reporting framework, and to the update of the E-PRTR website	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, Eionet, MS reporters	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Annual Eionet workshop on industrial pollution	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Provision of policy support	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, UNECE PRTR Protocol, UN Montreal Protocol, OECD	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), LCP Directive (2001/80/EC), Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), PRTR Protocol, Montreal Protocol, E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Streamlining of industrial emissions data collection processes under IED	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, IEEG members, E-PRTR expert group	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), UNECE PRTR Protocol, LRTAP Convention, National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC)	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.2)**

A number of data collection processes were managed, namely the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and the Large Combustion Plants Inventory, reporting on the implementation of the Emissions Trading (ETS) Directive as well as on ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated gases. This work was performed with the support and involvement of the EEA's member countries. The annual report 2017 for 2016 on the implementation of the ETS Directive was the last one prepared by EEA. Against the general background of declining resources for the EEA and

the subsequent need to actively prioritise tasks, discussions were held with DG CLIMA concerning EEA's future role for this specific activity. From 2017 onward, the European Commission has taken back responsibility for coordinating the preparation of the annual report.

Building on data work in the industrial pollution area, two new indicators on industrial pollution were published in April, one assessing the number and structure of the large combustion plant (LCP) sector in Europe, and a second addressing emissions of air pollutants from LCPs. A web briefing published in July provided details of Europe's largest emitting facilities for selected pollutants as well as a detailed assessment of emissions from LCPs.

A further indicator providing the broad picture of industrial pollution was developed and provided to Eionet for consultation and a series of country profiles on industrial pollution for the 33 EEA member countries was published.

Two projects on the improvement of reporting frameworks, known as the EU Registry on Industrial Sites and the integration of reporting on LCPs and E-PRTR, made significant progress during 2017. A series of consultation processes were organised around the key milestones with a very positive stakeholder engagement process.

#### **2017 publications (SA1.2)**

EEA Report No 4/2017; *Application of the European Union Emissions Trading Directive. Analysis of national responses under Article 21 of the EU ETS Directive in 2016;*

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/application-of-the-european-union>

EEA Briefing No 8/2017; *Releases of pollutants to the environment from Europe's industrial sector — 2015;* <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/industry/releases-of-pollutants-from-industrial-sector>

EEA Report No 12/2017; *Ozone-depleting substances 2016;*

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/ozone-depleting-substances-2016>

EEA Report No 20/2017; *Fluorinated greenhouse gases 2017;*

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/fluorinated-greenhouse-gases-2017>

Country fact sheet; *Industrial pollution* (33 country fact sheets and EEA-33);

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/industry/industrial-pollution/industrial-pollution-country-profiles-2017/industrial-pollution-profiles-2017>



## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ENERGY (SA1.3)

### **Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy developments and implementation in the areas of climate change mitigation and energy by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Data reported by EEA member countries collected, processed, quality-assured, stored and disseminated according to agreed deadlines in a timely manner.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses, compilations of reported information, and direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy effectiveness assessments, on past and future effects and/or combined sets of policies and measures in the fields of climate change mitigation and energy.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Assistance to the European Commission in relation to Articles 6-9, 12-19, 21, 22 and 24 of the EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC)	Reports and assessments Data and maps Information systems	DG CLIMA, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Implementation of the annual review of Member States' GHG emission inventories under the Effort Sharing Decision	Contributions and joint products	DG CLIMA, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Technical report: EU GHG inventory 1990-2015 (Official EU submission to UNFCCC); assessment of reasons behind past GHG emission trends; support to Member States, GHG inventory reporting	Reports and assessments	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS	UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Provision of policy support to the EU in the context of the UNFCCC, including support to the annual review of the EU inventory under the Convention and the Protocol, the review of the initial report for CP2 and the Biannual Report	Contributions and joint products	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, MS	UNFCCC, IPCC, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, EU ETS Directive, 2030 proposal, 2050 roadmap	Done (note that no review of the EU inventory under the UNFCCC took place in 2017)
Approximated EU GHG inventory, renewable energy and energy efficiency data for the year 2016	Reports and assessments	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS	UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Updated EEA Climate Change Data Centre with relevant EU greenhouse gas and energy data sets, including policies and measures (PAMS) and projections and EU ETS information; country profiles	Data and maps	DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual Eionet workshop on climate change mitigation and energy	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Energy and Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done (one Eionet NRC meeting on energy and environment)
Updated indicators at European level on climate change mitigation and energy	Indicators	Eionet, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
EEA report: Progress towards meeting GHG emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets in Europe (Annual 'Trends and Progress' report)	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Energy and Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG JRC, Eionet, IEA	UNFCCC, 2030/50 roadmaps, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts, EU ETS Directive	Done
Assessment on long term climate and energy transitions and the environmental impacts	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Energy and Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG CLIMA, DG ENER		Partially done (work started for input to SOER 2020)
Support to the European Energy Union Report	Contributions and joint products	DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG MOVE	EU Energy Union	Done
Annual update of the energy efficiency index to evaluate energy efficiency policies across countries and sectors and their impact on meeting energy efficiency targets	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENER, Eionet NRCs Energy, IEA	2020 and 2030 Climate and Energy targets	Not done (cancelled due to changes in internal resources and subsequent reprioritisation of activities)
Technical report: progress in renewable energy	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Energy, DG CLIMA, DG ENER	2020 and 2030 Climate and energy targets, Energy Union	Done



### ***Highlights for 2017 (SA1.3)***

A priority in 2017 was to support the implementation of existing legislation on climate change (under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, MMR) and developments to implement the 2030 climate and energy package and the Energy Union Strategy as well as the Paris Agreement. The EEA continued developing data and assessment work on energy.

The annual EEA reports on the *EU greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2015*, the approximated GHG emissions for 2016, *Trends and projections in Europe 2017*, *Trends and projections in the EU ETS* and *Renewable energy in Europe 2017* showed that Europe remains on track to achieve its 2020 targets on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency, but that current efforts need to be stepped up to achieve long-term goals.

The EEA again coordinated the annual review of national greenhouse gas inventories, as a contribution to the annual compliance cycle under the Effort Sharing Decision, hosting a team of 20 experts for a full week of centralised review.

The EEA also checked and compiled the greenhouse gas projections as well as information on climate change mitigation policies and measures reported by Member States under the MMR. The EEA noted an unsatisfactory level of reporting, with only a minority of Member States meeting the 15 March legal reporting deadline.

Policy support to implementation and facilitated networking was provided across a number of areas, including support to the Energy Union and its developing governance through participation in a Commission Technical Working Group with Member States on national energy and climate plans, input to country fact sheets and technical input in the design of an e-reporting platform. The EEA contributed to Commission Vice-President Šefčovič's tour of EU capitals on the Energy Union, by providing country briefings based on the results of its 2016 report, *Transforming the EU power sector: Avoiding a carbon lock-in*.

The EEA also provided support to the implementation of the Paris commitments by participating in the UNFCCC annual review process of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and in groups of international experts. The EEA joined the Commission's task force in the UNFCCC negotiations to provide support on key tasks on transparency. The EEA also supported the preparation of the EU's sixth National Communication to UNFCCC.

**2017 publications (SA1.3)**

EEA Report No 3/2017; *Renewable energy in Europe in 2017 — Recent growth and knock-on effects*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/renewable-energy-in-europe-2017>

EEA Report No 8/2017; *Analysis of key trends and drivers in greenhouse gas emissions in the EU between 1990 and 2015*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/analysis-of-key-trends-and>

EEA Report No 17/2017; *Trends and projections in Europe 2017 — Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/trends-and-projections-in-europe/trends-and-projections-in-europe-2017>

EEA Report No 18/2017; *Trends and projections in the EU ETS in 2017 — The EU Emissions Trading System in numbers*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/trends-and-projections-EU-ETS-2017>

EEA Report No 23/2017; *Renewable energy in Europe 2017 — Update: recent growth and knock-on effects*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/renewable-energy-in-europe>

EEA Briefing No 3/2017; *Key trends and drivers in greenhouse gas emissions in the EU in 2015 and over the past 25 years*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/key-trends-and-drivers-in>

EEA Briefing No 4/2017; *Complementary emission estimates produced by EU organisations*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/complementary-emission-estimates-produced-by>

EEA Briefing No 6/2017; *Financing Europe's low carbon, climate resilient future*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/financing-europe2019s-low-carbon-climate>

EEA Briefing No 10/2017; *Approximated greenhouse gas emissions in 2016*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/approximated-greenhouse-gas-emissions/approximated-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-2016>

Country fact sheets; *Greenhouse gases and energy 2017* (28 country profiles); <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/trends-and-projections-in-europe/trends-and-projections-in-europe-2017/country-profiles-greenhouse-gases-and-energy>



## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION (SA1.4)

### **Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- EEA member countries supported in an effective and timely manner in their development and implementation of national adaptation strategies.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting to the EU, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses, compilations of reported information, and direct policy support.
- EEA information systems (Climate-ADAPT) adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs and increased user uptake.
- Sound, timely, and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including assessments of policy preparedness/effectiveness and/or combined sets of policies and measures, in the fields of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/CCA.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated indicators on climate change, impacts and vulnerability (after publication of the related EEA report end 2016)	Indicators	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, WHO, ECDC, ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts), Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017 7th EAP	Done
Updated and improved content on cities in the European Climate Change Adaptation Platform, Climate-ADAPT	Information systems	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG RTD, DG ECHO, DG REGIO, ICLEI, Covenant of Mayors, ISDR, WHO, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017 EU Urban Agenda 7th EAP	Done (including a ETC/CCA technical paper on social vulnerability to climate change in European cities)



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated and improved European Climate Change Adaptation Platform, Climate-ADAPT (regular content updating including voluntary provision by countries of updated country pages; various improved functionalities); user interaction (webinars, newsletter, meetings); overall review of the platform; revision of the work plan.	Information systems	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, DG ECHO, DG REGIO, WHO, ECDC, ISDR, Regional conventions, EPA Network, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017 7th EAP, Europe 2020 Strategy European Commission/EEA Work plan on Climate-ADAPT	Done
Assessment report on links between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG ECHO, DG JRC, DG RTD, ISDR, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017 EU civil protection and disaster risk reduction policies (including the Civil Protection Mechanism) Floods Directive	Done
Assessment and methodological work on monitoring, reporting and evaluation of national adaptation policies	Contributions and joint products	DG CLIMA, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017	Done (draft ETC/CCA working paper, to be finalised in 2018)
Eionet workshop on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (and expert meetings)	Workshops and meetings	DG CLIMA, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to the Commission (DG CLIMA) Covenant of Mayors Adapt initiative and the regular ICLEI conference on urban adaptation; Contributions to other conferences and meetings, including the 2017 European Climate Change Adaptation conference (Glasgow, Scotland) Collaboration with ECMWF, link to and use of the Copernicus climate change service	Workshops and meetings	DG CLIMA, Mayors Adapt, ICLEI  UNFCCC, IPCC, ISDR, WHO, UNEP-PROVIA (Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation), EPA Network  Copernicus climate change service	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and review in 2017  Copernicus regulation	Done

#### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.4)**

A key priority in 2017 was the support to the implementation of the 2013 EU climate change adaptation strategy, and its evaluation by the European Commission, while also taking into account developments relevant for the EU under the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sendai framework on disaster risk reduction.

The report *Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016* (January 2017) describes observed and projected changes in climate and their wide-ranging impacts on ecosystems, the economy and human health. In addition, various related EEA indicators were published on the EEA website. The report also covers multisectoral vulnerability and risks and summarises current adaptation policies. The EEA Executive Director launched the report at a dedicated event in Brussels.

The report *Financing urban adaptation to climate change* (February 2017) provides examples of how cities across Europe are funding urban climate change adaptation measures using innovative funding options, such as green bonds and crowdfunding, alongside traditional funding channels.

The report *Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe — Enhancing coherence of the knowledge base, policies and practices* (October 2017) presents trends and projections in weather- and climate-related natural hazards and their impacts and gives examples of and opportunities for innovative solutions for enhancing coherence in policies and practices in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The EEA Executive Director launched the report at a dedicated event in Brussels.



An expert meeting was organised and a related ETC/CCA technical paper was prepared, *Social vulnerability to climate change in European cities*.

The ETC/CCA working paper *Indicators for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to climate change at national level* was prepared in 2017, to be further developed and finalised in 2018.

The *European Climate Change Adaptation Platform 'Climate-ADAPT'* was updated to include voluntarily submitted updates by countries, information from EU-funded projects and local case studies. Bimonthly newsletters were disseminated. A key activity was an evaluation of the platform by means of surveys, internal analyses and use cases, with a report due in 2018. The EEA discussed with the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy how to enhance complementarity with their guidance and knowledge on urban adaptation.

The EEA also provided policy support through participation in a European Commission stakeholder workshop on the evaluation of the EU adaptation strategy, meetings of the European Commission working group on adaptation and the expert group on disaster loss, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) interest group on adaptation, and a WHO expert meeting on adaptation and human health. Furthermore, the EEA participated in the European Commission task force in the UNFCCC negotiations to provide support on adaptation topics and supported the preparation of the EU's seventh National Communication to the UNFCCC. The regular annual Eionet workshop on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation was also held.

Collaboration with the Copernicus climate change service continued, including a visit from the EEA Executive Director to the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) (United Kingdom, July 2017) and use of data for the indicator on global and European surface temperatures.

The EEA disseminated the main messages from the assessment reports at various conferences and workshops, including the Third European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (Glasgow), the European open day on resilient cities with the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) (Bonn) and the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) of UNFCCC (Bonn).

#### **2017 publications (SA1.4)**

EEA Report No 1/2017; *Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016 — An indicator-based report*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016>

EEA Report No 2/2017; *Financing urban adaptation to climate change*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/financing-urban-adaptation-to-climate-change>

EEA Report No 15/2017; *Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe — Enhancing coherence of the knowledge base, policies and practices*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-adaptation-and-disaster>

WATER MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS (SA1.5)

**Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of water management, resources and ecosystems by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- Data reported by EU Member States and EEA member countries collected, processed, quality-assured, stored, and disseminated according to the agreed deadlines in a timely and reliable manner; additional data-reporting flows (Urban Waste Water Directive — UWWTD, Drinking Water Directive) established in line with the SIIF developments and additional data flows (NiDi) evaluated and established if possible.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of reported information and with direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs: full operation of WISE 2.0 achieved, linking with BISe and Climate-ADAPT, on the basis of the WISE Implementation plan 2013-2015, with all relevant upgrades and in full agreement with EU partners in WISE (DG ENV, Eurostat, JRC).
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant methodologies, indicators and assessments, including policy-effectiveness analysis, in particular of Water Framework Directive (WFD) second River Basement Management Plans and other water-related policies, applying environmental accounting methodologies and ecosystem (services) approaches.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA’s AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
2017 EEA State of European Water assessment report analysing the reporting of Member States for the 2nd RBMP under the WFD. Assessment of pressures and status	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet NFPs & NRCs Water	WFD, EU Blueprint for Water (the ‘Blueprint’)	Partially done, because of delays in the formal reporting by countries. In agreement with European Commission, publication postponed to 2018



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to State of Water assessment (WFD; status and pressures assessment) for coastal and transitional waters and in connection with the 1st round of reporting under the Floods Directive	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	WFD, EU Blueprint for Water (the 'Blueprint')	Done
Support to the common implementation strategy under WFD and FD	Workshops and meetings Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	EEA/Eionet Regulation, WFD, FD, Blueprint	Done
Combined assessment of the WFD WEI+ with the EEA CSI 018 on the use of freshwater resources (Regular update of water accounts, the Water Exploitation Index (WEI+), CSI 018 and WREI 04)	Reports and assessments Indicators Data and maps	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet NRCs Water quantity	WFD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done
Publication of the updated version of Ecrins	Data and maps	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	WFD, FD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done
Make available the latest data on bathing water quality in Europe	Reports and assessments Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water quality	BW Directive, WFD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done
Progress on assessment of chemicals in water in relation with the WFD review and other Directives considering emissions to water	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water emissions	WFD, UWWWTD, BWD, DWD, ND, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done
Updated core set of indicators on water	Indicators	Eionet NRCs Water, DG ESTAT	WFD, Blueprint	



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
WISE maintenance and developments in relation to Eionet core data flows and reporting (WISE SoE 1, 3, 4 and 5, WFD)	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	WFD, Blueprint, Inspire Directive	Done
WISE maintenance and developments in relation to WFD, UWWTD and BWD data processing	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	WFD, Blueprint, Inspire Directive	Done
Support to the development of the WISE portal, enabling a dissemination and sharing of the water information across the WFD and other water policies	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NFPs and NRCs Water	WFD, Blueprint, Inspire Directive	Done
Eionet Freshwater Workshop	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs Water	MAWP 2014-2020, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.5)**

Based on thematic studies and the second reporting round under the EU Water Framework Directive (which was delayed until mid-year), a comprehensive assessment of the status of water bodies, and trends therein, was finalised and released for consultation with country experts, alongside the *Emissions to water* report from the EEA and ETC/ICM.

The integrated approach to water management in the EU, implementing the EU water legislation, necessitates reinforcing integrated information management of all EU water policies. In order to achieve the most effective use of the data provided, the Commission services (DG ENV, JRC and Eurostat) together with the EEA have initiated an upgrade of the 'Water Information System for Europe' (WISE 2.0) for release in 2018. It is being developed to favour integrated analyses and visualisation of reported data, and deeper and more complex analyses, by extending the functionality of the viewers and providing new interactive aggregation tools as well as web-mapping services. This was done in connection with the business plan for WISE-Marine — to support the parallel implementation and reporting of the Marine Framework Strategy Directive to 2021. Both systems have been developed to function as an entry point to European-wide data and information on water and marine and as a common platform for all organisations involved (European Commission services, Regional Seas Conventions, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea — ICES, EEA member countries). Linkages and complementarities with other thematic systems



(e.g. the Biodiversity Information System for Europe — BISE, Climate-ADAPT) were embedded in the maintenance and development activities.

On World Water Day, 22 March, the EEA released the update of its indicator on the use of freshwater in Europe, showing that there has been a 24 % decrease in renewable water resources per capita across Europe since 1960, particularly in southern Europe. The annual report, *European bathing water quality in 2016* was published on 23 May, alongside the corresponding web-based interactive map. The indicator on the water intensity of crop production was published, showing that the water intensity of crop production in Europe has reduced and thereby improved. Similarly, the updated indicator on urban wastewater treatment highlighted that there are differences in how countries have interpreted and implemented the UWWTD — it emphasises the problem of using types of treatment plant as a proxy for the level of purification.

The EEA Briefing *Water management in Europe: Price and non-price approaches to water conservation* showed that there is no quick fix to improving water efficiency amid increased challenges to water supplies. It focuses on how household water demand is managed.

#### **2017 publications (SA1.5)**

EEA Report No 5/2017; *European bathing water quality in 2016*;

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-bathing-water-quality-in-2016>

EEA Briefing No 7/2017; *Water management in Europe: Price and non-price approaches to water conservation*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/water-management-in-europe-price>

Country fact sheets; *Bathing water quality in 2016* (30 country fact sheets);

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water/state/state-of-bathing-water-3>

Eionet report; *Use of freshwater resources in Europe 2002-2014 — An assessment based on water quantity accounts*;

[http://icm.eionet.europa.eu/ETC\\_Reports/UseOfFreshwaterResourcesInEurope\\_2002-2014](http://icm.eionet.europa.eu/ETC_Reports/UseOfFreshwaterResourcesInEurope_2002-2014)

MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES (SA1.6)

**Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of marine and coastal environment and maritime activities by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- Data reported by EEA member countries collected, processed, quality-assured, and disseminated according to the agreed deadlines in a timely and reliable manner.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of reported information, and with direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs and the marine component of WISE established.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy-effectiveness analysis, building on agreed frameworks related to integrated marine/maritime assessments including socio-economic perspectives and the ecosystem (services) approach.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA’s AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Initiate the preparation of ‘Marine State of the Environment’ assessment (contribution to MSFD Article 20.3.b; 2019, and marine contribution to the EEA 2020 ‘European ecosystem assessment’ report supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy (T2/A5))	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, MS, Regional Sea Conventions	MSFD (contribution to Article 20.3.b), EU Biodiversity Strategy	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Initiate the preparation of 'Marine Messages II' (contribution to SOER 2020, and wider policy context relevant for the sea; 2019, and marine contribution to the EEA 2020 'European ecosystem assessment' report supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy (T2/A5))	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, MARE, MS, Regional Sea Conventions	Contribution to SOER 2020 MSFD, IMP, EU Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP	Done
Contaminants in marine waters (case study-based)	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, MS, Regional Sea Conventions	MSFD (contribution to Article 20.3.b)	Done
One-to-one policy relevant EU-level framework and methodology for assessing marine ecosystem service capacity to support EU Biodiversity Strategy (T2/A5)	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs BD & Ecosystems, Marine	EU Biodiversity Strategy, MSFD, 7th EAP priority 1	Partially done, due to lack of scientific evidence underpinned by comprehensive observations. Finalisation anticipated in 2018
Development of methodological basis for a marine seabed ecosystem account on 'seafloor integrity' (from fishing pressure) to support EU Biodiversity Strategy (T2/A5)	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, MS, Eionet NRCs BD & Ecosystems, Marine	EU Biodiversity Strategy, MSFD, 7th EAP priority 1	Done
Development of data, indicators, information products and assessment tools for WISE-Marine	Data and maps	DG ENV, Regional Sea Conventions, DG JRC, DG MARE, ICES, Eionet NRCs Marine, Coastal and Maritime	MSFD	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
MSFD Data flow reporting support for Reportnet	Data and maps	DG ENV, Regional Sea Conventions, DG JRC, DG MARE, ICES, Eionet NRCs Marine, Coastal and Maritime	MSFD	Done (EEA Briefing on Marine Litter Watch project postponed to 2018 Q2 due to extended processing of site-based data and observations)
Eionet Marine Workshop	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Marine, Coastal and Maritime	EEA Regulation, MSFD	Done

### Highlights for 2017 (SA1.6)

On 5 October, the EEA and the European Commission (Commissioner Vella) launched [WISE-Marine](#), an infrastructure for sharing information on the marine environment at the European scale in support of ocean governance and ecosystem-based management. WISE-Marine is among the EU pledges formally endorsed under the global ocean governance process adopted by the UN under the implementation of SDG 14 in June 2017. Building on the success of the WISE platform on freshwater, WISE-Marine aims to be a web-based portal, making available data and information products in accordance with common standards, thereby complementing similar coverage at the regional and national levels, such as in the Regional Sea Conventions and Member States, and other EU marine information systems, such as the Marine Environment Monitoring Service provided by the Copernicus programme and the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) information service by the DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). Two legislative instruments that help Member States define the good environmental status of their marine waters in a better way were adopted in 2017; these provide clearer criteria and methodologies as to what should be looked at when monitoring and assessing the EU's seas and oceans. These legislative instruments now provide the countries — and the EEA — with technical guidance on the specifications for reporting data streams under WISE-Marine.

At the high-level event 'A sustainable Arctic: innovative approaches' in June, Commissioner Vella launched the new EEA assessment *The Arctic environment — European perspectives on a changing Arctic*. It examined the increasingly rapid changes that are taking place in the Arctic from a European perspective. It considered the national, regional and global challenges and opportunities that are emerging as a result of the Arctic environment being under considerable combined pressures from climate change, economic development, biodiversity decline and other drivers of change.

Work intensified on identifying, classifying and informing ecosystem services that are supplied by marine ecosystems, leading to the proposal of a method to assess marine ecosystem capacity for service supply, based on the condition of marine biota and habitats under EU water, marine and nature directives (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, MSFD, focus). An update of the Marine Natura 2000 Barometer data has been released, in accordance with the mapping of marine regions and sub-regions, now updated and published under the EEA DiscoMap service. The latest

assessment by the EEA and ETC/ICM indicates that the EU has reached the global Aichi Biodiversity Target (CBD): ‘by 2020, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and integrated into the wider seascapes.’ The EU has now reached 10.8 % of the marine protected area (MPA) coverage.



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## BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS (SA1.7)

### ***Multiannual objective***

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems (natural capital), including agriculture and forest ecosystems, by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

### ***Multiannual performance indicators***

- Data reported by EEA member countries and other sources collected, processed, quality-assured, stored and disseminated according to the agreed deadlines in a timely and reliable manner.
- EEA member countries and European Commission assisted effectively in their nature directives reporting activities, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of reported information within a direct policy context.
- EEA information systems developed according to the policy needs emerging from the nature directives and the EU Biodiversity and Global Biodiversity strategies. To this end, full development and implementation of BISE (linking to other systems — e.g. WISE and Climate-ADAPT — as appropriate).
- Develop indicators and assessments based on sound, timely and policy-relevant methodologies, including needs from policy-effectiveness analysis, in particular concerning the mid-term review of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and sub-global/regional ecosystems assessments, as well to support policy-science interface platforms at European and global levels (e.g. the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES).
- Establish relevant partnerships with major operators in biodiversity monitoring, data gathering, and agriculture and forest ecosystems data and observation networks, in order to reinforce information provision as well as assessment capacities.



**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/BD.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contributing to the maintenance and development of the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) in partnership with DG ENV in support of the knowledge base underpinning the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and CBD-Aichi targets (global)	Information systems	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, MS	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP	Done
Continue to develop EUNIS (habitats and species) in support of ecosystems assessments: integration of the revised terrestrial and marine EUNIS classification and their indicator species to the on-line system. Test the use of Copernicus in-situ component for collection of in-situ vegetation data in countries to improve EUNIS grassland classification.	Information systems	DG ENV, countries	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Further use data and information from the last nature reporting round (2007-2012) in policy relevant analysis and assessments (e.g. agriculture, forest species and habitats)	Contributions and joint products	European Commission, countries, stakeholders	Habitats and Birds Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Continue to develop and finalise the formats and guidelines for the next nature reporting round (2013-2018)	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, EU MS, NGOs and stakeholders	Birds and Habitats Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Start developing an assessment framework for the 2019/20 assessment of the 2013-2018 results from the nature directives reporting, also taking into account activities resulting from the nature directive fitness check and the review of the whole BD2020	Contributions and joint products	European Commission, countries, stakeholders	Birds and Habitats Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Operationalise SEBI 2020 and AEI indicators within the EEA indicators framework, using new/improved information (e.g. Copernicus HRL); Contribution to new policy-relevant indicator development (fragmentation and connectivity, conservation of habitats dependent on agriculture) Support to monitoring progress towards Aichi-targets and contributions to SDGs	Indicators	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, MS, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Thematic assessments of European agriculture and agro and forest ecosystems (rural systems) relevant to environmental policy, Common Agricultural Policy and EU Forest strategy Based on CLC 2012, assessment using updated HNV farmland map, final update of the HNV forest area map including developed database and mapping of ancient forests in Europe and plantations	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG AGRI, JRC, MS, ETC/ULS, ETC/BD	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
<p>Support to land-related objectives of the 7th EAP: Explore the results contained in the EEA report on forest ecosystems — analysis of knowledge and information gaps to support present and future land and forest assessments</p> <p>Forest land-use: demonstration of impacts of substitution of forest ecosystem services trade-offs and synergies and of impacts of adapted forest management practices (applied scenarios)</p>	<p>Data and maps</p> <p>Contributions and joint products</p>	<p>DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, MS, ETC/ULS</p>	<p>EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>Develop analytical use of ecosystem accounting results, e.g. by looking at linkages to specific sectors. Publish first European accounts on ecosystem conditions and extent</p>	<p>Assessments</p>	<p>DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT</p>	<p>7th EAP priority 1 and EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020</p>	<p>Partially done, due to limited data availability (restricted geographical and temporal coverage and different scale/resolution across thematic data sets) – postponed to 2018</p>



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
<p>Contribution to cross-cutting EEA products on natural capital and ecosystem assessments, including continued support to the MAES process regarding land and forests, tipping points and planetary boundaries, forests and circular economy</p> <p>Contribute to the EKC-Knowledge Innovation Projects on 'Within Limits of the Planet' and 'Integrated System for Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting'</p>	Contributions and joint products	<p>DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, MS, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS</p> <p>EKC partners</p>	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); WFD; 7th EAP	Done
Continue to deliver and make accessible key data flows in the area: CDDA and Natura 2000; support to the establishment of the Emerald network	Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Council of Europe	Habitats and Birds Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Support to the IPBES regional assessment and participation in the advisory board of EU EKLIPSE mechanism on BD and ecosystem services	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, JRC, DG RTD	7th EAP, Horizon 2020	Done
Eionet meetings and workshop	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, other relevant DGs, Strategic partners, Eionet NRCs Biodiversity & Ecosystems indicators and assessment; Biodiversity Data & Information	EEA/Eionet Regulation; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done



### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.7)**

Following the European Commission's 'fitness check' evaluation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (the 'nature directives'), which concluded that they are highly relevant and fit for purpose, the *Action Plan for nature, people and the economy* was adopted in mid-2017. The plan focuses on four priority areas and comprises 15 actions towards 2020. EEA tools and products support several of these actions, such as the EU nature directives reporting guidelines, which were delivered on time. The EEA chairing of the ad hoc group on favourable reference values was an important element in fostering high-quality, relevant and comparable information from countries for forthcoming EU-level assessments. In this context, the EEA and its partners (EEA-ETC/BD, DG ENV, JRC, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre — WCMC, Joint Nature Conservation Committee — JNCC) have progressed with the review of the streamlined European biodiversity indicator set to meet the expected requirements for reporting on the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the global UN-CBD Strategic Plan. Similarly, information was updated from the European Biodiversity Data Centre and the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) — three interlinked modules on sites, habitat types and species.

This work helped strengthen the links to the wider frame of natural capital in the Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) and sectoral policies, as well as increasing streamlining with other biodiversity-relevant indicator frameworks (e.g. agriculture, land, marine) in consideration of national and global activities, such as the UN-CBD Indicators Platform, IPBES, and the SDGs. The review process also takes into account recent data-related developments (e.g. through Copernicus), which is also reflected in the development of ecosystem natural capital accounts, which is an activity jointly undertaken by the EEA and several European Commission services (including the integrated system for natural capital and ecosystem services accounting, INCA) and is linked to the European initiative on Mapping and Assessing Ecosystems and their Services (MAES). Several activities were endorsed to this effect: developing an analytical framework for ecosystem conditions, accounting, and streamlining ecosystem-based policies; coordination for water and marine MAES pilot assessments; resources for an integrated data system; and linking platforms and catalogues on ecosystem-based initiatives (BISE, WISE, Climate-ADAPT, natural water retention measures, nature-based solutions).

Continued work on comparisons of forest area definitions and compilation of the forest data and indicators has progressed (in particular related to the EU Forest Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy and the SDGs), as well as the first development phase of the European Forest Information System (FISE) by the European Commission. Similarly, thematic activities on agriculture-environment issues were developed and consolidated as the result of an enhanced cooperation with European Commission services (DG AGRI, DG ENV, Eurostat and JRC), in support of common agricultural policy (CAP)-related information and indicators.

#### **2017 publications (SA1.7)**

EEA Briefing No 2/2017; *Underpinning European policy on nature conservation — Revision of the EUNIS habitat classification*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/underpinning-european-policy-on-nature-conservation>

URBAN, LAND USE AND SOIL (SA1.8)

**Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of urban, land use and soil, by means of data, information/indicators and assessments.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of information, and with direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs; integrated data platform for spatial and territorial thematic assessments operational and maintained.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy-effectiveness analysis, of urban areas and sustainable cities, land-use dependent economic sectors and land- and soil-related resource efficiency.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ULS.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to implementation of land and soil related priorities in the 7th EAP: analytical framework for urban and rural land systems (including soil) and for land degradation	Contributions and joint products Assessments	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, Eionet	7th EAP priority 1, Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe	Done
Base-maps and tools in support to monitoring the EU-wide Green Infrastructure strategy implementation	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG REGIO	Biodiversity strategy and Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy	Done
Preparing building blocks for SOER 2020: screening of existing information, development of scenario-based assessments and outlooks	Contributions and joint products		EEA regulation, 7th EAP	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Analysis of the evolution of urban system (based on new Urban Atlas, HRL, CLC)	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, Eionet, DG ESTAT	7th EAP priority 8; Resource efficiency Roadmap, Green Infrastructure Strategy (GI)	Done
Update and improvement of urban sustainability indicators	Indicators	DG ENV, Eionet, DG ESTAT	7th EAP priority 8; Resource efficiency Roadmap, Green Infrastructure Strategy (GI)	Partially done (publication of final technical report by ETC/ULS postponed to 2018/Q2 due to the need to extend the validation of results, following on the consultation phase).
Contribute to implementation of Environment knowledge community (KIP-INCA): consolidation of geo-spatial databases for piloting EU ecosystem accounts, statistical time series and exploiting Copernicus data	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT	7th EAP priority 1 and EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
<p>Final draft indicator for fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats (terrestrial), based on 2012 land data and a draft indicator addressing phenology and biomass of lands</p> <p>Update of ecosystem mapping and support to methodological work on integrating information for ecosystem condition, ecosystem service assessment, accounting, valuation</p> <p>Update and upgrade forest related indicators and information (forest habitats and ecosystems, contribution to resource efficiency and circular economy)</p> <p>Data support to updates of tourism and environment indicators</p>	Indicators	DG ENV, DG ENTR, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, DG REGIO, DG GROW, UNWTO, Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation, 7th EAP, COM(2010)352, COM (2014)86 final, IPBES regional assessment, CAP reform, EU Forest Strategy mid-term review	Done
Eionet NRC meetings: Soil, Land cover, Land Use and Spatial Planning (LUSP) and Agriculture and environment	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG ENV, DG JRC	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA1.8)**

Land degradation and taking land for urban development threaten critical ecosystem services, including provision of food and water, climate regulation and recreation. Reusing neglected sites and turning roads or car parks into green spaces or residential areas can have positive impacts on the environment and support Europe's transition towards a circular and green economy. On average, land recycling has increased in Europe, but the levels remain low compared with those of land take (final technical report to be released by ETC/ULS early 2018). As the EEA report *Landscapes in transition: An account of 25 years of land cover change in Europe* concluded, the dominant trend is the continued and accelerating shift from rural to urban use, influenced mostly by economic



activities and urban lifestyle demands. It highlighted that good land management can lead to a wide diversity of land use between rural and urban settings; this can also protect fertile land for food and biomass production by ensuring effective means to promote soil functions, such as carbon storage. Managing the land resource well is essential for a wider societal transition to sustainability; therefore, the EEA held expert meetings on 'land systems' with a fourfold objective: (1) strengthening the knowledge base and new indicators; (2) fostering data and information sharing; (3) developing analytical methods (e.g. towards ecosystem-based management); and (4) supporting evidence-based policy coherence.

In this context, work on the concept of land degradation has advanced, with the completion of the draft report on analytical approaches, following a dedicated series of expert contributions, and indicators on fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats (terrestrial) and changes in imperviousness. The important report *Green infrastructure and flood management — Promoting cost-efficient flood risk reduction via green infrastructure solutions* was released, concluding that investing in 'green infrastructure' (GI), such as restoring floodplains or wetlands, is better value for money and is better for resilient societies. Base-maps and tools to support monitoring the EU-wide green infrastructure strategy implementation were also delivered (of 2 suggested complementary reports, *GI and the Common Agriculture Policy* and *Informing strategic GI planning in Europe through mapping and assessment methods*, European Commission services indicated that joint work under the implementation of the EU GI Strategy would be better suited – 2 reports were therefore cancelled as EEA products).

Work on developing indicators addressing phenology and biomass of land progressed well: the validation of phenological variables has been finalised and trends in phenological indices have been calculated.

The Eionet expert group on tourism and environment held several meetings and validated a selection of indicator fact sheets, accompanied by a technical briefing by the EEA on an indicator-based reporting mechanism for Europe that countries might develop cooperatively (report material and selected fact sheets available via ETC/ULS website in early 2018).

#### **2017 publications (SA1.8)**

EEA Report No 10/2017; *Landscapes in transition — An account of 25 years of land cover change in Europe*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/landscapes-in-transition>

EEA Report No 14/2017; *Green infrastructure and flood management — Promoting cost-efficient flood risk reduction via green infrastructure solutions*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/green-infrastructure-and-flood-management>

WASTE AND MATERIAL RESOURCES (SA1.9)

**Multiannual objective**

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of waste and material resources by means of data, modelling, information/indicators and assessments, in close cooperation with Eurostat.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- Information on national waste and material resource policies, and accounts and databases on material resource flows, use and efficiency, updated in a timely and reliable manner.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting on waste management, waste prevention and material resources, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant analyses and compilations of information and with direct policy support.
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs in line with EU waste and material resource policy developments.
- Sound, timely and policy-relevant indicators and assessments, including policy effectiveness assessments, of status, trends and progress on waste policy implementation, including waste prevention programmes.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/WMGE.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
4th annual analysis of EEA member country waste prevention programmes	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Waste, DG JRC	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy	Partially done. Final draft report was produced and sent for consultation in January 2018. Publication postponed until 2018 (in agreement with Commission) in view of long-term sick leave of project manager



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Assessing progress on the implementation of waste-management policies in countries	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Waste, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG RTD	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy	Done
European level indicators for waste management across the waste hierarchy	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Waste, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy	Done
Updating the European reference model on waste and applying the model to monitor progress towards EU targets on municipal waste	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Waste	Waste Framework Directive, Expected 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Done
Framework for monitoring progress towards waste targets using the European reference model	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Waste	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy	Done
Eionet workshop waste and circular economy	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Waste, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG RTD, OECD	Waste Framework Directive, Expected 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Not done. This workshop was cancelled due to resource constraints (competing demands for SOER 2020)
Expert workshop on critical raw materials and the environment	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG ENV, DG GROW, DG JRC	EU Raw Materials Initiative Expected 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Not done. External networking with the Commission has taken place in various forms, but not through a dedicated workshop

**Highlights for 2017 (SA1.9)**

The first assessment of progress towards new waste targets is part of the early warning system included under the 2015 European Commission Communication on the circular economy. The results underlying the assessment were produced using the European Reference Model on Municipal Waste. The hosting of the model was taken over by the EEA in 2015 at the request of the European Commission. During 2017, an additional three scenarios were constructed, tested and analysed, and a paper summarising the results was delivered to the Commission in September. The Commission intends to use these results in the negotiations on the recycling targets for municipal waste in the Waste Framework Directive.

A final draft of the fourth waste prevention review on reuse systems was delivered by the ETC/WMGE in autumn 2017 and subsequently sent for Eionet consultation, prior to finalisation and publication in the first half of 2018. The ETC/WMGE analysis on 'Waste-based value chains in the circular economy: role of policies and innovation' was delivered in Q4 2017 and will be used to inform upcoming EEA reports on the circular economy in Europe.

**2017 publications (SA1.9)**

None. Publication of the fourth waste prevention review was prepared, but postponed until 2018.



## 1.2 ASSESSING SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES (SA2)

### ***Multiannual goal***

To assess systemic challenges in the context of short-, medium- and long-term transitions, and to signal opportunities for (re)framing/recalibrating environmental policy to facilitate transition towards a more sustainable society in Europe.

### ***Multiannual key objectives***

- Provide integrated assessments across thematic areas with a view to signal synergies including further opportunities for policy coherence.
- Provide prospective analyses to signal emerging issues at both European and global scales.
- Provide knowledge and analysis to assess progress made towards fundamental transitions embedded in long-term EU policy objectives.

### ***Multiannual performance indicators***

- Prompt delivery of SOER 2015 and annual indicator reports.
- Measurable recognition in the processes for evaluations of the 7th EAP.
- Stimulation of foresight-oriented discussions about transitions to a more sustainable society in Europe.

### ***Key activities 2017***

- Publish a third report on progress towards a circular economy in Europe.
- Publish a first report on sustainability transitions building on SOER 2015 (*The European environment — State and outlook — 2015 report*).
- Publish indicators and indicator-based analysis to support the monitoring of the Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP).
- Prepare the SOER 2020 report project plan as well as a report prototype.



## RESOURCE-EFFICIENT ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (SA2.1)

### **Multiannual objective**

To monitor progress and identify opportunities to improve the environment in Europe, and indirectly other regions of the world <sup>(9)</sup>, in accordance with circular and green economy perspectives <sup>(10)</sup>.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Timely and reliable delivery of annual briefings and workshops, as well as assessments, indicators, accounts and databases based on timetables agreed with EEA stakeholders.
- Measurable uptake of EEA concepts, indicators, and analyses for the circular economy into the mid-term reviews of the 7th EAP and the Resource Efficiency Roadmap, as well as into more specific policy processes, including the EU product-design and consumption policies.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/WMGE.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on progress on selected elements of a green economy in Europe	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG GROW, DG SANTE, DG RTD, OECD, UNEP, Global Green Growth Forum, World Economic Forum	7th EAP	Done
Analysis of progress towards a circular economy (CE briefing) (probable focus: bio-based materials)	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG GROW, DG RTD, Eionet NRCs Waste and Resource Efficiency	Waste Framework Directive, Expected 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Done
Outreach activity with Eionet and European Commission around Circular Economy/Bio-economy co-benefits	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG GROW Eionet NRCs Waste and Resource Efficiency	7th EAP Waste Framework Directive, Expected 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Done

<sup>(9)</sup> This will be done within a global perspective, informed by global megatrends (SA2.4).

<sup>(10)</sup> The green economy concept used by the EEA includes a circular economy perspective. A 'circular economy' focuses on optimising resource efficiency by cutting waste to as close to zero as possible. The notion of a 'green economy' goes further: it relates resource efficiency with ecosystem resilience and human health and well-being. It thus extends the focus beyond waste and (material) resources, to issues such as water, energy, land use and nature.



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Outreach activities with Eionet in follow up to 2nd country review of resource efficiency policies implementation	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Resource Efficiency, DG ENV	2011 EU Resource Efficiency Roadmap implementation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA2.1)**

The EEA hosted a stakeholder meeting on bio-economy and circular economy on 30 and 31 March. The event brought together experts from both fields and the outcomes will be used to inform an EEA report scheduled for publication in 2018.

The EEA report *Circular by design — Products in the circular economy* was successfully launched in Helsinki, on 6 June 2017, at the World Circular Economy Forum, involving 250 stakeholders.

The EEA report *Food in a green light — A systems approach to sustainable food* was launched on 16 October at a DG RTD event around the research priority 'Food 2030'. Follow-up activities, including outcomes of input-output analyses, JRC liaison and a potential foresight project are progressing to schedule and will provide input for SOER 2020.

The second edition of the *More from less* report on resource efficiency in countries is on track for publication in 2018. A webinar with Eionet on national circular economy policies took place on 19 September and the outcomes will inform the updated *More from less* report.

### **2017 publications (SA2.1)**

EEA Report No 6/2017; *Circular by design — Products in the circular economy*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/circular-by-design>

EEA Report No 16/2017; *Food in a green light — A systems approach to sustainable food*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/food-in-a-green-light>




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 ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (SA2.2)
**Multiannual objective**

To provide data, information and assessments on environmental pressures on and risks to human health and well-being, contributing also to the development of a broader framing of environment and human health interactions <sup>(11)</sup>.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- Timely and reliable delivery of annual briefings and workshops as well as assessments, indicators, accounts and databases based on a timetable agreed with EEA stakeholders.
- Measurable uptake of EEA concepts and analyses for environment risks to human health and well-being into the mid-term reviews of the 7th EAP and the Resource Efficiency Roadmap, as well as into other policy processes, such as the global Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO Environment & Health process.
- Measurable progress with Eionet on the development of a common conceptual framework for assessing environmental risks to health and well-being in a green economy.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Data inputs to IPCHEM on environmental media and human bio-monitoring	Data and maps	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Knowledge broker to the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative under Horizon 2020 — through the secretariat and participation in the steering committee	Contributions and joint products	DG RTD, DG ENV	H2020	Done

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<sup>(11)</sup> This work complements the analysis of health impacts indicated under other strategic areas (e.g. SA1.1, SA1.2 and SA1.5) and includes analysis of exposure patterns. The support to the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCHEM) aims to correlate updated human bio-monitoring data with current environmental monitoring data.



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Project plan, annotated outline and data sources for 2018 Environment and Health report	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG SANTE, Eionet NRCs Environment and Health	7th EAP, MAWP 2014-2020	Partially done. Initial framing activities undertaken, including reach-out to external partners (e.g. WHO)
Eionet workshop on Environment, Health and Well-being	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Environment and Health	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Not done. The workshop was cancelled in view of resource constraints (conflict with HBM4EU demands)
Expert workshop on environmental risk management	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	7th EAP priority objective 5	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA2.2)**

The EEA met all its obligations in support to the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (EHBMI), with a series of timely deliverables, including the HBM4EU website, a communication strategy and a strategy for the prioritisation of substances to be monitored.

The EEA continued its support to the development of the proposal for an EU non-toxic environment strategy, including hosting a successful seminar on 'Chemicals for a sustainable future' with the EEA Scientific Committee. The event has resulted in the production of an EEA report that provides a concise overview of the main challenges in the chemicals domain (published on 1 March 2018).

Preparations for the first-ever EEA Report on the environment, health and well-being started in 2017, including the development of a supporting assessment of the links between exposure to noise and air pollution and socio-economic status. The analysis, which will also address climate adaptation issues, will be delivered in 2018.

### **2017 publications (SA2.2)**

None. Scientific Committee/EEA seminar report on chemicals, published on 1 March 2018.



## MEGATRENDS AND TRANSITIONS (SA2.3)

### **Multiannual objective**

To measure, monitor and report on long-term trends and sustainability transitions based on established policy visions to 2050 and using appropriate methods and key indicators.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Timely delivery of megatrend and FLIS updates.
- Measurable recognition and/or uptake of results by stakeholders, such as uptake by member countries and relevant Commission services.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on sustainability transitions, based on work carried out during previous years	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, DG ESTAT, OECD, Eionet NRCs FLIS	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Forward-looking information Platform (continued enhancement)	Information systems	DG JRC, DG RTD, Eionet NRCs FLIS, Eionet NRCs SOER, Eionet NFPs	MAWP 2014-2020	Not done. Put on hold. The interlinkages with the websites and relevant platforms need to be resolved
First results of pilot studies of co-created information with Eionet NRCs FLIS, i.e. impacts of global megatrends at national level and horizon scanning trends	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs FLIS	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Eionet workshops on forward looking information tools and services	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs FLIS	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA2.3)**

The EEA report *Perspectives on transitions to sustainability* presented a variety of analytical perspectives on systemic change, exploring what insights they collectively offer for policy, governance and knowledge creation. The report included five academic papers drafted by internationally recognised experts in the field of sustainability transitions. For each of the five perspectives, the paper explores the conceptual background and understanding of how systemic changes occur, presenting their strengths and weaknesses and their implications for governance.



Work on global megatrends (GMTs) focused on reviewing the latest GMTs on landscape, and on updating megatrends on population, technological acceleration, economic growth, multipolar world and competition for resources. Furthermore, a synthesised approach was developed on analysing synergies with other drivers of change (i.e. emerging issues) and on impact analyses across trends and scales (e.g. at the national level, on resource use).

NRC Forward-Looking Information and Services (FLIS) supported SOER 2020 by collaborating with the EEA on stocktaking of case studies in which GMTs have impacts at the national level and on the identification of emerging issues of most interest to countries in the European context. A draft methodological guidebook on horizon scanning was finalised and will be used by the EEA and NRC FLIS in 2018 as part of the support to SOER 2020. The EEA-Eionet report on the methodological approach for assessing impacts of GMTs at the national level was published in January.

The NRC FLIS meeting was held together with the NRC State of Environment (SoE) meeting, with the aim of building synergies between the network components as well as discussing and framing NRCs' support to SOER 2020. Furthermore, three webinars were held in 2017 with NRC FLIS on (1) GMTs, (2) horizon scanning, and (3) methodologies and approaches to the assessment of the drivers of change.

#### **2017 publications (SA2.3)**

Eionet Report No 1/2017; *Mapping Europe's environmental future: Understanding the impacts of global megatrends at the national level*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/mapping-europes-environmental-future-understanding>

EEA Report No 25/2017; *Perspectives on transitions to sustainability*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/perspectives-on-transitions-to-sustainability>



## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING (SA2.4)

### ***Multiannual objective***

To keep under review the state of trends in and prospects for the environment in Europe in order to inform environmental strategies and policies, including sustainable development policies and goals, with a comprehensive and integrated knowledge base.

### ***Multiannual performance indicators***

- Timely publication of a report on the state of, trends in and prospects for the environment in Europe in 2015 and 2020 (SOER 2015 and 2020) and evaluation of its utility.
- Timely annual publications of indicator reports relevant to the transition to a green economy/society in Europe.
- Appropriate support to the next ministerial meeting under the 'Environment for Europe' process (to be decided).
- Measurable uptake of EEA concepts, information and indicator-based assessments in the evaluation of the 7th EAP.

### ***Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017***

<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Key partners</b>	<b>Justification/legal reference</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Indicators and indicator-based analysis that will contribute to the monitoring of the 7th EAP	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs SOER, DGs ENV, CLIMA, ESTAT, JRC	Article 4 of the 7th EAP	Done
Planning and scoping of the 2018 indicators and indicator-based analysis that will contribute to the monitoring of the 7th EAP	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs SOER, DGs ENV, CLIMA, ESTAT, JRC	Article 4 of the 7th EAP	Done
SOER 2020 draft project plan in consultation with Eionet, EEA MB and the European Environment Knowledge Community (EKC)	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NFPs, Eionet NRCs SOER, Eionet NRCs FLIS, DGs ENV, CLIMA, ESTAT, JRC, RTD	EEA/Eionet Regulation Priority objective 5 of the 7th EAP	Done
Commence mini-SOER 2015 update, in support to the evaluation of the 7th EAP, for finalisation in 2018	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs SOER, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC	Article 4 of the 7th EAP	Substituted by the first and second indicator-based outputs described above



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Eionet workshop and webinars for state of the environment reporting	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs SOER	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
First findings for the EKC Knowledge Innovation Project, 'Within Limits of the Planet'	Contributions and joint products	EKC partners	Priority objective 5 of the 7th EAP	Done
Coordinated EEA contributions to EKC in line with 7th EAP knowledge gaps and SOER 2020 knowledge needs	Contributions and joint products	EKC partners	Priority objective 5 of the 7th EAP	Done
Strengthened cooperation and partnerships on policy evaluation methods, studies and web platforms for dissemination (specific policy evaluation projects to be identified under Strategic area 1)	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NFPs, European Commission, and the European Environmental Evaluators Network (EEEN)	Priority objective 5 of the 7th EAP	Done

#### **Highlights for 2017 (SA2.4)**

Further progress was made with member countries and EU institutions towards a knowledge hub on environmental policy evaluation, as well as extending other partnerships mainly with the professional evaluators community on environmental policy evaluation through the European Environmental Evaluators Network.

Various strands of work were initiated to support aspects of sustainability assessment in the EEA's work and complement the knowledge in the SOER 2020 report: resource nexus analysis and appraisal of the knowledge base and evidence underpinning SOER 2020 (contracts), systemic risks (in cooperation with International Risk Governance Council), integrated approaches towards the SDGs (contracts, in cooperation with PAN), and downscaling planetary boundaries to the EU level (with Environment Knowledge Community, EKC, partners).

The final version of the SOER 2020 integrated assessment prototype was developed in September, shared with the EEA stakeholders (including NFPs, Eionet-NRCs, DG ENV, DG for Climate Action — DG CLIMA, JRC, DG RTD and EEA Scientific Committee). The implementation plan for SOER 2020 was finalised in December 2017. The joint NRC SoE and NRC FLIS meeting was held in Bratislava, 26-28 September 2017, to present the prototype and discuss knowledge development and the co-creation



process for SOER 2020. Work on criteria for the appraisal of the quality of the evidence base for environmental reporting was started.

A new collaborative project with the JRC Unit on Foresight was started with the aim of producing forward-looking analyses in relation to sustainability transitions and EU policies. The project also seeks to strengthen the outlook part of the SOER 2020 project as well as illustrate the range of futures and sustainability prospects that the current state of the environment could lead to.

Under the EKC Within Limits of the Planet (WiLoP) project, a comprehensive background report was finalised. The report compiles the scientific knowledge related to the application of the concept of planetary boundaries at sub-global scales and methodological approaches for measuring performance, both from a territorial and from a consumption-based perspective.

The knowledge base for WiLoP is currently being further developed with exploration of what is meant by the concept of a 'safe operating space' for Europe in the context of planetary boundaries.

Under the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) process, the European Commission adopted, in February 2017, a Communication and 28 country-related reports ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/country-reports/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/country-reports/index_en.htm)) that outline the findings from the review that it undertook of the implementation of environmental legislation across the EU. The EEA kept the EEA Eionet network informed of the process and of the EIR outcomes and facilitated direct exchanges of views between Eionet and the relevant European Commission representatives at the regular Eionet NFP meetings.

The EEA annual indicator report *Environmental indicator report 2017 — In support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP)* and its 29 indicator-based online briefings were published on 30 November 2017 ([www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2017](http://www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2017)). The report concluded that lower economic activity in the EU following the 2008 financial crisis contributed to several of the positive past trends in the 29 indicators examined. As the EU's economic growth is recovering, increased efforts are likely to be necessary in the coming years to maintain progress. The report was well received by the media and was used as a key information source in the European Parliament's discussions of the Parliament's own initiative report on the implementation of the 7th EAP.

The plan for the *Environmental indicator report 2018 — In support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme* was finalised. The report, which will be published by early December 2018, will update the results of the 2017 report and contribute to both the evaluation of the 7th EAP ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-5442833\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-5442833_en)) and the second round of the EIR ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/index_en.htm)).

Recent activities under urban sustainability in support of SOER 2020 have focused mostly on scoping strategic partnerships. Contacts have been developed with DG ENV, DG for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), DG RTD, the network of major European cities (Eurocities), the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and the European Parliament. The EEA attended the UN Habitat III conference in Ecuador in October, gaining insights into the New Urban Agenda (global) and the European Urban Agenda (Amsterdam Pact).

Work commenced in September on a report on environmental sustainability in cities for publication in 2020. A scoping study is under way to clarify the conceptual framework, available knowledge and gaps to be addressed through the project. Urban sustainability was the 'topic in focus' at the EEA Scientific Committee on 11 October, presented by Professor Maarten Hajer, University of Utrecht.

**2017 publications (SA2.4)**

EEA Report No 21/2017; *Environmental indicator report 2017 — In support to the monitoring of the Seventh Environment Action Programme*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2017>

EEA Briefings; *Environmental indicator report 2017 (29 briefings)*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2017>



## 1.3 KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION, SHARING AND USE (SA3)

### ***Multiannual goal***

To be the authoritative European environment node and hub, and a key initiator within networks of knowledge co-creation, sharing and use.

### ***Multiannual key objectives***

- Ensure the quality, availability and accessibility (based on Shared Environmental Information System for Europe, SEIS, principles) of data and information needed to support SA1 and 2.
- Communicate actively data, information and knowledge to policymakers, the public, research communities, and others (NGOs, businesses) to regional and international processes, including those of the UN and its specialised agencies.
- Promote information governance as a driver of public empowerment and behavioural change.

### ***Multiannual key performance Indicators***

- Metrics to measure the active participation of Eionet (priority data flows, meetings participation, engagement in preparation and review of EEA products and services).
- Online availability of EEA data and information products and services (99 % up-time).
- Impacts of communication efforts (based on media monitoring tools).

### ***Key activities 2017***

- Continue the strengthening of Eionet by, inter alia, enhancement of links to relevant actors and networks in the context of the Environment Knowledge Community (EKC).
- In cooperation with Eionet, Directorates-General (DGs) for Environment (DG ENV), Climate Action (DG CLIMA), Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and Eurostat (DG ESTAT), support the adaptation of relevant reporting frameworks to underpin the monitoring and review process of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.
- Continue the implementation of externally funded activities under the Copernicus and European Neighbourhood programmes, supporting the establishment of structures modelled in line with Eionet and Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS) concepts.



## NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS (SA3.1)

### **Multiannual objective**

To improve the sharing of data, information and assessments at European, national and global levels together with Eionet, and to broaden cooperation with stakeholders and networks beyond Eionet.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Strengthened cooperation and communication within Eionet and between Eionet and the EEA, EEA Management Board and the EEA Scientific Committee.
- Increased satisfaction of the member countries with Eionet as a means to streamline data and knowledge sharing.
- Increased relevance of EEA/Eionet outputs to member countries.
- SEIS extension and regular reporting in the pan-European region established as part of SoE-online with a view to inform SOER 2015 and 2020.
- EEA/Eionet indicators and knowledge incorporated in EU contributions to UNEP and post-Rio+20 processes.
- Becoming a node and a hub in a policy-relevant network on long-term transitions.
- Growing contributions from stakeholders beyond Eionet.
- EEAcademy established by 2016.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
NFP/Eionet meetings and webinars	Workshops and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Monitoring of member country satisfaction with EEA/Eionet cooperation	Contributions and joint products	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
SOER-based inputs to pan-European and UNEP GEO-6 processes	Contributions and joint products	UNECE, UNEP, DG ENV	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Inputs to regional reporting (Arctic, Black Sea, Mediterranean)	Contributions and joint products	Eionet, Black Sea Commission, UNEP/MAP, Arctic Council	MAWP 2014-2020	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support EU Arctic strategy (2016) on environmental aspect	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG MARE, DG CLIMA, EEAS	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Member and cooperating country contributions (data, information, etc.) to SoE-online	Data and maps	Eionet, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	n/a (not relevant for 2017)
Enhanced partnerships with stakeholders beyond Eionet	Contributions and joint products	DG RTD, EPA Network, Global Green Growth Forum (3GF), European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Support to the Commission and EU Member States in the context of UNECE and UNEP assessments and the post-Rio+20 process	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, DG RTD, DG DEVCO, EEAS	MAWP 2014-2020	Done
EEAcademy operational	Contributions and joint products, workshops and meetings	Eionet and Scientific Committee	MAWP 2014-2020	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.1)**

#### **Eionet activities**

NFP/Eionet meetings were held in March, May and October of 2017. The meetings focused on implementation of the AWP, cooperation and infrastructure, regional and global processes, strategic horizontal processes of relevance to Eionet and knowledge developments.

The March meeting was the first after the Management Board seminar 'The future EEA-Eionet' in December 2016. The meeting highlighted some of the insights from the seminar and addressed how these insights can be used in the development of future NFP/Eionet meetings. It also focused on the fitness check of the Monitoring and Reporting of environmental policies, the evaluation of the EEA and Eionet, and SOER 2020.

A large part of the May meeting was dedicated to the evaluation of the EEA and Eionet allowing the evaluation contractor (COWI) to address the NFPs and ETC managers on the topic. In addition, the meeting addressed the strategic horizontal priorities of relevance to Eionet concerning the fitness check of the Monitoring and Reporting of environmental policies, as presented by the EEA Executive



Director. A guest lecture on science and precaution was also given by a Scientific Committee member.

The October meeting took place in Lisbon and was organised in close cooperation with the Portuguese NFP. This was the first NFP/Eionet meeting outside Copenhagen since 2014, and this was highly appreciated by the network. In addition to longer term strategic issues, such as the MRR process, and Eionet core operational matters, such as the NRC light review, the meeting offered a very interesting session on 'Addressing new skills for sustainability transition challenges'. This session was prepared in cooperation with the Business Council for Sustainable Development for Portugal.

NFP/Eionet webinars were organised in April, June, August, November and December. The webinars were prepared to complement the three face-to-face meetings held during the year to address some particular topics of interest in a more coherent way, e.g. the Eionet core data flows.

ETC coordination meetings were held back-to-back with the NFP/Eionet meetings to ensure effective and efficient coordination between the EEA and ETCs.

### **The NRC light review**

The present NRC structure was established in early 2014 to fully align the set-up to the MAWP 2014-2018. This structure was discussed extensively with the NFPs and was sent to the Management Board for information as a background document to the 69th meeting of March 2014. At the meeting, the Board endorsed the adapted NRC structure and noted '... the NRC structure would be considered as a living structure to be reviewed in the future, if need be.'

With the extension of the MAWP to 2020, it was decided to investigate whether any changes are needed. Given that no major adjustments have been made in extending the MAWP, the effects on the present NRC structure are expected to be limited. Nevertheless, the Programming Document for the period 2018-2020 includes a number of activities that may require some adjustments to the NRCs. Therefore, a working group consisting of NFPs and EEA staff was established to analyse the NRC structure and rationales and propose changes to the extent needed. The working group is expected to conclude its work in May 2018 to allow the Management Board to adopt the proposal in its June 2018 meeting.

### **ETC coordination**

Three ETC coordination meetings took place as planned during 2017: in February, May and October. At these meetings, both management and strategic issues were addressed, contributing to improved coordination of activities and ensuring that all involved in ETCs are kept fully up to date with developments.

At the end of the year, the 2018 Financing Decisions for ETCs were checked against the 2018 Action Plans before being presented to the Management Board.

In addition to normal coordinating functions, the main focus of effort in 2017 was preparing the launch of the call for proposals aimed at designating seven new ETCs at the beginning of 2019.



## **EPA Network**

The 28th plenary meeting of the EPA Network was successfully held on 6-7 April 2017 in Rome. In total, 70 people participated in the meeting, which focused on sharing experiences on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

The 29th EPA Network meeting took place from 25 to 26 September 2017 in Stockholm and was attended by about 60 people representing around 30 environmental organisations across Europe and the European Commission. Heads of EPAs discussed how to better support cities in becoming more sustainable and how open data can be used to meet environmental challenges.

The EPA Network Secretariat published the third and fourth issues of the EPA Network newsletter in August and November, respectively. The Secretariat carried out a survey on integrated regulatory tools and presented the results at the EPA plenary meeting in Rome.

A paper on monitoring the circular economy transition prepared by the Interest Group (IG) on Green and Circular Economy was endorsed by 12 EPAs, and the paper prepared by the IG on Plastics, as input to the EU Plastics Strategy, was endorsed by 15 EPAs.

The EPA Network IGs continued their working activities during 2017 and held a number of IG meetings and teleconferences.

The EPA Network Secretariat, together with the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (DG GROW) and the EEA, organised a workshop for EPAs on Copernicus, which took place on 7 June 2017 in Brussels.

The EPA Network IG on Plastics organised an expert conference on the EU Plastics Strategy, which was held on 8 June 2017 in Brussels.

## **Support in the wider European region and globally**

The EEA Framework of International Engagement, previously endorsed by the EEA Management Board, was published as an EEA corporate document in January 2018.

In the context of the third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) held on 4-6 December, the EEA provided technical support to the European Commission and Member States, especially on issues under the heading 'the science-policy interface', both during the conference and in the lead up to its preparation. This covered the decision on the timing of the UNEP Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6) and a number of ministerial outcome documents and resolutions, including those on environment and health, water pollution, marine pollution, soil pollution and biodiversity.

The EEA continued to contribute actively to the development of the EU SDG indicator set and to the November 2017 SDG indicator report in collaboration with Eurostat and other Commission DGs, including by commenting on the draft 2017 EU SDG indicator report from Eurostat, and by mapping of SDG activities focusing on providing an overview of SDG strategies and monitoring in EEA countries. The EEA also provided inputs to the revision of the global set of SDG indicators.



In the pan-European region, the EEA was very active, participating in various activities and events throughout the year. A key reference point was the pan-European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health organised by WHO in partnership with UNECE during June in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The EEA, in partnership with countries and key partners, WHO, UNECE and UNEP, organised a number of side-events and an exhibition stand and participated in the panel discussions.

The trilateral cooperation between the EEA, UNECE and UNEP was also visible during the year. It manifested itself through joint participation in events across the region, through the implementation of the ENI SEIS II project for the Eastern Partnership countries, as well as through regular dialogue and information exchange.

As a follow-up to the 2016 Batumi Ministerial Declaration, inviting the countries in the pan-European region to streamline reporting based on SEIS principles, the EEA, together with UNECE and UNEP, dedicated considerable effort to translating this commitment into practice. As a result of this partnership, it is expected that a first assessment of the implementation of SEIS by the countries in the region will be available in 2018 to feed into the mid-term review of the 'Environment for Europe' process.

Concerning the Arctic, the EEA engaged in a number of EU-led processes and activities concerning this region, including the local Arctic Stakeholder Forum (ASF) hosted by Commissioner Vella, which addressed future EU engagement in the European Arctic region, and the EU Arctic Dialogue seminar as part of the EU Arctic Policy Assessment (EUAPA) initiative. Environment and climate issues played a major part in the discussions. The EEA also sits on the steering committee of the EUAPA.

In June, the EEA published a report on European perspectives on a changing Arctic, which addressed challenges and opportunities in the region as well as pointing to policy options. A pre-launch was organised with the French Embassy in Copenhagen with the diplomatic corps in attendance, while Commissioner Vella conducted the launch at a high-level event on the EU's Arctic policy in Finland (alongside High Representative/Vice President, HRVP, Mogherini). The report has been well received in the EU.

In the context of the Arctic Council, the EEA has been active in engaging with it through the working group on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and at a conference in Copenhagen on SDGs in the Arctic, hosted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

### **Partnerships beyond Eionet**

The EEA continued to participate in the inter EU Agencies' Network on Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA). The EEA finalised the coordination, updating and layout of the report overviewing the scientific process of EU-ANSA and contributed to the meetings of the Network held in 2017.



## Citizen science

The EEA joined the regular web conferences of the EKC Knowledge and Innovation Project (KIP) on citizen science, which was launched in June 2017. The EEA is now an active member of the KIP team.

The EEA organised a 'Marine LitterWatch (MLW) Video Conference' for the EKC and informed relevant DGs and other EU institutions on the status and achievements of and lessons learned from the MLW app on citizen science.

## EEAcademy

In its second year of operation, the EEAcademy project sought to consolidate and expand some of the activities developed and piloted in past years and explore new features towards capacity-building and knowledge innovation. This work was conducted with the support and guidance of the advisory committee, which met twice during the year: once at the EEA premises and once via online conferencing.

Under the EEAcademy umbrella, two Scientific Committee seminars were organised in 2017, namely 'Chemicals for a sustainable future' in May and 'Big data and environmental knowledge' in October. Further to this, five EEAcademy lectures were offered: (1) 'Nanotechnology' (Steffen Foss Hansen); (2) 'Transitions, precaution, business and knowledge' (Sybille van den Hove); (3) 'Evaluating the SDGs' (Andrés Martinuzzi); (4) 'Adaptation of agriculture to climate change' (Anna Iglesias); and (5) 'Urban sustainability challenges in the 21st century' (Maarten Hajer). Brought together under a knowledge focus on systemic challenges and sustainability transitions, these sessions have also been recorded for further integration into EEAcademy online learning features.

In June, the EEAcademy held its third summer school, this year on the topic 'The precautionary principle: governance of innovation and innovations in governance'. With the support of the EEA Scientific Committee and in collaboration with the Central European University in Budapest, this activity has now reached a significant level of robustness and relevance, in terms of both stakeholders' engagement in knowledge co-creation and the scope of audience outreach.

In the second half of 2017, preparations began for the winter school on the topic 'Integrated environmental assessments' (held in January 2018).

### 2017 publications (SA3.1)

EEA Report No 7/2017; *The Arctic environment — European perspectives on a changing Arctic*;  
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/the-arctic-environment>



## TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT (SA3.2)

### **Multiannual objective**

To ensure that EEA IT systems continually meet the needs of the organisation, enabling it to efficiently implement its work programme.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Reportnet tools efficiently supporting fulfilment of reporting requirements.
- Networking tools efficiently supporting knowledge management and appreciated by networking partners.
- High user satisfaction with the Indicator Management System.
- Spatial data infrastructure compliant with Inspire by 2018.
- Usability of the EEA website rated high and increased number of visitors every year.
- SoE-online tools fulfilling their role in continual updating of SoE information after SOER 2015.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Improved Reportnet suite of tools	Information systems	Eionet, member countries, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved Eionet portal and related networking tools	Information systems	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Partially done (complete redesign of Eionet website postponed to 2018 due to unexpected breakdown of e-reporting tools)
IT support to data flows and development of information systems presented under SA1 and SA2	Information systems	Eionet, member countries, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved EEA website for up-to-date online information (SoE-online)	Information systems	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Improved EEA spatial data infrastructure	Information systems	Eionet, DG JRC, ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Inspire Directive	Done
Eionet workshop	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs for Information Systems	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.2)**

The development of Reportnet 2.0 began in March and is scheduled to be a 3-year project, conducted in close cooperation with the Eionet NFP User Group on Information Technology. During the first year of development, special attention was given to the ability to handle the increased amount of data, higher security, higher maintainability and functionality upgrades to secure the availability of essential infrastructure components for ongoing reporting activities.

In June 2017, the EEA launched the new GEMET (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus) portal and content update. This includes, in addition to an up-to-date visual representation of the vocabulary, more than 300 new terms, e.g. 'green economy' and 'sustainable development goals' (<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet/en/themes/>).

To improve information technology (IT) security, browsing speed (~ 330 % faster) and a better ranking on global search engines, the EEA updated its web addresses and URLs, switching from 'HTTP' to 'HTTPS', e.g. <https://www.eea.europa.eu> instead of <http://www.eea.europa.eu>.

MONITORING, DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (SA3.3)

**Multiannual objective**

To ensure the availability, quality, accessibility and sustainability of monitoring, data and information needed for the knowledge base, supporting environment and climate policies.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- At least 90 % average score for Eionet data flows by 2018.
- Annually updated European datasets online within 3 months of deadline for national deliveries.
- Annually updated indicator assessments online within 3 months of data publications.
- European environmental data regularly updated in global environmental datasets.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on Eionet country core data flows 2016	Reports and assessments	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Updated European geospatial reference data for the EEA SDI and GIS activities	Data and maps	DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENTR, DG RTD	EEA/Eionet Regulation Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC	Done
SoE content update as part of the further implementation of SEIS	Indicators Data and maps	Eionet, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENV, DG ENTR	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
EEA/Eionet data sharing with Copernicus and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, including contributions to the Commission geoportal in close cooperation with COGI	Data and maps	Eionet, DG GROW, DG RTD	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU and open data policy, GEO Ministerial decision of 1 December 2015	Done



### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.3)**

During 2017, the EEA published on its website (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps>) 32 updated European datasets, 186 interactive maps and data viewers, 119 maps and graphs and 37 updated indicators, 17 of which form the EEA core set of indicators.

The [EU Open data portal](#) was updated with the metadata of the new data published by the EEA. The EEA open data policy was presented to the EPA Network in Stockholm in September.

During 2017, the data and maps section was the most visited section of the EEA website (829 000 sessions). The EEA web map servers ([DiscoMap](#)) received more than 175 000 000 requests to view maps produced by the EEA.

From 2017 onwards, the automated data flow monitoring of Eionet core data flows was made available online and is updated on a daily basis (<https://www.eionet.europa.eu/dataflows/2017>). Quality control of the reported data beyond the automatic control procedures is being carried out by EEA and ETC staff. The final results for 2017, including the overall data reporting performance of EEA member and cooperating countries for a selected number of data flows in 2017, were published during the first quarter of 2018.

Within the frame of the EKC, the EEA leads the Task Force on the Future of the Environmental Data Centres. The EKC partners are working towards improved interoperability in line with the new European Interoperability Framework as well as revised governance arrangements for streamlining data, information and knowledge management at the European level.

The EEA continued to support the European Commission with the implementation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) Directive. The EEA participated in the European Inspire Conference, which was hosted by France and Germany in Strasbourg and Kehl from 4 to 8 September. The EEA organised three workshops during the event, namely on e-reporting, handling priority environmental datasets and how Inspire supports Copernicus.

A joint EEA-Scientific Committee seminar was held on 10 October to discuss the challenges of and opportunities for 'Big Data' in contributing to the core business processes of the EEA and Eionet related to monitoring, reporting and knowledge developments.

The first phase of the Monitoring and Reporting Refit of environment policies (MRR) was concluded during Q2 2017, when the Commission published Communication [COM\(2017\)312](#). A second phase, in the second half of 2017, focused on practical considerations around the scope of the EEA's future role in this area — considering the negotiations around extra resources for this task were granted. Most of the EEA work will revolve around a new generation of reporting tools (Reportnet 3.0) over a timeframe of 2018-2020 and beyond.

#### **2017 publications (SA3.3)**

EEA Briefing No 9/2017; *Eionet core data flows 2016*;

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eionet-core-data-flows-2016>



## COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND USER ANALYSIS (SA3.4)

### ***Multiannual objective***

To inform and engage in dialogue with key stakeholders and other users of EEA outputs around key messages and corporate communications.

### ***Multiannual performance indicators***

- The EEA's findings are communicated regularly and objectively, providing full and easy access to information, respecting the EEA's corporate identity and corporate design, using relevant channels and appropriate frequency.
- Input to EU and national environment agendas is provided, key stakeholders are engaged with the EEA in dialogue and networking; activities are aligned to priorities of the EU and EEA member countries.
- Specific target audiences are known and addressed as directly as possible with appropriate measures; new audiences and tools are identified in response to societal changes.
- Timely production of the reports due for publication.

Communications key performance indicators	Total number in 2017
Press releases and news highlights (total)	37
Media enquiries (including interview and article requests)	280
EEA mentions in EU policy documents	295
EEA media coverage (number of articles)	13 819
Web traffic to EEA website (page views)	9 445 118
Facebook content views	1 416 127
EEA tweets	223
Visiting groups	32
Public enquiries	770
CRM subscribers	8 907
Exhibitions with EEA stand/presence	6
Issues of EEA Newsletter	4
Speaking notes/presentations prepared for EEA's Executive Director	42


**Performance against the expected outputs in EEA's AWP 2017**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Key partners</b>	<b>Justification/legal reference</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Communication plans and activities supporting annual priorities	Communication products	Eionet, EU Institutions	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Annual meeting and communication activities with Eionet NRCs for Communication	Workshops and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Quarterly online corporate newsletter	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Signals 2017	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved user experience of EEA website	Information systems	Users	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Media relations	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Production and dissemination of quality-assured and targeted EEA outputs (editing, publishing and dissemination)	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Dialogue activities as face-to-face meetings, conferences, workshops	Communication products	EEA/Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Promotion of EEA outputs and messages through social media channels	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Customer relations and targeted dissemination to stakeholders	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Evaluation of the impact of EEA outputs	Corporate products	All stakeholders	MAWP 2014-2020	Done



## **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.4)**

### **Annual meeting with Eionet NRCs for Communication**

The annual NRC for COM (the communications programme in the EEA) meeting was held in Copenhagen in October. The discussions focused on the role of communications in translating scientific knowledge into policy-relevant information, especially in the context of the current media and social media environment that is questioning the credibility and importance of scientific findings. Participants also discussed and brainstormed ideas for SOER 2020 communication.

### **Quarterly EEA newsletter**

Four corporate newsletters were disseminated online in 2017 and included topics such as [scientific knowledge and effective policies](#), noise pollution, circular economy, chemicals, oceans, climate change disaster risk reduction, climate finance and air quality.

### **Signals 2017**

The EEA Signals 2017 report on energy was published in August. The English version was followed by versions in 12 other languages, determined in accordance with requests from Eionet. Given their more extensive outreach, the Signals infographics were translated into 24 languages.

### **Improved user experience of EEA website**

As part of the web improvements project, [country pages](#) went live in October as part of the top level of navigation. The first stage of these new entry points consists of displaying country-specific information (mainly fact sheets) already published on the EEA website as well as links to national information sources (provided by NFPs) and making EEA content available in the relevant language(s). These entry pages will be improved further in 2018, in terms of both content and display.

### **Media relations**

The EEA press team initiated and organised a pre-launch media briefing and a launch event for the *Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe* report in January. Selected EU correspondents from large European newspapers (*The Guardian*, *El Pais*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Le Figaro*, *De Morgen*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*) took part. The limited briefing was able to secure widespread coverage on the day of the launch and this led to more follow-up coverage by other outlets, including global wires *Associated Press*, *Reuters*, *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* and *Agence France-Press*, which were carried in other major outlets worldwide, including *Bild*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Deutsche Welle*, totalling more than 1 000 articles so far. The launch event on 25 January was held at the European Policy Centre, and included a presentation by Jos Delbeke from the Commission and a Q&A session attracting more than 100 people. The event was successfully live-streamed via Facebook as well as profiled and amplified on our other social media accounts, including Twitter. Further press interviews including a TV/radio interview with Belgian VRT, and written interviews with *Politico* and *De Tijd* followed.



Another press launch debate was organised for the EEA report on climate change and disaster risk reduction at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, where speakers from the European Parliament, DG CLIMA and DG for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) joined the EEA Executive Director. The press office also promoted the EEA with the 'package on greenhouse gas emissions' (*Trends and projections — Part I, Trends and Projections in the EU ETS*, and the *EU greenhouse gas proxy inventory for 2016*) and the EEA report *Food in a green light*.

### **Production and dissemination of quality-assured and targeted EEA outputs (editing, publishing and dissemination)**

The COM programme continued to work on ensuring the quality of the EEA's published products, including the editing, layout and production of all EEA publications, including their maps and charts.

The ongoing product type review progressed in key areas:

- the continued development of reporting functionalities from the EEA's Management Plan System to provide clear 'production' overviews and reports;
- a package of new guidance material being finalised and published on the EEA intranet, including an updated writing manual and a new publishing guide;
- a new training session on writing and publishing and a series of short training sessions on the publishing system continue.

The EEA product type review was again presented at the European Agencies Editors' Workshop, which took place at the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius in September.

Anti-plagiarism was also put in place and tested during 2017, with a view to making these checks standard in 2018. Associated guidance on ensuring the correct implementation of copyright rules was also developed.

### **Evaluation of the impact of EEA outputs**

The results of the user analysis addressing the perceived usefulness and quality of EEA products among stakeholders following the 2015 product type review show overall high satisfaction rates. Our products are perceived as meeting our audience's needs and being fit for their intended purpose.

### **Dialogue activities such as face to-face meetings, conferences, workshops**

Dialogue activities continued with the following highlights:

- 'NATURE@work' photo competition: the 2017 public outreach photo competition focused on the benefits and services we receive from the natural environment around us. The EEA received 1 065 valid entries from 39 countries. Fifty of the photos made it to the final round, and, in the end, six photos emerged as winners, announced by the EEA Executive Director in Tallinn in October.
- The 'Noise in Europe' conference in April 2017 featured a keynote speech by the Executive Director, and the 2017 EEA briefing 'Managing exposure to noise in Europe'; was launched.



- An EEA country visit to Finland took place in parallel with the World Circular Economy Forum in June. During the Forum, in which the EEA acted as a partner organisation, the Executive Director gave a keynote speech at the plenary session on circular cities. The EEA also hosted an open session, 'Circular by design — products in a circular economy', in which it launched the 2017 edition of the EEA circular economy report and had a stand.
- The third European Climate Change Adaptation Conference 'Our climate ready future', was held in Glasgow in June, at which the EEA co-hosted three sessions and participated in an exhibition stand shared with EASME.
- The sixth ministerial conference of the European Environment and Health Process was held in Ostrava in the Czech Republic, at which the EEA participated with speakers, moderators and an exhibition stand.
- The Clean Air Forum was held in Paris in November, at which the EEA launched the European Air Quality Index and country fact sheets. The EEA's latest reports and messages on air quality were promoted and the index demonstrated at a stand at the event.
- The 'Climate Planet' roadshow (an activity in the European Capital of Culture programme of the city of Aarhus, Denmark), at which the EEA contributed with a stand in the exhibition component during September and October.

#### **Promotion of EEA outputs and messages through social media channels**

In March, the European Commission's Water Week was supported by the EEA social media team, who retweeted and helped amplify tweets, posted their own Water Day tweets and profiled the latest EEA water reports on Facebook. In line with other EU institutions and agencies, the EEA also took part in #EU60 social media promotions around the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaty in the run-up to Europe Day on 9 May.

The EEA team collaborated very closely with the DG ENV and CLIMA communications teams throughout the year to coordinate outputs and amplify messages, especially around the launch of the annual *Air quality in Europe* report in October and the Clean Air Forum in November.

These efforts were supported by live Facebook events, during which EEA experts answered viewers' questions on climate adaptation and disaster risk management, and on air quality in Europe, with each video receiving more than 12 000 views within days. Given their extensive outreach, more of these live online events will be scheduled.

#### **Customer relations and targeted dissemination to stakeholders**

The COM programme continued to monitor mentions of the EEA in documents of the European Commission, the European Council, the European Parliament, EU agencies and selected interest groups. The number of such mentions almost doubled between 2016 and 2017. This kind of stakeholder monitoring, which is done by way of our collaboration with the company Dods Group, provides valuable information about the visibility and uptake of our work in policy-related documents at the EU level. Transport, air, energy, climate change, waste and water continue to be the most prevalent themes of the EEA mentions.

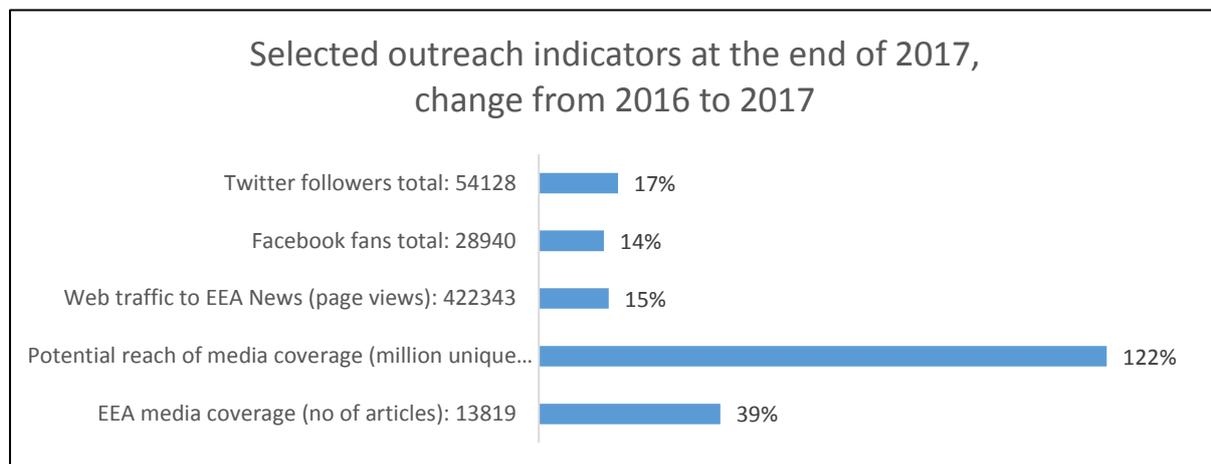
## Internal communications

The Matrix Group for Internal Communication completed one of its improvement projects: ‘Co-creation of corporate values’. Interviews with heads of programme were carried out and input was gathered from staff through focus groups. The Matrix group validated the selected values through further internal communication initiatives and the new values (Respect, Professionalism, Openness, Positivity and Trust) were launched in January 2017. Desk calendars displaying EEA values have been distributed to staff.

The ‘intranet improvement project’, aimed at modernising and strengthening the intranet as an effective internal communications tool, ran throughout 2017 and beyond.

Other activities included:

- agendas for management group meetings and input to staff meetings have been coordinated;
- Come & Communicate sessions continued throughout 2017 on:
  - EEA ‘evaluation’;
  - SDGs across the EEA;
  - European Neighbourhood Initiative – cooperation with the partner countries in the East and the South;
  - chemicals;
- the organisation of an internal social event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome;
- EEA presentations as part of the welcome package for newcomers.



### 2017 publications (SA3.4)

EEA Report No 11/2017; *EEA Signals 2017 — Shaping the future of energy in Europe: Clean, smart and renewable*; <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/signals-2017>. The 2017 edition was translated into 12 languages.



## QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES (SA3.5)

### **Multiannual objective**

To provide high-quality operational support to the running of the EEA, including quality management and environmental performance management.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Core processes documented in accessible and consistent formats, and quality management system (QMS) better integrated with other management systems and EMAS. Proof of improved processes recorded.
- Completed verifications and publication of annual verified environmental statements. Recertification achieved.
- Relevant and timely reporting, advice and recommendations provided to the ED and EEA management.
- Stable and user-friendly IT systems available throughout the year (99 % uptime) and satisfaction level in the EEA job satisfaction survey kept at the same high level as in previous years.
- High percentage (aiming at 100 %) registration of documents and records that meet the criteria for registration.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Quality management system (QMS)	Corporate products	All stakeholders	EEA internal control standards	Done
Environmental management system (EMAS)	Corporate products	All stakeholders	EMAS, Relevant Danish environmental legislation	Done
IT infrastructure and service	Information systems	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Document management system	Corporate products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Access to documents	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.5)**

#### **IT infrastructure**

The IT infrastructure was operated successfully with an uptime of 99 %.



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## QUALITY STATEMENT

The purpose of the annual quality statement is to highlight some quality-related improvements undertaken and to connect facts derived from quality records to objectives and priorities.

In 2017, the updated approach to quality management from 2016 was rolled out across the EEA. In total, 38 procedures in the QMS were updated and approved by Senior Management Team (SMT) to ensure organisational ownership and that they are aligned with current practice and functions in the EEA. The EEA's approach to quality management was communicated to staff in five programmes. In addition to online courses, in-house training related to delivering quality results, including the project management method PM<sup>2</sup>, was undertaken by 30 staff.

During the course of 2017:

- An overarching structure for performance management was developed setting out key performance indicators (KPIs) for the period 2019-2021 and connected to quality management (QM) records.
- Proposals to improve the alignment of the risk management cycle with the new internal control framework were prepared for piloting in 2018.
- The 2017 staff engagement survey showed a 16 percentage point increase in relation to quality management; however, the overall score is still only 48 % favourable.
- The EEA IT steering committee recommended five IT development projects to go ahead, as the overall business case was positively evaluated, reflecting the integration of recommendations for the EEA to make use of business cases for data/information management decision-making.

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## ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME

In 2004, the EEA developed an environmental management system (EMS). It is designed to monitor, report on and improve the EEA's environmental impacts resulting from a range of pressures, from electricity consumption to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from travel. In 2005, the EMS was first registered under EMAS. The EEA was one of the first EU institutions and bodies to actually implement the quality standard, and today EMAS is an integral part of the EEA's QMS.

During the course of 2017:

- The SMT set EMAS targets and performance indicators at the beginning of the year, with a focus on improving electricity consumption by investing in LED lighting in all offices. The full benefit of this investment is expected in 2017.
- The EMAS management review of targets and performance demonstrated a 32 % reduction in electricity consumption compared with the average in the years 2011-2013. This is the result of investment in a new cooling system for the server room in 2015.
- The EEA's paper consumption — one of the main environmental pressures resulting from the external printing of publications — also saw a reduction of 20 % because of the ongoing transition from print to web publications.



- Finally, the external verification of the annual environmental statement and the audit of the environmental management system were successfully completed in 2017 and, for the 13th consecutive year, the EEA is EMAS certified.
- The amended annexes of the EMAS regulation (EMAS IV) with additional requirements will be implemented during the transition period in 2018.
- For more information on the environmental performance of the EEA's EMS, please consult the EEA website (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/emas>), which includes the verified EMAS environmental statement for 2017.



## COPERNICUS OPERATIONAL SERVICES <sup>(12)</sup> (SA3.6)

Please note that work in this area is conditional on non-core funds being allocated to the EEA for these activities.

### **Multiannual objective**

To contribute to the implementation of the Copernicus programme.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Time span between satellite data acquisition and derived land cover data reduced to 1 year.
- Copernicus services online and available with at least 99 % uptime.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Main ETC partner: ETC/ULS and ETC/BD.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Land use and land cover change data of the pan-European and the local component of the Copernicus land-monitoring service	Data and maps	DG GROW, DG JRC DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Land Cover	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done
Inspire compliant land.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus land-monitoring data and services	Information systems	DG GROW, JRC	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done
Overview of in-situ data used by operational Copernicus services	Reports and assessments	DG GROW, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done
Copernicus Reference Data Access Node (CORDA)	Information systems	DG GROW, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done

<sup>(12)</sup> Copernicus operational services are covered and funded by a delegation agreement between the European Union and the EEA.



### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.6)**

The implementation of the activities in the Copernicus pan-European and local land component, as well as the activities in the cross-service *in situ* coordination, followed the approved Copernicus work programme for 2017 within the frame of the delegation agreement between the EU and the EEA for 2014-2020.

The highlights of 2017 activities are the following:

- The update of the European high-resolution layers for imperviousness, forests, grassland, wetness and water (reference year 2015) were, for the first time, finalised within 1 year of the availability of suitable input satellite data coverage over Europe. The dataset on small woody features started production in a delayed mode, because of problems with the input of very high-resolution imagery, but it still managed to deliver the first batch of EEA-39 coverage.
- The preparatory work for organising a fast update of the Corine Land Cover (CLC) data for the reference year 2018 (CLC2018) was prepared in close collaboration with Eionet members. The update is scheduled to be completed before the end of 2018, in time for providing up-to-date land cover data at the European level for producing SOER 2020. Furthermore, important preparatory work has been done by the EAGLE group for a new land cover data product, referred to as CLC+, using a new data model, providing much more detail and flexibility. It aims to support several policy processes, including land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), agri-environment-climate measures of the new CAP, the Urban Agenda and the 2030 Sustainability Agenda. The CLC+ product specifications were subject to an in-depth user consultation process.
- A geographic extension of the Urban Atlas has been produced by processing an additional 107 functional urban areas (FUAs) over the Western Balkans and Turkey. Content wise, a new product was added to the suite, namely height information on the downtown areas of the EU-28 capitals; data for 11 capitals were delivered by the end of the year.
- The extension of the Riparian Zones product continued with the delivery of data for 11 river basins in Europe, which have been extended upstream to Strahler level 2.
- A first extension of the Natura 2000 product was finalised as well, covering 111 000 km<sup>2</sup> of Natura 2000 sites, mainly over grasslands, and as selected by DG ENV.
- A user consultation workshop was organised in preparation for a coastal zone monitoring service, which will be implemented from 2018 onwards.
- In the domain of cross-service *in situ* data coordination, the focus continued on four main areas of activities, namely (1) creating an overview of the Copernicus *in situ* component, (2) raising awareness, (3) improving data access, and (4) establishing partnership agreements.



## CAPACITY BUILDING IN WESTERN BALKAN AND EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY COUNTRIES <sup>(13)</sup> (SA3.7)

Please note that work in this area is conditional on non-core funds being allocated to the EEA for these activities.

### ***Multiannual objective***

To improve the knowledge base for environment policy in the entire pan-European area and the Mediterranean, based on SEIS principles.

### ***Multiannual performance indicators***

- Integration of Western Balkan countries in EEA/Eionet activities and products.
- Strong performance of Western Balkan countries in priority data flows.
- Annual data flows for ENP countries for a set of regional indicators linked to the 'Horizon 2020: a cleaner Mediterranean by 2020' process for the South, and the 'Environment for Europe' process for the East.

### ***Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017***

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Participation of West Balkan NFPs and NRCs in Eionet workshops	Workshops and meetings	Eionet in Western Balkan countries, EPA Network IG on Western Balkans	EEA/Eionet Regulation, IPA	Done
Maintenance and further development of Eionet structures in the Western Balkan countries to ensure their contribution to main EEA outputs (data flows, reports, web products, etc.)	Contributions and joint products	Eionet in Western Balkan countries, DG ENV, DG NEAR, EPA Network IG on Western Balkans	IPA, MAWP 2014-2020	Done

<sup>(13)</sup> Work in this area is covered by grant agreements between the European Commission and the EEA.



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Technical assistance to the partner countries in the European Neighbourhood delivered through capacity building workshops, technical meetings and training	Workshops and meetings	Partners/NFPs under European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)-SEIS, DG NEAR, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, UNECE, UNEP/MAP	ENI, MAWP 2014-2020	Done
Pilots for establishing a regular data flow process as well as assessment capability for the ENP partner countries in line with ongoing Eionet practice	Contributions and joint products	Partners/NFPs under European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)-SEIS, DG NEAR, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, UNECE, UNEP/MAP	ENI, MAWP 2014-2020	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA3.7)**

The funding to support the Western Balkan countries' cooperation with Eionet for the year 2016-2017 will end on 31 January 2018. In the meantime, the DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargements Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the EEA have signed a contract for renewed funding for activities from 1 February 2018 until 31 January 2020. All projects anticipated under the present funding have been carried out, with special emphasis on e-reporting in the Western Balkan countries. This has resulted in the inclusion of two Western Balkan countries in the EEA's Air Quality Index project for Europe and the remaining countries will follow. The Western Balkan countries, through the heads of the EPAs and the NFPs, have expressed interest in closer, and possibly more formalised, cooperation with the EEA as a next step in the approximation process and with a view to a possible EEA membership in the medium-term future. The EEA will consider this request and formulate a strategy to further integrate the Western Balkan countries into its work.

Cooperation with the partners from the European Neighbourhood regions in the eastern and southern Mediterranean continued steadily under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). A number of activities took place in 2017 based on the Eionet model and EEA/EU best practices in the field of indicator development, information management, and environmental assessments and accounting, covering a wide spectrum of thematic areas. Significant progress has been made in improving the governance structures underpinning cooperation with the EEA/Eionet and the specific project activities on the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS). This has included putting in place national SEIS assistants, increasing contacts with Eionet experts and improving the linkage of SEIS project activities with each ENI country's specific political commitments: with the Eastern Partnership for the ENI East and the Horizon 2020/Barcelona Convention for the whole Mediterranean region.

## 1.4 EEA MANAGEMENT (SA4)

### ***Multiannual goal***

Excellence in delivering the work programme.

### ***Multiannual key objectives***

Provide efficient and effective management and administration of the Agency's work programme and resources (financial and human).

### ***Multiannual key performance indicators***

- Work programme delivered.
- Positive outcome of the next 5-year external evaluation of the EEA (2018).

### ***Key activities 2017***

- Track the Commission-led process to evaluate and propose changes to the EEA/Eionet Regulation and clarify impacts on the timing and substance of EEA Multiannual programming (mandate, tasks, budgetary and staff resources).

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (SA4.1)

**Multiannual objective:**

To lead and manage the EEA effectively and efficiently in line with stakeholder expectations.

**Multiannual performance indicators**

- Timely delivery of documents and other contributions to the Management Board, Bureau and Scientific Committee. Smooth running of their respective meetings.
- Well executed planning, drafting and stakeholder consultation of the annual work programmes adhering to the agreed deadline.
- 95 % of agreed development plans and appraisals completed according to the deadlines specified in internal guidelines.
- On average, 10 days/year used per staff member for development of competencies (including language training).
- Positive outcome of the next 5-year external evaluation.

**Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
90 % outputs, as defined in the AWP 2017, delivered in 2017	Corporate products	n/a	AWP	Partially done (Assessment against the expected output is not straightforward because defined outputs are very diverse in terms of scope. No methodology is available to ensure the correct weighing of the outputs)
95 % agreed development plans and appraisals completed according to deadlines as specified in internal guidelines and 10 days are used per staff member for development of competencies (on average)	Corporate products	n/a	Staff regulations	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Programming Document 2018-2020	Corporate products	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services, EP-ENVI	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Draft Programming Document 2019-2021	Corporate products	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services, EP-ENVI	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done (Management Board adoption on 30 January 2018, in accordance with standing practice)
Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2016	Corporate products	Management Board	Financial Regulation EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Management Board and Bureau meetings and seminars	n/a	Management Board and Bureau	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Scientific Committee meetings and seminars	n/a	Scientific Committee	EEA/Eionet Regulation	
Deliveries defined in the annual audit plan approved by the EEA Management Board	Corporate products	Management Board	Financial Regulation	Done

### Highlights for 2017 (SA4.1)

- The Programming Document (PD) 2018-2020, including both the annual work programme for 2018 and the multiannual planning for the coming 3 years, was finalised in 2017 and formally adopted by the Management Board in December 2017. The work on the PD for 2019-2021 started in the second quarter of 2017 and the consolidated version of the draft PD 2019-2021 was reviewed by the Management Board in December 2017 in preparation for final adoption by the Bureau in January 2018 and transmission to the EU institutions by 31 January 2018.
- The Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2016, was adopted by the Management Board including the analysis and assessment by the Management Board, and transmission by Management Board to the budget authorities <sup>(14)</sup> and the European Court of Auditors.
- In 2017, three Management Board and three Bureau meetings were organised. Given the relevance of the ongoing Commission evaluation of the EEA and Eionet for the Management

<sup>(14)</sup> European Commission, Parliament and Council.

Board, members participated in the Commission stakeholder workshop on the evaluation instead of organising a seminar in December 2017.

- Addressing the implications of the continuing resource cuts decided by the budgetary authority.
- The European Commission has contracted a consortium to undertake a study to support the evaluation of the EEA and its Eionet.



## ADMINISTRATION (SA4.2)

### **Multiannual objective**

To provide high-quality administrative support to the running of the EEA.

### **Multiannual performance indicators**

- Satisfaction level in the EEA job satisfaction survey is kept at the same high level as previous years, and a minimum of serious observations/recommendations from audits received.
- Staff competency development activities to support the delivery of the work programmes are planned and executed in accordance with the EEA learning and development framework.
- EEA budget, procurement plan and accounts published within the deadlines as set out in the Financial Regulation.
- Satisfaction level for facilities management services in the EEA job satisfaction survey kept at the same high level as in previous years.

### **Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2017**

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Reply to European Parliament discharge 2015	Corporate products	European Parliament	Framework Financial Regulation	Done
Annual Accounts 2016	Corporate products	Management Board, Commission services, Court of Auditors	Financial Regulation	Done
Budgetary and Financial Management Report 2016	Corporate products	Budgetary authorities, Commission services, Court of Auditors	Financial Regulation	Done
Budget 2017 (publication in the Official Journal)	Corporate products	EU Publications Office	Financial Regulation	Done
Procurement plan 2017 (Published in European public procurement journal Tenders Electronic Daily)	Corporate products	DG ENV, DG CLIMA	Financial Regulation	Done
Planning and programming: Draft Budget 2018 (including establishment table)	Corporate products	DG ENV/DG BUDG	Financial Regulation	Done
Building policy	Corporate products	DG BUDG	Financial Regulation	Done



Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Compliance reporting: Reply to Court of auditors, Internal Audit Service	Corporate products	Court of Auditors, Internal Audit Service of the Commission, European Parliament	Financial Regulation	Done

### **Highlights for 2017 (SA4.2)**

Developing learning and development programmes for EEA competency profiles: the final step in the development of the EEA Core Competency Framework was the introduction of technical competencies (job families), which was implemented in the career development cycle system in late autumn. The Core Competency Framework now consists of core competencies, leadership competencies and technical competencies.

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## THE EEA BALANCED SCORECARD

The balanced scorecard offers a wide-ranging view of the accomplishment of strategies: first and foremost, by using multiple approaches to achieve effectiveness, and, second, by integrating content-oriented performance indicators with more quantifiable aspects of efficiency.

The EEA balanced scorecard, as presented in Annex 1, shows the strategic indicators of EEA performance at a highly aggregated level. These indicators are derived from a wide range of metrics that measure performance and ramify widely across the four different perspectives that frame the balanced scorecard.

The top level of the EEA balanced scorecard attempts to provide a simple overview of how we are performing as an organisation, and directs attention to areas in which performance is below the desired level. Indicators at this level are displayed as achievements according to set targets, easily conveying how close we are to the target.

In an attempt to capture the complexity required to describe progress in a strategy, the chosen metrics are a combination of performance and process indicators. The relationships between the 'resources', the 'business process' and the 'client' perspectives should be considered in an attempt to unfold the entire 'value chain' of the EEA. Each perspective should not be considered in isolation, as this may result in sub-optimisation, whereby one perspective improves at the expense of another. Global optimisation is always our primary concern.

The 'learning and growth' perspective is used to supplement these three perspectives; this perspective seeks to describe the state of development of the organisation and its staff.



The EEA balanced scorecard is not used as an attempt to resolve all the challenges involved in running an organisation such as the EEA; however, it will prove to be a powerful tool for the assessment of the achievement rate of the set objectives and will help us manage more effectively and communicate progress to our stakeholders.

The EEA is constantly seeking better ways of reporting/illustrating the content of the four perspectives, and hence some graphs might change from year to year.



## PART 2A MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 MANAGEMENT BOARD

In 2017, the Management Board held three plenary meetings, and the Bureau held three meetings to support the Management Board in its oversight role and with the preparation of the Board plenary meetings. In addition, a review committee provided support to the Management Board in relation to the decision on new ETCs for the period 2019-2021. Four Management Board decisions were adopted by written procedure on implementing rules to the Staff Regulations and an amendment to the EEA budget for 2017. The Bureau took one decision following the delegation of power from the Board, namely on the adoption of the draft Programming Document 2018-2020 for transmission to the EU Institutions. In total, the Board delegated two decisions to the Bureau. In 2017, the mandate for some members of the EEA Management Board changed. Laura Burke (Management Board member for Ireland) was elected as the Chair of the EEA Management Board, and André Weidenhaupt (Management Board member from Luxembourg) was elected as Vice-Chair/Bureau member of the EEA Management Board; both were elected for a term in office of 3 years, from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2020.

The Management Board adopted all statutory documents as anticipated in the applicable rules and regulations, including:

- EEA budget for 2018 and three budget amendments relevant to 2017;
- EEA Programming Document 2018-2020, including the AWP for 2018;
- financing of action plans for the ETCs for 2018;
- Management Board opinion on the EEA's annual accounts for 2016;
- Consolidated Annual Activity Report relevant to activities in 2016, including the Management Board's assessment and analysis.

The Management Board's overall oversight role was further ensured through the following:

- In its meetings, the Board received regular reports from the Executive Director on the EEA's activities and budget implementation, and from the Internal Audit Capability (IAC) on internal and external audits, as well as a follow-up on recommendations.
- The Board adopted the Internal Audit Charter for the EEA IAC, the EEA Internal Control Framework and the EEA Anti-fraud Strategy, and approved the IAC audit work plan for 2018.

The Management Board discharged its duties as appointing authority for the Agency's Executive Director, which included the following:

- decision on the renewal of the contract of employment of the EEA Executive Director, Dr Hans Bruyninckx, for a period of 5 years with effect from 1 June 2018;
- performance evaluation of the EEA Executive Director relevant to calendar year 2016;



- adoption of KPIs for the EEA Executive Director as of 2018;
- decision on the reporting officers and the appeal assessor for the annual appraisal of the Executive Director for the calendar year 2017; and
- the drafting of the first draft of the implementing rules on the appraisal, probationary period and managerial trial period of the EEA Executive Director.

Further activities of the EEA Management Board included:

- adoption of a number of implementing rules in relation to teleworking at the EEA and the appraisal of middle managers, and the adoption of a policy on protecting the dignity of the person and preventing psychological harassment and sexual harassment;
- decision on the establishment of two new ETCs, bringing the total number of ETCs for the period 2019-2021 to seven;
- approval of Eurostat's work programme for 2017; and
- initiation of the review of the functioning of the Management Board and Bureau.

During 2017, the Commission-led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet Regulation under the Better Regulation guidelines was a standing agenda item for the Management Board and Bureau meetings. In December 2017, the majority of Management Board members participated in the Commission-organised stakeholder workshop on the evaluation of the EEA and Eionet.

## 2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

### YEAR-ON-YEAR REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF EEA STAFF SINCE 2013

In light of the conditions of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020, the Commission Communication on 'Programming of human and financial resources for decentralised agencies 2014-2020' from 2013, sets the framework for overall planning of resources. It identifies agencies at 'cruising speed', 'new tasks' agencies (which have a 'cruising speed' part) and 'start-up phase' agencies. It establishes an approach to ensure an overall reduction of 5 % in the number of posts in agencies' establishment plans over 5 years, while also meeting the needs of 'start-up phase' and 'new tasks' agencies. The Commission proposed to create a 'redeployment pool' by applying an annual 1 % levy applicable to 'cruising speed' agencies and the cruising speed part of 'new tasks' agencies, on top of the 5 % reduction as required by the MFF. The posts resulting from the levy are allocated to 'start-up phase' agencies and 'new tasks' agencies, for which an increase in the number of establishment plan posts is necessary.

The EEA was classified as a 'new tasks' agency with the following potential new tasks suggested by the Commission: 'coordinator for the implementation of the Copernicus land service, building on the long experience of the EEA in Corine Land Cover and other GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) Initial Operations activities (precursor land service).' This would, however, require a modification of the EEA/Eionet Regulation. As a result, the Copernicus work presently undertaken by the Agency is delegated to the EEA through a multiannual (2014-2020)

delegation agreement with DG GROW. Five new contract agents could be recruited, but the EEA could not draw on the resources in the redeployment pool for agencies, and hence its classification as a ‘cruising speed’ agency was not altered.

The Communication concludes (for the EEA) that ‘the total number of posts decreases from 138 in 2013 to 124 in 2018.’ The establishment table for 2017 included 127 posts.

For the EEA, it has been increasingly difficult to achieve its objectives as set out in the MAWP 2014-2020 under the increased resource constraints. As a result, some expected outputs included in the AWP 2017 could not be delivered.

## 2.3 BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 2.3.1 INFORMATION CURRENTLY TRANSMITTED IN THE REPORT ON BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The EEA Financial Regulation, Article 93, states that:

- The EEA shall prepare a report on budgetary and financial management for the financial year,
- The Executive Director shall send the report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors by 31 March of the following financial year.

The budgetary and financial management report should include the information outlined in the following sections (A-F):

#### **A) Implementation of appropriations**

According to Article 11 of the EEA Financial Regulation, the EEA budget shall contain non-differentiated commitment and payment appropriations.

According to Article 93.3 of the EEA Financial Regulation, the rate of implementation should be expressed both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the implementation rate. The implementation rates of core funds are outlined in the table below.

	Final budget 2017 (core funds) (EUR)	Funds committed as a percentage of final budget	Funds paid as a percentage of final budget (at year-end)
Title 1 — Staff	23 806 521.00	99.9	98.9
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4 307 363.00	99.9	90.9
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	13 446 909.00	99.9	71.0
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>41 560 793.00</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>89.1</b>



**B) Indication of commitments for actions that will extend for more than 1 financial year; major items only (> EUR 500 000)**

One financial commitment <sup>(15)</sup> that exceeds EUR 500 000 has been carried forward into the following financial year (for one ETC).

**C) Information on transfers and amending budgets**

**Transfers**

According to Article 27(1)(a) of the EEA Financial Regulation, the Executive Director may transfer appropriations of up to a maximum of 10 % of the appropriations of the year between titles, that is, the Executive Director may move funds among staff, administrative and operating expenditures. A total of 32 transfers covering both core and non-core funding were made in 2017. Core fund transfers amounted to a total of EUR 820 509 (1.98 % of the total appropriations); the remaining 41 % of the transfers were made with non-core funds and hence are not included in the 10 % calculation shown below.

	2015 (%)	2016 (%)	2017 (%)
Title 1 — Staff	-3.1	-0.2	0.99
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4.5	2.0	2.63
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	4.3	-0.3	-3.84

A negative percentage reflects the level of transfer out of a particular expenditure title, while a positive percentage indicates the level of transfer into a particular expenditure title. The figures are calculated as percentages of each of the titles and not of the total budget.

**Amending budgets**

Three amendments to the EEA budget were made in 2017. The first amendment was related to the inclusion of additional non-core funds for Copernicus, a project for which the EEA has concluded a delegation agreement with the Commission (DG GROW) to carry out specific tasks. The second amendment relates to the annual update of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) contribution and the contribution from new member countries. The third and final amendment was the inclusion of a grant from the Commission (DG NEAR) to do capacity building in accession countries.

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<sup>(15)</sup> Commitments (budgetary commitments) are mandatory before entering into legal commitments. A budgetary commitment reserves appropriations in order to cover payments needed to fulfil the legal obligations in contracts.



No of revision	Subject	Amount (EUR)	Comments	Decision
First amended budget	Amendment to Copernicus	12 941 000	Copernicus	Management Board decision (14 March 2017) (Decision EEA/MB/2017/003)
Second amended budget	Change in EFTA contribution and new member countries	-128 513	Change in contribution	Management Board decision (6 December 2017) (Decision EEA/MB/2017/023)
Third amended budget	Grant contract 2017/391-249 IPA2018	320 000	New project	Management Board written procedure approval (19 December 2017) (Decision EEA/MB/2017/035)

**D) (Level of) appropriations carried forward to the following financial year and implementation of appropriations carried forward from the previous financial year**

		2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Total</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	4 203 111	4 544 418
	Total budget (EUR)	41 687 497	41 560 793
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	10.1	10.9
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	443 567	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	10.5	

		2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Title 1</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	263 480	256 508
	Total budget (EUR)	23 660 474	23 806 521
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	1.1	1.1
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	53 864	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	20.4	

		2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Title 2</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	436 255	389 797
	Total budget (EUR)	4 158 411	4 307 363
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	10.5	9.0
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	162 199	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	37.2	

		2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>Title 3</b>	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	3 503 376	3 898 113
	Total budget (EUR)	13 868 612	13 446 909



	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	25.3	28.9
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	227 503	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	6.0	

## **E) Procurement types used in 2017**

### **Background — Obligation to report**

Pursuant to Article 66 of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to Article 53 of its rules of application, the authorising officer shall record, for each financial year, contracts concluded by the negotiated procedures referred to in points (a) to (f) of Article 134(1) of the rules of application. If the proportion of negotiated procedures in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increases appreciably in relation to earlier years, the authorising officer shall report to the Management Board setting out any measures taken to reverse the trend.

### **Negotiated procedures under Article 134(1)**

For the purpose of this report, negotiated procedures under Article 134(1) are defined as contracts awarded under a negotiated procedure launched in accordance with points (a) to (g) of Article 134(1) of the rules of application and funded by the EEA core budget.

### **Contracts**

For the purpose of this document, the term ‘contracts’ refer to contracts awarded following a very low, low or middle-value negotiated procedure under Article 137(2), 137(1) and 136a of the rules of application accordingly, a negotiated procedure under Article 134(1), an open call or a restricted procedure. Contracts resulting from inter-institutional/joint procurement procedures led by some other contracting authority, specific contracts/order forms implementing framework contracts and contracts funded by external assigned revenue (R0, e.g. Copernicus programme, ENI programme) fall outside the scope of this report.


**Table of negotiated procedures under Article 134(1) carried out in 2017**

No	Contractor	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of procedure	Type of contract	Legal basis
1	Skou Gruppen A/S	Provision of building repair and maintenance services for the EEA	260 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Framework service contract	Article 134(1)(a) RAP
2	Datacon A/S	Prolongation of maintenance of Hewlett Packard server and storage system purchased under SKI02.08	42 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct service contract	Article 134(1)(b) RAP
3	Informi GIS	Esri geographical information system (GIS) licence agreement under the Enterprise Licence Agreement (ELA)	136 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct service contract	Article 134(1)(b) RAP
4	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Updating the indicator of impact of climate change on bird populations and exploring options for a climate adaptation index for European bird populations	59 697	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct service contract	Article 134(1)(b) RAP

**Table of tendering procedures carried out in 2017**

Type of procedure	Number of contracts awarded in 2017
Negotiated without prior publication of a contract notice (Article 134)	4
Very low value negotiated based on Article 137(2)	19
Low value negotiated based on Article 137(1)	3
Middle value negotiated based on Article 136a	2
Open call	5 <sup>(16)</sup>
Restricted procedure following a call for expression of interest	1
Total	34

<sup>(16)</sup> Five open calls including two interinstitutional procedures led by the EEA; one procedure divided into four lots and one procedure was aimed at the establishment of a cascade of three contractors, eventually resulting in the award of ten framework services contracts.



## Statistics from previous years

**Table with use of negotiated procedures under Article 134(1) RAP in the last 5 years**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average	2017
Total number of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer	14	31 <sup>(17)</sup>	31 <sup>(18)</sup>	33	32	28	34
Number of contracts resulting from negotiated procedures (Article 134(1)(a)-(g) and 135(1)(a)-(d))	1	3	5	1	3		4
Proportion	7.1 %	9.7 %	16.12 %	3 %	9.37 %	9.06 %	11.76 %

## Conclusion

The proportion of negotiated procedures under Article 134(1) RAP in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increased slightly in 2017 compared with 2016; however, this slight increase of one procedure is not a source of concern, as it is easily explained as being caused by an unsuccessful open call for tenders.

### ***F) Information on interest charged by suppliers through late payments (> 30 days late)***

EUR 717.65 was paid in interest on late payments in 2017.

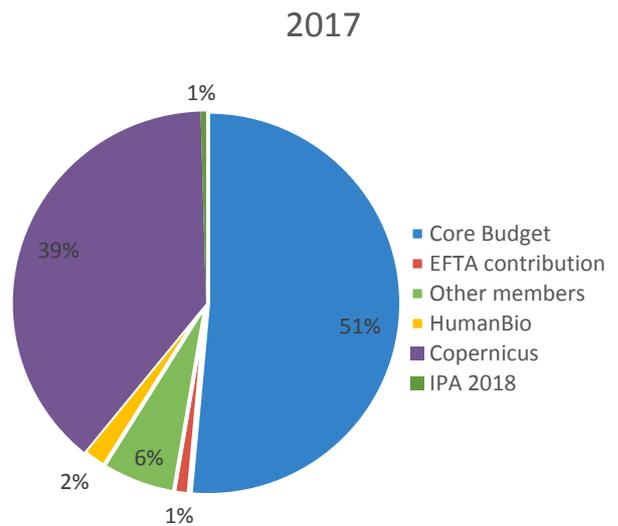
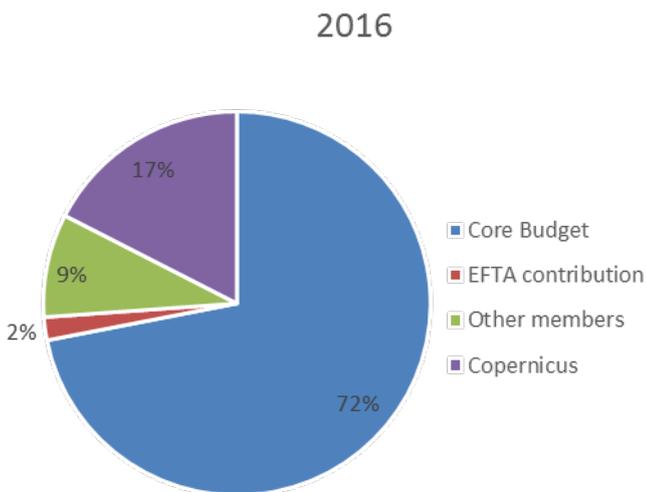
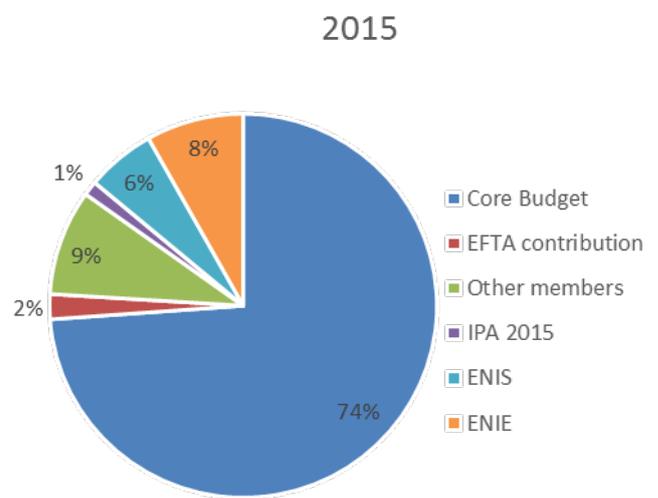
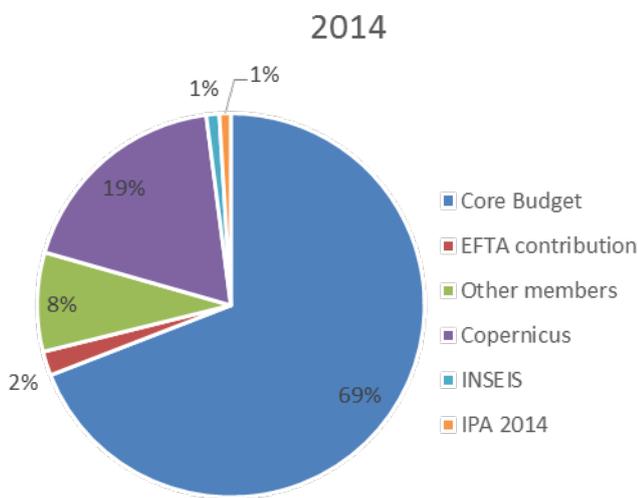
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<sup>(17)</sup> Including five framework partnership agreements for ETCs, four contracts of a value not exceeding EUR 60 000 resulting from negotiated procedures based on Articles 137(1) and 137 (2) RAP, one contract of a value not exceeding EUR 60 000 resulting from a negotiated procedure based on SKI framework contract, and five contracts awarded on the basis of Article 5 of the EEA founding regulation.

<sup>(18)</sup> Including 16 contracts of a value not exceeding EUR 60 000 resulting from negotiated procedures based on Article 137(1) and 137(2) RAP and two contracts awarded on the basis of Article 5 of the EEA founding regulation.

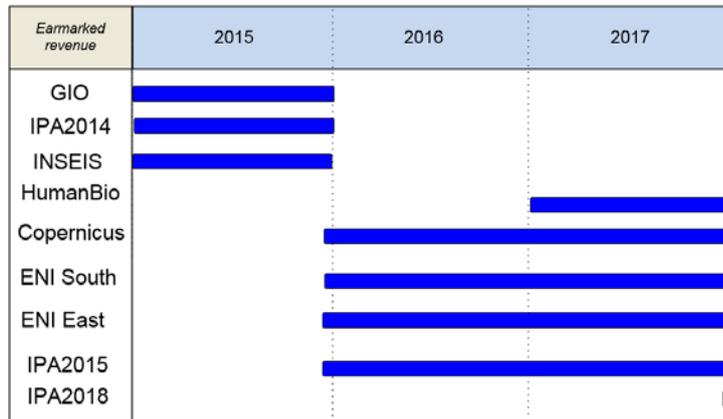
### 2.3.2 SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING GRANTS AND DELEGATION AGREEMENTS (EUR)

	2015	2016	2017	Difference between 2016 and 2017
EU subsidy	36 309 240	36 309 240	36 309 240	0
Contributions from other member countries	5 409 066	5 378 257	5 251 553	-126 704
Earmarked funds	7 438 168	8 800 000	29 061 000	20 261 000
Miscellaneous revenue				0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49 156 474</b>	<b>50 487 497</b>	<b>70 621 793</b>	<b>20 134 296</b>



## Overview of earmarked revenue for the last 3 years

Earmarked revenue (external assigned revenue) is different from other fund sources, as they are multiannual. The funds are activated in the budget following approval by the EEA Management Board, and are gradually executed in line with the principles laid down in the individual agreements – typically over several years.



### Notes:

IPA2018	Specific project for the participation of Western Balkan countries in the work of the EEA 2017-2018
GIO	GMES Land monitoring service agreement
ENPI	Towards a shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood countries
IPA	Specific project for the participation of Western Balkan countries in the work of the EEA 2009-2011
IPA 2014	Specific project for the Western Balkan countries (2014/338-534)
INSEIS	Increased collaboration with EEA and further implementation of SEIS in interested ENP countries
Copernicus	Copernicus Land monitoring service agreement
IPA 2015	Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan countries) 2015-2016
ENI South	Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan countries) (2014/347-199)
ENI East	Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan countries) (2014/344-044)

## 2.4 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### 2.4.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENTS (I.E. CHANGES BROUGHT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT PLAN IN THE REPORTING YEAR, CHANGES IN MAJOR HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES ETC.)

The EEA has followed the austerity measures and reduced the number of staff in line with the overall principles laid down for EU institutions (a 5 % reduction over the period 2013-2018). The Commission has classified the EEA as a ‘cruising speed’ agency, which implies an additional 5 % reduction. With the further reduction of three posts for 2017, it has become increasingly difficult to absorb work with the current resources, and the EEA will be hard pressed to comply with the requirement for an additional reduction of a further three posts in 2018.



#### 2.4.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE SCREENING/BENCHMARKING EXERCISE (I.E. OVERHEADS TO OPERATIONAL RATIO, MAIN FINDINGS, ETC.) (FOR DATA, PLEASE SEE ANNEX 4; TEMPLATES ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION FOLLOWING RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BENCHMARKING/SCREENING)

The EEA has been carrying out an annual screening/benchmarking exercise since mid-December 2015, in accordance with the guidelines that were agreed by the EU agencies, following the work of the working group of the agencies specifically assigned to work on a joint agency approach.

Approximately 78 % of all staff are dedicated to operational activities, which has been more or less unchanged since 2014.

For details of the results of the 2017 screening exercise, please see Annex 4.

#### 2.4.3 REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 28 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S REPORT *2011 DISCHARGE: PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF EU AGENCIES* (P7\_TA (2013)0134) ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF LEAVE AUTHORISED TO EACH GRADE UNDER THE FLEXTIME AND COMPENSATORY LEAVE SCHEMES

Number of days leave authorised to each grade under the flexitime and compensatory leave scheme.

Category	Grade	Number of leave days	Average leave days per person
A	7	92	5.4
AD	14	0	0.0
AD	13	18	17.5
AD	12	39	4.3
AD	11	58	7.3
AD	10	80	8.0
AD	9	104	11.5
AD	8	57	8.1
AD	7	58	6.4
AD	6	62	10.3
AST	10	16	8.0
AST	9	15	4.8
AST	8	90	8.2
AST	7	55	7.8
AST	6	53	5.9
AST	5	52	5.2
AST	4	75	6.8
AST	3	68	7.5



Category	Grade	Number of leave days	Average leave days per person
AST	2	19	9.3
FG VI	17	21	10.3
FG VI	16	103	10.3
FG VI	15	74	8.2
FG VI	14	202	8.8
FG VI	13	31	15.5
FG III	11	8	7.5
FG III	10	14	6.8
FG III	9	31	4.4
FG III	8	4	1.8
FG II	6	27	13.3
FG II	5	33	5.5
FG II	4	2	2.0
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>1 561</b>	<b>7.4</b>

**Note:** A 'flexitime day' does not always refer to a non-worked day; it is indicative of a day when the staff member was not present during all core hours.

## 2.5 ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

### 2.5.1 RESULTS OF CONTROLS OR CONTROL PROCEDURES PERFORMED BY STAFF OF THE EEA (*EX POST*, *EX ANTE* EVALUATIONS)

In line with the ETCs verification strategy from October 2015, the resource officers performed *ex ante* verifications. Supporting documentation has been collected per ETC to give the EEA management reasonable assurance of the reliability and accuracy of the costs claimed. The checks carried out resulted in the rejection of 0.8 % of the costs claimed.

Two on-the-spot verifications took place. They were conducted *ex post* by the internal auditor of the IAC. The selection was based on a risk assessment and took into account the results of missions conducted in the previous years.



## 2.6 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION TASKS ENTRUSTED TO OTHER SERVICES AND ENTITIES

### 2.6.1 ASSURANCE RECEIVED FROM OTHER AUTHORISING OFFICERS IN CASES OF CROSSED SUB-DELEGATIONS

N/A

## 2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

### 2.7.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

No audits were conducted in 2017. Instead, the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission (IAS) auditors did a thorough review of the risks in the EEA to establish their Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2018-2020.

### 2.7.2 INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY

In line with the requirements of the EEA Financial Regulation, the IAC audit plan for 2017 was approved by the Management Board. The scope of the work of the IAC consistently covers three main areas of contribution: audit assignments, advisory tasks and liaison with other auditors (e.g. the IAS and the European Court of Auditors — ECA).

#### **Audit**

After reviewing the verification process of ETC cost statements, the IAC established a risk assessment to select beneficiaries for on-the-spot verifications.

Two beneficiaries were selected in relation to two grants. The verifications carried out consisted of recalculating the personnel costs and, furthermore, analysed the reliability of the internal control systems put in place to complete the cost statements. The focus is on staff costs, as they generally represent 75 % of the total costs claimed. The audits concluded with no recommendation for recovery.

#### **Advisory tasks**

The Accrual Based Accounting System (ABAC) access rights were reviewed to ensure the correct validation of the access granted to the EEA's accounting system.

The IAC contributed to the EEA's annual risk assessment through advice to its senior management team.

Additional advisory work was performed to align the EEA's internal control framework with the framework of the European Commission, as required by the EEA Financial Regulation.



### ***Liaison with other auditors***

Close coordination with the IAS was needed to develop the IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2018-2020.

In spring 2017, a visit from the Dean of Chamber I — Sustainable use of natural resources — was organised in the context of several horizontal audits related to the environment. The main auditee was the European Commission. However, the EEA has been consulted many times in relation to its responsibility for data collection and analysis.

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### **2.7.3 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS**

The opinion received from the ECA in 2017 related to the 2016 annual accounts.

With regard to reliability, it noted that ‘In our [the Court’s] opinion, the accounts of the Agency for the year ended 31 December 2016 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency at 31 December 2016, the results of its operations, its cash flows, and the changes in net assets for the year then ended, in accordance with its Financial Regulation and with accounting rules adopted by the Commission’s accounting officer. These are based on internationally accepted accounting standards for the public sector.’ With regard to the legality and regularity of the transactions, it noted that ‘In our [the Court’s] opinion, revenue underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 is legal and regular in all material respects’ and ‘In our [the Court’s] opinion, payments underlying the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 are legal and regular in all material respects.’ No major observations were made. All actions to remedy the observations from the previous year were assessed as completed.

## **2.8 FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS**

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### **2.8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

The ‘open’ recommendations of the IAS are related to the audit on data/information management (including an IT component), which was finalised at the beginning of 2015, and to the audit on SOER.

#### ***Audit on data/information management (including an IT component)***

Two open recommendations remain from this audit and are rated ‘very important.’ Both are pending the review of EEA documents by the IAS.

A detailed overview of ‘very important’ and ‘important’ recommendations is included in Annex 7.

#### ***Audit on the SOER preparation process***

Three recommendations were rated ‘important’ and two were rated ‘desirable’. An action plan was developed for actions to be implemented in 2017 and 2018. The implemented measures will reduce the risks identified during the audit. A detailed overview of the ‘important’ recommendations is included in Annex 7.



## 2.9 FOLLOW-UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

As a preamble to the discharge procedure for 2016, the European Parliament sent a questionnaire to all EU agencies to which the EEA submitted a reply. The European Parliament came back with additional questions to several agencies, which did not include the EEA.

The Council has recommended at its meeting on 16 January to the European Parliament to give a discharge for the financial year 2016 to the Executive Director of the EEA.

The European Parliament has in its plenary session on 18 April 2018 voted to grant discharge for the financial year 2016.

The EEA will then, according to the agreed time schedule, send the 'Report of the Executive Director to the Discharge Authority on measures taken in the light of the Discharge Authority's recommendations of 2016'.

### **Follow-up on the 2015 discharge by the European Parliament**

One area requiring action from the EEA related to a declaration of interest. The EEA has in the abovementioned report related to 2015 stated the following to the discharge authority: 'The EEA Management Board has, following the principle decision to make CVs and Declarations of Interest (DoIs) available for those Management Board members (country representatives) who agree to do so, revisited the information made publicly available. As of August 2017, 18 Board members have made CVs and Declarations of Interest available on the Agency's website.'



## PART 2B EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

### 2.10 BETTER REGULATION EVALUATION OF EEA AND EIONET IN 2016-2017

In 2016, the European Commission initiated an evaluation of the EEA and its Eionet network covering the period mid-2012 to end 2016. The evaluation is being undertaken in line with the European Commission's Better Regulation Agenda.

The evaluation *Roadmap for the evaluation of the European Environment Agency and its Eionet network*, published in July 2016, describes the purpose, scope and timing of the evaluation.

The evaluation will address the five Better Regulation evaluation criteria:

- effectiveness;
- efficiency;
- relevance;
- coherence;
- EU-added value.

The European Commission has contracted a consortium to undertake a study to support the evaluation. The support study conducted extensive data collection, desk research and case studies as well as consultations with a range of stakeholders during 2017. Three targeted surveys were conducted (addressing Management Board members, services of the European Commission and Eionet NFPs/NFCs). In December 2017, the consortium convened a stakeholder workshop to review the interim findings.

On the basis of the final report from the consortium expected by the end of the second quarter in 2018, the European Commission is expected to present its evaluation of EEA/Eionet in a Staff Working Document (SWD).

### 2.11 EXTERNAL EVALUATION FROM 2013

The previous external evaluation was carried out in 2013 and submitted to the budgetary authority on 5 April of the same year.

The main findings of the latest available evaluation were as follows:

'... the evaluation finds that the EEA and Eionet are well established and well-functioning structures, delivering comprehensive and reliable outputs which, to a large extent, satisfy stakeholders' needs. The qualitative assessment inherent in this evaluation indicates that the EEA continues to be the



most effective and efficient solution to providing credible information on the state of the European environment.'

'The analysis on findings regarding the efficiency dimension, documents the fact that the EEA network is efficient in the sense that cooperative relations are strong and solid efforts have been made to optimise the functioning and work flows in relation to reporting of data. Stakeholders consider that the EEA and the Eionet provide value for money. The evaluation indicates that the EEA runs a modern and efficient network organisation, with limited potential for optimisation in regard to administrative tasks and key operational work flows. Administrative costs are lower than for similar agencies. Cooperation and working relations, between the different organisational units within the network are regarded as efficient and positive. There is a general consensus on this between stakeholders, and the EEA's performance is, in this respect, highly appreciated.'

## PART 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

### 3.1 RISK MANAGEMENT

#### 3.1.1 MOST IMPORTANT TYPES/AREAS OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EEA'S OPERATIONS (E.G WHERE RELEVANT, DATA PROTECTION ISSUES AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

The most important risk areas for the EEA for 2017 summarised in the risk register are the following:

Main risk group		Generic risks identified	Likelihood of occurrence	Financial impact	Reputation impact	Compliance impact	Impact on EEA objectives
External	External environment	The impact of the EU political developments and other economic and political developments in Europe on the EEA and Eionet functioning could hamper the delivery of the MAWP 2014-2020	High	High	Low	Low	Medium
		Continued pressure to frame, and identify, negative priorities could hamper the potential to invest in priority areas	Medium	n/a	Medium	n/a	Medium
		EU Better Regulation agenda: evaluation of the EEA/Eionet and its Founding Regulation as well as the fitness check on EU monitoring and reporting could have unforeseen impacts on the mandate of the EEA/Eionet	High	Unknown	Medium	n/a	High
		The EEA budget could be affected by developments related to country membership of the EEA	High	High	Low	Low	High
		Increased risk of cyberattacks puts pressure on EEA IT security	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Internal	Planning, processes and systems	The administrative burden perceived by some partners in ETC grants in addition to signs of decline of national support could hamper the relationships with key partners, as they perceive less benefit in being part of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
		Increased pressure on core resources given the volume of projects financed externally without the perspective of having these projects integrated as core tasks	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
		Difficulties in sustaining skills, knowledge and motivation in the organisation combined with the obligation of renouncing to specific	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium

	competencies in the context of staff cuts					
	Increasing demand of use of EEA information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure combined with ICT security, and stakeholders requests for 24/7 business continuity, is putting pressure on available resources for maintenance and developments, i.e. Reportnet 2.0	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low
<b>Legality and regularity aspects</b>	The administrative, procurement and financial requirements of the Copernicus delegation agreement could lead to significant delays in the implementation of the entrusted tasks	Medium	Low	Medium	High	Low
	Implementation of grants from the European Commission not feasible in respect of the financial rules because of the way these grants are designed					
<b>Communication and information</b>	No risk identified					

### 3.1.2 INFORMATION — OBTAINED BY MEANS OF APPROPRIATE MONITORING TOOLS — ON THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS, NAMELY HOW THE EEA RESPONDS TO OR MITIGATES THE MOST IMPORTANT RISKS (BUT NOT THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF LIKELIHOOD OR POTENTIAL IMPACT)

The EEA responded to the most important risks by assigning the responsibility of taking action to the different programmes concerned.

### 3.1.3 VERY HIGH-LEVEL INFORMATION ON FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION

With a view to responding to the requirement of the roadmap, adopted by the European Commission, for the implementation of the common approach for EU decentralised agencies, agreed in July 2012 by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, an anti-fraud strategy was adopted by the EEA in 2014 and updated in December 2017.

An action plan was developed as a result of the fraud risk assessment performed.

The implementation of the action plan will be ongoing for 3 years.

### 3.1.4 ANY PROMINENT RISKS THAT HAVE MATERIALISED IN THE REPORTING YEAR SHOULD BE NOTED

N/A



## 3.2 COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

### 3.2.1 THE METHODOLOGY APPLIED FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

As for the previous year, the EEA's IAC looked at each standard and collected evidence with regard to whether or not it is being effectively implemented.

The EEA complied with all internal control standards approved by the Management Board.

In December 2017, the EEA Management Board changed the internal control standards by adopting an Internal Control Framework consisting of 17 principles covering key organisational aspects (control environment, risk management, control activities, information and communication, monitoring of activity).

### 3.2.2 INFORMATION ON THE STANDARDS WITH WHICH THE EEA DOES NOT YET COMPLY (FULLY OR PARTIALLY), THE REASONS FOR THIS AND THE PLANNED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION, INCLUDING TARGET DATES

N/A



## PART 4 MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

### 4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

#### 4.1.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ASSURANCE

The information reported in Parts 2 and 3 stems from the results of management and audits. Audit reports result from a systematic analysis of the evidence available and cover only a part of many core activities within the EEA. Furthermore, different audit capacities (the IAC, the IAS and the ECA) cover different areas and, therefore, between them and the internal controls in the EEA, a comprehensive basis for assurance is ensured.

This approach provides sufficient guarantees of the completeness and reliability of the information reported and results in a complete coverage of the budget delegated to the Executive Director.

In conclusion:

- There were no reservations listed in the previous years' annual activity reports.
- Six IAS recommendations issued have been opened and the actions to respond to them are ongoing.
- The EEA had not received the final observations from the ECA at the date of publication of this report.
- There are no open observations from the European Parliament.

#### 4.1.2 SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESSES REPORTED IN PART 2 AND PART 3, AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR COMBINED IMPACT ON THE DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

Taking the above into consideration, no weaknesses were identified with regard to the financial management of appropriations within the EEA, and so no reservations are made in this context in the declaration.

### **Declaration of assurance**

I, the undersigned,

Executive Director of the European Environment Agency and in my capacity as authorising officer declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, *ex post* controls, the work of the internal audit capability, the observations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the European Environment Agency.

Copenhagen, 8 June 2018

*[Signed]*

Hans Bruyninckx

### **Statement of the Head of Administration**

I declare that I have reported my advice and recommendations to the Executive Director on the overall state of internal control in the EEA.

I hereby certify that the information provided in Parts 2 and 3 of the present CAAR and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and exhaustive.

Copenhagen, 8 June 2018

*[Signed]*

Søren Brostrup Nielsen



## 4.2 RESERVATIONS

4.2.1 INDICATE THE SCOPE OF THE RESERVATION AND DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS. THE CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER THE WEAKNESSES ARE MATERIAL ENOUGH TO LEAD TO A RESERVATION SHOULD ALWAYS BE CLEARLY EXPLAINED AND JUSTIFIED

N/A

4.2.2 QUANTIFY THE EXPOSURE (IMPACT IN MONETARY TERMS) AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

N/A

4.2.3 EXPLAIN THE IMPACT ON THE DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

N/A

4.2.4 SET OUT THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANNED AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING THIS ACTION IN AN ACTION PLAN INCLUDING TARGET DATES AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIONS

N/A

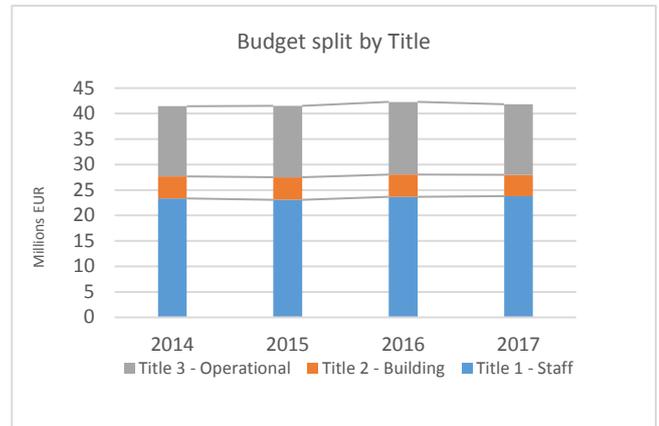
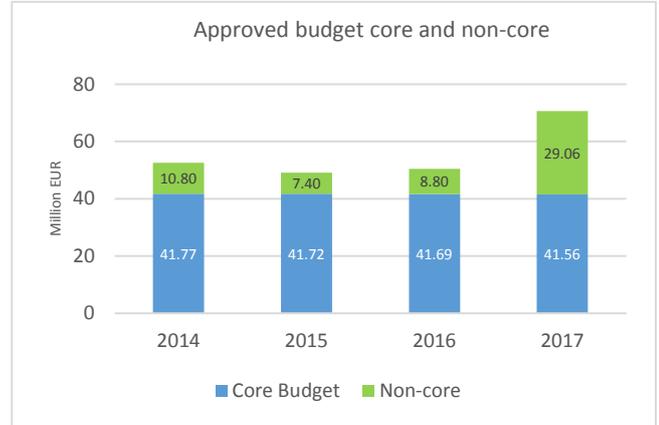
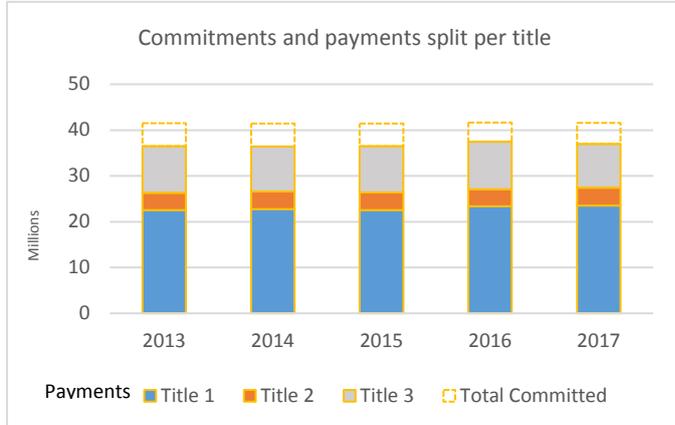
## 4.3 OVERALL CONCLUSION ON ASSURANCE

4.3.1 AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COMBINED IMPACT OF ANY RESERVATIONS MADE ON THE DECLARATION AND A CLEAR CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE RESERVATIONS, THE ASSURANCE TO BE PROVIDED IN THE DECLARATION CAN BE GIVEN. CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT RESULTING FROM THE RESERVATIONS, WEIGHED BY THE RELATIVE SHARE OF THE ACTIVITY CONCERNED BY EACH RESERVATION I.E. TO WHAT EXTENT DO THE RESERVATIONS REFER TO CORE BUSINESS VS. OTHER ACTIVITIES?

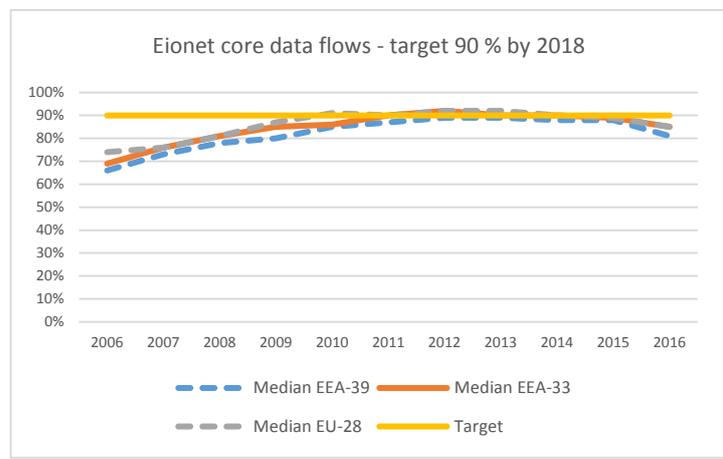
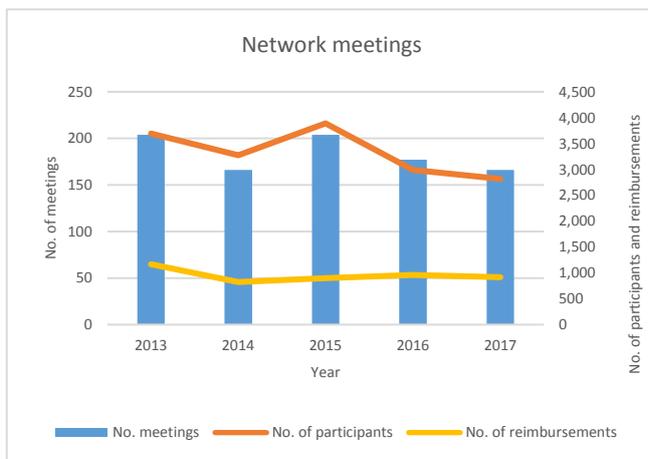
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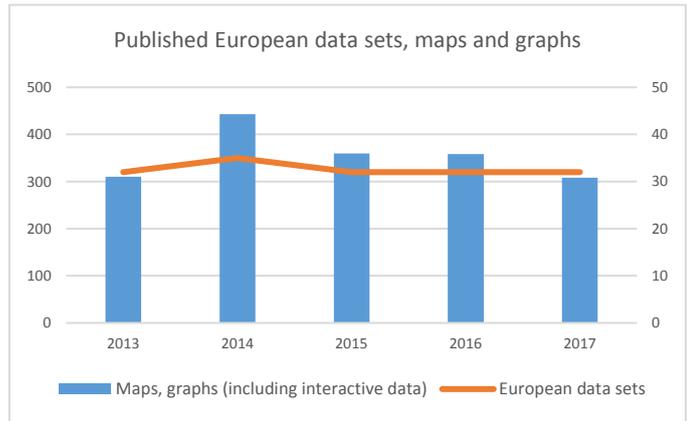
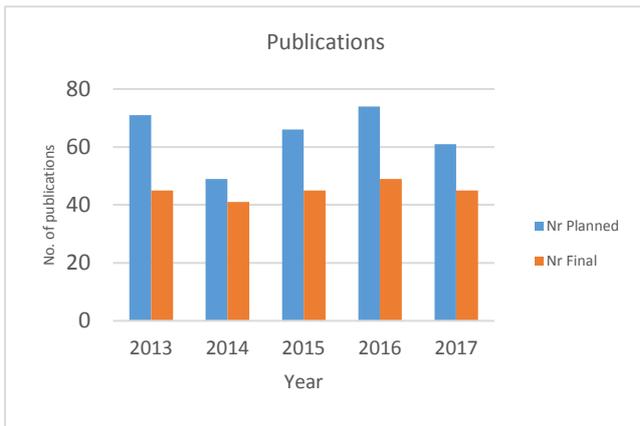
# ANNEX 1 CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

## FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE PERSPECTIVE

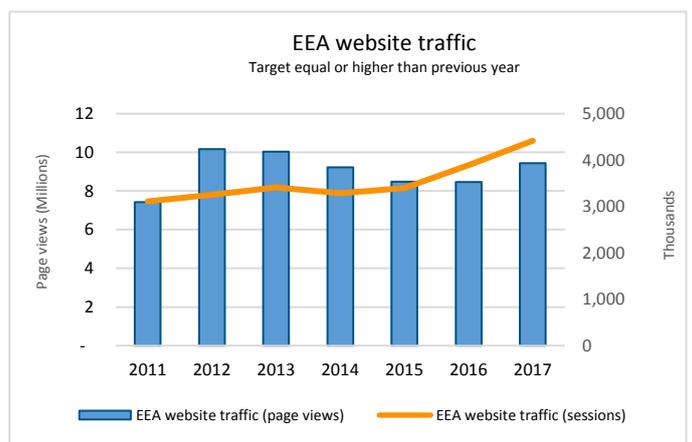
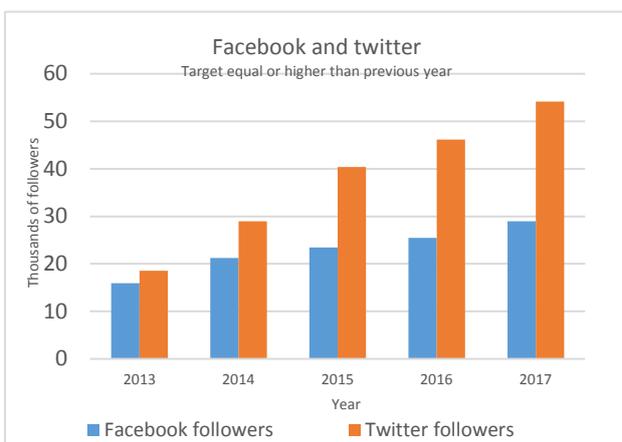
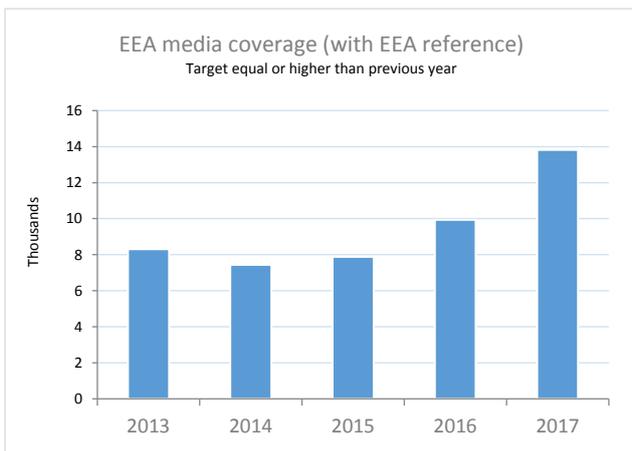


## PRODUCTION PERSPECTIVE

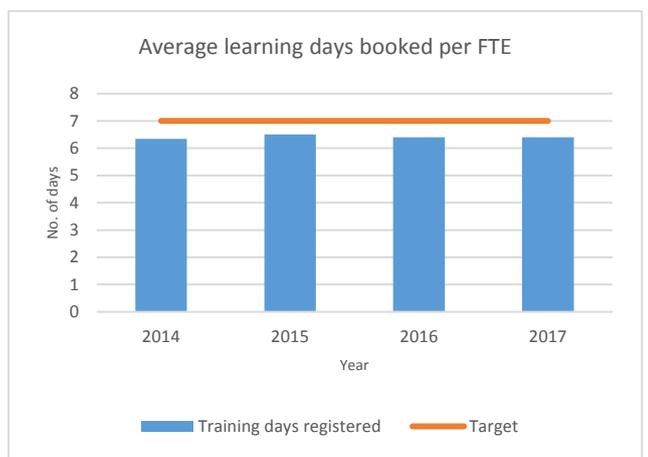
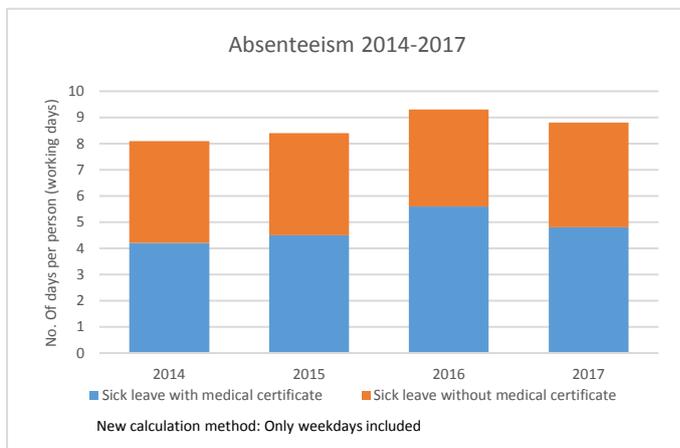
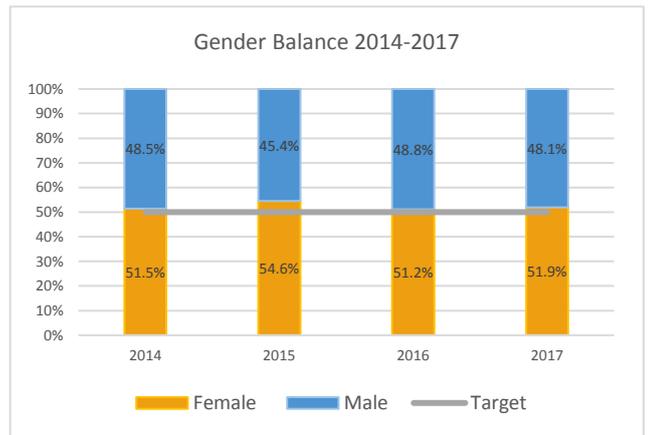
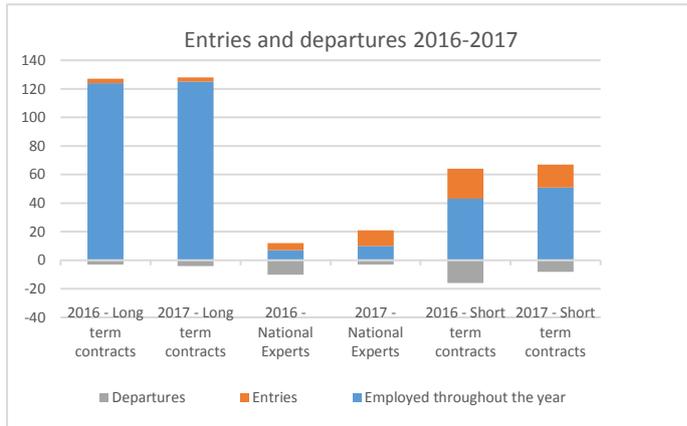




## USER PERSPECTIVE



## LEARNING AND GROWTH PERSPECTIVE





## ANNEX 2 STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Commitments (C1 – 2017 – core only)

Titles	Appropriation 2017 (core funds only)	Committed	Non-committed appropriations cancelled (Appropriation committed)	Paid	Available for carryover (Committed-paid)	Carried over	Committed appropriation cancelled
1. Staff expenditure	23 806 521.00	23 804 038.75	2 482.25	23 547 530.47	256 508.28	256 507.62	0.66
2. Administrative expenditure	4 307 363.00	4 300 968.92	6 394.08	3 911 171.77	389 797.15	389 797.15	0
3. Operating expenditure	13 446 909.00	13 443 556.94	3 352.06	9 545 443.90	3 898 113.04	3 898 113.04	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 560 793.00</b>	<b>41 548 564.61</b>	<b>12 228.39</b>	<b>37 004 146.14</b>	<b>4 544 418.47</b>	<b>4 544 417.81</b>	<b>0.66</b>

### 2017 – C8

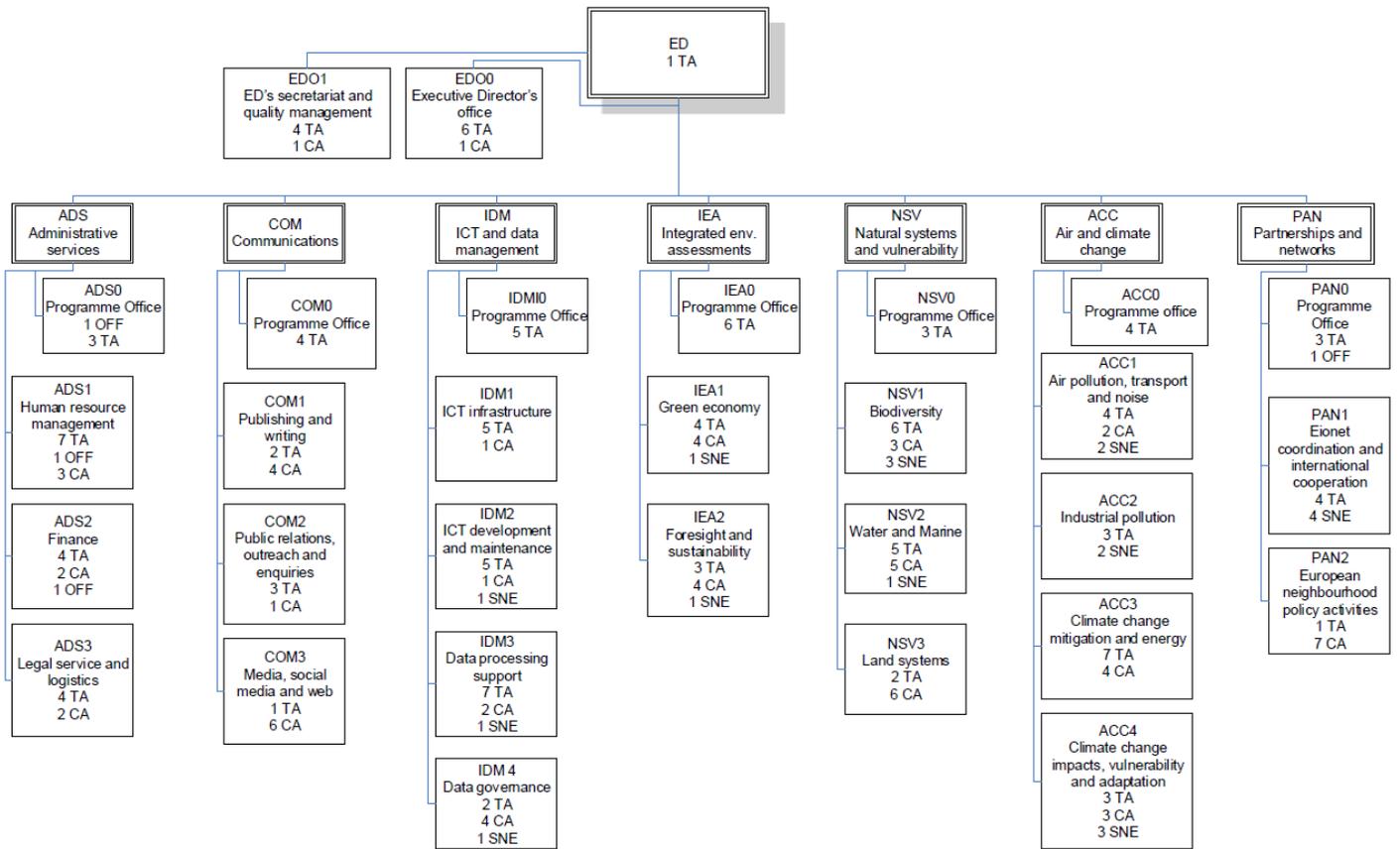
Titles	Carryover from 2016	Paid	Committed appropriation cancelled
1. Staff expenditure	263 480.07	209 616.06	53 864.01
2. Administrative expenditure	436 255.01	274 055.90	162 199.11
3. Operating expenditure	3 503 375.96	3 275 872.47	227 503.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 203 111.04</b>	<b>3 759 544.43</b>	<b>443 566.61</b>

### Total cancelled appropriations

Titles	2017 – C1 Non-committed	2017 – C1 (2018 – C9) Committed appropriation cancelled	2017 – C8 Committed appropriation cancelled	2017 – R0 INSEIS Uncommitted appropriation cancelled	2017 – R0 IPA2014 Uncommitted appropriation cancelled	2017 – R0 GIO Appropriation cancelled	Total cancelled appropriations on all fund sources
1. Staff	2 482.25	0.66	53 864.01	10 556.63	7 895.92	135 805.72	210 605.19
2. Administrative expenditure	6 394.08	0	162 199.11	39 740.00	0.26	40.13	208 373.58
3. Operating expenditure	3 352.06	0	227 503.49	43 458.65	81 686.93	2 087 878.72	2 443 879.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 228.39</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>443 566.61</b>	<b>93 755.28</b>	<b>89 583.11</b>	<b>2 223 724.57</b>	<b>2 862 858.62</b>

# ANNEX 3 ORGANISATIONAL CHART

As of 31 December 2017





## ANNEX 4 ESTABLISHMENT PLAN

### MULTIANNUAL STAFF POLICY PLAN

**Table A4.1 Staff population and its evolution — overview across all contract type categories**

Staff population		Staff population actually filled on 31 December 2016	Staff population in voted EU budget 2017	Staff population actually filled on 31 December 2017
Officials	AD	1	1	1
	AST	3	3	3
	AST/SC	0	0	0
TA	AD	63	62	61
	AST	62	61	61
	AST/SC	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>		<i>129</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>126</i>
CA GF IV		50	46	45
CA GF III		10	12	12
CA GF II		7	8	9
CA GF I		0	0	0
<i>Total CA</i>		<i>67</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>66</i>
SNE		12	20	20
<i>Structural service providers</i>		<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>222</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>228</b>
<i>External staff for occasional replacement</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**Table A4.2 Contract agent posts — number of positions filled on 31 December 2017**

Positions filled on 31 December 2017	GF I	GF II	GF III	GF IV	Total
Under core funds		8	10	33	51
Under HumanBio				1	1
Under ENIS			1	1	2
Under Copernicus				6	6
Under ENIE		1	1	4	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>66</b>

**Table A4.3 Establishment plan 2017**

Category and grade	Establishment plan in EU budget 2017	
	Officials	TA
AD 16		
AD 15		1
AD 14		2
AD 13	1	3
AD 12		12
AD 11		11
AD 10		11
AD 9		11
AD 8		8
AD 7		3
AD 6		
AD 5		
<b>Total AD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>62</b>
AST 11		3
AST 10		4
AST 9	3	9
AST 8		10
AST 7		10
AST 6		10
AST 5		12
AST 4		3
AST 3		
AST 2		
AST 1		
<b>Total AST</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>123</b>



## INFORMATION ON ENTRY LEVEL AND BENCHMARKING EXERCISE

### INFORMATION ON ENTRY LEVEL FOR EACH POST

**Table A4.4** Entry level per key function for establishment plan posts

Key functions (examples)	Type of contract (official, TA or CA) <sup>(a)</sup>	Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
<b>Executive Director — level 1</b>	TA	AD14-15
<i>Head of Department</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	n/a	n/a
<i>Head of Unit</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	Official/TA <b>Head of Programme — level 2</b>	AD9-14
<i>Head of Sector</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	Official/TA <b>Head of Group — level 3 (excluded from management allowance)</b>	From AD6/AST6
<i>Senior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Officer</i>	Official/TA/CA <b>Project Manager</b> (see also below under 'Project Officer')	From AD6/FGIV
<i>Junior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Senior Assistant</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Assistant</i>	Official/TA <b>Resource Officer</b>	From AST1
<i>Junior Assistant</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Head of Administration</i> <b>Head of Programme — level 2</b>	Official/TA <b>Head of Programme 'Administrative services'</b>	AD9-14
<i>Head of Human Resources</i>	Official/TA <b>Head of Group 'Human Resource Management'</b>	From AD6/AST6
<i>Head of Finance</i>	Official/TA <b>Head of Group 'Finance'</b>	From AD6/AST6
<i>Head of Legal</i>	Official/TA <b>Head of Group 'Legal services and logistics'</b>	From AD6/AST6
<i>Head of Communication</i> <b>Head of Programme — level 2</b>	Official/TA <b>Head of Programme 'Communications'</b>	AD9-14
<i>Head of IT</i> <b>Head of Programme — level 2</b>	Official/TA <b>Head of Programme 'ICT and data management'</b>	AD9-14
<i>Head of IT</i>	Official/TA <b>Head of Group 'ITC infrastructure'</b>	From AD6/AST6
<i>Senior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Officer</i>	Official/TA/CA <b>Project Officer</b> (see also above under 'Project Manager')	From AST3 (plus pre-reform B-grades); from FGIII



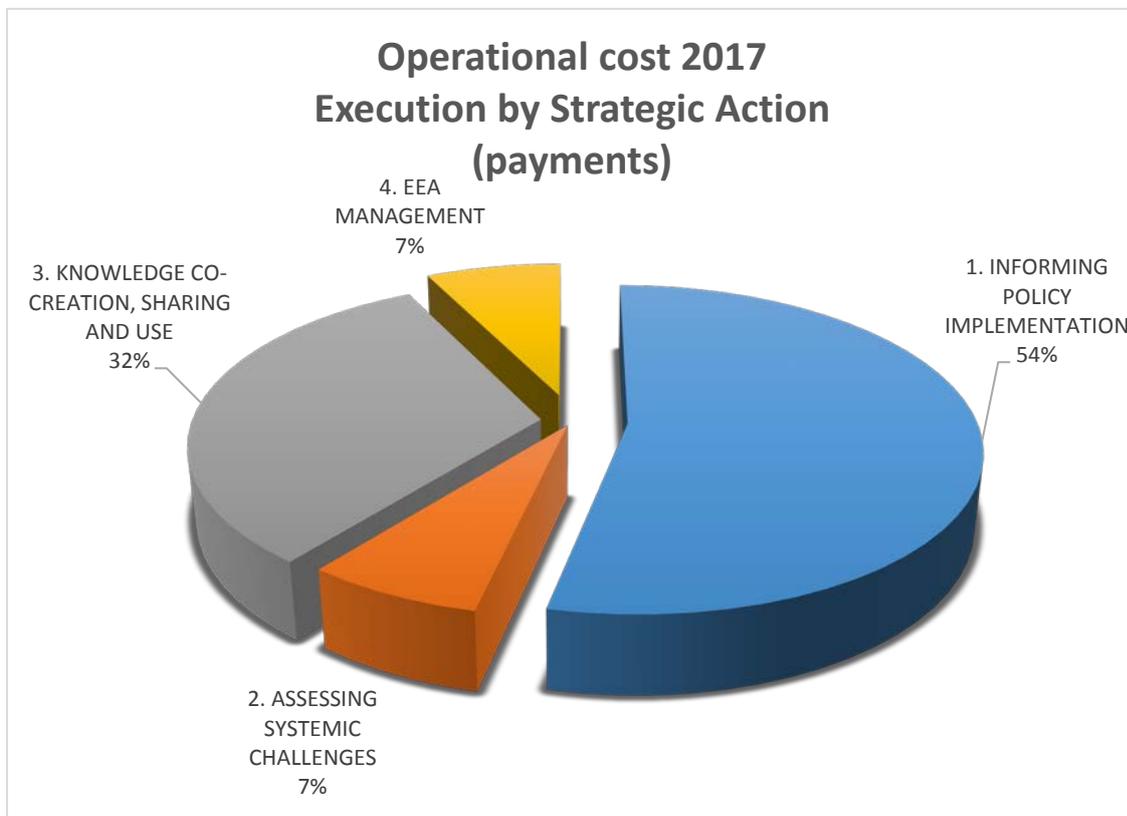
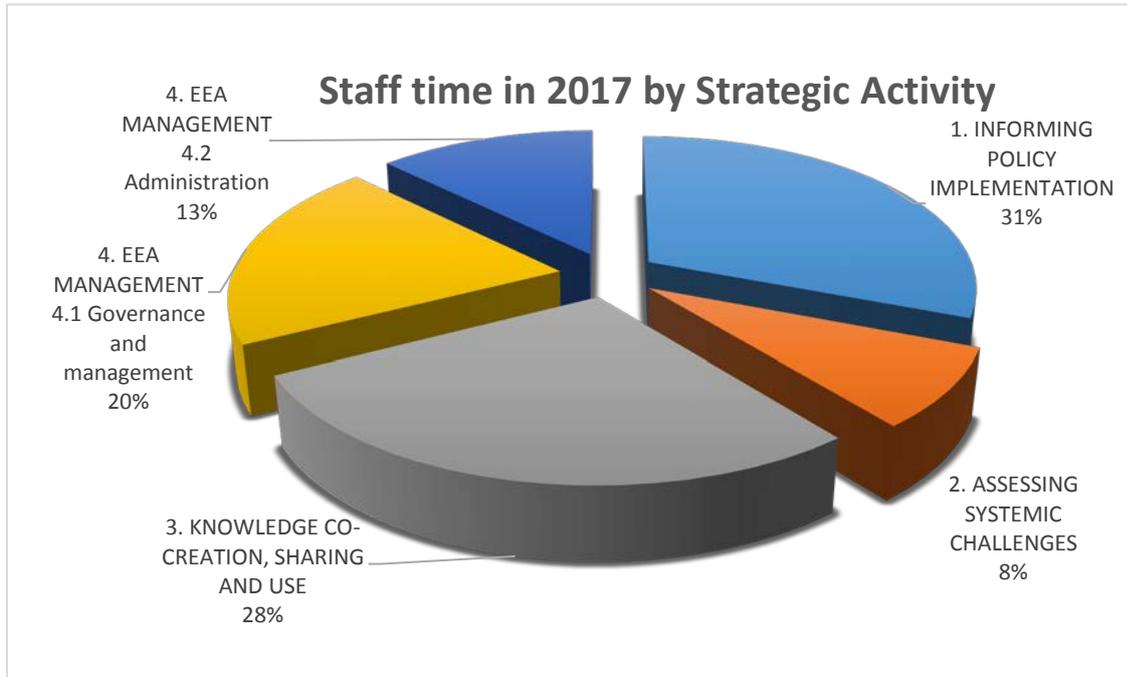
Key functions (examples)	Type of contract (official, TA or CA) <sup>(a)</sup>	Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
<i>Junior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Webmaster — Editor</i>	Official/TA/CA <b>Project Officer</b>	From AST3 (+pre-reform B-grades); from FGIII
<i>Secretary</i>	Official/TA/CA <b>Secretary</b>	From AST1 (plus pre-reform C-grades); from FGI/4 Phasing out of AST in light of the new function group AST/SC
<i>Mail Clerk</i>	Official/TA/CA <b>Technical Assistant (e.g. ‘Logistic services’)</b>	Pre-reform D-grades/FGI (Mail service per se externalised)
<i>Data Protection Officer</i>	Official/TA <b>Data Protection Officer</b>	From AD6
<i>Accounting Officer</i>	Official/TA <b>Accountant</b>	From AD8
<i>Internal Auditor</i>	Official/TA <b>Project Manager — Internal Audit Capability</b>	From AD8

<sup>(a)</sup> The text in bold indicates official EEA titles. TA, temporary agent; CA, contract agent.

## INFORMATION ON BENCHMARKING EXERCISE

Job type (sub-) category	Year N – 1 (%)	Year 2017 (%) (= year N)
<b>Administrative support and coordination</b>	<b>14.69</b>	<b>13.83</b>
<i>Administrative support</i>	12.08	11.84
<i>Coordination</i>	2.61	1.99
<b>Operational</b>	<b>77.37</b>	<b>78.10</b>
<i>Top level operational coordination</i>	4.5	3.32
<i>Programme management &amp; implementation</i>	72.16	74.12
<i>Evaluation &amp; impact assessment</i>	0.71	0.66
<i>General operational</i>	0	0
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>8.08</b>
<i>Finance/control</i>	7.94	8.08
<i>Linguistics</i>	0	0

## ANNEX 5 HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY





## ANNEX 6 FINAL DRAFT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

### Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Calculation of budget outturn (EUR)

Budget outturn	2017	2016
Reserve from the previous years' surplus (+)		
Revenue actually received (+)	68 000 073	56 797 441
Payments made (-)	-52 054 488	-45 805 099
Carryover of appropriations (-)	-35 823 836	-23 198 313
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	443 566	344 911
Adjustment for carryover of assigned revenue appropriation from previous year (+)	19 910 772	12 269 056
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-2 480	5 236
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>473 607</b>	<b>413 232</b>

#### Cancellation of appropriations

- Cancellation of commitment appropriations: non-committed core funds in 2017 amount to EUR 12 228.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations for the year: see above.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations carried over: unpaid C8 amounts to EUR 443 566.

#### Justification

A positive budgetary result is to be reimbursed to the Commission. The positive result for 2017, EUR 473 607.06, is composed of the following elements:

Budgetary result specification	2017	2016
<b>C1- CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Amount not made available in the budget	0.26	
Non-committed	12,228.39	42,330.28
Committed, carried over to C9	0.66	368.09
<b>C4 - REUSE OF FUNDS CURRENT YEAR</b>		
Amounts not made available in the budget	20,291.19	1,795.00
<b>C8 - APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR</b>		
Cancellation of unused appropriations	443,566.61	344,911.29
<b>R0 - EARMARKED FUNDS</b>		
Amounts not made available in the budget		18,592.00
Exchange rate difference ( gain +/-loss-)	- 2,480.05	5,236.08
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>473,607.06</b>	<b>413,232.74</b>

Cancellation of unused payment appropriations carried over from previous year (C8 funds) amounted to EUR 443 566, which is higher than in the previous year (EUR 344 911).



## ANNEX 7 IAS 'VERY IMPORTANT' AND 'IMPORTANT' RECOMMENDATIONS

### AUDIT ON DATA/INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING AN IT COMPONENT)

#### 'Very important' recommendations

<b>No 1: Define and implement a data/information management framework</b>	
<p>The EEA should develop and adopt an organisation-wide data/information management framework supported by a set of procedures that would consistently, effectively and efficiently implement the EEA's data policy in the day-to-day operations across the whole organisation.</p> <p>The EEA should also ensure the implementation of this framework through the AWP.</p>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <p>Analysis of applicable reference frameworks</p> <p>Define overarching data management principles and framework document, including roadmap</p> <p>Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP 2016</p> <p>Document and implement detailed data management practices</p>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>Completed — Awaiting review of the IAS</p>
<b>No 2: Update and implement the IT strategy</b>	
<p>The EEA should update its organisation-wide IT strategy and align it with the new MAWP and thematic area needs, as well as emerging new IT technologies. In parallel, the EEA should develop an IT strategy that can be implemented in the frame of the AWP.</p> <p>In this context, the EEA should ensure that all key stakeholders are involved in defining an organisation-wide service-oriented IT architecture that covers scalability, resilience, security and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>The EEA should consider the need to sign service-level agreements (SLAs) for hosting services with European Commission DGs.</p> <p>The EEA should also consider including representatives of the thematic areas as permanent IT steering committee members.</p>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <p>Update IT strategy according to MAWP</p> <p>Update terms of reference of ICT Scientific Committee (SMT decision)</p>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>Completed — Awaiting review of the IAS</p>



Inventory of existing IT services commissioned by or hosted for the Commission	
Definition of criteria for use of SLAs (proposed SMT decision)	
Procedure on decisions for initiating new systems/services at the EEA	
Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP2016	

## AUDIT ON THE SOER 2015 PREPARATION PROCESS

### 'Important' recommendations

<b>No 1: Enhance the monitoring of the resource consumption of the SOER process</b>	
<p>The Agency should closely monitor and fully analyse the resource consumption on multiannual projects, such as SOER, using the management plan system data as a base. It should use it to adjust its implementation plan and to produce a project completion report at the end of the project.</p> <p>Annually or at least on project completion, the total multiannual project costs should be analysed. The EEA should also reflect on the potential to include not only the directly attributable internal costs, but also hidden (i.e. tasks performed and not reported as SOER activity) and external costs in its analysis.</p>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <p>Implement stronger resource planning and within-year monitoring in the management plan system for the period 2018-2020.</p> <p>Implement clear staff objectives through the annual career development cycle process for the period 2017-2020.</p>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>Completed — Awaiting review of the IAS</p>

<b>No 2: Ensure coherence of the general SOER and communication team planning</b>	
<p>The EEA should better align the future communication and dissemination plan to the overall SOER implementation plan to ensure that the tasks, expectations and commitments of all teams involved are clear and support the overall strategic objectives. Alignment of the plans in terms of concepts and level of detail should facilitate the coordination, implementation and monitoring of the communication activities within an important project such as the SOER.</p>	
<p><b>Action plan:</b></p> <p>Design a coherent reasoning and clear set of activities between EEA staff on developing the assessment and communicating the results of the assessment.</p> <p>Agree these through the 2016 roadmap and the 2017 implementation plan.</p> <p>Prioritise assessment activities in the period 2018-2019 and communication/feedback activities in 2019-2020.</p>	<p><b>Target date:</b></p> <p>July 2018</p>


**No 3: Clarify the roles and responsibilities in the review process of SOER content**

The EEA should ensure that all staff members contributing to the SOER preparation are fully aware of all actors and the related workflows, the roles of these actors and the assigned hierarchical responsibilities.

In this respect, the IAS recommends a uniform approach for the electronic workflows and the written documentation of approvals, which should remain consistent throughout the implementation of the project and between briefing sections. The workflow should be reflected in the supporting Fiche Management System; it should be implemented in a way that retains the audit trail of approvals.

**Action plan:**

Clarify the roles and responsibilities in the 2016 roadmap and the 2017 implementation plan, ensuring common understanding and purpose through discussions with the EEA Management Board, EEA Scientific Committee, Eionet and Commission services.

**Target date:**

Completed —  
Awaiting review  
of the IAS



## ANNEX 8 ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

3GF	Global Green Growth Forum
ABAC	Accrual Based Accounting System
ACC	The air and climate change programme of the EEA
ADS	The administrative services programme of the EEA
AEI	Agri-environmental indicators
Aichi targets	20 time-bound, measurable targets to be met by the year 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
AMP	Annual Management Plan
AQ	Air quality
ASF	Arctic Stakeholder Forum
AWP	Annual Work Programme
BD	Biodiversity
BISE	Biodiversity Information System for Europe
BWD	Bathing Water Directive
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report
CAMS	Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service
CAP	Common agricultural policy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCE	Coordination Centre for Effects
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CE	Circular economy
CEIP	(EMEP) Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections
CLC	Corine Land Cover
Climate-ADAPT	European Climate Adaptation Platform
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
COM	The communications programme of the EEA
COP23	23rd session of the Conference of the Parties
CORDA	Copernicus Reference Data Access Node
CRM	Client relationship management
CSI	Core set of indicators
DG	(European Commission) Directorate-General
DG AGRI	DG for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG BUDG	DG for Budget
DG CLIMA	DG for Climate Action
DG DEVCO	DG for International Cooperation and Development
DG ECHO	DG for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
DG ENER	DG for Energy
DG ENTR	DG for Enterprise
DG ENV	DG for Environment
DG ESTAT	Eurostat (the statistical office of the EU)
DG GROW	DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
DG JRC	Joint Research Centre



DG MARE	DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DG MOVE	DG for Mobility and Transport
DG NEAR	DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG REGIO	DG for Regional and Urban Policy
DG RTD	DG for Research and Innovation
DG SANTE	DG for Health and Food Safety
DiscoMap	Discover Map Services (EEA)
DPSIR	Driving forces-pressures-state-impact-responses
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
EAP	Environment Action Programme
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EU)
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
ECSA	European Citizen Science Association
EDO	Executive Director's Office
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEAS	European External Action Service (EU)
EEEN	European Environmental Evaluators Network
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EHBMI	European Human Bio-monitoring Initiative
Eionet	European Environment Observation and Information Network
EIR	Environmental Implementation Review
EKC	Environment Knowledge Community
EKC KIP	Environment Knowledge Community's Knowledge Innovation Project
EMS	Environmental management system
EMAS	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EU)
EMEP	European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
EMODnet	European Marine Observation and Data Network
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPI	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
EP	European Parliament
EPA	Environment Protection Agencies
EPA Network	European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies
E-PRTR	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
ESTAT	Eurostat (the statistical office of the EU) (DG ESTAT)
ETC	European Topic Centre
ETC/ACM	ETC on Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation
ETC/BD	ETC on Biological Diversity
ETC/CCA	ETC on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation
ETC/ICM	ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters

ETC/ULS	ETC on Urban, Land and Soil Systems
ETC/WMGE	ETC on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EU-ANSA	EU Agencies' Network on Scientific Advice
EUAPA	EU Arctic Policy Assessment initiative
EU-FP7	EU Framework Research and Innovation Programme for 2007-2013
EUR	Euro
Eurocities	Network of major European cities
EU SDS	EU Sustainable Development Strategy
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FD	Floods Directive
FFR	Financial Framework Regulation for decentralised bodies
F-gas	Fluorinated gases
FISE	Forest Information System for Europe
FLIS	Forward-Looking Information and Services
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
FR	Financial Regulation (EU budget)
FTE	Full-time employee
FUA	Functional urban area
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEO-6	Global Environmental Outlook (UNEP)
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GI	Green infrastructure
GIO	GMES Land monitoring service agreement
GIS	Geographical information system
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
GMT	Global megatrend
HBM4EU	European Human Biomonitoring Initiative
HNV	High nature value
Horizon 2020	EU framework research and innovation programme 2014-2020
HRL	High-resolution layer
IAC	Internal Audit Capability
IAS	Internal Audit Service of the European Commission
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDM	The ICT and data management programme of the EEA
IEA	The integrated environmental assessments programme of the EEA
IEA	International Energy Agency
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
IEEG	Industrial Emissions Expert Group
IG	Interest group
INCA	Integrated system for natural capital and ecosystem services accounting



INSEIS	Increased collaboration with the EEA and further implementation of SEIS in interested ENP countries
Inspire	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community
IPA	Pre-accession Assistance
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCHEM	Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IT	Information technology
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
JRC	Joint Research Centre (DG JRC)
KIP	Knowledge Innovation Project
KIP-INCA	KIP on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Accounting
KPI	Key performance indicator
LCP	Large combustion plant
LRTAP	Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
LULUCF	Land use, land use change and forestry
LUSP	Land use and spatial planning
MAES	Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MAWP	Multiannual Work Programme
MB	Management Board
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MLW	Marine LitterWatch
MMR	Monitoring Mechanism Regulation
MPA	Marine protected area
MRR	Monitoring and Reporting Refit of environment policies
MS	Member State
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
n/a	Not applicable
Natura 2000	EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive
NEC	National Emission Ceilings
NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRC	National reference centre
NSS	The natural systems and sustainability programme of the EEA
ODS	Ozone-depleting substance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
PAMS	Policies and measures
PAN	The partnerships and networks programme of the EEA
PD	Programming Document
PROVIA	Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register



QM	Quality management
QMS	Quality management system
RAP	Rules of application of the EU budget
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SA	Strategic area
SC	Scientific Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructure
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy (EU)
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System for Europe
SIIF	Structured Implementation and Information Framework
SLA	Service-level agreement
SMT	Senior Management Team
SoE	State of Environment
SOER	The European environment — State and outlook
SWD	Staff Working Document
TERM	Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNEA 3	Third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSD	UN Statistical Division
UNWTO	UN World Tourism Organization
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WEI+	Water exploitation index plus
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization
WiLoP	Within Limits of the Planet (project)
WISE	Water Information System for Europe
WMO	World Meteorological Organization