European Environment Agency

European Environment Agency

Consolidated Annual Activity Report 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* ([1]) 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 ([2]). The MAWP is delivered through annual work programmes. This Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2018 (CAAR 2018) documents the delivery of the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for the year 2018, which is included in the Agency's Single Programming Document (SPD) 2018–2020 ([3]). The EEA Management Board welcomes this third CAAR, in accordance with Article 47 of the EEA Financial Regulation ([4]) and the Commission guidelines on the template to be used by decentralised agencies for their CAAR (CAAR guidelines) ([5]). The CAAR 2018 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 2018:

- 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

ANALYSIS FROM THE EEA MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board analysis of the EEA's Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2018 (CAAR 2018) includes observations relevant to all parts of the Agency's CAAR 2018.

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

2 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.

3 https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/programming-document-2017.

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

5 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.

PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

The Board welcomes the comprehensive account of the activities carried out by the EEA in 2018, as well as the overview of performance against the expected outputs defined in EEA's Annual Work Programme for 2018 (AWP 2018).

Overall, the EEA delivered well on the targets set out in its work programme for 2018, 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 2018 was good. Delivery rates for key EEA outputs were as follows: 92 % of mandatory products, 85 % of Core Set Indicator (CSI) updating (according to agreed timetable), and 86 % of Annual Performance for Eionet core data flows. The Board understands that some activities could not be (fully) delivered in 2018 due to a number of circumstances such as: limited IT and staff resources, late delivery of input data, delays in formal reporting deadlines, and alignment with the publication of the SOER 2020 Integrated Assessment report (foreseen for December 2019). The CAAR 2018 documents sufficiently the internal and external factors causing the delays or partial deliveries of outputs planned in the AWP 2018, and the Board concluded that the overall performance was high.

The work delivered in 2018 included also specific areas of work mainly financed through non-core funds, namely contributions under the Copernicus Programme, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and 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.

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.

Following the Board's internal review of the functioning of the Board and Bureau over the course of 2018, the Board decided in December 2018 to lighten the extent of its administrative/executive tasks, while respecting its oversight role. This review had the aim of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and strategic impact of the governance processes. The outcome of the 2018 review will be implemented by the Agency's governance bodies over the course of 2019, in particular in relation to an increased involvement of the Bureau a) in preparation of the Board discussions and decisions, and b) for the adoption of administrative/executive decisions. As a result of the review, the Rules of

Procedure applicable to the EEA Management Board and Bureau will be revised during 2019, taking into account the first experiences with the implementation of the outcomes, and integrating new provisions following the revision of the EEA Financial Regulation.

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 recognises that the EEA's annual and multiannual work programming, 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

EEA has respected the objectives of staff reduction (-10 %) and the budget stabilisation for the period 2013–2018, as set out in the 2013 Communication on the programming of human and financial resources for decentralised agencies under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014–2020 ([6]). The Management Board recognises that the EEA has implemented these budget austerity measures without disrupting any major activity in support of policy development and implementation at EU and national levels, but that the EEA is now facing the impossibility to fulfil adequately any new tasks without additional resources, further prioritisation and/or discontinuation of current core tasks.

In 2017, the Management Board agreed to the future role of the EEA/Eionet in relation to '*Energy Union Governance*', '*Monitoring and reporting of CO_2 emissions from Heavy Duty Vehicles*', and the Commission's '*Actions to Streamline Environmental Reporting*'; and welcomed the decision of the Budgetary Authority to make available additional resources to the EEA in relation to the proposed new tasks, following proposals by the European Commission. In accordance with the Agency's programming of the activities, work on Energy Union Governance and streamlining of environmental reporting started in 2018, and work on Heavy Duty Vehicles is foreseen to commence in 2019.

The EEA Management Board welcomes the development of a 'Strategy for EEA and Eionet' for the period 2021–2030, which is foreseen to be adopted by mid-2020 under a procedure to be agreed by the Board.

Budgetary and financial management

The Board notes that the Agency's initial core budget for 2018 amounted to EUR 43 068 303. The initial budget was increased with EUR 4 980 by an amendment related to adjustments to the contributions from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and other member countries.

The Board congratulates the EEA with its budget monitoring efforts resulting in a 99.96 % budget implementation rate of the available core-budget appropriations (EU subsidy and contributions from

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6 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.

EFTA, Turkey and Switzerland in 2018). The Board further notes that the cancellation of carry-overs from 2017 to 2018 amounts to EUR 242 025, representing 5.3% of the total amount carried over.

The Agency's initially approved additional non-core revenue (Copernicus) for 2018 amounted to EUR 20 172 000. This amount was decreased by EUR -342 000 by an amendment in December 2018. The Board notes the reported final non-core budget of EUR 22 731 874 for 2018.

The Board notes a total carryover of appropriations of EUR 40 372 493 from 2018 to 2019, of which EUR 3 289 527 relates to the core budget, which corresponds to an execution rate of appropriation payments of 91.1 %. The Board recognises that the substantial carryover of non-core funding is related to the multiannual nature of the project-based funding mechanisms.

Human resources management

The Board notes that the Agency achieved an occupancy rate for officials and temporary agents of 98 % with 122 staff against 124 posts available in the Agency's establishment table. When including also the authorised contract agent and national expert positions under the 2018 budget, the Agency achieved an occupancy rate for the core staff population of 96 % with 220 staff against 229 positions authorised.

The Board notes that the Agency has, in addition, 15 staff members funded under non-core budget (contract agent positions), representing 6.5 % of the EEA staff population.

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 positive opinion from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in relation to the 2017 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 2016 (in April 2018) and of 2017 (in April 2019).

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.

PART 2 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

The EEA Management Board welcomes the positive conclusions of the European Commission evaluation of the EEA and Eionet under the Better Regulation guidelines, which was initiated in 2016 and published on 20 November 2018.

The Board is satisfied with the Commission's approach regarding the engagement with the EEA Management Board on the evaluation.

The EEA Management Board foresees to formulate its recommendations on the evaluation by mid-2019. To this end, the Board invited input from Eionet and the EEA management; and requested the EEA's Scientific Committee to issue its opinion on the evaluation.

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 significant and increasing concern for the Board.

The Board appreciates the Agency's signalling of significant risks and control issues, including on:

- Continued decrease of core resources in a context of increasing expectations on EEA, over the period 2014–2018;
- The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework covering the period 2021–2027, which includes the proposal to stabilise the EEA budget in nominal terms; and
- Funding outside of the EU subvention and contributions from member countries (non-core).

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

The Management Board also notes that where resources are assigned to the EEA for new tasks, these do not always reflect the additional work for the EEA agreed by the European institutions.

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.

EEA MANAGEMENT BOARD CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

In assessing the CAAR 2018, the Management Board concludes the following:

- The overall performance of the EEA/Eionet is in line with the objectives included in the Agency's Annual Work Programme (AWP) for 2018.

- Internal and external factors causing the delays or partial deliveries of outputs planned in the AWP 2018 are sufficiently documented.
- The Board notes that, as in former years, the EEA's publication plan is not fully integrated in the corporate planning and reporting documents of the Agency. The Board appreciates that this is related to the fact that the publication plan is the Agency's internal planning list of maximum probable publications in a given year. The Board therefore welcomes in this respect the new approach towards the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including the indicator on delivery of key reports/assessments, which is based on a prioritisation of tasks in particular regarding the publication of reports. The Board welcomes the introduction of these KPIs in the Single Programming Document 2019–2021, as well as the reporting in line with the product-related KPIs in this CAAR.
- The cooperation with Eionet, including the European Topic Centres (ETCs), has been at the core of the EEA's achievements for 2018. The Management Board welcomes the joint interest expressed by the EEA management and the Eionet National Focal Points to engage in a collaborative and progressive modernisation of Eionet. The Management Board will play an active role in this exercise.
- The Management Board is committed to implementing the outcomes of the review of the Board and Bureau, and to monitoring the results in terms of efficiency and strategic impact of the two governance bodies.
- The budgetary, financial and human resources management during 2018 have been assessed as an example of sound management.
- The Management Board acknowledges the risk of the non-core budget amounting to 34.5% of the Agency's total budget, whereas the total staff members funded under non-core budget amounts only to 6.5% of the Agency's total staff population. The Board acknowledges that this is constrained by the non-core activities framework.
- The Management Board notes the high occupancy rate for officials and temporary agents of 98.4%, with the two open posts at year-end being short-term vacancies due to natural turnover of staff.
- The Management Board also notes a 9% vacancy rate for contracts agents at the end of 2018. While conscious of the higher turnover rate for these contracts, the Board encourages the Agency to maintain the highest possible occupancy rate for available contract agent posts.
- As stated in previous years, the Management Board requests that information on the budgetary and financial management is structured in such a way as to allow the EEA Management Board to analyse and assess a) budget trends, in particular regarding the split between the core and non-core budget; and b) financial management in relation to the different non-core funding mechanisms (e.g. on revenue, commitment, payment, carryover and cancellation).
- The Management Board notes that, as in previous years, the reporting on the resources (human and financial) used by activity is provided on an aggregate level.

- The Management Board will formulate its response to the Commission evaluation of the EEA and Eionet by mid-2019; and is committed to engage further with the Commission on any potential follow-up process initiated by the Commission.
- Overall, the EEA has appropriate measures in place to identify, monitor and manage risks; although the risks associated with the proposed continued decrease in resources under the MFF 2021–2027 will become increasingly difficult to manage.
- Emerging EU policy developments are expected to impact on the EEA's future work programming ([7]). However, the EEA is now facing the impossibility to accept any new task without additional resources or the discontinuation of current core tasks. The structural coordination between EEA and Commission services should be further improved, in particular in relation to clearer articulation to EEA of needs and priorities of Commission services towards EEA/Eionet. This structural coordination assumes greater importance in light of increasing demands, diminishing resources, and increasing focus on sustainability aspects in EU policies.
- The Management Board welcomes the development of a 'Strategy for EEA and Eionet' for the period 2021–2030, which is foreseen to be adopted by mid-2020.
- The Internal Audit Capability has managed all EEA audit activities adequately and informed the Board appropriately on audit outcomes.
- The information on follow-up of observations from the discharge authority does not provide an overview of actions undertaken to address the observations.
- EEA systems are in place to support the Executive Director's declaration of assurance and no reservations were made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the analysis and assessment of the CAAR 2018, the Management Board has formulated the following recommendations:

- The Agency should continue to inform the Board pro-actively on discussions related to the articulation of stakeholder needs and priorities towards EEA/Eionet, in light of the Board's oversight role and mandate regarding EEA/Eionet strategic steering.

- The Agency should further engage with the Board in order to seek steer on the strategic direction for the Agency, including on the Agency's future resource programming and priority setting; in light of the EEA Management Board's oversight role. The Board identifies the development of the EEA/Eionet Strategy 2021–2030, as an opportunity for the EEA to strategically engage with the Board and Eionet.

[7] Such as: Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation, Regulation on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), EU Environment Action Programme beyond 2020 (8th EAP), the potential ninth Commission Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9) beyond Horizon 2020 (FP8); the potential revision of the legal framework in relation to Air Quality following the Fitness check of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directives, and the foreseen establishment of a framework to facilitate Sustainable Finance.

- The EEA Management Board will actively engage with the EEA and Eionet in a joint and progressive modernisation exercise of Eionet, with the goal of improving the value-added of EEA/Eionet to the developing policy agenda and knowledge needs.
- The Environment Knowledge Community of Commission Directorates-General, and including the EEA, or any other mechanism deemed appropriate, should be used to ensure a clearer articulation, prioritisation and distribution of responsibilities between respective Commission services and the EEA in relation to providing environmental knowledge.
- The Management Board recommends that the Agency should improve some elements of the reporting to the Board on budgetary, financial and human management, as well as reporting to the Board on the follow up of observations on the discharge, in line with the above conclusions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 12 June 2019

[Signed]

Laura Burke
Chair, EEA Management Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BETTER REGULATION EVALUATION

Between 2016 and 2018 the European Commission carried out an evaluation of the EEA and Eionet, also including the founding regulation. The evaluation followed the Better Regulation Guidelines and thus included analysis of five main themes: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and European value added.

The overall conclusions of the evaluation are positive, finding that the EEA and Eionet continue to be relevant, and provide EU value added by implementing the multi-annual work programmes in a largely effective, efficient and coherent way. Moreover, it concludes that the Agency is reliable in providing the necessary information to support EU policy making, has adapted very well to new EU policy developments, and has fulfilled its objectives in the context of decreasing staff resources and increasing expectations for further high-quality deliverables.

THE 2018 WORK PROGRAMME

The EEA's Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2018, which is structured around the Agency's four strategic areas (SAs) as set out in the Agency's Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2020, defined the following 2018 highlights:

Strategic area 1: Informing policy implementation

The EEA's key role in informing the implementation of EU environmental policy continued effectively in 2018. EEA achievements in the period included the production of updated publications addressing air quality, transport and noise in support of relevant legislation. The Agency also provided support to countries for the reporting of respective data flows.

Assessments continue to be a major input to policy implementation, covering areas such as:

- progress towards meeting short- and long-term climate mitigation and energy targets in Europe, including the role of climate and energy policies and socio-economic trends in achieving these;
- climate change impact, vulnerability, and adaptation, as relevant for the planned 2018 review of the EU climate change adaptation strategy and its mainstreaming into other EU policies;
- Member States' reporting for the 2nd River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive, and reporting on chemicals in water in relation to the 2018–2019 evaluation of freshwater directives, and other work considering emissions to water;
- contaminants and eutrophication in Europe's seas (supporting the 2019 State of the marine environment assessment and the 2019 Marine messages II);
- support to the final evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, informing progress towards ecosystems restoration and natural capital accounting, in convergence with upcoming assessments under other targets (Nature directives, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries sectors, Invasive species, Water and Marine).

Indicators were also developed for land system assessments using Copernicus land monitoring services and other earth observation products, and assessing the rural systems of Europe as relevant to CAP and EU Biodiversity Strategy targets. Meanwhile, waste policy objectives were supported through analysis of waste management in Europe and the fourth annual waste prevention review.

Strategic area 2: Assessing systemic challenges

The EEA continued its work on systemic challenges facing Europe. This included support for analysis of progress towards a circular economy through the annual circular economy report, alongside an updated catalogue of resource efficiency initiatives in countries, and a report on risk governance of hazardous chemicals.

In the area of environment, health and well-being, a first report was published drawing on, inter alia, insights from the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) and the European Information Platform on Chemicals.

The Agency continued to support progress towards sustainable transitions through a report on established practices and governance approaches, an updated analysis of global megatrends and a first downscaling of planetary boundaries in relation to EU policies.

Strategic area 3: Knowledge co-creation, sharing and use

Eionet continues to be at the heart of EEA activities. In 2018, Eionet was further strengthened via enhancement of links to relevant actors and networks in the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community. In cooperation with Eionet, as well as DGs ENV, DEVCO, CLIMA, RTD and ESTAT, the EEA continued to provide inputs to support the EU monitoring and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the year, EEA led on the implementation of actions to modernise e-reporting as part of the EC's streamlining environmental reporting process, and continued the implementation of externally funded activities under the Copernicus and European Neighbourhood programmes, supporting the establishment of structures modelled in line with Eionet and SEIS concepts.

Implementation of the EEA communication framework continued during the year, adapting to rapidly changing technologies, communication and dialogue channels, while improvements were made to EEA internal co-creation and sharing.

Strategic area 4: EEA management

During 2018, the EEA both tracked and contributed to the Commission-led evaluation of EEA and Eionet. The EEA Financial Regulation was also revised following the update of the Framework Financial Regulation.

The transition to the new data protection rules applicable to EU bodies was prepared and implemented following the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

ACHIEVING ANNUAL GOALS

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 and agreements, and broader objectives 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 2018 are clearly represented in the examples below, which illustrate the central position that the EEA and Eionet occupy in the implementation of EU environmental and climate policy. From putting information on air quality, transport and noise at Europe's fingertips, to providing assessments of climate change impact, vulnerability, and adaptation, to initial reporting on environment, health and wellbeing, the Agency again strengthened its role as a committed knowledge actor contributing to supporting policy implementation towards systemic, long-term solutions.

2018 saw a strong focus on communications around water, starting with a Facebook Live session on World Water Day in March and the launch of the 'European waters' report in July, examining the status of different European water bodies recognised by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This was followed by the EEA Signals 2018 'Clean water is life' report in August, which addressed topics such as water and climate change, pollution sources and impacts on health and ecosystems. These were further complimented by the WaterPIX photo competition and the annual 'Bathing water quality' report. The WaterPIX photo competition received more than 2 000 photos from 34 countries.

Other key EEA publications in 2018 included reports on:

- 'The circular economy and the bioeconomy', which explored possible synergies, tensions and trade-offs between the objectives of the bio- and circular economies, and how shifting from non-renewable resources to biomaterial can form an important innovation aspect of the circular economy agenda;
- 'Air quality in Europe 2018', with an updated overview and analysis of air quality in Europe from 2000 to 2016;
- 'Electric vehicles from life cycle and circular economy perspectives', bringing together evidence on electric vehicles' impact across their life cycle, and comparing these with traditional internal combustion engine vehicles.
- 'Mercury in Europe's environment', highlighting the threats to the environment and human health posed by mercury.

The EEA Scientific Committee (SC) assists the Management Board and the Executive Director of the EEA in providing advice on scientific matters of relevance to the Agency's work. In 2018, the EEA Communications team organised a seminar on science-policy communication in collaboration with SC members. The event brought together some 50 participants including SC members, EEA staff, communications experts from other EU institutions and agencies (JRC, EMCDDA, EFSA, ECHA and EMA), as well as representatives from the private sector (advertising and data visualisation agencies). Participants reflected on the changing nature of science-policy communication and how

the EEA can best respond to it. Outcomes of the seminar will feed into the upcoming SOER 2020 communications as well as the next communications framework.

The EEA continued to embrace social platforms as communications channels. Facebook Live events on food, Copernicus, water, chemicals, biodiversity, water, circular economy, electric vehicles and mercury had a significant impact, with 12 000-18 000 views each.

Meanwhile, the EEA website performed well in 2018, gaining 500 000 users (+17%) to reach a total of 3.45 million users, registering 10.7 million page views (+15%). The 2018 Air Quality in Europe report was 2018's most downloaded content, with 10 600 downloads, while the Air Quality Index map was the most popular content page, reaching 338 000 views.

Our success at making data available in forms that users need and appreciate was again demonstrated in 2018. For the second year running, the 'data and maps' section was the most visited section of the EEA website, with close to 2.5 million page views. The EEA web map servers (DiscoMap) received 300 million requests to view maps produced by the EEA.

This type of cooperation is at the heart of what we do. The AWP 2018, which underpinned efforts to achieve our goals in 2018, 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.

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 ([8]). 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.

([8]) 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

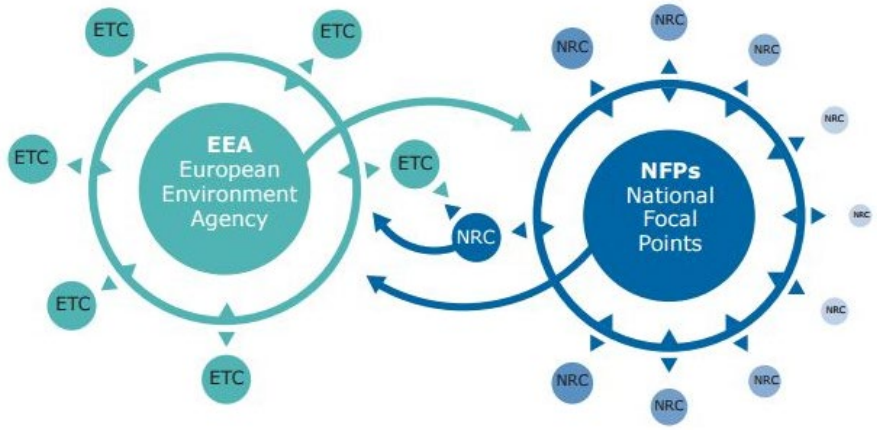
EIONET — COOPERATION ACROSS EUROPE

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 ([9]) 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.

([9]) 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 Republic of North 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[10] 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*.

In 2018 the EC undertook an evaluation of EEA and Eionet to address the questions formulated in the Commission Roadmap[11] organised along five Better-Regulation evaluation criteria. See Part 2.10 Better Regulation Evaluation of EEA and EIONET in 2016-2018.

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.

[10] On 19 June 2018 the EEA Management Board decided on the designation of seven ETCs to work from January 2019.

[11] Commission's Roadmap on 'Evaluation of the EEA and of its Eionet network' is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2018_env_002_eea_evaluation_en.pdf.

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 2018 successfully continued in provision of technical assistance, capacity building workshops and technical meetings in line with on-going Eionet practice and in conjunction 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), as well as UN bodies such as UN Environment Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN Environment-Europe office.

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 contribution to 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 approval by the budgetary authority and non-core budget) 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 of European Union.

CHALLENGES FOR 2018

The estimated budget used as a basis for activities set in the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2018-2020 and the adopted EEA budget

The establishment of the EEA budget for 2018 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 2017. The final EEA budget, including the amount of the EU contribution, and the establishment plan, were adopted by the budgetary authorities by the end of 2017. The revenue increased by EUR 674 017 and staffing was reduced by three temporary agent posts, whilst one contract agent was added.

The estimated budget, which was agreed with the European Commission, was also the final budget adopted by the budgetary authorities, which ultimately left the Agency capable of delivering the SPD as approved by the EEA Management Board.

In 2018, it was possible to increase the operational budget compared to the past year, reflecting the inclusion of new tasks and growth in existing tasks.

ORGANISATION/ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The EEA's organisational structure includes three hierarchical levels:

- Executive Director's Office (EDO), led by the EEA Executive Director;
- eight programmes, led by Heads of Programme;
- 17 groups, led by Heads of Group.

See organisational chart in Annex 3.

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

Executive Director's Office (EDO) — Hans Bruyninckx

Internal Audit Capability

Coordination and Strategy (CAS)
- CAS0 — Programme Office
- CAS1 — Networks and Partnerships

Administrative services (ADS)
- ADS0 — Programme Office
- ADS1 — Human Resource Management
- ADS2 — Finance
- ADS3 — Legal services, Procurement and Logistics

Data and Information Services (DIS)
- DIS0 — Programme Office
- DIS1 — Information Systems and ICT
- DIS2 — Data Management
- DIS3 — Geospatial Information Services

Natural Capital and Ecosystems (NCE)
- NCE0 — Programme Office
- NCE1 — Biodiversity and Nature
- NCE2 — Water and Marine

Climate Change, Energy and Transport (CET)
- CET0 — Programme Office
- CET1 — Mitigation, Energy and Transport
- CET2 — Adaptation and LULUCF

Health and Sustainable Resource Use (HSR)
- HSR0 — Programme Office
- HSR1 — Air Pollution, Environment and Health
- HSR2 — Sustainable Resource Use and Industry

Integrated Assessments for Sustainability (IAS)
- IAS0 — Programme Office
- IAS1 — Integrated Assessment and Knowledge Development
- IAS2 —Socio-Economic Analysis

Communications (COM)
- COM0 — Programme Office
- COM1 — Writing and Publishing
- COM2 — Media Relations, Social Media and Web

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

In 2004, the EEA developed an environmental management system (EMS) to manage its own impact on the environment. 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_2 emissions from travel. It was registered under the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and 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 2018 provides an overview of the achievements in 2018 and is structured around the Agency's four strategic areas (SAs), as set out in the EEA's MAWP 2014-2020. The achievements for 2018 are placed in 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) 2018.

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 2018

- Updated publications addressing air quality, transport and noise in support of relevant legislation, and support to countries for the reporting of respective data flows;
- Continue support to reporting by countries and companies including streamlining of reporting and publish updated assessments in the field of industrial emissions;
- Assessments on the progress towards meeting short- and long-term climate mitigation and energy targets in Europe, and on the role of climate and energy policies and socio-economic trends in achieving these, including assessing benefits and trade-offs of certain policies while continuing the support towards reporting and quality assurance of climate change mitigation data and assisting in setting up the post 2020 integrated climate and energy reporting system;
- Assessments on climate change impact, vulnerability, and adaptation, and links to disaster-risk reduction and improving the Climate-ADAPT platform, as relevant for the planned 2018 review of the EU climate change adaptation strategy and its mainstreaming into other EU policies;
- Publish the 2018 EEA State of Water assessment report analysing the reporting of Member States for the 2nd River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive, and report on chemicals in water in relation to the 2018–2019 evaluation of freshwater directives and other work considering emissions to water. Work linked to preparations of SOER 2020, activities on health and environment and on contaminants in marine waters;
- Publish the thematic assessments of contaminants and eutrophication in Europe's seas (supporting the 2019 State of the Marine Environment assessment and the 2019 Marine Messages II);
- Develop EEA assessment products in support to the final evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, informing progress towards ecosystems restoration and natural capital accounting, in convergence with upcoming assessments under other targets (Nature directives, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries sectors, Invasive species, Water and Marine); these products will also serve MAES process and SOER 2020 preparatory work;
- Development of indicators for land system assessments using Copernicus land monitoring services and other Earth Observation products e.g. phenology and

productivity; assessing the rural systems of Europe as relevant to CAP and EU Biodiversity Strategy targets;

- Support waste policy objectives through analysis of waste management in Europe from a resource perspective and the fourth annual waste prevention review that will address construction and demolition waste.
- Out of a total of 120 products, 112 were delivered with eight postponed due to external factors, such as changes to legal reporting and technical data issues, and are now planned for 2019.

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 analysis 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, interactions between various environmental areas and policies, and impacts on health, on the environment, climate change and on the economy.

Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM.

Description	Type	Key partners[12]	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Air Quality in Europe 2018 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)	Completed EEA Report No 12/2018
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	Completed EEA Report No 13/2018 EEA Briefing No 15/2018
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	Completed EEA Report No 6/2018* Briefing No 6/2018*
Annual reports: Monitoring CO_2 emissions from passenger cars and vans.	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, MS	Regulations on CO_2 from passenger cars (no 443/2009) and vans (no 510/2011)	Completed EEA Report No 15/2018*

[12] The key partners referred to in this and the following output tables of EEA's Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2018 are those partners that EEA cooperates with when preparing the specific outputs.

Description	Type	Key partners[12]	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to SOER 2020 report: air pollution, transport and mobility, noise	Joint products and contributions	Eionet NRCs Air Quality, Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, Environment and Transport, Noise, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Updated country fact sheets on: a) air pollution; and b) noise	Reports and assessments	Eionet, 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)	Completed Air pollution Country Fact sheets Noise Country Fact sheets
Updated indicators at European level on air pollutant emissions, air quality, noise, transport and environment	Indicators	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG AGRI, LRTAP Convention Coordination Centre for Effects, WHO	EEA, Europe 2020 Semester; resource efficiency scoreboard; EU SDS	Completed Air pollution (5) Noise (1) Transport and environment (11)

Description	Type	Key partners[12]	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated compilations of air quality data sets, including for cities, and the European Air Quality Index	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)	Completed Explore air pollution data Air quality status AQ e-reporting database Air quality statistical viewers Air quality management European Air Quality Index
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 (revised in 2016), LRTAP Convention and its Protocols	Completed Emissions to air NEC data viewer CLRTAP data viewer
Updated compilations of data of CO_2 emissions from new cars and vans.	Data and maps	MS, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC	Regulations on the monitoring of CO_2 emissions from new passenger cars and light-duty vehicles (443/2009, 510/2011)	Completed Provisional datasets, Cars and vans Final datasets postponed to 2019 following a European Commission request.

Description	Type	Key partners[12]	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated compilations of noise data	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Noise, MS, DG ENV	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Completed
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	Completed Air quality in Europe - 2018 report country fact-sheets
Annual Eionet NRC workshops on air pollutant emissions, air quality, transport and environment, and noise	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs on: Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, Air quality, Environment and Transport, Noise	EEA/ Eionet Regulation	Completed NRC Mitigation of Air Pollution and Climate Change: 25-27 April 2018 NRC Air Quality: 12-13 June 2018 NRC Environment and Transport: 27-28 September 2018 NRC Noise: not held.

Description	Type	Key partners[12]	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Provision of policy support	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, LRTAP Convention	Air Quality Directives and implementing provisions, National Emission Ceilings Directive, LRTAP Convention and its protocols, Environmental Noise Directive, Regulations for monitoring of CO_2 from new passenger cars, light-duty vehicles, heavy duty vehicles etc.	Completed EEA Report No 24/2018

Note: *Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.1)

Air pollution

Highlights of work in 2018 included production of a number of assessment products supported by the publication of annual datasets as required under relevant legislation. A priority in 2018 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 air quality e-Reporting), the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive and the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

A package of assessment products on air quality was published, including the annual Air quality in Europe – 2018 report, two web briefings on air quality measures and on methods used to assess risks to health from air pollution, and updated EEA indicators on exposure to air pollution and emissions of air pollutants. The EU air pollutant emission inventory report 1990-2016 under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) was published in June, together with a briefing on EU and Member State progress under the revised NEC Directive towards meeting emissions ceilings. Updated air pollution country fact sheets based on the latest air quality and air emissions data reported by countries were published. A Russian-language version of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook 2016 was published. This was an initiative funded through the EEA's grant under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), with supporting EU activities under the LRTAP Convention.

Supporting new approaches to data collection, a first meeting of a citizens' science initiative on air quality, a joint project of the EEA and the EPA Network, was held. Twelve EPAs are actively participating in the project which will conclude in 2019. An expert workshop with city

representatives working on air quality was also held as part of a follow-up to the 2013 Air Implementation Pilot. Representatives from 11 cities are participating in the project, assessing progress over the past 5 years in addressing challenges for air quality management at the local scale. A number of technical workshops were also held with EEA member country experts, including Eionet NRC workshops, 'IPR' technical meetings for air quality reports, and a training workshop for EEA member countries on the COPERT model, used to calculate GHGs and air pollutant emissions from vehicles.

Transport

The EEA's annual *Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism* (TERM) report provided an assessment of electric vehicles from a life-cycle and circular economy (CE) perspective. A separate TERM briefing provided the annual indicator-based assessment to track the progress of the transport sector in meeting its related policy targets and objectives. Associated indicators were published, including on electric vehicles and CO_2 from cars and vans.

Updated provisional data and information on the fuel efficiency of new cars and vans sold in 2017 were published. Emissions of CO_2 from new cars were largely unchanged in 2017, while those for new vans decreased more significantly. A related briefing on taxes, subsidies and other incentives used to encourage consumers to purchase lower-CO_2 emitting vehicles was also published.

Noise

Noise data activities in 2018 focused on supporting countries with the third reporting round of strategic noise maps under the Environmental Noise Directive.

A series of interactive country fact sheets on noise were published, 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. Further assessment activities in 2018 involved the preparation of the draft SOER 2020 thematic chapter on air pollution and an update of EEA's core set indicator on population exposure to environmental noise.

The EEA continued supporting the European Commission and member countries through participation in relevant networks and events, including the EU Noise Expert Group and Committee meetings, the World Health Organization (WHO) launch of the Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region, and the EPA Network Interest group on noise abatement.

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 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 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 analysis 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM.

Description	**Type**	**Key partners**	**Justification/legal reference**	**Outcome**
Ex-post analysis of the Large Combustion Plant (LCP) Directive	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs on Industrial Pollution	Large Combustion Plant Directive (2001/80/EC), Industrial Emission Directive (2010/75/EU)	Postponed Now Q2 2019 due to conflicting workloads
Mercury in Europe's environment - state of play	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs on Industrial Pollution, UN Minamata Convention	Mercury Regulation (2017/852/EU), Minamata Convention	Completed EEA Report No 11/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to SOER 2020 report: industrial pollution	Joint products and contributions	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, DG CLIMA,	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Updated indicators at European level on environmental pressures from industry	Indicators	DG ENV, MS, Eionet NRCs on Industrial Pollution	IED (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), industrial emissions policy area	Completed
Updated country fact sheets on environmental pressures from industry	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs on Industrial Pollution and relevant thematic NRCs, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, MS	IED (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), industrial emissions and relevant thematic areas (such as air pollution, water, waste, policy, energy)	Completed
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), Kiev Protocol on PRTR	Completed E-PRTR dataset E-PRTR website
Compilation and publication of IED data	Data and maps	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, MS	IED (2010/75/EU)	Postponed Change in legal reporting to start from 2019.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to on-going development of industrial emissions reporting and data management framework	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, Eionet, MS reporters	IED (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Completed
Hosting of and support to maintenance of the E-PRTR website	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution, DG ENV, MS reporters	E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), Kiev Protocol on PRTR	Completed
Annual Eionet workshop on industrial pollution	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Industrial Pollution	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 12-13 June 2018
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), Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), Kiev Protocol on PRTR, Montreal Protocol on ODS, E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Completed EEA Report No 15/2018
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 EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), UNECE PRTR Protocol, LRTAP Convention, National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC)	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.2)

Reporting on industrial point sources, namely the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and the Large Combustion Plants (LCP) Inventory, was completed, and quality-checked data published. In 2018, the EEA invested with countries preparing for a new data reporting mechanism under the Industrial Emissions Directive, and the retrofitting of existing reporting tools for the E-PRTR and the LCP Inventory. The tools are near completion and efforts will shift to the launch and implementation of the new system in 2019.

Assessment activities across this strategic area were strengthened in 2018. The EEA published a *Mercury in Europe's Environment* report, accompanied by social media activities including a Facebook live session and release of several animations. The report was presented at a side event at the November Meeting of the Parties to the Minamata Convention. Updated online country profiles were published providing an accessible summary of data reported by EEA member countries, as well as an updated core set indicator on industrial pollution. Two web briefings were published, highlighting the environmental burdens associated with emissions of key heavy metals in Europe, as well as the projected mitigation benefits of different implementation scenarios of EU policy for LCPs. Support to the preparation of the draft SOER 2020 elements on industry and environment was also a key part of 2018 efforts. Several further products, including assessments on pressures from industrial sources to water systems, and an evaluation of the effects of EU policy on improving emissions from the LCP sector neared finalisation for publication in early 2019.

The EEA continued its support to Eionet and selected international networks, namely the Kiev PRTR Protocol community and the Secretariat to the Energy Community.

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 analysis, 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 2018

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	Completed EEA Report No 9/2018 EEA Report No 17/2018 EEA Briefing No 7/2018 EEA Briefing No 8/2018
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	Completed
Report: EU GHG inventory 1990-2016 (Official EU submission to UNFCCC); 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	Completed EEA Report No 5/2018*

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to SOER 2020 report: climate change mitigation, energy	Joint products and contributions	Eionet NRCs on Energy and Environment, Eionet NRCs on Mitigation of air pollution and climate change, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Provision of policy support to the EU in the context of UNFCCC, including support to the annual review of the EU inventory under the Convention and the Protocol	Contributions and joint products	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, MS	UNFCCC, IPCC, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, EU ETS Directive, 2030 proposal, 2050 roadmap	Completed
Approximated EU GHG inventory, renewable energy and energy efficiency data for 2017	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	Completed EEA Report No 17/2018*
Fuel quality in the EU in 2017 - Fuel quality monitoring under the Fuel Quality Directive	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA	Fuel Quality Directive (98/70/EC)	Postponed Change of legal reporting deadline from 31.08.2018 to 31.12.2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual internal EU report (confidential) and annual EEA report on ODS and EU submission on ODS to the Montreal Protocol	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, single contact points in Member States (MS), companies	ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol on ODS	Completed EEA Report No 10/2018
Annual internal EU report (confidential) and annual EEA report on the trade and production of F-gases	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, single contact points in MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC)	Completed EEA Report No 21/2018
Updated (confidential) compilation ODS and F-gas data	Data and maps	DG CLIMA, single contact points in MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol on ODS	Completed Confidential data sets

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated EEA Climate Change Data Centre with relevant EU greenhouse gas and energy data sets, including: policies and measures (PAMs); 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	Completed Country Profiles
Annual Eionet workshops on energy and/or climate change mitigation	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Updated indicators at European level on climate change mitigation and energy	Indicators	Eionet, DG ESTAT, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation, F-gas Regulation (517/2014/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol on ODS,	Completed
EEA report: Progress towards meeting GHG emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets in Europe (Annual 'Trends and Progress' report)	Reports and assessments	Eionet, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG JRC, International Energy Agency	UNFCCC, 2030/50 roadmaps, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts, EU ETS Directive	Completed EEA Report No 14/2018 EEA Report No 16/2018 EEA Briefing No 12/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to the State of the Energy Union Report and assistance in setting up the Energy Union e-reporting platform	Contributions and joint products	DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG MOVE, DG ENV	EU Energy Union and its proposed Governance	Completed
Assessment on the role of climate and energy policies and socio-economic trends on past GHG emission trends (1990-2017)	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	Completed EEA Briefing No 5/2018
Assessment of progress in renewable energy	Reports and assessments	Eionet, DG CLIMA, DG ENER	2020 and 2030 Climate and energy targets, Energy Union.	Completed EEA Report No 20/2018

Note: *Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.3)

Overall in 2018, the EEA sought to consolidate its activities related to climate change mitigation and energy. Besides regular work supporting reporting activities under various legal requirements (climate Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, Fuel Quality Directive, Emissions Trading Directive and Regulations on Ozone Depleting Substances and Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases), highlights for 2018 included: support to the Paris Agreement implementation; support to the preparation of the 2030 climate and energy framework; back-to-back Eionet NRC meetings on energy and climate; monitoring of progress towards short- and long-term climate and energy targets in Europe; support to policy evaluation activities; and exploratory work on interlinkages between decarbonisation and circular economy.

The EEA supported the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the delivery of the 'Paris Rulebook' at COP24 in Katowice by providing technical input to the EU climate negotiation team on

transparency issues and participating in various international-level activities on national greenhouse gas inventories under the UNFCCC.

The EEA also supported Member States and the Commission in their preparations for the implementation of the 2030 climate and energy framework, which included sharing experience and knowledge on reporting issues in view of post-2020 reporting. The EEA also started developing an online platform to report and disseminate information on climate and energy relevant to the 2030 policy framework. Work in 2018 focused on communication aspects of such information. A first prototype platform and the results of a user needs analysis were presented at COP24 in Poland.

The EEA held two Eionet NRC meetings on 'Energy and environment' and 'Mitigation of climate change' with a one-day overlap, allowing the different NRC communities working on these topics to meet, interact and share experiences, with a view to facilitating the growing integration between climate and energy policies and related reporting activities under the upcoming Governance Regulation on the Energy Union and Climate Action.

The EEA continued to assess progress of its member countries and the EU towards their short-term and long-term climate and energy targets, notably through the publication of two packages of products in June (the annual EU greenhouse gas inventory report and a briefing explaining key emission trends and drivers) and in October (the annual reports on 'Trends and projections' and 'Trends and projections in the EU ETS', a briefing on the most recent trends in greenhouse gas emissions, and country profiles on climate and energy).

Two briefings were published based on the information on national climate change policies and measures reported by Member States in 2017. One of these briefings aimed at illustrating how this information can underpin further policy evaluations, either at national level, sectoral level or by policy area. Guidance on how to quantify policies and measures based on existing methodology reports and documents was also prepared.

The EEA also investigated options to better identify interlinkages between the decarbonisation and circular economy policy agendas. A study was carried out to identify methodologies available to quantify the contribution of circular economy actions towards the achievement of climate change mitigation targets in Europe.

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 analysis, compilations of reported information, and direct policy support;
- EEA information systems (Climate-ADAPT) adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs, 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/CCA.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Overview and analysis of national climate change impacts, vulnerability, risk assessments	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 1/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated indicators on climate change, impacts and vulnerability	Indicators	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, WHO, ECDC, ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts), Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 7th EAP	Completed CSI012 CSI042 CSI053 Postponed CSI047

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Reviewed, updated and improved European Climate Change Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT (regular content updating including urban information, voluntary provision by countries of updated country pages; various improved functionalities, layout and structure); enhanced user interaction (webinars, newsletter, meetings); revision of the work plan.	Information systems	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, DG ECHO, DG REGIO, WHO, ECDC, ISDR, Regional conventions, Covenant of Mayors, EPA Network, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 7th EAP, Europe 2020 Strategy, EU Urban agenda, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) European Commission/ EEA Work plan on Climate-ADAPT	Completed
Evaluation of the European Climate Change Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 3/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Draft assessment of climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ENER, DG AGRI, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018	Completed
Assessment and methodological work on indicators for monitoring national adaptation policies	ETC technical paper	DG CLIMA, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018	Completed
Assessment of transnational climate change adaptation strategies and actions	Briefing	DG CLIMA, DG REGIO, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018	Completed EEA Briefing No 17/2018
Assessment on social inequalities related to climate change, air pollution and noise	Reports and assessments	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, Eionet NRCs climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; NRCs air quality; NRCs noise	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 EU urban agenda EU air quality and noise policies	Completed EEA Report No 22/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contribution to SOER 2020 report: climate change adaptation, urban	Joint products and contributions	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, Eionet NRCs for climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Contribution to the Commission (DG CLIMA) Covenant of Mayors initiative and the regular ICLEI conference on urban adaptation Contributions to other conferences and meetings Collaboration with ECMWF, link to and use of the Copernicus climate change service	Workshops and meetings	DG CLIMA, Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI UNFCCC, IPCC, ISDR, WHO, EPA network Copernicus climate change service	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) and evaluation in 2017/2018 EU urban agenda Copernicus regulation	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.4)

An EEA assessment was published on the state of play in EEA member countries on national climate change, impacts and vulnerability assessments. The report formed the basis for an expert meeting held with EEA member countries in which lessons learned, good practices and ideas for future national assessments were shared.

An evaluation of the Climate-ADAPT platform was published in 2018, based on an extensive survey of users and providers, and additional analyses. It showed that the platform became a key tool for the exchange of adaptation information with decision-makers at various governance levels and the expert organisations supporting them, while various improvements were recommended. EEA

undertook an improvement project for Climate-ADAPT in 2018 resulting in fully updated content and a revised layout and IT system.

EEA developed a report on *Social inequalities and environmental hazards*. The report draws attention to the close links between social and environmental problems across Europe. The distribution of these environmental threats and the impacts they have on human health closely mirror differences in income, unemployment and education levels across Europe.

A briefing was published providing an up-to-date picture of how European countries and regions are working together in adapting to climate change impacts in shared transnational regions, some of which are considered climate change 'hot spots', i.e. those most vulnerable to changes.

EEA stepped up its planning and support to the implementation of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation. EEA will collect and analyse data to be reported by countries and provide support to enhance the quality of the data, e.g. by encouraging use of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service.

EEA reviewed and commented on the first State of the Climate report, published by the Copernicus Climate Change (C3S) service (managed by ECMWF) in 2018. EEA started inclusion of C3S data in some of its climate change impact indicators and expects to do so for more indicators in the future.

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 (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 analysis 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, ESTAT, 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Description	**Type**	**Key partners**	**Justification/legal reference**	**Outcome**
Continue supporting the common implementation strategy under WFD and FD (e.g. co-chairing of WG DIS), and support Member State reporting towards the 10th call under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	Workshops and meetings Contributions and joint products Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation, WFD, FD, Blueprint, UWWTD	Completed
Update freshwater indicators	Indicators	Eionet, DG ESTAT	WFD, Blueprint	Completed CSI020 CSI018 postponed to Q1 2019 due to technical data processing issues
Maintain and develop WISE-Freshwater in relation to EIONET core data flows and reporting (WISE SOE), WFD, FD, UWWTD and BWD data processing and the WISE-Freshwater portal, enabling dissemination and sharing of freshwater and marine information across policies	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	WFD, Blueprint, Inspire Directive	Completed WISE SoE data request 2018 European waters — assessment of status and

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
				pressures 2018 WISE-Freshwater WFD visualisation tool
Support to revised reporting process for Drinking Water Directive (following the recast process / adoption) *(planned under Reportnet, will be executed according to resources availability in cooperation with ENV*	Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	Drinking Water Directive	Completed
2018 EEA State of Water assessment report analysing the reporting of Member States for the 2nd RBMPs under the WFD (assessment of pressures and status), communication/dissemination of key findings, and contribution to related EC Implementation report and the MAES process	Reports and Assessments Briefings Data and maps	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet, OECD, European water associations	WFD, EU Blueprint for Water (the 'Blueprint'), EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (MAES)	Completed EEA Report No 7/2018* EEA Briefing No 14/2018 Signals 2018 – Water is life
EEA assessment report of chemicals in water in relation to the 2018–2019 evaluation of freshwater directives and other work considering emissions to water	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	WFD, UWWWTD, BWD, DWD, ND, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 18/2018 EEA Report No 11/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Make available the latest data on bathing water quality in Europe	Reports and assessments Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	BW Directive, WFD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 2/2018* Country Reports* WISE map viewer WISE Bathing Water Directive data request 2018
Continue work on water quantity accounts, initiate water quality accounts and contribute to the MAES process	Contributions Indicators	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet, ETC/ICM	WFD, Blueprint, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (MAES), 7th EAP	Completed
Contribute to the SOER 2020 report: Freshwater	Contributions	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet, OECD, European water associations	EEA Regulation, MAWP 2014-2020, WFD, EU Blueprint for Water (the 'Blueprint'), BW Directive, WFD, Blueprint, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP	Completed
Eionet Freshwater Workshop	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, MS, Eionet, OECD, European water associations	EEA Regulation, MAWP 2014-2020, WFD, Blueprint	Completed 18-19 June 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.5)

The EEA report '*European waters — assessment of status and pressures 2018*' was launched in a press/stakeholder conference in Brussels, 3 July, in cooperation with European Commission (DG ENV). The EEA report gives an updated health check on over 130 000 surface and groundwater bodies monitored by EU Member States, based on the data collected and reported from more than 160 River Basin Management Plans. Underpinning the report, all corresponding data were made accessible via WISE (Water Information System for Europe), which was updated/upgraded with new data/map services. The data and assessment were presented at the EU Water Conference, organised by the Austrian Presidency and European Commission in October 2018. The main message was: 'While Europe's ground water bodies, such as aquifers, are in good health in most cases, only 40 % of monitored lakes, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters achieved the EU Water Framework Directive's minimum "good" or "high" ecological status during the 2010-2015 monitoring period.' The report has garnered considerable attention and outreach/communication activities were organised to address requests from EEA's stakeholders.

The related EEA report on *Chemicals in European water* was sent for Eionet consultation in September and subsequently finalised by the end of the year. In relation to this, an expert meeting on the specifics of antimicrobial resistance and urban waste water treatment took place in October. The report concludes that: 'Europe-wide action to prevent and reduce some of the most hazardous chemicals from making their way into Europe's many fresh water bodies has been successful over past decades; however, challenges remain in effectively dealing with mercury and brominated flame retardants, and with many harmful chemicals which have not been prioritised for monitoring under the EU Water Framework Directive.'

Both assessment reports also support the 2018-2019 evaluation process by the European Commission of the freshwater directives (Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive). In this context of both implementation and evaluation of the Directive, extensive support was provided to the European Commission and countries through assistance to the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) and the respective Working Groups, notably on data reporting processes (for the above directives plus the Bathing Waters and the Drinking Water directives). The corresponding EEA-Eionet data calls were launched in October as planned. The annual Bathing Waters data and report was also released on time, at the start of the European bathing season.

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 analysis and compilations of reported information, and with direct policy support;
- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs: 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Continue supporting the implementation of the MSFD, the 2018 data reporting in Reportnet (Articles 8, 9, 10, 19.3; Helpdesk), phase II of WISE-Marine and co-chair WG DIKE and TG DATA	Workshops and meetings Contributions and joint products Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions, DG JRC, DG-MARE, ICES, Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation, MSFD, IMP/MSP, WFD	Completed Data request for Article 17 Data request for Article 18
Update marine indicators. Implement the WISE-SoE marine dataflows and publication of Waterbase	Indicators Data and maps	Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions, ICES	MAWP 2014-2020, MSFD, WFD, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP, SDGs, CBD,	Completed EEA Briefing No 5/2018 Waterbase

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
			Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)	
Maintain and implement phase II of WISE-Marine in relation to EIONET core data flows and reporting (WISE-SoE), MSFD data processing and the development of WISE-Marine portal, enabling dissemination and sharing of marine and freshwater information across policies	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	MSFD, WFD, Inspire Directive, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, Nature directives, 7th EAP, SDGs, CBD, Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)	Completed
Contaminants in Europe's seas (case study-based)	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, MS, Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions	MSFD (contribution to Article 20.3.b), EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 25/2018
Eutrophication in Europe's seas	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, MS, Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions	MSFD (contribution to Article 20.3.b), EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP	Postponed to Q3 2019 due to workloads
Progress on biodiversity in Europe's seas, pressures and cumulated impacts on Europe's seas, and sustainable use of Europe's seas	Contributions	DG ENV, MS, Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions	MSFD (contribution to Article 20.3.b), EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP	Completed EEA Briefing No 13/2018
Contribution to the SOER 2020 report and to the MAES process: Marine	Contributions	DG ENV, DG JRC, MS, Eionet,	EEA Regulation, MAWP 2014-2020, MSFD,	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
		Regional Sea Conventions, DG JRC, DG-MARE, ICES	IMP/MSP, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (MAES), 7th EAP	
Ensure data from Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) is used as and when relevant and support the policy relevance of its activities Continue to work closely with RSCs and ICES, particularly with regard to 2018 MSFD data reporting, WISE-Marine and EEA's thematic assessments. Follow and contribute, as and when relevant, to processes linked to SDGs (SDG14 and SDG6) and international ocean governance Follow the Sustainable Blue Economy and MSP processes and contribute as and when relevant	Workshop and meetings	Eionet, Regional Sea Conventions, ICES	MAWP 2014-2020, MSFD, WFD, EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, 7th EAP, SDGs, CBD, Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)	Completed
Eionet Marine Workshop	Workshop and meetings	Eionet	MAWP 2014-2020, EEA Regulation, MSFD, MSP	Completed 13-14 November 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.6)

The EEA briefing *Marine protected areas*, released in October, shows the EU's progress on achieving the global Aichi target 11 of designating at least 10 % of Europe's seas as marine protected areas, under the Convention for Biological Diversity. However, the EEA analysis also shows that the protected area networks are skewed towards coastal waters and do not sufficiently cover the deep

sea. These results were part of Commissioner Vella's presentation at the Ocean Governance conference late October.

EEA supports the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, helping on data reporting by countries and on assessing the measures put in place by Member States to achieve 'good environmental status' by 2020, such as measures conserving biodiversity and tackling pressures like overfishing, seabed damage, marine litter and contaminants. The report on Contaminants has been finalised for publication early 2019; other assessments on Biodiversity, Eutrophication have been drafted, for consultation and finalisation in 2019, as planned; technical reports on *Sustainable use of Europe's seas* and *Pressures and cumulative effects in Europe's* seas have been finalised and released early 2019 by EEA European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters. The indicators on 'Aquaculture production in Europe' and 'Status of marine fish stocks' have also been published. Extensive support was provided to the European Commission (DG ENV, DG MARE) on the launch in July of Art. 8, 9 and 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which covers reporting obligations. EEA leads or assists on reporting guidance and tools, and the technical recommendations for the publication of datasets under the MSFD Articles were finalised by mid-2018. All content is developed under the management of the Marine Information System for Europe (WISE-Marine), ensuring links between data and reporting with phase II of WISE-Marine, in particular the further development of data and information sharing tools, including joint EEA/EC framework contract activities.

In this working context, there was continued close coordination and cooperation with Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) in view of updating/improving marine indicators. Significant progress was also made in streamlining marine data reporting, specifically by making greater use of the data reported by countries to the Regional Seas Conventions, to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, and to the European Commission's Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), which consists of more than 150 organisations assembling marine data, products and metadata (in 2018, EEA made use of the chemistry data).

The Eionet NRC workshop on marine was held successfully in November, with a focus on the EEA Marine Roadmap 2016-2020 (assessment activities and corresponding review of the 2016/2017/2018 marine data flows and indicators work linked to the MSFD, WISE-SoE, and Regional Seas Conventions' processes).

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 analysis and compilations of reported information within a direct policy context;
- EEA information systems developed according to the policy needs as emerging from the nature directives, 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 in support to policy-science interface platforms at European and global levels (e.g. IPBES);
- Establish relevant partnerships with major operators in biodiversity monitoring, data gathering, and agriculture and forests 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/BD.

Description	**Type**	**Key partners**	**Justification/legal reference**	**Outcome**
Consolidated assessment frameworks for the EEA contribution to the review of EU Biodiversity	Joint products and contributions	DG ENV, DG JRC, MS, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS, ETC/ICM	7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, EEA/Eionet Regulation, nature directives, WFD, MSFD, CAP, Common	Completed EEA Briefing No 19/2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Strategy to 2020 and SOER 2020 work, including those related to the State of Nature and MAES			Fisheries Policy, forest strategy, green infrastructure strategy	
Reporting tools for Art. 12 Birds and Art. 17 Habitats Directives operational	Data and maps	DG ENV, MS, ETC/BD	Birds Directive (art.12), Habitats Directive (art.17), Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (target 1)	Completed
Contribution to the SOER 2020 report: Biodiversity, ecosystems, agriculture and forests	Joint products and contributions	DGENV, Eionet NRCs for biodiversity	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Input to Environmental Knowledge Community's KIPs INCA and WiLoP, in particular published European ecosystem accounts pilot assessment	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG JRC, ESTAT, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, MS, Eionet, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS, ETC/ICM	7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, Environmental Knowledge Community partnership	Completed EEA Report No 26/2018
SEBI 2020 indicator set for EU and global biodiversity	Indicators	DG ENV, DG JRC, ESTAT,	CBD, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, EEA/Eionet	Completed SEBI007/CSI008

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
targets, including aspects of ecosystem assessment, forest and agriculture		Eionet, ETC/BD	Regulation, Habitats and Birds Directives, WFD, MSFD	SEBI004 SEBI001/CSI050 SEBI008 SEBI021/CSI032
BISE developed as evidence base for natural capital assessments, including dissemination of nature and ecosystem information	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, ETC/BD	CBD, 7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, EEA/Eionet Regulation, Habitats and Birds Directives, WFD, MSFD	Completed
Support to reporting process for invasive alien species; regulation and preparation of assessment in link to information under Nature Directives *(planned, will be executed according to resource availability in cooperation with ENV + JRC)*	Data and maps	DG ENV, Eionet	IAS regulation, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	Completed
Key data flows: 2018 reporting on Common Database on Designated Areas to become INSPIRE compliant, updated Natura 2000 and Emerald network supported	Data and maps	DG ENV, Eionet, ETC/BD	EEA regulation, Bern Convention, Birds Directive (art.12), Habitats Directive (art.17), Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (target 1)	Completed CDDA database Natura 2000

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Policy-relevant assessment on agri-environment and forest issues, linking to CAP and Forest Strategy (European assessments – SOER 2020 objectives)	Contributions	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG JRC, ESTAT, Eionet, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS	7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, Common Agricultural Policy, EU Forest strategy	Completed
Analysis of high-natural-value farmland and forests in rural systems; update of AEI indicators	Joint products and contributions Indicators	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG JRC, ESTAT, Eionet, ETC/BD, ETC/ULS	7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, Common Agricultural Policy, EU Forest strategy	Completed
Support to IT developments by EC towards preparing Forest Information for Europe. *(planned, will be executed according to resource availability in cooperation with ENV + JRC)*	Information systems	DG ENV, JRC, ESAT, AGRI, CLIMA, MS, Eionet	European Forest Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	Completed
Further improved EUNIS web application (habitats, species and sites)	Information systems	DG ENV, Eionet, ETC/BD, ICM	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Bern convention, Birds Directive , Habitats Directive , BD 2020	Completed See visualisation under link below
Further developed EUNIS habitat classification	Data and maps	DG ENV, Eionet, ETC/BD, ICM	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Bern convention, Birds	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
			Directive, Habitats Directive, BD 2020	
Input to EU contribution to the UN-CBD and to the IPBES	Joint products and Contributions	DG ENV, Eionet	CBD, 7th EAP, Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	Completed
EIONET workshop on data and assessments for 2020 products on biodiversity and natural capital; NRC Agriculture and environment meeting	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, Eionet, ETC/BD	EEA regulation, Birds Directive (art.12), Habitats Directive (art.17), Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, CBD	Completed NRC Biodiversity: 28-29 June 2018 NRC Agriculture: 21-22 June 2018 NRC Forests: 17-18 September 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.7)

The next round of reporting under the Nature Directives has been established with the technical development of the reporting tools for Article 12 (Birds Directive) and Article 17 (Habitats Directive), approved with the countries, alongside a methodology for analysing progress towards Target 1 (nature protection) of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

Launched on 21 May (European Natura 2000 Day) the new Natura 2000 map viewer, hosted by the EEA on behalf of the European Commission, provides easy access to key nature information on all Natura 2000 sites and their habitats and species. The pan-European extension (Emerald network under the Bern Convention) has progressed very well with a revised Memorandum of Understanding between EEA and Council of Europe.

The Common database on designated areas (CDDA) is the official source of protected area information from the 39 European countries to the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA). In 2018, countries and EEA progressed significantly to make the regular reporting INSPIRE-compliant, with new data published in December.

EEA holds the Streamlined European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) set; the revised SEBI 2020 indicator set for EU and global biodiversity targets was updated with 6 indicators. These indicators

played a key role in the 6th national reporting to the global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the end of 2018. SEBI also served as the basis for biodiversity/nature-related indicators in Eurostat's 2018 Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in the EU context.

In the context of the EU initiative on Mapping and Assessing Ecosystems and their Services (MAES), consolidated assessment frameworks for the outline of the EU State of nature report 2019/2020 and the outline for EEA assessment products were developed and agreed with DG ENV, to support the policy evaluation of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. EEA participated actively in the finalisation of the pan-European regional assessment and the respective negotiations at the 6th meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Columbia in March 2017, and participated actively in the COP14 of the CBD in Egypt in December 2018.

An essential part of the work to support the evaluation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020 was further conceptual development of the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE), as BISE is intended to host information on nature as well as ecosystem assessment (MAES). In that regard, EEA finalised a briefing which presents the revised European Ecosystems map, based on the MAES classification.

For both Forest and Agriculture, the roadmaps for internal and European Commission collaboration have been further established, including valuable work with newly established NRC networks and workshops in 2018. The focus has also been to set up technical cooperation with European stakeholders, EC services (AGRI, ENV, CLIMA, JRC, ESTAT), and European/Regional organisations (FAO, Forest Europe, etc.). Such cooperation addresses information needs/knowledge gaps for integrated analyses purposes (SOER 2020, CAP conditionality indicators, LULUCF, etc.).

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 analysis 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/ULS.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Upgrading analytical framework for the land system with elements on rural areas, agriculture and forestry (European assessments – SOER 2020 objectives)	Briefing, contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG AGRI, Eionet, ETC/ULS	EU and global policy guidance	Completed EEA Briefing No 10/2018
Integrated data platform: spatial data registration, contextual data inventory, webmap platform, integrated geo-spatial analytics	IT system	DG JRC, DG ESTAT, ETC /ULS	7th EAP priority 1 and EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020	Completed
Contribute to implementation of Environmental Knowledge Community (KIP-INCA): maintenance and consolidation of geo-spatial databases for piloting EU ecosystem accounts, statistical time series and COPERNICUS land monitoring data	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT	7th EAP priority 1 and EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020	Completed
Contribution to the SOER 2020 report: urban, land use and soil	Contributions and joint products	DGENV, DG JRC, Eionet NRCs for land	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Re-analysis of forest land cover change, using Copernicus high-resolution layer	Briefing, data and maps	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG CLIMA, DG JRC, Eionet, ETC/ULS	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (target 3), EU Forest strategy, LULUCF reporting	Completed EEA Briefing No 16/2018
Re-analysis of time series 2006-2015 on imperviousness, using Copernicus high-resolution layer	Indicator	DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG JRC, Eionet, ETC/ULS	EU urban agenda, soil policy, 7th EAP	Postponed due to late arrival of input data; expected Q1 2019
Update of land recycling indicator (based on Copernicus Urban Atlas)	Indicator	DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG JRC, Eionet, ETC/ULS	Land and soil related policies, 7th EAP	Completed
Support for developing the knowledge base on green infrastructure and EC nature-based solutions initiatives, and EU-level projects in the context of the review of the GI strategy	Joint products and contributions	DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG RTD, DG CLIMA, Eionet, ETC/ULS-BD	EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020 and Green Infrastructure strategy	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Eionet NRC meetings: Soil, Land Cover, Land use and Spatial planning (LUSP)	Meetings and workshops	Eionet, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG AGRI	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed NRC Soil, 23-24 January 2018 NRC Land Use and Spatial Planning 8-9 March 2018 NRC Land Cover, 8-10 October 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.8)

EEA published a Briefing on *Land systems at European level - Analytical assessment framework* that builds on the driving forces-pressures-state-impact-responses (DPSIR) approach; EEA has designed an analytical framework that aims at developing a strategy for monitoring land dynamics and structures to help on consistent policy-relevant integrated assessment of the state of land and its key resources. Managing the land resource well is essential to supporting a wider societal transition to sustainability. To better manage the many – and conflicting – uses of land and associated processes, there is a need for a systemic (integrated) perspective on land.

In December 2018, countries and EEA delivered the new CORINE Land Cover (CLC) inventory, permitting updated analysis for inclusion in the SOER 2020 report, such as progress towards the EU target of 'no net land take by 2050'. Thematically, work on developing indicators addressing phenology and land biomass progressed well. Collection, harmonisation and processing of input data sets was completed and draft factsheets produced. The indicator proposal was reviewed at a related expert meeting on the effect of drought on the land system. Suggested improvements were considered and included in the final indicator specification scoping paper.

Green infrastructure (GI) offers a nature-based solution to improving the management of landscape resources. For that reason, it is critical that GI is used as an approach to meet the multifaceted challenges of spatial and physical planning. Developing green infrastructure is a key step towards the success of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, whose Target 2 requires that 'by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems'. EEA, together with the Environment Directorate and Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, have therefore joined forces to explore and illustrate how geospatial methods, data and tools can be used at different geographical scales for strategic GI

and ecosystem restoration in support of a multi-disciplinary and multi-scale approach for integrated spatial planning. The report was finalised by the end of 2018 and published by EC and EEA in early 2019. With a number of case studies analysed in the report, the applicability of these data, methods and tools are tested and proven. Base-maps and landscape-level assessment tools to support monitoring of EU-wide green infrastructure strategy implementation were also delivered.

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 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 analysis 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 2018

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, Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Completed EEA Report No 4/2018*

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
European level indicators for waste management across the waste hierarchy – selected updates	Contributions and joint products	Eionet NRCs Waste, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC	Waste Framework Directive, Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Postponed to 2019 due to delay in recruitment of an EEA project manager
Application of the European reference model on waste to generate waste outlooks for the SOER 2020	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, Eionet NRCs Waste	Waste Framework Directive, Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Completed
Eionet webinar on waste prevention	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Waste, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, OECD, other relevant networks	Waste Framework Directive, Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Completed 9 October 2018

Note: *Regular report under an EU legislation and/or international convention

Highlights for 2018 (SA1.9)

The EEA published its fourth annual waste prevention review, with a focus on reuse. This year's assessment focused on waste reuse, and covered 33 national and regional waste prevention programmes that had been adopted by the end of 2017. The report highlights how reuse remains a niche activity for many product types. In that context, it identifies some challenges that prevent reuse from becoming more prominent as a tool for reducing waste generation. The report outreach involved a number of activities, including a dedicated webinar where both EEA and selected member countries profiled reuse as a key element of waste prevention policies. The webinar was well attended and received positive feedback.

The EEA also contributed to the European Commission's 'Report on implementation of waste legislation, including the early warning report for the Member States at risk of missing the 2020 preparation for re-use/recycling target for municipal waste' by providing *Scenarios for municipal waste recycling based on the European Reference Model on Municipal Waste (ETC/WMGE working paper)*. This task involved significant effort by EEA member countries, which reported information,

on a voluntary basis, to feed into the aforementioned model. The Eionet network was a key enabling factor allowing this regulatory mechanism to succeed.

In the course of 2018, various EU directives addressing waste were amended, including the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC as amended), and as a consequence, the EEA mandate on this topic changed. A position paper was prepared and discussed with the Commission in order to define EEA's future activities. As a result, EEA will now be addressing waste management and prevention more broadly, shifting focus from a few waste streams and activities (i.e. municipal waste, packaging and landfilling) to other key elements of waste generation, management and prevention. At the same time, the circular economy conceptual framework is increasingly embedded in EEA's work on waste.

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 2018

- Support analysis of progress towards a circular economy through the annual circular economy report, alongside an updated catalogue of resource efficiency initiatives in countries, and a report on risk governance of hazardous chemicals;
- Publish a first EEA report on environment, health and well-being priorities in Europe drawing on, inter alia, insights from the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) and the European Information Platform on Chemicals;
- Support progress towards sustainable transitions through a report on established practices and governance approaches, an updated analysis of global megatrends and a first downscaling of planetary boundaries in relation to EU policies;
- Prepare drafts of the SOER 2020 assessment reports covering thematic policy priorities and systemic transition challenges.

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 ([13]), in accordance with circular and green economy perspectives ([14]).

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 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 2018

Main ETC partner: ETC/WMGE.

Description	**Type**	**Key partners**	**Justification/legal reference**	**Outcome**
Analysis of policy responses across environmental themes, with emphasis on legislative measures and market-based instruments	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG GROW, DG SANTE, DG RTD, OECD, UNEP, Global Green Growth Forum, World Economic Forum	7th EAP, SOER 2020	Completed
Analysis of progress towards a circular economy (3rd report): The circular economy and the bioeconomy –	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG GROW, DG RTD, Eionet NRCs Waste and	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy	Completed EEA Report No 8/2018

([13]) This will be done within a global perspective, informed by global megatrends (SA2.4).

([14]) 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
Partners in sustainability		Resource Efficiency		
Analysis of risks in a circular economy transition from hazardous chemicals	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	Support to the Non-Toxic Environment Strategy	Completed
In cooperation with Eionet, publication of a third report with analysis of national resource efficiency and circular economy policies, and the underlying country profiles	Reports and assessments	Eionet NRCs Waste and Resource Efficiency, DG ENV	7th EAP, MAWP 2014-2020, Resource efficiency flagship initiative, 2015 Commission Communication on Circular Economy	Postponed Now Q2 2019 to facilitate inclusion of updated country information
Eionet workshop on Circular economy and resource efficiency knowledge developments	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Resource Efficiency, DG ENV	2011 EU Resource Efficiency Roadmap implementation	Completed 25 May 2018
Eionet webinars on resource efficiency and circular economy		Eionet NRCs Resource efficiency and Waste		Completed 26 September and 13 December 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA2.1)

The EEA report *Circular economy and bioeconomy - Partners in sustainability*, the third report in a circular economy series was published, and informed the European Commission's inter-service consultation on the review of the EU Bioeconomy strategy. This report on the bioeconomy addresses circularity aspects of bio-based products and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. Preparations also commenced for a 4th circular economy (CE) report to be published in 2019.

On materials use and resource efficiency, the planned report and country fact sheets were postponed in order to facilitate inclusion of updated information from EEA member countries. These

products survey national resource efficiency and circular economy policies, while providing a catalogue of national objectives, targets and indicators, and will be published in 2019.

Close engagement with Eionet representatives was a focus in 2018, with an expert meeting held in Copenhagen as well as two webinars. A knowledge-sharing workshop on developing national policies for the circular economy was held on 25 May, involving DG Environment, Eionet partners and national policymakers. EEA webinars on financing circular economy actions, and on presenting examples of recently adopted national CE roadmaps attracted a growing number of online participants from Eionet and beyond.

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 ([15]).

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 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Data inputs to IPCheM on environmental media	Data and maps	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed

([15]) 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
and human bio-monitoring				
Knowledge broker to the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative under Horizon 2020 – through development of the knowledge hub and participation in the steering committee	Contributions and joint products	DG RTD, DG ENV	Horizon 2020	Completed
Draft of 2019 Environment, Health and Well-being report	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG SANTE	7th EAP, MAWP 2014-2020	Completed
Eionet workshop on Environment, Health and Well-being	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs Environment and health	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 30-31 October 2018
Expert workshop on Environmental Risk Management	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	7th EAP priority objective 5	Completed 1 June 2018
Additional output: Chemicals for a Sustainable Future. Outcomes of EEA Scientific Committee Seminar	Corporate document	DG ENV, EEA Scientific Committee	7th EAP priority objective 3	Completed EEA Corporate document No 2/2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA2.2)

In terms of work in the area of chemicals, the EEA delivered on its role under the Horizon 2020 project, HBM4EU, which included coordinating agreement on the 2nd list of priority substances for monitoring and research and the communication and dissemination of project results. A related task entailed work to make environmental monitoring and human biomonitoring datasets available via the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCHEM).

Assessment-related activities on environment and health involved production of a draft report on environment, health and well-being, exploring how the environment contributes to quality of life for Europe's citizens. This report will be finalised for publication in 2019. In addition, a draft chemicals chapter for the SOER 2020 report was produced.

In terms of collaboration with external networks, EEA provided support to the Commission in shaping up a tender on innovation in the chemicals sector and in the development of the Horizon Europe research agenda on plastics. In addition, EEA provided input to events on safe by design chemicals led by Austria and the Netherlands and participated in the Emerging Risk Exchange Network of the European Food Safety Authority. In the area of environment and health, EEA collaborated with WHO Europe on the development of a forthcoming WHO report on environmental health inequities, with input to two chapters foreseen for 2019.

An Eionet NRC workshop on environment and health focused on sharing country experiences of recent environment and health projects, and highlighted a number of on-going and future EEA and international activities. In June, EEA held a workshop on risk governance in chemicals regulation, focused on how certain toxic endpoints are captured in socio-economic assessments. EEA also supported the preparation of a meeting report of the EEA Scientific Committee on *Chemicals for a sustainable future* published in early 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 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on sustainability transitions providing an integrated overview of transitions concepts and governance, and	Reports and assessments	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, DG ESTAT, OECD, NRC FLIS, Future Earth, Sustainability Transitions	MAWP 2014-2020	Postponed Moved to 2019 to align with SOER 2020 Integrated

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
a meta-analysis of practice-based knowledge drawn from transitions initiatives		Research Network (STRN), scientific experts		Assessment developments
Updated global megatrends knowledge base (indicators)	Information systems	NRC FLIS, SoE, DG JRC, DG ESTAT	MAWP 2014-2020, Priority objective 9 of the 7th EAP	Completed
Global megatrends systems analysis (risks, interlinkages, impacts) and analysis of their use in policymaking	Contributions and joint products	NRC FLIS, SoE, DG JRC, DG ESTAT	MAWP 2014-2020, Priority objective 9 of the 7th EAP	Completed
Systems analyses on linkages between resources system nexus and global megatrends, SDGs, emerging issues, risks and opportunities	Workshops, contributions and joint products	NRC FLIS, SoE, DG JRC, DG RTD	MAWP 2014-2020, Priority objective 9 of the 7th EAP	Completed 15-16 May 2018
Forward-Looking Information Platform – continued enhancement through knowledge co-created with Eionet and other partners (e.g. JRC)	Information systems	DG JRC, DG RTD, NRC FLIS, SoE	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed
Eionet workshops and webinars on Forward-Looking Information and Services (FLIS)	Workshops and webinars	NRCs FLIS	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 16-17 May 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA2.3)

EEA gave presentations to European Commission and European Parliament on how EEA knowledge on sustainability transitions can inform EU medium- to long-term policy objectives for environment, climate and sustainability.

A workshop was held in July with European Commission services on how to strengthen connections between sustainability transitions research and relevant EU policies.

Throughout the year, EEA cooperated with Environment Knowledge Community partners, and Eionet NRC FLIS on the practical application of foresight methods to provide insights for future EU strategic policy developments.

EEA had deeper NRC FLIS cooperation around co-creation activities on how to interpret global megatrends to national circumstances in EEA countries or regions and on applying horizon scanning methods for identifying emerging issues and trends of relevance for policy making.

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 2020 (SOER 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 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Indicators and indicator-based analysis that will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the 7th EAP	Reports and assessments	Eionet, DGs ENV, CLIMA, ESTAT, DG JRC	Article 4 of the 7th EAP	Completed EEA Report No 19/2018*
Coordinated EEA knowledge contributions to the European Commission Environmental Implementation Review process	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, Eionet	Priority objective 4 of the 7th EAP	Completed Briefings*
Continued EKC collaboration related to Knowledge Innovation Project on "Within Limits of the Planet" and related footprints projects and/or activities	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, scientific experts	MAWP 2014-2020; 7th EAP	Completed
In-depth analysis of aspects of applying planetary boundaries concepts at the European scale	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, scientific experts	MAWP 2014-2020; 7th EAP, Priority objective 9 of the 7th EAP	Completed
Eionet workshops and webinars for state of the environment reporting	Workshops and webinars	NRCs SoE	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 4-5 September 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Draft integrated assessment of SOER 2020 for EEA stakeholder review	Reports and assessments	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Strengthen cooperation and partnerships on policy evaluation methods, studies and web platforms for dissemination (specific policy evaluation projects to be identified under strategic area 1)	Workshops, contributions and joint products	Eionet, European Commission, European Environmental Evaluators Network (EEEN)	Priority objective 5 of the 7th EAP	Completed
Support the integration of results of the Commission's monitoring and reporting fitness check and EEA/Eionet evaluation exercises into EEA operational and thematic planning	Contributions and joint products	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Assessment on urban sustainability transitions, following the European and global urban agendas, in support of SOER 2020 and the 2030 urban agendas	Workshops, assessments, contributions and joint products	Eionet, DG REGIO, DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, OECD and urban/cities strategic partners	Priority objective 8 of the 7th EAP Objective 11 of the SDGs The Urban and Global agenda	Completed 15-16 November 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA2.4)

EEA with Eionet NRCs for State of the Environment developed a conceptual framework and draft contents for how to communicate 25 years of state of the environment reporting in European countries that will feature in the SOER 2020 integrated assessment report.

The analysis of the implications of planetary boundaries at the European scale provides first analytical insights into the relationship between European consumption patterns and ecological limits including their relevance to EU environment policies.

The EEA annual indicator report results were used by the European Commission in the Environmental Implementation Review and the 7th Environment Action Programme evaluation processes. The results also informed European Parliament and informal Transport and Environment Council discussions on the future of the EU's environmental policy.

The EEA contributed actively to the High Level Expert Group on sustainable finance – including its final report that constituted a key input to the Commission's Action Plan: Financing Sustainable Growth. The EEA also participated in the technical expert group on sustainable finance (TEG) which, amongst other workstreams, is developing a prototype of a uniform classification system (taxonomy) of sustainable activities for investment purposes.

EEA activities on urban environment sustainability assessment include two novel analytical approaches: a) a nexus approach around key priority urban sustainability topics and;
b) a meta-analysis of benchmarking exercises focusing on key enablers/drivers of change. EEA also participated in three of six relevant partnerships under the EU Urban Agenda, with a view to improving the supply of environmental data, information and expertise.

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 2018

- Continue strengthening Eionet via enhancement of links to relevant actors and networks in the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community;
- In cooperation with Eionet, DGs ENV, DEVCO, CLIMA, RTD and ESTAT, and building on the work of EEA, continue to provide inputs to support the EU monitoring and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Lead on the implementation of actions to modernise e-reporting as part of the EC's streamlining environmental reporting process;
- Continue the implementation of externally funded activities under Copernicus and European Neighbourhood programmes, supporting the establishment of structures modelled in line with Eionet and SEIS concepts;
- Continue to implement the EEA communication framework, adapting to rapidly changing technologies, communication and dialogue channels;
- Improve EEA internal co-creation and sharing.

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;
- 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 2018

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/ legal reference	Outcome
Three meetings of the NFP/Eionet group	Workshops and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Monitoring of member country satisfaction with Eionet cooperation	Reports and assessments	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
SOER-based inputs to pan-European and UNEP global assessment processes	Contributions and joint products	UNECE, UNEP, ENV	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/ legal reference	Outcome
Inputs to regional reporting	Contributions and joint products	Eionet, Black Sea Commission, UNEP/MAP, Arctic Council	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed
Member and cooperating country contributions (data, information, etc.) to EEA online environmental information	Data and maps	Eionet, ENV, DG JRC, ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Enhanced partnerships with stakeholders beyond Eionet	Contributions and joint products	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Support to the Commission and EU Member States in the context of UNECE and UNEP assessments and the UN 2030 Agenda process, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Contributions and joint products	DG ENV, DG JRC, ESTAT	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed
EEAcademy operational	Contributions and joint products Workshops and meetings	Eionet and Scientific Committee	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.1)

EEA continued the strengthening of cooperation with Eionet, including enhancing links to relevant actors and networks in the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community. The enhanced Eionet planner is contributing to the improvement of cooperation.

A joint EEA/NFP working group was established to facilitate a review of National Reference Centres (NRC Review). The guiding principles were for a light review process shared between EEA and NFPs as a result of the extension of the MAWP. The results of the light review were two-fold: a revised NRC structure and a set of revised NRC descriptions. A number of changes were made to the NRC structure aimed at ensuring a closer alignment of the work of the NRCs with the MAWP 2014-2020. Changes to NRC descriptions were mainly updates. An in-depth review of NRC structure and profiles is planned to adapt to the requirements from 2021 onwards.

During 2018 the Management Board conducted a review of European Topic Centres and approved (at the Board meeting in June 2018) the designation of seven new consortia for the period 2019-2021.

NFP/Eionet contributed to the study underpinning the European Commission's Staff Working Document (SWD(2018)470) on the evaluation of EEA/Eionet. Relevant follow-up was identified in order to modernise the network for the next EEA/Eionet strategy period.

In cooperation with Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA and ESTAT, EEA supported the adaptation of relevant reporting frameworks to underpin the monitoring and review process of the UN-driven Sustainable Development Goals.

Areas for strengthened cooperation with the West Balkans were identified jointly with the six countries of that region and the EC services.

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 2018

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Specific objective(s)
Phase two Reportnet version 2.0 including an improvements to existing components	Information systems	Eionet NRCs for Information Systems, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation European Interoperability Framework COM(2017) 134 final EU eGovernment Action Plan COM(2016) 179 final INSPIRE 2007/2/EC	Completed
Phase one Reportnet version 3.0 including scoping study for new functional requirements	Information systems	Eionet NRCs for Information Systems, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation European Interoperability Framework COM(2017) 134 final EU eGovernment Action Plan COM(2016) 179 final INSPIRE 2007/2/EC	Completed
Upgrade of the Eionet website	Information systems	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed First phase
IT support to data flows, indicator management and development of information systems presented under SA1 and SA2	Information systems	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Specific objective(s)
Improved EEA website for up-to-date online information (SOE-online)	Information systems	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Improved EEA spatial data infrastructure to support data sharing, integrated assessments and e-reporting	Information systems	Eionet, DG JRC, ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Inspire Directive	Completed
Eionet workshop with NRCs Information Systems	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRCs for Information Systems	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 21-22 November 2018

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.2)

Further IT system performance enhancements were carried out in 2018 to improve the effectiveness of EEA information services, such as the EEA website. During 2018, the EEA website managed more than 5.2 million sessions, which is an increase compared to the same period in previous years. The two most visited pages were the "Air quality index" and "How do human activities contribute to climate change and how do they compare with natural influences?"

The top three most downloaded datasets were Airbase, the Copernicus EU-DEM digital elevation model and the Copernicus Urban Atlas data. In total, more than 100 000 datasets were downloaded during 2018.

The development of a new Reporting system, called Reportnet 3.0, launched in April 2018 with a scoping study to understand how the current Reportnet is used, collect user requirements and create a vision for a new system. The study concluded in December and the results were discussed with both the Steering Committee and the Business Implementation Group, involving Eionet Member States and the relevant European Commission stakeholders. Construction of Reportnet 3.0 will start in 2019 and is expected to be complete in 2021.

While Reportnet 3.0 was under development, improvements to the existing Reportnet were made under the Reportnet 2.0 project. For example, security improvements (enforcing HTTPS on all public websites), are almost completed.

The upgrade of the Eionet portal was launched after the EEA reorganisation in September. Following consultation with Eionet stakeholders, a new planner and redesign were created as a first phase of the portal upgrade.

Follow-up on IAS Audit on Data and Information Management including IT components: all recommendations arising from the latest EEA audit are now closed by the auditors. The Internal Audit Service noted that the documents provided confirmed the implementation of the procedures defined by the EEA Data Management framework. The EEA has published these procedures on the Quality Management System and made them available to staff.

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 scoring Eionet data flows by 2018;
- Annually updated European datasets online within three months of deadline for national deliveries;
- Annually updated indicator assessments online within three months of data publications;
- European environmental data regularly updated in global environmental datasets.

Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2018

Main ETC partner: All.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Eionet country core data flows 2017	Reports and assessments	Eionet and national reporters in member countries	EEA/Eionet Regulation Streamlining Environmental Reporting COM(2017) 312	Completed EEA Briefing No 4/2018
Updated and improved Reporting Obligations Database	Information systems	Eionet, DG ENV	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated European datasets	Data and maps	DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENTR, DG RTD	EEA/Eionet Regulation Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC	Completed
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	Completed
EEA/Eionet data sharing with Copernicus and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems through EuroGEOSS, 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	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.3)

During 2018, the following number of new or updated products were published on the EEA data service https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps:

- 33 European databases, mainly related to air pollution, biodiversity, climate change, energy, industry, land use, transport and water;
- 269 interactive maps and data viewers, mainly related to air pollution, environment and health, climate change, industry, land use, marine, water, resource efficiency and waste;
- 43 maps and graphs for publication in EEA reports;
- 40 indicators, of which 23 were from the EEA core set.

The free and open EEA web map services available on http://discomap.eea.europa.eu/ received more than 290 million hits from more than 3 million visitors.

The EU Open data portal was updated with the related metadata about all public data products available from the EEA.

The EEA participated actively in the 2018 Inspire Conference, which took place on 18-21 September in Antwerp. The Executive Director chaired a plenary on the Green Economy. EEA organised two side events to present and discuss EEA's support to the implementation of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Eionet core data flow reporting performance was published on the EEA website. It summarises the evaluation of hundreds of data deliveries received from reporting countries. Austria, Croatia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom managed to achieve a data flow score of 100 %, which indicates the provision of timely and high quality data across all covered data flows.

The performance scoring related to Eionet core data flows reached 89 % for the 28 EU countries and 86 % for the 33 EEA member countries. It shows an improvement compared to the previous year, namely from 85 % to 89 % for EU28, 85 % to 86 % for EEA33, and 81 % to 83 % for Eionet39 countries.

EEA supported the 10 actions of EC Action plan to streamline environmental reporting, including better use of existing data such as those generated through the Copernicus programme.

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 2018**
Press releases and news highlights (total)	39
Media enquiries (including interview and article requests)	228
EEA mentions in EU policy documents	359

Communications key performance indicators	Total number in 2018
EEA media coverage (number of articles)	14 683
Web traffic to EEA website (page views)	10 786 881
Facebook content views	1 445 668
EEA tweets	255
Visiting groups	25
Public enquiries	816
CRM subscribers	9 544
Exhibitions with EEA stand/presence	4
Issues of EEA Newsletter	4
Speaking notes/presentations prepared for EEA's Executive Director	37

Performance against the expected outputs in EEA's AWP 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Communication planning, and activities supporting annual priorities	Communication products	Eionet, EU Institutions	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Annual meeting and communication activities with Eionet NRCs for Communication	Workshops and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed 27-28 September 2018
Quarterly online corporate newsletter	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed Newsletters
Signals 2018	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Improved user experience of EEA website	Information systems	Users	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Postponed due to IT

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
				resource constraints
Media relations	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Production and dissemination of quality-assured and targeted EEA outputs (editing, publishing and dissemination)	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Dialogue activities such as face-to-face meetings, events, conferences and workshops	Communication products	EEA/Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Promotion of EEA outputs and messages through social media channels	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Customer relations and targeted dissemination to stakeholders	Communication products	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Evaluation of the impact of EEA outputs	Corporate products	All stakeholders	MAWP 2014-2020	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.4)

The SOER 2020 production and outreach plans have been agreed and implementation started.

A cross-agency team has been scoping EEA's 25th Anniversary activities to highlight major achievements of the past and reflect on the current and future role of the Agency and Eionet in the

context of evolving European environmental and climate agendas. An EEA alumni group 'EEA connects' has been set up on LinkedIn.

The EEA *Signals 2018 Water is life* report was published in August and addressed topics such as water and climate change, pollution sources, and impacts on health and ecosystems. The English version was followed by 12 other language versions, in accordance with requests from Eionet, and EEA needs.

The press office produced news highlights and promoted EEA outputs. Selected 2018 highlights include:

- communicating the EEA's contributions to Copernicus, the Land Monitoring Service in particular (Facebook Live event in January);
- water communications, starting with the World Water Day online outreach (highlight, animation and Facebook Live), continuing with policy dialogue event in Brussels for the launch of the EEA report *European waters – assessment of status and pressures 2018*, where EEA Executive Director presented the findings of the report;
- climate and energy packages, consisting of Trends & Projections reports (Measuring progress to targets towards EU climate and energy goals; EU ETS), renewable energy report;
- the EEA report *Chemicals in Europe's environment*, which was launched ahead of the Minimata Convention COP, promoted extensively on social media (including with a FB live session);
- air quality package press release ahead of the WHO Conference on Air Pollution and Health;
- transport reports (TERM report and TERM briefing), supported by media and social media outreach (including a Facebook Live event).

Work on developing an updated EEA approach to visualisation and visual story-telling continued with the piloting of a small number of products, including the development of:

- new products (online briefing, flyer, brochure, maps, etc.) (examples are Marine Litter Watch briefing 6 June 2018 and Marine protected areas briefing 25 Oct 2018);
- SOER 2020 visual communication elements;
- resources, tools and workflows for enhanced visuals in EEA products;
- new EEA corporate identity elements.

An updated guide to data and meta-data was produced and an update to the EEA's copyright guidance resulted in a new package of guidance and copyright request forms in accordance with instructions from the EU Publications Office.

Following internal feedback, the countries pages on the EEA website were improved in terms of content and display, including, for example, fact sheets found in shared information systems.

Dialogue activities continued with the following highlights:

- the 2018 photo competition, 'WaterPIX' attracted 2038 valid entries from 34 countries and focussed on Water and us, Water and Nature, and Water and the economy;
- Green Week 2018 was supported by promoting the Air Quality Index and ClimateAdapt in the "Tools" area and with a stand at the environment festival "Miljømødet" in Hirtshals, Denmark, on 24-26 May;
- a Science communication workshop facilitated and organised by COM together with the Irish EPA was held at the 30th Plenary EPA Network meeting in Dublin on 12 April.

Active communication through social media channels is a regular activity for the EEA and visibility is given to nearly all products. Increasingly we work with dialogue formats and in 2018, nine 'Ask an expert' Facebook Live events were implemented. These live sessions garnered more than 10 000 views within days.

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 Information 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 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification / legal reference	Outcome
Quality management system (QMS)	Corporate products	All stakeholders	EEA internal control standards	Completed

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

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.5)

In 2018, the application of QMS procedures was extended to address organisational issues (including indicator production, non Eionet data, web presence for specific activities). A number of existing procedures were improved. A small number of procedures remain in draft status or are missing. 2018 quality highlights include:

- Agreement on approach to implementation of integrated risks management cycle across EEA;
- New procedures on indicator management, finance and publications rolled out;
- 28 staff took part in quality-related training, including 16 on PM2.

The 2018 staff engagement survey showed a small decrease in relation to quality management; from 48 % to 46 % favourable.

During the course of 2018, EMAS highlights include:

- A new waste sorting system was successfully implemented with a focus on improving waste sorting and reduction;
- A further 18 % reduction in electricity consumption compared to 2012 was achieved. This is partly the result of the 2017 investment and introduction of multi-functional devices;
- The EEA's paper consumption, one of the main environmental pressures resulting from the external printing of publications, declined again by 22 % compared to the base year 2013.
- The amended annexes of the EMAS regulation (EMAS IV) with additional requirements has been implemented and the EMAS certification was given;

- Finally, the external verification of the annual environmental statement and the audit of the environmental management system were successfully completed, resulting in EMAS certification of EEA for the 14th consecutive year.

The modernisation of IT services is progressing. New WIFI infrastructure has been installed, Windows 10 is being rolled out to all desktops and laptops. On 15 June 2018 the European Commission's document management system ARES replaced Hummingbird as EEA's records and document management system.

Information security was strengthened with the implementation of white-listing of applications on desktop PCs, which prevents malware from launching. A service continuity exercise was carried out in December 2018. Several initiatives were taken to be compliant with the data protection regulation, Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

COPERNICUS OPERATIONAL SERVICES ([16]) (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 one year;
- Copernicus services online and available with at least 99 % uptime.

Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2018

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

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Data on land-use change and landcover change from the pan-European and local components of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service	Data and maps	DG GROW, DG JRC DG ENV, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Completed. pan-European local

([16]) Copernicus operational services are covered and funded by a delegation agreement between the European Union and the EEA.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
land.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus land-monitoring data and services	Information systems	DG GROW, JRC	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Completed
Insitu.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus in situ data and services	Information systems	DG GROW	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.6)

The production of the Corine Land Cover (CLC) 2018 datasets was completed in less than one year after satellite image acquisition. The first pan-European CLC 2018 mosaic was created and published.

Important preparatory work was carried out for a new generation of the land information system (under the name CLC+), using a new data model. This new generation provides much more detail and flexibility, helping to support Member States in their LULUCF reporting obligations, to monitor the agri-environment impact indicators of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and to support the EU Environment Action Plan and other Community policies.

A series of base and expert products in the new High Resolution Layers product suite (imperviousness, forests, grassland, wetness and water) were published.

The geographical extension to EEA39 countries and full update of Urban Atlas 2012 was completed. In total, 785 Functional Urban Areas were made available.

A new product, height information over the downtown areas in the EU28 capitals, was added to the Urban Atlas suite.

The mapping of land cover and land use in riparian zones, focusing on a 250 m buffer zone along rivers belonging to Strahler level 2, was completed. In total, 248 521 km^2 were mapped.

Preparations for the new Coastal Zone monitoring service were finalised and the open call for tender was launched at the end of 2018. A roadmap document of the service evolution was produced in close collaboration with the Copernicus marine monitoring service.

Preparations for the implementation of the new Snow and Ice service, under systematic bio-geophysical monitoring, were finalised and the open call for tender was launched at the end of 2018.

Preparations for the implementation of the new European Ground Motion Service have started, including procurement planning and activities directed at securing sufficient consultancy support.

In the domain of cross-service in situ data coordination, the focus in 2018 continued to be on four main areas of activities, namely (a) creating an overview of the Copernicus in situ component, (b) raising awareness, (c) improving data access, and (d) establishing partnership agreements.

CORDA continued serving as the entry point for the Copernicus services to the national and regional geospatial reference data, and the operational provision of near-real-time AQ data to Copernicus services was ensured by the EEA.

Cooperation with non-EU countries on access to their in situ data has started under the umbrella of Copernicus Cooperation Arrangement with the European Union.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN WEST BALKAN AND EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES ([17]) (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 West Balkan countries in EEA/Eionet activities and products;
- Strong performance of West 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 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Participation of WB NFPs and NRCs in Eionet workshops	Workshops and meetings	Eionet in WB countries, EPA Network interest group on West Balkans	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)	Completed

([17]) Work in this area is covered by grant agreements between the European Commission and the EEA.

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Maintenance and further development of Eionet structures in the West Balkan countries to ensure their contribution to main EEA outputs (data flows, reports, web products, etc.)	Contributions and joint products	Eionet in WB countries, DG ENV, DG NEAR, EPA network interest group on West Balkans	IPA, MAWP 2014-2020	Completed
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	Completed
Pilots for establishing a regular data flow process as well as assessment capability for the ENP partner countries in line with on-going 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	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA3.7)

EEA cooperation with the West Balkan countries was further developed through thematic activities, performance in priority data flows and success stories, with a view to developing and implementing a roadmap for further integration.

In 2018 EEA initiated a series of high-level Eionet country visits in the six West Balkan countries (continuing in 2019) in order to agree on the priorities for the future and identify regional activities to strengthen cooperation.

Continued implementation of externally funded activities in the European Neighbourhood East and South regions aimed at supporting the establishment of structures modelled in line with Eionet and based on SEIS principles for improved quality and access to environmental information and good environmental governance.

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 2018

- Track and contribute to 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);
- Revision of the EEA Financial Regulation following the update of the Framework Financial Regulation;
- Prepare and implement the transition to the new data protection rules applicable to EU bodies following the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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 % agreed development plans and appraisals completed according to the deadlines specified in internal guidelines;
- On average, 10 days per year per staff member for development of competencies (including language training);
- Positive outcome of the next five-year external evaluation.

Performance against the expected outputs in the EEA's AWP 2018

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
90 % outputs, as defined in the AWP, delivered in 2018[18]	Corporate products	n/a	AWP	92 % Production delivery rate of mandatory products 85 % Core Set Indicator updating according to agreed timetable 86 % Annual Performance for Eionet core data flows
95 % agreed development plans and appraisals completed according to deadlines as specified in internal guidelines and 10 days per staff member for development of competencies (on average)	Corporate products	n/a	Staff regulations	Completed 98 %
Programming Document 2019-2021	Corporate products	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services	EEA Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed Administrative Document No 1/2019

[18] As of the 2019 work programme, the Management Board has agreed refined key performance indicators for EEA outputs, which will be included in CAAR 2019.

Draft Programming Document 2020-2022	Corporate products	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services	EEA Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Completed
Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2017	Corporate products	Management Board, Budgetary authorities	EEA Financial Regulation	Completed EEA Corporate Document No 3/2018
Deliveries defined in the annual audit plan approved by the EEA Management Board	Corporate products	Management Board	EEA Financial Regulation	Completed

Highlights for 2018 (SA4.1)

Initiation of a process to develop a strategy document for the period 2021-2030. The strategy document will be the successor to the Multi Annual Work Programme 2014-2020, providing an overarching strategic perspective alongside the successive Single Programming Documents. On 5 December, the Management Board endorsed the approach.

Adoption of the Programming Document 2019-2021, including the Annual Work Programme 2019 by the Management Board of 5 December 2018.

Review of Draft Programming Document 2020-2022, including the Annual Work Programme 2020 by the Management Board of 5 December 2018 (for final adoption by the Bureau in January 2019, and transmission to the EU institutions by 31 January 2019).

Adoption of the *Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2017*, including the 'Analysis and assessment by the Management Board' by the Bureau on 8 June 2018, and transmission by the Management Board to the budget authorities ([19]) and the European Court of Auditors by 15 June 2018.

In 2018, three Management Board and three Bureau meetings were organised. In addition, the Committee on the review of the functioning of the Management Board and Bureau convened three times. The Committee evaluating calls for proposals for the awarding of framework partnership agreements (concerning seven European Topic Centres for the period 2019-2021) convened once.

[19] European Commission, Parliament and Council

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 2018

Description	**Type**	**Key partners**	**Justification/legal reference**	**Specific objective(s)**
Reply to European Parliaments discharge 2016	Corporate products	European Parliament	Framework Financial Regulation	Completed
Annual Accounts 2017	Corporate products	Management Board, Commission services, Court of Auditors	Financial Regulation	Completed
Budgetary and Financial Management Report 2017	Corporate products	Budgetary authorities, Commission services, Court of Auditors	Financial Regulation	Completed
Budget 2018 (publication in the Official Journal)	Corporate products	EU Publications Office	Financial Regulation	Completed

Procurement plan 2018 (Published in European public procurement journal Tenders Electronic Daily)	Corporate products	DG ENV, DG CLIMA,	Financial Regulation	Completed
Planning and programming: draft Budget 2019 (including establishment table)	Corporate products	DG ENV / DG BUDG	Financial Regulation	Completed
Building policy	Corporate products	DG BUDG	Financial Regulation	Completed
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	Completed EEA reply is on page 107

Highlights for 2018 (SA4.2)

A reorganisation was completed in September adapting the organisational structure to policy developments and stakeholder needs – see Organisation/Administrative Structure in the Introduction and Annex 3.

In anticipation of the adoption and entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of their personal data by the EU institutions, bodies, offices and Agency, the Data Protection Officer provided information sessions in all programmes with a view to raising awareness on the expected changes to the existing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001. The inventory of all processing operations being carried out was reviewed and completed as appropriate and the relevant documentation drafted accordingly. Specific forms and guidelines were drafted while standard contractual clauses were reviewed in order to align them to the anticipated new rules. Information and guidance on applicable legislation and internal rules at the EEA was updated on the EEA website.

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 broadly 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 achieving the target.

In an attempt to capture the complexity required to describe progress in a given strategy, the chosen metrics are a combination of performance and process indicators. The relationships between the 'resources', 'business process' and '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; it 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 assessing the rate of achievement of the set objectives and will help us to 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

MANAGEMENT BOARD DISCHARGE OF ITS GOVERNANCE ROLE

During 2018, the Management Board adopted all statutory documents as foreseen in the applicable rules and regulations, including:

- EEA budget for 2019;
- one budget amendment relevant to 2018 and one revision of the 2018 procurement plan;
- EEA Single Programming Document 2019-2021, including Annual Work Programme for 2019;
- financing of action plans for the European Topic Centres (ETCs) for 2019;
- Management Board opinion on the EEA's annual accounts for 2017;
- Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) relevant to activities in 2017, including the Management Board's assessment and analysis.

The Management Board's overall oversight role was further ensured through regular reports received at Board and Bureau meetings from the Executive Director on EEA's activities and budget implementation, and from the Internal Audit Capability (IAC) on internal and external audits, as well as follow-up on recommendations.

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

- performance evaluation of the EEA Executive Director relevant to calendar year 2017;
- extension of the 2018 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the EEA Executive Director until the end of 2020, the end of the current Multiannual Work Programme;
- decision on the reporting officers and the appeal assessor for the annual appraisal of the Executive Director for calendar year 2018;
- the adoption of draft implementing rules for the 'Appraisal, and probationary and trial period of the Agency's Executive Director', and their transmission to the Commission for agreement.

Further activities of the EEA Management Board included:

- designation of seven new European Topic Centres, for the period 2019-2021, for which the Board received support from the Management Board Committee established for this purpose;
- adoption of a number of implementing rules in relation to the Guide to missions and authorised travel, Framework for Learning and Development, Temporary occupation of management posts, Guidelines on whistleblowing, and Engagement and use of Contract Agents;
- approval of Eurostat's work programme for 2019.

Eight Board decisions were adopted by written procedure, covering implementing rules to the Staff Regulations (6 decisions), an amendment to the 2018 EEA budget and a revision to the 2018 EEA procurement plan. The Bureau took three decisions, following delegation of power from the Board. These were on the adoption of the Draft Single Programming Document 2019-2021 for transmission to the EU Institutions, on the adoption of draft implementing rules for the 'Appraisal, and probationary and trial period of the Agency's Executive Director' for transmission to the Commission, and on the adoption of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2017 for transmission to the EU institutions and the European Court of Auditors. The latter was adopted through a written procedure. The Board delegated in total two decisions to the Bureau. The Chair of the Management Board (MB) adopted three decisions related to the appointment of members to two MB Committees and one MB Working Group, following delegation of power from the Board.

MEETINGS

In 2018, the Management Board held three plenary meetings each, and the Bureau held three meetings to support the Management Board in its oversight role and with the preparation of the Board plenary meetings. The Commission-led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet Regulation under the Better Regulation guidelines has been a standing agenda item for Management Board and Bureau meetings. Following the publication of the Commission's evaluation report on 20 November 2018, the Management Board established a Working Group to provide support with the drafting a Management Board response to the evaluation by mid-2019.

In addition, the Working Group on the functioning of the Management Board and Bureau convened three times; and the Committee on the evaluation of the call for proposals for framework partnership agreements (concerning seven European Topic Centres for the period 2019-2021) convened once.

FUNCTIONING OF BOARD AND BUREAU: INTERNAL REVIEW

During 2018, the EEA Management Board undertook an in-depth internal review of the functioning of the Board and Bureau, with the aim of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and strategic impact of the governance processes. The Board was supported by a Working Group, established for the duration of this review.

In December 2018, the Board endorsed the Working Group's final conclusions and recommendations. One of the main findings was that the Board's burden of administrative/executive tasks should be reduced, while respecting its oversight role, through:

- making more explicit use of its supporting bodies, in particular the Bureau and also sub-groups of the Board, in particular regarding: the pre-assessment of information in preparation of strategic Board discussions, and the preparation of Board decisions;
- increasing the use of delegation to the Bureau for the adoption of administrative/executive decisions (ad-hoc or permanent delegation).

The Rules of Procedure applicable to the EEA Management Board and Bureau will be revised in 2019, taking into account the revision of the Framework Financial Regulation.

SIGNIFICANT RISK AND CONTROL ISSUES SIGNALLED TO AND DISCUSSED WITH THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

In light of the EEA Management Board's oversight role in relation to the Agency's work and resource planning, the following significant risks and control issues, in particular in relation to external factors, have been signalled to and discussed with the Management Board over the course of 2018:

- ***Continued decrease of core resources in a context of increasing expectations on EEA, over the period 2014–2018***

  Since the adoption of the EEA's Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2020, expectations from the EU institutions on the EEA have continuously increased, most importantly in supporting the implementation of a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy, as well as the Commission's focus on sustainable growth (including sustainable finance), and circular and resource-efficient economy. Resources assigned to the EEA do not always reflect the additional work for the EEA agreed by the European institutions.

- ***Continued resource constraint under the current Multiannual Financial Framework, in particular the 10 % decrease in establishment table posts by the end of 2018, has required continuous reflection on priority setting in relation to:*** a) the objectives as set out in the EEA's Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2020; b) the delivery of outputs of importance for the EU policy priorities; and c) additional demands on the Agency formulated by the EU institutions.

- ***Funding outside of the EU subvention and contributions from member countries (non-core)***

  The practise of financing additional EEA activities through alternative and earmarked funding mechanisms (outside the EU subvention), has been identified and discussed as an issue of concern for the EEA Management Board, in particular regarding the related inefficiencies and administrative burden, impact on core resources and limited oversight role of the Board.

- ***Budget proposal 2021–2027 in light of positive Better Regulation evaluation of EEA and Eionet***

  The European Commission's proposal of May 2018 for the Multiannual Financial Framework covering the period 2021-2027 sets out a cap for the EU subsidy to the EEA, which is stable in nominal terms and resulting in a real-terms cut of at least 14 % of the Agency core-budget over the seven-year period. Subsequently, the Commission published its positive Better Regulation evaluation of the EEA and Eionet in November 2018, including recognition of significant levels of EU added value, effectiveness and efficiency. Moreover, the Agency is considered to have adapted very well to new EU policy developments and has fulfilled its objectives in the context of decreasing staff resources and increasing expectations for further high-quality deliverables.

  The EEA and its Management Board discussed, as an issue of concern, the inconsistency between, on the one hand, the positive Better Regulation evaluation of the Agency and the increased focus on/mainstreaming of climate action and environment, as stressed in the MFF proposal, and on the other hand, the proposed cut in Agency resources. The discussion focussed

especially on the impact on the Agency and its network's ability to implement some of the recent positive EU priorities and legislative initiatives.

VICE-CHAIRS AND BUREAU MEMBERS

In 2018, the mandate of some EEA Management Board members changed. Two new Vice-Chairs to the Board/Bureau members were elected for a first term in office: Michal Pastvinský from Czechia (24 June 2018 - 23 June 2021) and Alessandro Bratti from Italy (1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021). In addition, two Vice-Chairs were re-elected for a second term: Alda Ozola from Latvia (24 June 2018 - 23 June 2021) and Julia Werner from Germany (17 March 2019 – 16 March 2022).

2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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

A number of factors have influenced the staff population under the current Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–2020 which have resulted in conflicting effects.

As part of the austerity measures, the Multiannual Financial Framework required all EU institutions and bodies to reduce staffing by 5 %. In addition, the EEA was required to reduce by a further 5 % levy to deliver staff for new tasks in other agencies. EEA had at the end of 2018 delivered these reductions: the establishment plan was thus reduced from 138 posts in 2013 to 124 in 2018.

The number of contract agent staff is in part influenced by the level of 'non-core' funded activities, which are mainly carried out by specifically recruited Contract Agents. Non-core funded activities are financed via grant or delegation agreements with the European Commission and are typically areas of work of common interest to the Commission and EEA – in recent years focused mainly on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (now Copernicus) and capacity building in European neighbourhood countries. An additional grant agreement was concluded in 2016 for Human Biomonitoring for Europe (HBM4EU). Contract agents on non-core funded activities made up more than 20 % of the total number of contract agents at the end of 2018.

The number of Seconded National Experts has been reduced from 27 in 2013 to the current maximum of 20. In 2017 EEA started employing Seconded National Experts in Professional Training (NEPTs), and a total of five NEPTs underwent a training programme at EEA in 2018 (not included in the staff population table 9). NEPTs are seconded at the full expense of the member countries, in light of the training purpose of the secondment, for a maximum period of five months.

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 2018 (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	25 359 793.27	100.0 %	99.1 %
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4 216 915.30	99,6 %	90.8 %
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	13 491 594.43	100.0 %	76.2 %
Total budget	*43 068 303.00*	100.0 %	91.1 %

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

One financial commitment ([20]) 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 25 transfers covering both core and non-core funding were made in 2018. Core fund transfers amounted to a total of EUR 951 874 (2.21 % of the total appropriations); the remaining 32 % of the transfers were made with non-core funds and hence are not included in the 10 % calculation shown below.

([20]) 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.

	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)
Title 1 — Staff	-0.2	0.99	2.39
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	2.0	2.63	-0.41
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	-0.3	-3.84	-4.55

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

One amendment to the EEA budget was made in 2018. This 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 and also relates to the annual update of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) contribution and the contribution from new member countries.

No of revision	Subject	Amount (EUR)	Comments	Decision
First amended budget	Amendment to Copernicus and EFTA	- 342 000 4 980	Copernicus EFTA	Management Board written decision (29th November 2018) (Decision EEA/MB/2017/003)

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

		2017-2018	2018-2019
Total	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	4 544,418	3 829 527
	Total budget (EUR)	41 560 793	43 068 303
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	10.9%	8.9%
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	242 025.39	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	5.3%	

		2017-2018	2018-2019
Title 1	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	256 508	238 848
	Total budget (EUR)	23 806 521	25 359 793
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	1.1%	0.9%
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	78 022.00	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	30.4%	

		2017-2018	2018-2019
Title 2	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	389 797	386 798
	Total budget (EUR)	4 307 363	4 216 915
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	9.0%	9.2%
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	72 800.00	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	18.7%	

		2017-2018	2018-2019
Title 3	Automatic carryovers (EUR)	3 898 113	3 203 881
	Total budget (EUR)	13 446 909	13 491 594
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	29.0%	23.7%
	Cancelled carryforward (EUR)	91 203.00	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	2.3%	

E) Procurement types used in 2018

Background — Obligation to report

Pursuant to Article 74(10) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('2018 FR'), the authorising officer shall record, for each financial year, contracts concluded by negotiated procedures in accordance with points (a) to (f) of point 11.1 of Annex I to 2018 FR. If the proportion of negotiated procedures in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increases significantly 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)

It has to be noted that due to the transition provisions of 2018 FR, in 2018, some procurement procedures were still launched under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('2016 FR') and its rules of application ('2016 RAP'). For the purpose of this report and for easy reference, negotiated procedures in accordance with points (a) to (f) of point 11.1 of Annex I to 2018 FR are defined as contracts awarded under a negotiated procedure launched in accordance with Articles 134(1) of 2016 RAP and in accordance with points (a) to (f) of point 11.1 of Annex I to 2018 FR 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 Articles 137(2), 137(1) and 136a of RAP 2016 or under point 16 of Annex I to FR2018 accordingly, a negotiated procedure under Article 134(1) of RAP2016 or under point 11.1 of Annex I to FR2018, and an open call. 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 point 11.1 of Annex I to the FR2018 carried out in 2018

No	Contractor	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of procedure	Type of contract	Legal basis
1	Global Footprint Network	2018 UPDATE OF THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT INDICATOR	35 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct contract	Article 134(1)(b) RAP

No	Contractor	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of procedure	Type of contract	Legal basis
2	Geoinfo A/S	ESRI ENTERPRISE LICENSE AGREEMENT RENEWAL FEE FOR 2019	136 000	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Direct contract	Article 134(1)(b) RAP

Table of tendering procedures carried out in 2018

Type of procedure	Number of contracts awarded in 2018
Negotiated without prior publication of a contract notice (Article 134)	2
Very low value negotiated based on Article 137(2)	19
Low value negotiated based on Article 137(1)	2
Middle value negotiated based on Article 136a	2
Open call	10
Total	35

Statistics from previous years

Table with use of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the FR2018 in the last five years

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average	2018
Total Nr of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer	31[21]	31	33	32	34		35[22]
Nr of contracts resulting from negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the FR2018	3	5	1	3	4		2
Proportion	9.7%	16.12%	3%	9.37%	11.76%	9.99%	5.71%

Conclusion

The proportion of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the FR2018 in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer decreased in 2018 compared to 2017.

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

n/a

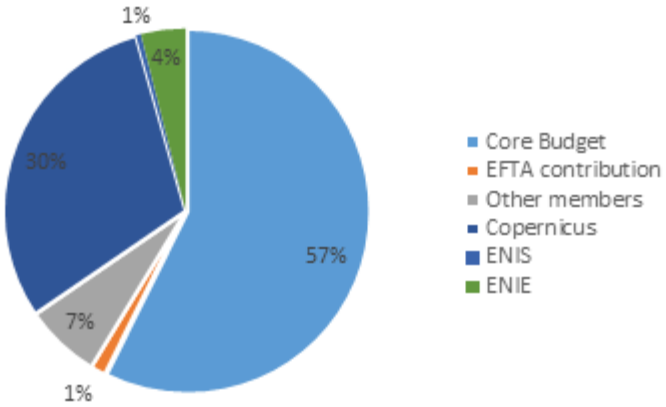
[21] Including five framework partnership agreements for European Topic Centres (ETCs) and five contracts awarded on the basis of Article 5 of the EEA founding regulation.

[22] In 2018, in addition to the total number of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer as defined in this document (35), seven framework partnership agreements for European Topic Centres (ETCs) were awarded following open calls for proposals.

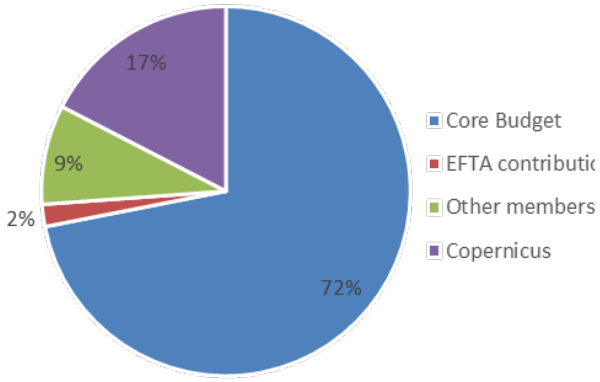
2.3.2 SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING GRANTS AND DELEGATION AGREEMENTS (EUR)

	2016	2017	2018	Difference between 2017 and 2018
EU subsidy	36 309 240	36 309 240	37 724 481	1 415 241
Contributions from other member countries	5 378 257	5 251 553	5 343 822	92 269
Earmarked funds	8 800 000	29 061 000	22 731 874	-6 329 126
Total	50 487 497	70 621 793	65 800 177	-4 821 616

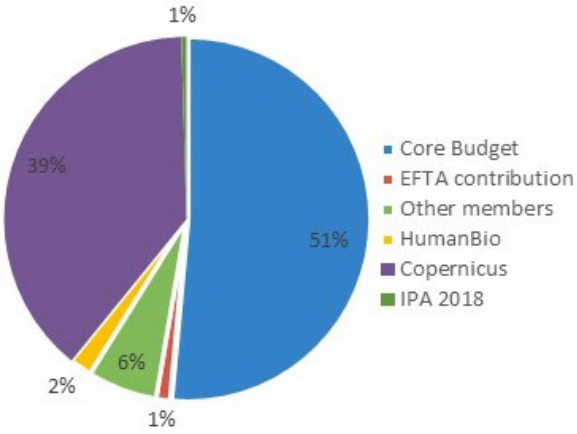
2018



2016

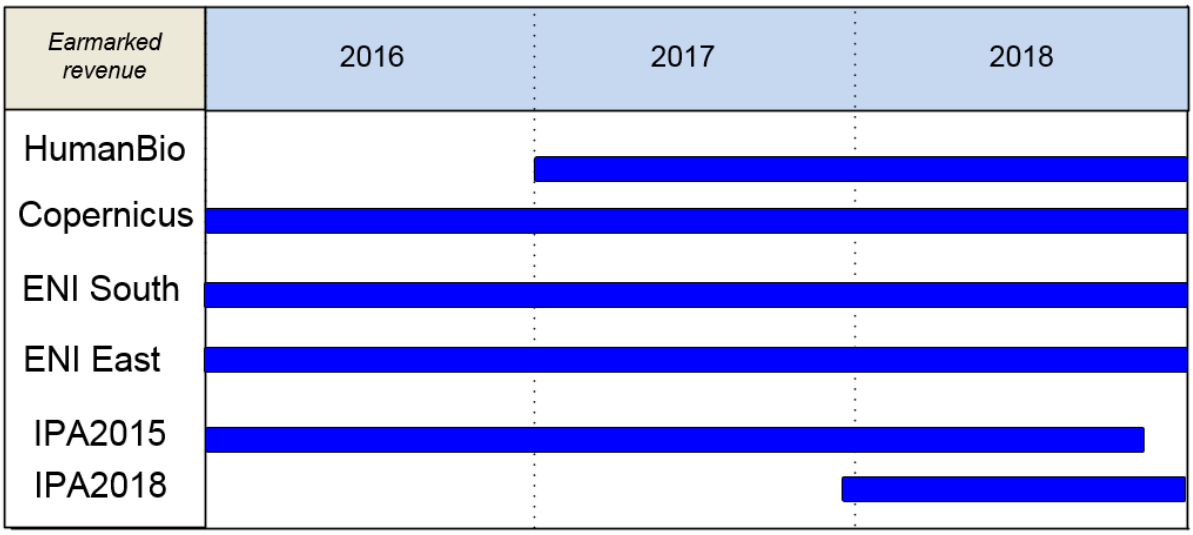


2017



Overview of earmarked revenue for the last 3 years

Earmarked revenue (external assigned revenue) is different from other fund sources, as it is 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 West Balkan Countries in the work of the European Environment Agency (2017-2018)
Human Bio	HBM4EU (2017-2021)
Copernicus	Copernicus Land monitoring service agreement (2014-2021)
IPA2015	Instrument for pre-Accession (West Balkan Countries) (2015-2018)
ENI South	Second phase towards SEIS integration in the Southern European neighbouring countries (European Neighbourhood Initiative South) (2015-2021)
ENI East	Second phase towards SEIS integration in the Eastern European neighbouring countries (European Neighbourhood Initiative East) (2015-2021)

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 classified the EEA as a 'cruising speed' agency, which implied an additional 5 % reduction. With the reduction of three posts for 2017 and a further three posts for 2018, EEA has now completed the required 5 % + 5 %. However, it has become increasingly difficult to absorb work with the current resources.

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 in their working group on a joint-agency approach.

Approximately 80 % of all staff are dedicated to operational activities, which has been more or less unchanged since 2014.

For details of the results of the 2018 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 FLEXITIME 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*
SNE	**7**	**185**	**10.3**
AD	**15**	**0**	**0.0**
AD	**13**	**7**	**6.5**
AD	**12**	**29**	**3.2**
AD	**11**	**39**	**4.9**
AD	**10**	**89**	**9.9**
AD	**9**	**111**	**10.0**
AD	**8**	**49**	**6.9**
AD	**7**	**46**	**7.7**
AD	**6**	**44**	**7.3**
AST	**10**	**17**	**8.5**
AST	**9**	**55**	**9.1**
AST	**8**	**53**	**7.5**
AST	**7**	**44**	**7.3**
AST	**6**	**59**	**6.6**
AST	**5**	**61**	**6.1**
AST	**4**	**57**	**5.7**
AST	**3**	**96**	**9.6**
AST	**2**	**5**	**4.5**
FG IV	**17**	**21**	**10.3**
FG IV	**16**	**106**	**7.0**
FG IV	**15**	**75**	**8.3**
FG IV	**14**	**250**	**10.0**
FG IV	**13**	**31**	**15.5**
FG III	**10**	**35**	**8.8**
FG III	**9**	**28**	**3.9**
FG III	**8**	**21**	**7.0**
FG II	**6**	**22**	**10.8**
FG II	**5**	**27**	**5.4**
Grand total		**1,653**	**7.8**

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 a positive adjustment of 0.11 % of the costs claimed to the benefit of the partners.

One on-the-spot verification took place. It was 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

In line with the prospective topics identified in the IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2018-2020, the IAS launched an audit on procurement and contract management during 2018. It will be finalised in 2019. The objective of the audit is to assess the adequacy of the design and the efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement and contract management processes to ensure compliance with the applicable rules and best value for money.

2.7.2 INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY

In line with the requirements of the EEA Financial Regulation, the IAC audit plan for 2018 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 ETC verification policy
After reviewing the verification process of ETC cost statements, the IAC established a risk assessment to select beneficiaries for on-the-spot verifications.

One beneficiary was selected in relation to ETC/ICM. The verification 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 was on staff costs, as they generally represent 75 % of the total costs claimed. The audits concluded with no recommendation for recovery and a recommendation of strengthening the quality control of the calculation made by the ETC partner.

Internal audit of IT security in EEA
During 2018, the auditor from the IAC finalised the audit on IT security in EEA.

The overall objective of this audit was to identify the governance structure of the IT security in EEA. More specifically, the audit looked at the effectiveness and efficiency in the management of access rights for sensitive data flows and for applications requiring restrictions.

Because management of access rights implies use of personal data, checks on compliance with the requirements of the new data protection regulation have been included in the audit.

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.

Liaison with other auditors
Close coordination with the IAS was needed in the context of the audit on procurement and contract management.

As the number of performance audits from the European Court of Auditors is increasing, with the environment as a main topic, the auditor of the IAC is following the requests, and reports regularly to the Management Board about the output of these audits. In most cases, the auditee is the Commission, although the EEA is often consulted as a provider of certain key data and a contributor to certain key environmental processes.

2.7.3 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

The opinion received from the ECA in 2018 related to the 2017 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 2017 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency at 31 December 2017, 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 2017 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 2017 are legal and regular in all material respects.' No major observations were made. The two observations from the previous year were assessed as completed and non-applicable.

2.8 FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS

2.8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

All open recommendations.

2.9 FOLLOW-UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

As a preamble to the discharge procedure for 2017, the European Parliament sent a questionnaire to all EU agencies, to which the EEA submitted a reply. The European Parliament had additional questions for several agencies, which did not include the EEA. The agencies' network chair participated together with agencies who had received additional questions in a hearing on 3 December 2018.

On 22 January 2019, the ENVI Committee adopted the draft opinion on the discharge.

During a plenary session on 26th March 2019, the European Parliament voted to grant the discharge for the financial year 2017.

Follow-up on the 2017 discharge by the European Parliament

The EEA will prepare a response to the discharge, "Report of the Executive Director to the Discharge Authority on measures taken in the light of the Discharge Authority's recommendations of 2017" in accordance with Article 110(2) of the Framework Financial Regulation.

PART 2B EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

2.10 BETTER REGULATION EVALUATION OF EEA AND EIONET IN 2016-2018

EVALUATION PROCESS

Between 2016 and 2018 the European Commission carried out an evaluation of the EEA/Eionet including also the Founding Regulation. The evaluation covered the period mid-2012 until end-2016 and took into account previous evaluations of the Agency (including the previous positive evaluation concluded in 2013). The evaluation followed the Better Regulation Guidelines and thus included analysis of five main themes: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and European added value.

The formal evaluation process started in November 2016 with the publication of evaluation roadmap[23] by the commission, after consultation of the EEA's Management Board.

The lead commission DG for the current evaluation was DG Environment, which was supported by a commission inter-service steering group. The evaluation was not included in the agenda of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

On 20 November 2018 the Commission published the Staff Working Document on the EEA/Eionet evaluation (SWD(2018)470), and the Final Report on the Support Study, undertaken by the consortium led by COWI *([24]).* The findings of the evaluation were presented to the Management Board of the EEA in December 2018. The Board set up a Working Group to examine the conclusions of the evaluation and to draw up corresponding recommendations of the Board (expected by summer 2019).

EVALUATION FINDINGS

The overall conclusions of the evaluation are positive and find that the EEA and Eionet fulfil the main objectives set by the Founding Regulation. The evaluation assessed that the EEA and Eionet continue to be relevant, and provide EU value added by implementing the multi-annual work programmes in a largely effective, efficient and coherent way. Moreover, it concludes that the Agency has adapted very well to new EU policy developments and has fulfilled its objectives in the context of decreasing staff resources and increasing expectations for further high-quality deliverables.

The evaluation recognised that Eionet is a unique network of environment and climate expertise that provides essential expertise in many areas and contributes (e.g. through the European Topic Centres) to the efficiency of the EEA's work. It suggested that there was some margin for improvement in the information on Eionet activities, the clarification of the role and better visibility

23 http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2018_env_002_eea_evaluation_en.pdf

24 See http://publications.europa.eu/publication/manifestation_identifier/PUB_KH0518015ENN

of the value added of the various Eionet components and how these interact with the EEA and the Commission services, notably in the area of reporting.

The evaluation further identified that additional requests from the European Commission for Agency support demonstrated recognition that EEA and its network provide unique value for money. While additional but temporary resources accompanied some of these specific requests, EEA had to adjust to a nominal freezing of the EU core subsidy and corresponding human resource reduction in line with the Commission policy for decentralised agencies.

The evaluation further concluded that EEA has proven to be reliable in providing the necessary information to support EU policy making and had adapted very well to new EU policy developments. The evaluation also noted that these accomplishments had been achieved against a backdrop of decreasing staff resources and increasing demand from the Commission to support new legislation on both environment and climate, as well as support for Copernicus.

Looking forwards, the evaluation found that freezing of the EU core subsidy for 2021-2027 as proposed by the Commission would require further prioritisation and eventual deselection of activities and tasks currently undertaken.

The conclusions of the evaluation, and the recommendations of the Management Board thereupon, will be addressed by the EEA in its ongoing planning and, moreover, in the formulation of the EEA/Eionet strategy to cover the period 2021-2030.

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 2018 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 Brexit and of other European political developments on the EEA and EIONET functioning could hamper the delivery of the Programming Document 2019-2021	High	High	Low	Low	Medium
		The EEA budget could be affected by developments related to country membership of EEA	High	High	Low	Low	High
		Under pressure of resource constraints, there is an increased tendency of EKC partners to deprioritise certain tasks; often the partners formulate the proposal that some tasks should be covered by the EEA, without appropriate discussion about the human and financial resources needed	High	Medium	Medium	Low	High
		Not having the resources to be involved in new strategic areas (eg. sustainable finance) in environmental and climate policies	High	Low	Medium	Low	High
		The EC action plan 2018-2020 on streamlining environmental reporting could have impacts on previously agreed priorities set out in the PD 2019-2021, and allocation of resources	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
		Potential loss of investments made over the last 20 years with Eionet cooperating countries (West Balkans) and ENI (East and South countries) in the current development of the MFF if insufficient provisions are made from 2020	Medium	High	High	Low	Medium
		Increased risk of cyberattacks puts pressure on EEA IT security and EEA reputation	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Internal	Planning, processes and systems	The procurement of new ETCs for the period 2019-2021 may result in a loss of access to key existing ETC experts. In turn, this may lead to potential	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium

		negative short-term consequences for EEA in terms of quality and timeliness of certain deliverables					
		Continuous pressure on core administrative resources given the volume of projects financed externally without perspective of having these projects integrated as core tasks	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
	Legality and regularity aspects	Given the diverse nature of contractual provisions included in the grants received from the EC, the externally funded projects require an increased number of different reporting schemes in parallel to those of the core budget reporting. This generates a potential risk of irregularity in the reporting documents, and inefficiency	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
		The short deadline for the volume of requirements of the new data protection legislation could lead to delays in implementing the provisions foreseen in the new regulation	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low
	Communication and information	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)

Risk management-related activities are undertaken in various parts of EEA. However, a review of these activities in 2018 identified improvements to coherence and control of mitigation actions. Senior management agreed to the creation of an integrated risk management procedure enabling a common approach to risk assessment and mitigation for different risk identification pathways. The improved risk management procedure is being rolled out as part of the Quality Management System (QMS) and integrated into the EEA annual management planning cycle. System improvements will enable Information on risk management to be more easily available and re-used for multiple purposes (administration, management, as well as governance).

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 is 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 INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

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).

The EEA's IAC looked at each principle and assessed whether or not it is being effectively implemented by looking at internal control indicators.

The IAC concluded that the EEA complied with all principles approved by the Management Board.

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 exhaustive coverage of the budget delegated to the Executive Director.

In conclusion:

- There were no reservations listed in the previous years' annual activity reports.
- All IAS recommendations issued in relation to audits finalised in previous years have been closed.
- 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, 12 June 2019

[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, 12 June 2019

[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

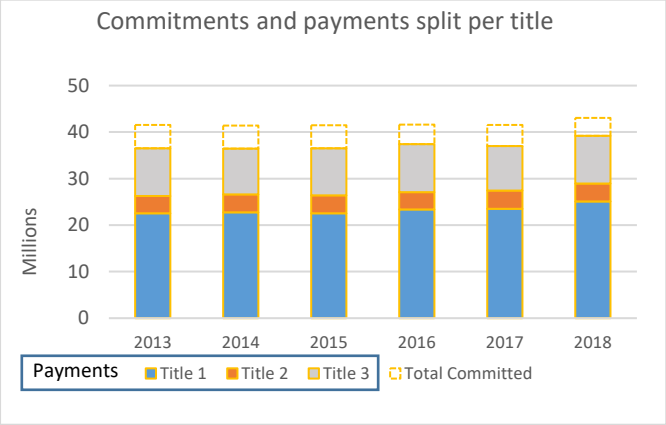
4.3 OVERALL CONCLUSION ON ASSURANCE

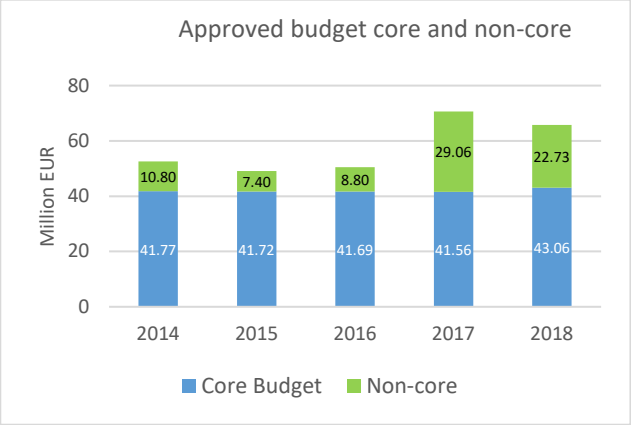
4.3.1 AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COMBINED IMPACT OF ANY RESERVATIONS MADE ON THE DECLARATION AND A CLEAR CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF THOSE RESERVATIONS, THE ASSURANCE TO BE PROVIDED IN THE DECLARATION CAN BE GIVEN. CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT RESULTING FROM THE 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?

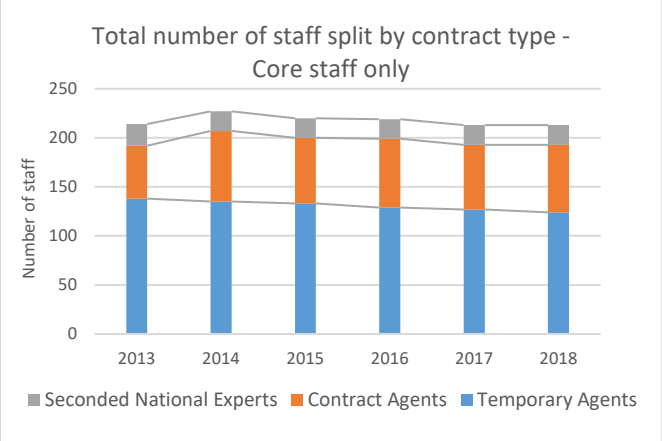
N/A

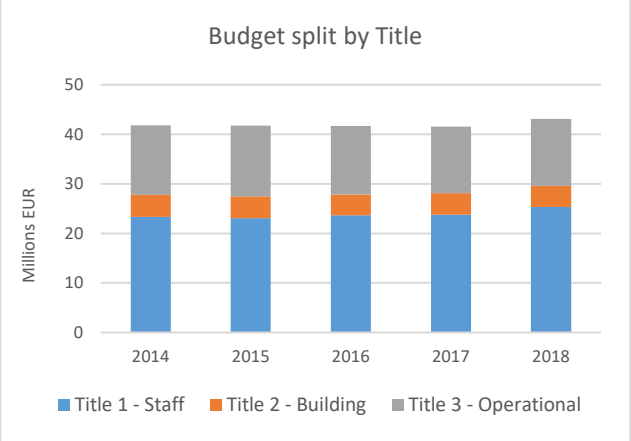
ANNEX 1 CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE PERSPECTIVE

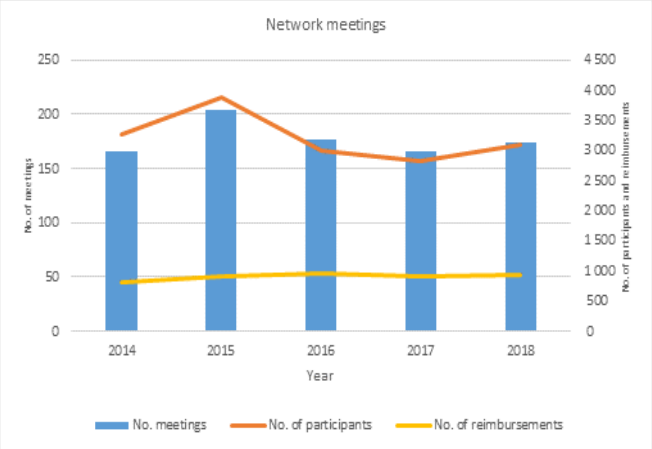


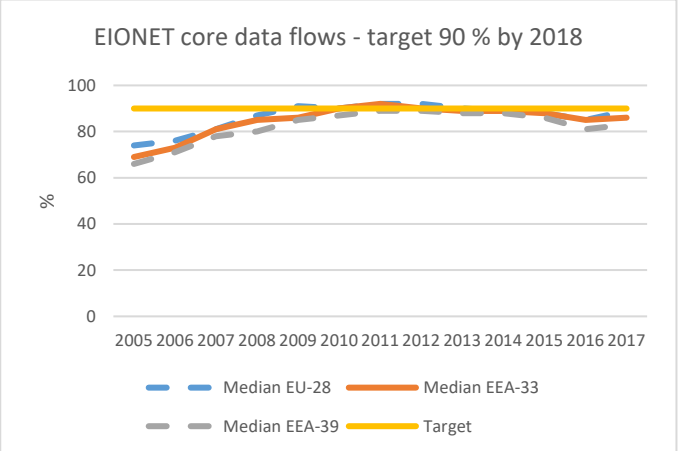


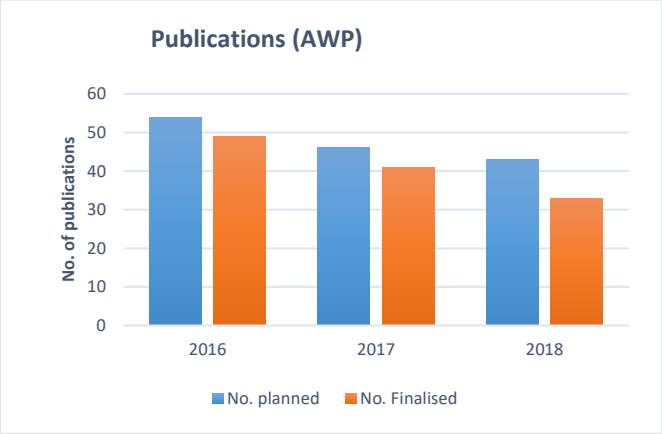


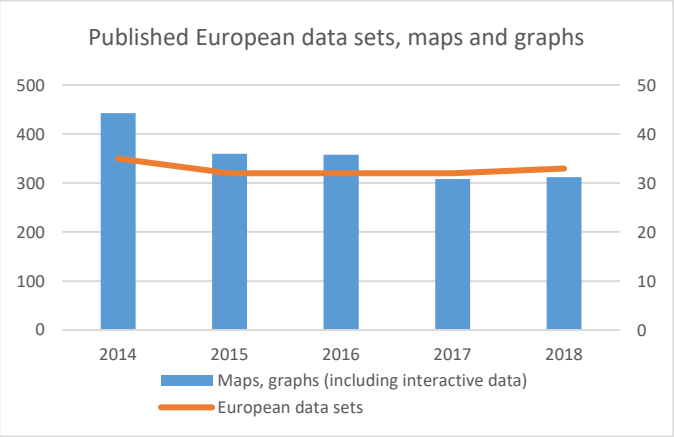


PRODUCTION PERSPECTIVE

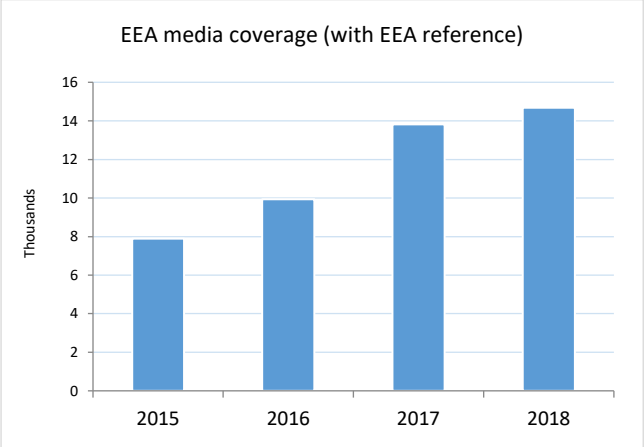


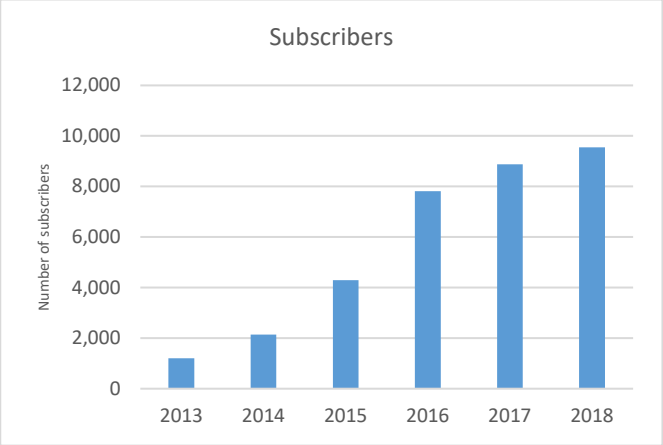


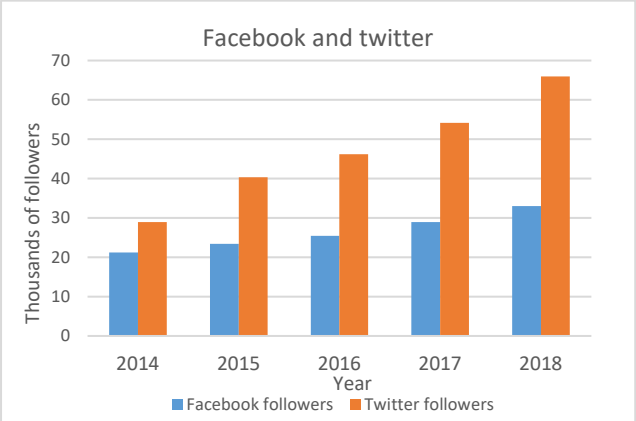


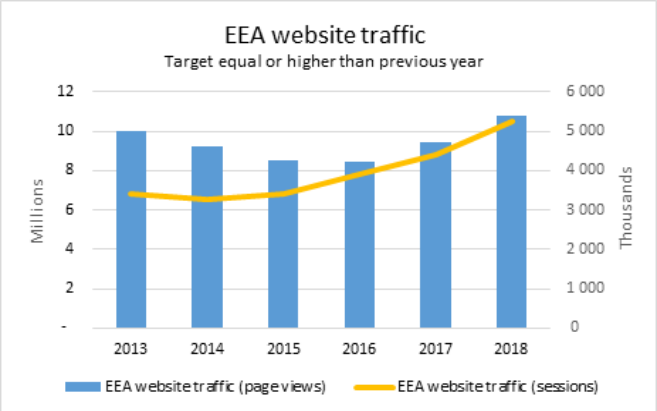


USER PERSPECTIVE

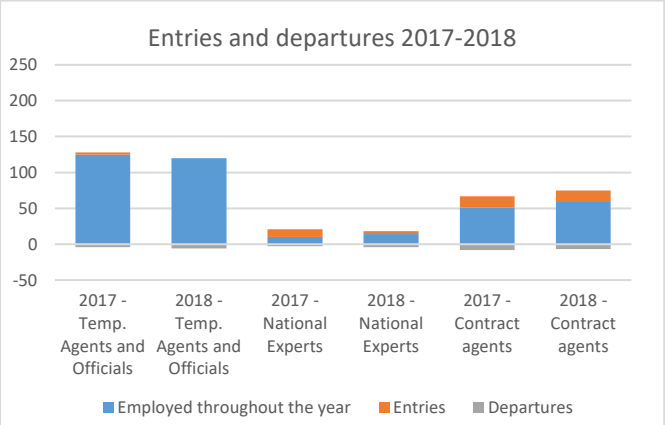


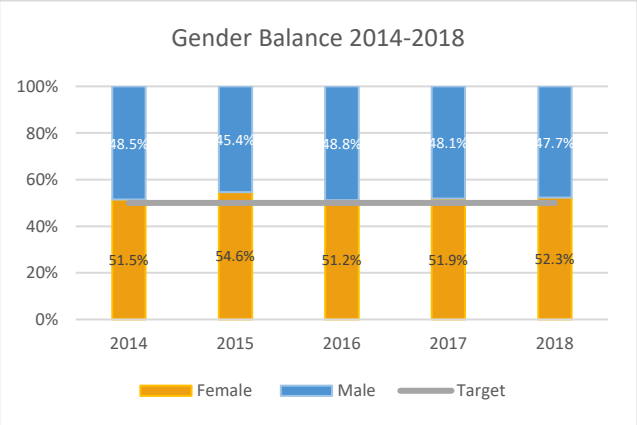


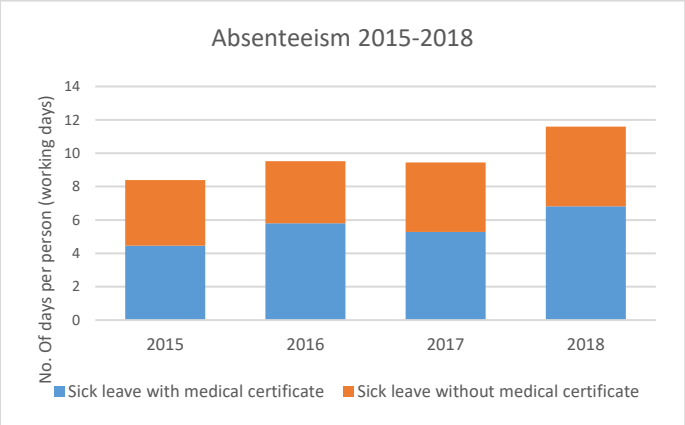


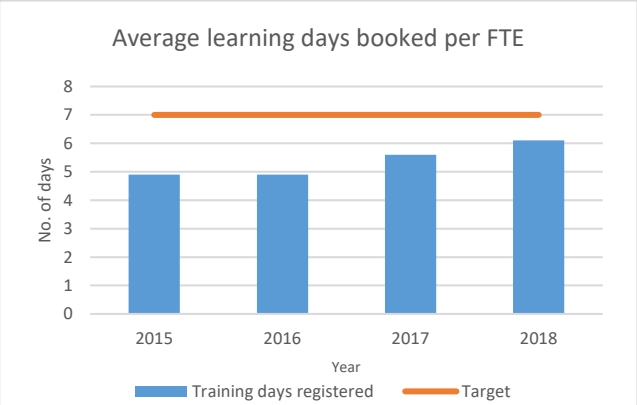


LEARNING AND GROWTH PERSPECTIVE









ANNEX 2 STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Commitments (C1 — 2018 — core only)

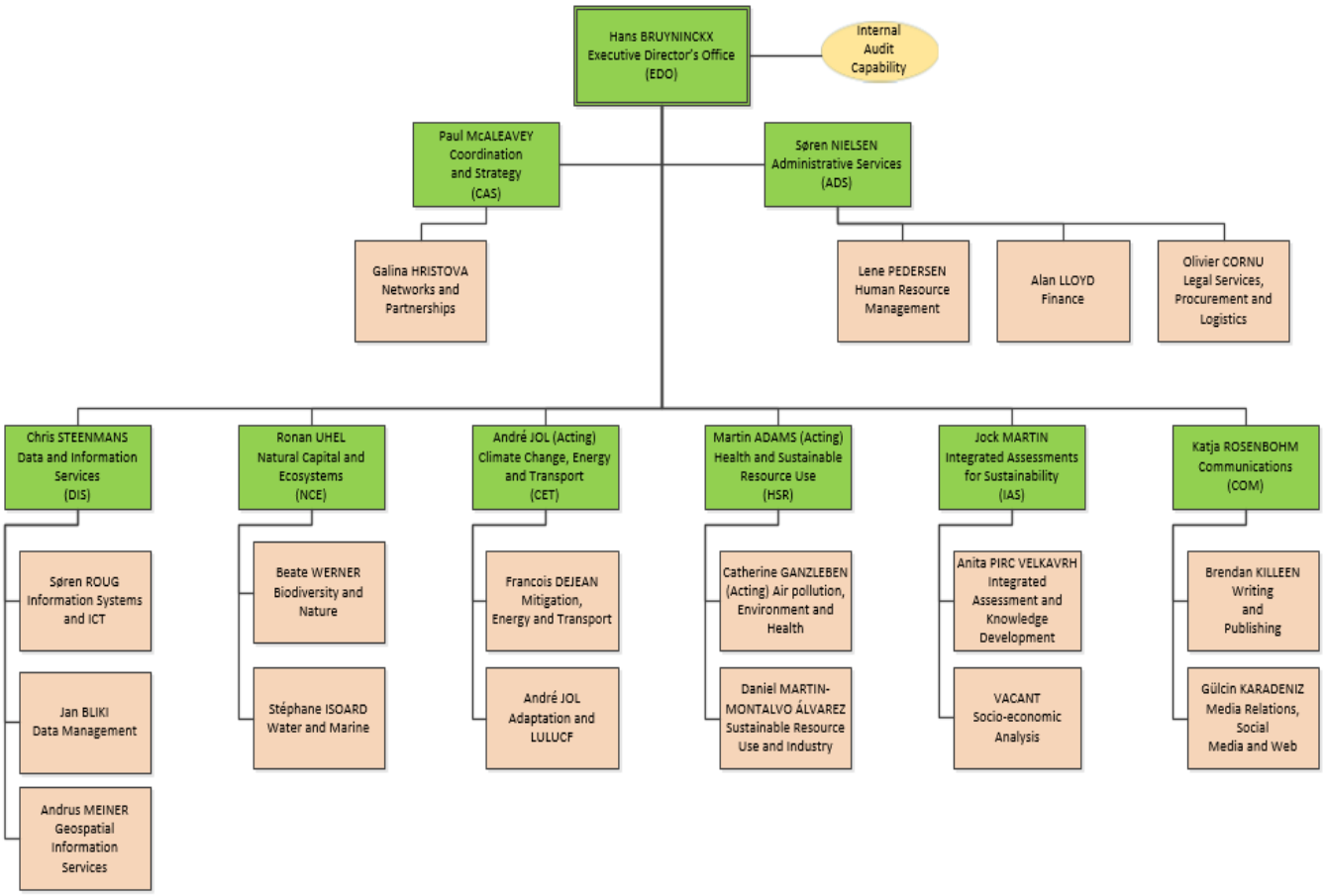
Titles	Appropriation 2018 (core funds only)	Committed	Non-committed appropriations cancelled	Paid	Available for carryover	Carried over	Committed appropriation cancelled
1.Staff	25 359 793.27	25 356 277.00	3 516.27	25 117 429.11	238,847..89	238 847.89	0
2.Administrative expenditure	4 216 915.30	4 201 498.18	15 426.12	3 814 691.55	386,797.63	386 797.63	0
3.Operating Expenditure	13 491 594.43	13 491 592.66	1.77	10 287 711.34	3,203,881.32	3 203 881.32	0
Total	*43 068 303.00*	*43 049 358.84*	*18 944.16*	*39 219 832.00*	*3 829 526.84*	*3 829 526.84*	*0*

Cancelled commitment appropriations (C8 — 2018 — core only)

Titles	Carryover from 2017	Paid	Committed appropriation cancelled
1.Staff	256 507.62	178 486.01	78 021.61
2.Administrative expenditure	389 797.15	316 996.73	72 800.42
3.Operating Expenditure	3 898 113.04	3 806 909.68	91 203.36
Total	*4 544 417.81*	*4 302 392.42*	*242 025.39*

ANNEX 3 ORGANISATIONAL CHART

As of 31 December 2018



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 at 31.12.2017**	**Authorised under EU Budget 2018**	**Staff population actually filled at 31.12.2018**
Officials	AD	1	1	1
	AST	3	3	2
	AST/SC	0	0	0
TA	AD	61	60	59
	AST	61	60	60
	AST/SC	0	0	0
Total		126	124	122
CA GF IV		45	47	44
CA GF III		12	12	13
CA GF II		9	10	6
CA GF I		0	0	0
Total CA		66	69	63
SNE		20	20	19
Structural service providers		16	16	16
TOTAL		228	229	220
External staff for occasional replacement				

Table A4.2 Contract agent posts — number of positions filled on 31 December 2018

Positions filled on 31 December 2018	**GF I**	**GF II**	**GF III**	**GF IV**	**Total**
Under core funds		6	13	44	63
Under HumanBio				1	1
Under ENIS			1	1	2
Under Copernicus				6	6
Under ENIE		1	1	4	6
Total		**7**	**15**	**56**	**78**

Table A4.3 Establishment plan 2018

Category and grade	Establishment plan in EU budget 2018	
	Officials	TA
AD 16		
AD 15		1
AD 14		2
AD 13	1	4
AD 12		13
AD 11		12
AD 10		12
AD 9		12
AD 8		3
AD 7		1
AD 6		
AD 5		
Total AD	**1**	**60**
AST 11		3
AST 10		4
AST 9	3	10
AST 8		12
AST 7		11
AST 6		11
AST 5		9
AST 4		
AST 3		
AST 2		
AST 1		
Total AST	**3**	**60**
Overall total	**4**	**120**

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 – general[25]	Type of contract (Official, Temporary Agent (TA) or Contract Agent (CA)) Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
Executive Director (level 1)	TA AD14
Head of Programme (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
Head of Group (level 3[26])	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Expert	Official/TA/CA

[25] The text in bold indicates official EEA titles.

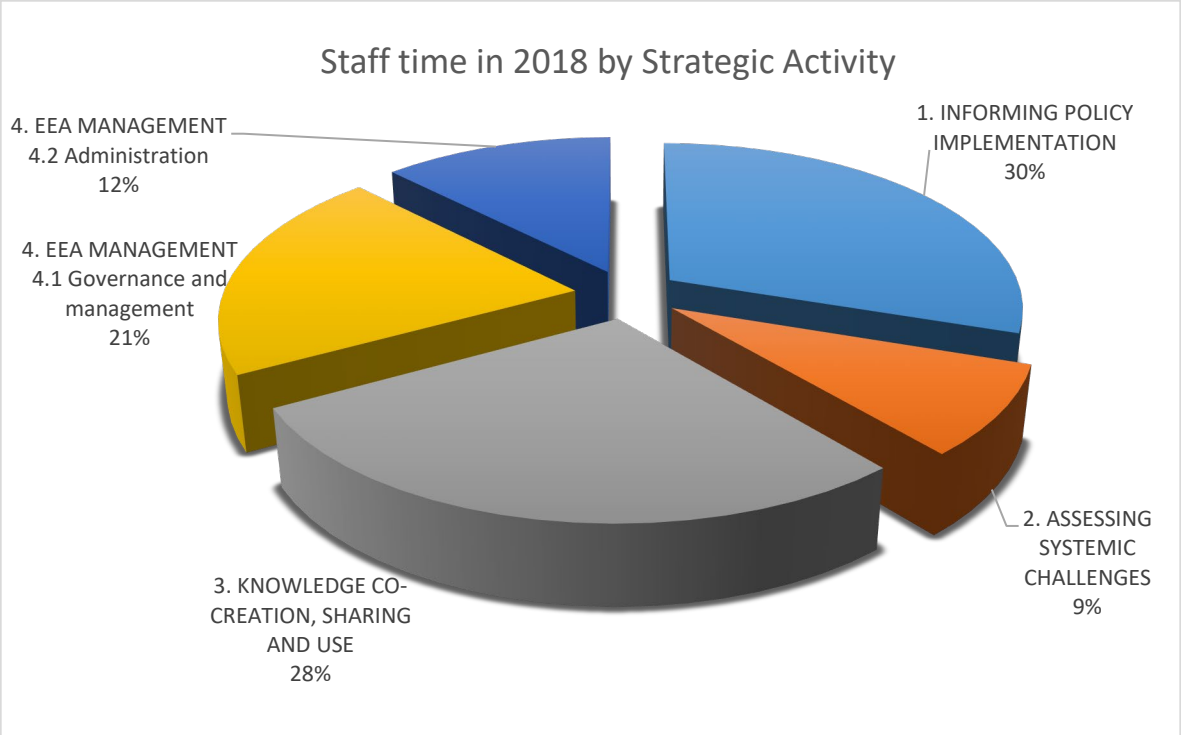
[26] Excluded from management allowance

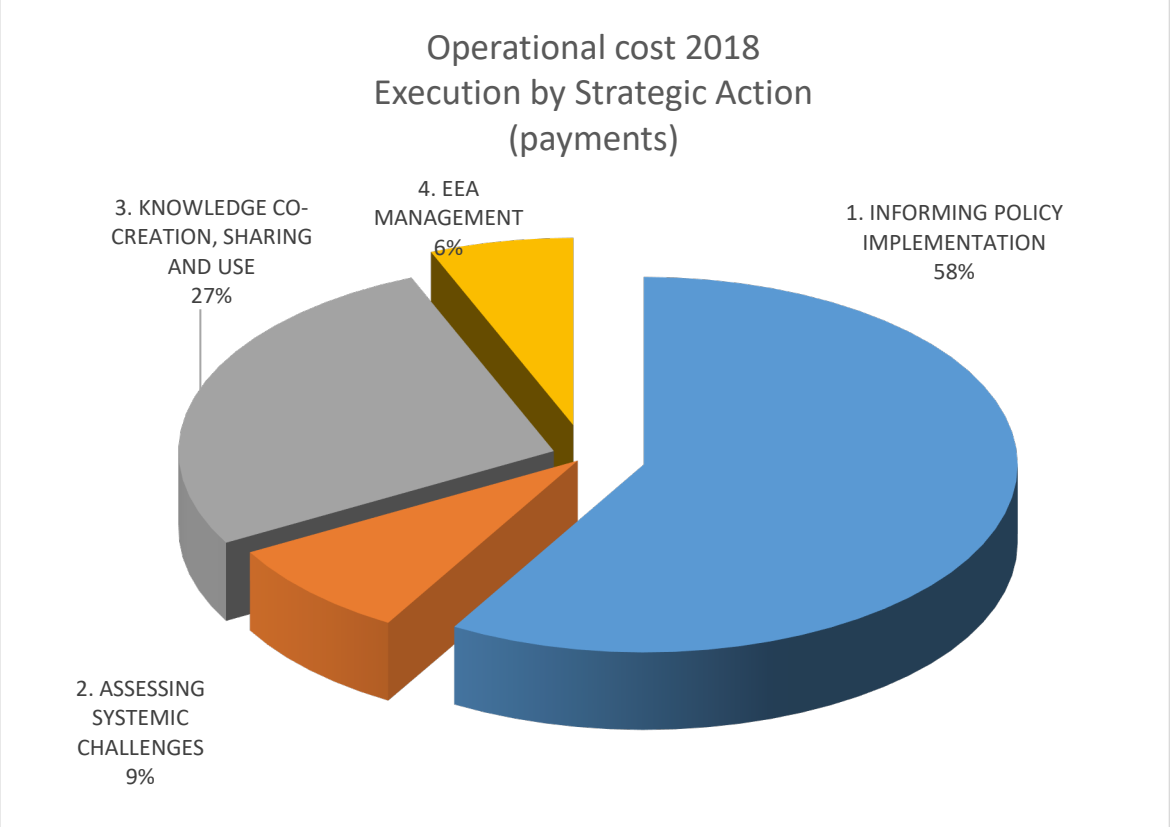
Key functions – general[25]	Type of contract (Official, Temporary Agent (TA) or Contract Agent (CA)) Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
	From AD6/FGIV
Officer	Official/TA/CA From AST3/FGIII
Assistant	Official/TA/CA From AST1/FGII
Key functions – examples	**Type of contract (Official, Temporary Agent (TA) or Contract Agent (CA)) Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)**
Head of Programme 'Administrative services' (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
Head of Group 'Human Resource Management' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Head of Group 'Finance' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Head of Group 'Legal Services, Procurement and Logistics' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Head of Programme 'Communications' (level 2)	TA AD11
Head of Programme 'Data and Information Services' (level 2)	TA AD11
Head of Group 'Information Systems and ICT' (level 3)	TA From AD6/AST6
Expert – Data Protection	Official/TA From AD6
Expert – Accountant	Official/TA From AD8
Expert - Internal Audit Capability	Official/TA From AD8

INFORMATION ON BENCHMARKING EXERCISE

Job Type (sub) category	Year N-1 (%)	Year 2018 (%) (=Year N)
Administrative support and Coordination	**13.83**	**12.66**
Administrative Support	11.84	11.14
Coordination	1.99	1.52
Operational	**78.10**	**80.52**
Top Level Operational Coordination	3.32	4.00
Programme Management & Implementation	74.12	75.87
Evaluation & Impact Assessment	0.66	0.65
General operational	0	0
Neutral	**8.08**	**6.82**
Finance/Control	8.08	.82
Linguistics	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	2018	2017
Reserve from the previous years' surplus (+)		
Revenue actually received (+)	66,085,813	68 000 073
Payments made (-)	-57 008 158	-52 054 488
Carryover of appropriations (-)	- 40 372 493	- 35 823 836
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	242 025	443 566
Adjustment for carryover of assigned revenue appropriation from previous year (+)	31 313 804	19 910 772
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-7 776	-2 480
TOTAL	253 218	473 607

Cancellation of appropriations

- Cancellation of commitment appropriations: non-committed core funds in 2018 amount to EUR 18 944.16.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations for the year: see above.
- Cancellation of payment appropriations carried over: unpaid C8 amounts to EUR 242 025.39.

Justification

A positive budgetary result is to be reimbursed to the Commission. The positive result for 2018, EUR 253 217.92, is composed of the following elements:

Budgetary result specification	2018	2017
C1- CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATIONS		
Amount not made available in the budget		0.26
Non-committed	18,944.51	12,228.39
Committed, carried over to C9		0.66
C4 - REUSE OF FUNDS CURRENT YEAR		
Amounts not made available in the budget	24.59	20,291.19
C8 - APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR		
Cancellation of unused appropriations	242,025.39	443,566.61
R0 - EARMARKED FUNDS		
Amounts not made available in the budget		
Exchange rate difference (gain+/loss-)	- 7,776.57	- 2,480.05
Sum:	**253,217.92**	**473,607.06**

Cancellation of unused payment appropriations carried over from previous year (C8 funds) amounted to EUR 242 025 which is significantly lower than in the previous year (EUR 443 566).

ANNEX 7 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

This annex aims at informing about the 'Very important' and 'Important' recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service.

The two 'Very important' and three 'Important' recommendations reported in 2017 have now all been closed. No new recommendations have been issued during the year, therefore at the end of 2018 there are no open recommendations on-going.

ANNEX 8 ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

ABAC	Accrual Based Accounting System
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
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
CAS	The coordination and strategy programme of the EEA
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
CET	The climate change, energy and transport programme of the EEA
CIS	Common implementation strategy
CLC	Corine Land Cover
Climate-ADAPT	European Climate Adaptation Platform
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
CMEMS	Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service
COM	The communications programme of the EEA
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
DIS	The data and information services programme of the EEA
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
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
EUR	Euro
EU SDS	EU Sustainable Development Strategy
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFR	Financial Framework Regulation for decentralised bodies
F-gas	Fluorinated gases
FLIS	Forward-Looking Information and Services
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
FR	Financial Regulation (EU budget)
FTE	Full-time employee
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GI	Green infrastructure
GIS	Geographical information system
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
HBM4EU	European Human Biomonitoring Initiative
Horizon 2020	EU framework research and innovation programme 2014-2020
HSR	The health and sustainable resource use programme of the EEA
IAC	Internal Audit Capability
IAS	Internal Audit Service of the European Commission
IAS	The integrated assessments for sustainability programme of the EEA
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
IEEG	Industrial Emissions Expert Group
IG	Interest group
INCA	Integrated system for natural capital and ecosystem services accounting
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
IPR	Implementing provisions under the air quality directive
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
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
NCE	The natural capital and ecosystems programme of the EEA
NEC	National Emission Ceilings
NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRC	National reference centre
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAMS	Policies and measures
PD	Programming Document
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
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy (EU)
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System for Europe
SIIF	Structured Implementation and Information Framework
SMT	Senior Management Team
SoE	State of Environment
SOER	The European environment — State and outlook
SWD	Staff Working Document
TEG	Technical expert group
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
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