



TERMS OF REFERENCE

DK-Copenhagen: Evaluation of the effectiveness of policies to address waste water pollution in selected European countries

Open call for Tender

EEA/RNC/03/002

1. Background information

In its Regulation (EC/993/1999), the European Environment Agency (EEA) is required to “provide the Community and Member States with the objective information necessary for framing and implementing sound and effective environmental policies” (Article 1). This includes information and analysis related to the policies put in place in Member States and the effectiveness of these policies. Providing this information is also supported by Article 2ii of the Regulation which states that the EEA shall “provide the Commission with the information that it needs to be able to carry out successfully its tasks of identifying, preparing and evaluating measures and legislation...” and “assist the monitoring of environmental measures through appropriate support for reporting requirements...”

The 2001 EEA report “Reporting on Environmental Measures – Are we being effective” concluded that little is known about to which extent past environmental policies and instruments have had an effect on the environment – the so-called ex-post evaluations. This is a significant gap in the information needed to develop, agree and implement new policies to address the environmental problems in Europe. The 2001 report was a follow up to earlier reports by the EEA related to policy effectiveness, including the 2000 report “Environmental taxes: recent developments in tools integration”, the 1999 report “Scenarios for the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in ten Accession countries”, and the reports “Environmental taxes – implementation and environmental effectiveness” and “Environmental agreements – environmental effectiveness” published in 1996 and 1997.

As a follow-up to the EEA Reporting on Environmental Measures (REM) project, the EEA has decided to undertake pilot studies to evaluate the effectiveness of policies in selected areas for selected European countries. One study is to evaluate the effectiveness of policies to address waste water pollution in selected European countries. The contractor who will be awarded the contract will undertake this study.

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2. Overall objective of EEA work on policy effectiveness

The overall objective of the work of the EEA on policy effectiveness is to a) provide inputs to the next EEA State of the Environment and Outlook report to supplement the more traditional state-of-the-environment information; b) for the EEA continue to gain experience on policy effectiveness evaluations and to help provide a framework for future regular activities related to this; and c) support the Commission and the Parliament on progress with some key policies and measures. The study to evaluate the effectiveness of policies to address waste water pollution in selected European countries will contribute to meeting this overall objective.

3. Specific objective of the study

The specific objective of the study is to provide a quantitative and qualitative ex-post evaluation of the effectiveness of economic instruments to address waste water pollution from point sources in six to seven European countries in the period from 1970 to 2002.

4. Results

The final results of the study shall be provided to the EEA in a final report no later than ten months after the signing of the contract. A draft report shall be provided to the EEA no later than seven months after the signing of the contract.

The results of the study can be published under the name of the contractor in scientific journals if the contractor wishes to do so.

5. Activities

5.1 Identification of countries for the evaluation

The contractor shall make an assessment of: a) the availability of and the access to information in European countries on economic and other instruments to address waste water pollution from point sources; and b) the availability of data for indicators of environmental pressures from waste water and related changes in the state of the environment. Based on this assessment, the contractor shall select six to seven European countries for which the evaluation will be undertaken.

In the countries selected for the evaluation, there should be a balance between the various geographical regions of Europe (South, West, North, East), as well as different policy approaches and instruments used when addressing waste water pollution from point sources.

5.2. A detailed qualitative assessment of the use of economic instruments to address waste water pollution from point sources in six to seven European countries

For each of the countries selected, a detailed qualitative assessment shall be made of the economic instruments put in place since 1970 to address waste water pollution from point sources. This includes different types of taxes (including levies), fees and subsidies. Other instruments - including legislative measures – which have been part of the policy package shall also be included in the assessment. The assessment shall include a quantitative analysis of the costs of putting the policies in place.

For each country, an assessment shall be made of the institutional structures within which the instruments have been designed and implemented, including the role of national and local authorities in managing the systems and instruments put in place.

Making use of the country assessments, a comparative assessment of the economic and other instruments put in place in the countries to address waste water pollution from point sources - including their costs and the related institutional structures - shall be made.

5.3 A quantitative indicator-based assessment of changes in environmental pressures and the state of the environment related to waste water pollution from point sources in the countries selected

Based on data available from the EEA and its European Topic Centre on Water, supplemented with data from national statistical sources to the extent necessary, the contractor shall undertake an indicator-based assessment of national trends in the period 1970-2002 in the selected countries for waste water pollution from point sources. The assessment shall include the indicators Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and for those years for which data is available also emissions of heavy metals, Nitrogen, Phosphates and water use by industry. It shall also include key state of the environment trends related to pressures from waste water pollution.

Graphs and text shall be prepared for each country showing the trends for the years available from 1970 to 2002. All data must be made available to the EEA. The contractor shall also undertake a comparative assessment of the trends for each indicator comparing the trends in the countries.

5.4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of economic instruments to address waste water pollution from point sources in selected European countries

Based on the activities described above, the contractor shall undertake a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the environmental effectiveness of economic instruments implemented in the six to seven countries in the period 1970-2002.

The evaluation of the policy effectiveness shall be undertaken at country level and as a comparative assessment comparing the effectiveness of the instruments implemented in the countries selected.

In conducting the effectiveness evaluation, the contractor shall take into account the following:

- Comparing the instruments put in place and the related change in environmental pressures and the state of the environment will provide insights on which policies and which institutional context has proven to be most successful. It may or may not be possible to provide evidence of causal links between the instruments and the environmental indicators.
- Policies and instruments implemented as part of the obligations to implement EU Directives must be considered.
- The instruments put in place are often implemented as part of a policy package and therefore, effects of other parts of the package must be considered.
- The instruments implemented may have positive and/or negative side effects other than those related to the selected indicators. Such side effects must be considered.
- Driving forces and policies other than those being considered, e.g. from economic growth or non-environmental policies, may also have an effect on the indicators. This must be considered.
- Finally, the costs of implementing the policies shall be estimated and taken into account in the analysis.

5.5. Report to the EEA

The results of the evaluation activities shall be reported in the a report to the EEA containing the following chapters (can be discussed between the contractor and the EEA):

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| | Executive summary |
| Chapter 1. | Introduction |
| Chapter 2. | Methodology for undertaking the evaluation |
| Chapters 3-9. | Evaluation of the effectiveness of the economic instruments to address waste water pollution from point sources in each of the six to seven countries in 1970-2002. Each chapter shall contain a) an analysis of the economic and other instruments implemented, including its costs; b) an analysis of the institutional context in which the policies are implemented; c) an assessment of the changes in selected environmental pressures (using the indicator described above) and the related state of the environment; and d) an assessment of the extent to which changes in the pressure and state indicators are caused by the economic instruments implemented. |
| Chapter 10. | A comparative qualitative assessment of the economic instruments put in place in the countries to address waste water pollution from point sources, of their costs, and of the institutional structures in the countries. |

- Chapter 11. A comparative quantitative assessment of changes in environmental pressures and the state of the environment related to waste water pollution from point sources.
- Chapter 12. A comparative evaluation of the environmental effectiveness of economic instruments to address waste water pollution in the selected countries, including i) a comparative assessment of the instruments implemented and their costs; ii) a comparative assessment of the institutional structures underlying the policies; iii) a comparative assessment of the changes in environmental pressures and the related state of the environment; and iv) a comparative evaluation of the environmental effectiveness of the policies.
- Chapter 13. Conclusions
References
Annexes (with tables of the data used)

6. Timetable.

The contractor must deliver according to the following time table:

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| Within a month after signing of the contract | Kick-of meeting with EEA project managers in Copenhagen to clarify activities |
| No later than four months after signing of the contract | Progress meeting with EEA project managers in Copenhagen |
| No later than seven months after signing of the contract | Delivery of draft report to the EEA containing drafts of all chapters |
| Within eight months of signing of the contract | Comments from the EEA to draft report |
| No later than 10 months after the signing of the contract | Delivery of final and edited report to EEA |