European Environment Agency

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The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union that delivers knowledge and data to support Europe's environment and climate goals. In collaboration with our partner network, Eionet, we inform decision-makers and the public about the state of Europe's environment, climate change and wider sustainability issues.

Check out the latest EEA products on water

People, nature and the economy all need water and water is many things: a vital need, a local and global resource, a transport corridor, a climate regulator and home and provider to many species. Europe's rivers, lakes, seas and groundwater are under pressure from pollution, eutrophication, over-exploitation and climate change.

European bathing water quality in 2023

This briefing provides information on the quality of Europe's bathing waters, and is complemented by a map viewer to help citizens take informed decisions on where to bathe. The briefing is published in the context of the Zero pollution action plan and is based on analysis of data reported by EU Members States for the 2020-2023 bathing seasons. It also includes accompanying products such as country fact sheets, data analysis, map viewer and the underlying database.

Responding to climate change impacts on human health in Europe: focus on floods, droughts and water quality

This new report aims to raise awareness about the range of risks to human health associated with changes in water quantity and quality under the changing climate. It assesses our preparedness for ongoing and future impacts following floods, droughts and higher water temperatures by examining the current policy landscape in Europe.

European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA)

The EEA has released the first Europe-wide assessment of climate change risks. EUCRA aims to strengthen adaptation efforts and identify policy priorities for climate adaptation and climate-sensitive sectors. EUCRA identifies 36 key risks threatening Europe's energy and food security, ecosystems, infrastructure, water resources, financial stability, and health. Many are at critical levels and could become catastrophic without urgent and decisive action at all levels of governance.

Beyond water quality — Sewage treatment in a circular economy

Sewage treatment is an essential service that can deliver clean water, nutrients and organic fertiliser. It can and should contribute to delivering the broad goals of the Green Deal, with a key role in supporting the ambition to achieve zero pollution.

Europe's groundwater — a key resource under pressure

This briefing provides an overview of the state of groundwater in the EU. Groundwater stores almost one third of total global freshwater resources and, in the EU, supplies 65% of drinking water and 25% of water for agricultural irrigation. Groundwater pollution is a serious threat to this resource. Recovery from pollution is not easy, as removing pollutants is difficult, meaning that they can accumulate.

Water resources across Europe — confronting water stress: an updated assessment

This report aims to update our knowledge of water stress (a general term that includes drought and water scarcity) in Europe to inform policymakers and interested stakeholders about the current state of play.

Europe's marine biodiversity remains under pressure

This briefing summarises the current state of biodiversity in Europe's seas, which are home to many species, habitats and ecosystems. They also provide our societies with vital ecosystem services, including food, energy, clean air and climate change mitigation. However, through the continued unsustainable use of Europe's seas, we have altered their physio-chemical environment, and their habitats and ecosystems.

EEA Flagship Products

Dashboards and Maps

State of bathing waters in 2023

This dashboard shows the quality of 'our' local bathing area, beach or lake, and whether it conforms to EU standards. You will find a map viewer that will allow you to view on-line the quality of the bathing water in the around 22 000 coastal beaches and freshwater bathing waters across Europe.

WISE-Marine

WISE-Marine provides access to information and data on the state of Europe's seas, on the pressures affecting them, and on the actions being taken to protect and conserve the marine environment.

WISE-Freshwater

WISE-Freshwater provides information and data on the state of Europe's rivers, lakes, groundwaters, on the pressures affecting them, on the measures and actions taken to protect and conserve the aquatic environment.

EEA Water Indicators

EEA indicators aid environmental policy making by covering all stages from policy design to evaluation and communication. Each indicator reveals trends or status of the phenomenon over time, assessing whether policy objectives and quantitative targets are met and discussing reasons for any shortfalls. The indicators are updated on a regular basis and there are a few more than presented on this flyer.

Water scarcity conditions in Europe

Industrial pollutant releases to water in Europe

Oxygen consuming substances in European rivers

Population connected to at least secondary wastewater treatment

Industrial chemical releases to water

Nutrients in freshwater in Europe

Nitrate in groundwater

Ecological status of surface waters in Europe

EU Commission Water Awareness Campaign #waterwise

From 29 May, dive into the #WaterWiseEU campaign. Understand why Europe's water systems are under increasing stress. Find out how we can all work together to transform the way water is managed, used and valued. Discover why we need to protect nature and ecosystems that are at the heart of the water cycle. Learn about the many water solutions out there and how we can all be part of the solution.

Upcoming EEA Photo competition

This year's **EEA photo competition "Urban Treasures"** is a call for us to capture the essence of our cities and towns through inspiring moments that give us joy and hope for a more sustainable tomorrow. The urban theme celebrates the positive strides we are making towards a better environment and encourages a reflection on how we can build more eco-friendly and liveable neighbourhoods. The competition will be launched on 17 June and will remain open until 1 October.

If you like to receive more information, subscribe to our newsletter

Find more Knowledge on the EEA's Webpage: https://www.eea.europa.eu