

Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR)

European Environment Agency

2015

June 2016

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MANAGEMENT BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2018, 'Expanding the knowledge base for policy implementation and long-term transitions', 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. The MAWP is delivered through annual work programmes.

This Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) documents the delivery of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2015.

In assessing the CAAR 2015, the Management Board made the following observations:

- the report provides a detailed account of the extensive activities carried out by the EEA in 2015;
- the report provides a comprehensive overview of performance, financial information, the risks related to organisational activities and the measures taken to address them.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The AWP 2015 did not specify any target with regard to the delivery of the AWP outputs. However, the AWP 2016 sets a target of a minimum delivery of 90 % of AWP outputs in 2016, and if this target is applied to the output delivery in 2015, a positive outcome was achieved by a small margin. In addition, analysis of the individual areas shows a consistently high delivery rate, and identifies no areas of specific concern.

In the view of the Management Board, the quality of the outputs was also very high and provided essential support to the work of the European Union (EU) in the fields of the environment and climate change. There was broad satisfaction with the contributions of the EEA at national level.

Overall, therefore, the Management Board acknowledges the strong contributions made towards the achievement of the EEA's strategic objectives.

HIGHLIGHTS

SOER 2015

The main highlight of the year was the publication of the assessment *The European environment — state and outlook 2015* (SOER 2015) early in the year, and the related launch events with EU institutions and at the national level in a large number of member countries throughout 2015 and 2016.

The Management Board understands that the assessment was well received by the EEA's key audiences. It was recognised for its important contribution to the development and assessment of EU and related national policies in the fields of the environment and climate change.

As described below, the success of the assessment also clearly demonstrated the power of the close cooperation with Eionet during the development of the assessment and the sharing of the main results externally.

COOPERATION WITH EIONET

The CAAR 2015 clearly documents that the involvement of Eionet across strategic areas in the fields of data flows, indicators, policy effectiveness analysis, integrated assessments, communications, and the use of new analytical methods and technologies is deepening. This is a two-way process and the articulation of member countries' needs in Management Board and Eionet forums is an integral part of the relationship.

This was clearly shown in 2015 in terms of the co-ownership of SOER 2015. Efforts towards producing this 2015 assessment began several years before the assessment's publication, and Eionet was involved at all levels from the

beginning. In particular, the spectrum of Eionet national expertise played a role in the 87 online briefings, and Eionet was involved in the numerous national launch activities that took place throughout 2015.

The European topic centres (ETCs) were again crucial to this cooperation, and played an important role in 2015 in the chain from data to assessments, by supporting the development and maintenance of the knowledge base in all areas of work.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The year 2015 was pivotal with regard to the transition towards the programming provisions of the new Financial Regulation, which required the development of both the AWP 2016 and the draft AWP 2017 (an integral part of the draft programming document 2017–2019). This transition was planned well in advance and executed carefully, efficiently and transparently throughout the year, allowing the Management Board to maintain a good oversight of the process and play its role to the full.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE 2015 WORK PROGRAMME

The Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2015 continued the work of previous AWP's along with some new emphases. The 2015 highlights across the four strategic areas that structure the Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014–2018, are outlined below.

Strategic area 1: Informing policy implementation

- Key monitoring, reporting and verification provisions under climate change mitigation legislation were implemented, and the lead-up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris was supported.
- The mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 was supported.
- Preparations for the 2016 country reporting on the second round of river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) were carried out.

Strategic area 2: Assessing systemic challenges

- *The European environment — state and outlook 2015* (SOER 2015) was published, promoted and evaluated.
- Support for the monitoring and evaluation of the Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) was prepared.
- The knowledge base for transitions, including green/circular economy transitions, was developed through work on, for example, foresight, uncertainty and risk, and socio-technical systems, especially food.

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

- Online access to the latest SOER data and information was improved.
- The further implementation of Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) across thematic areas was supported.
- Data from Copernicus were used to improve the timeliness and quality of EEA products and services.
- Information regarding the above issues, with a focus on SOER 2015, the lead-up to COP21 in Paris, biodiversity and efforts in connection with the United Nations (UN) Year of Soil, was communicated.

Strategic area 4: EEA management

- The EEA leadership programme was continued.
- The implementation of the new Staff and Financial Regulations was continued.
- A new personnel database and a leave-management system were developed.

ACHIEVING ANNUAL GOALS

The climate deal, agreed in December 2015 by 195 countries at the annual UNFCCC COP, is the first-ever universal and legally binding agreement of its kind.

Again, Europe took a leading role in encouraging ambition before and during these negotiations. Indeed, over the past 40 years, Europe has led the way on the environment, and has developed the most comprehensive, ambitious and binding environmental legislation that exists anywhere today. With this level of legislation comes the responsibility to record and report on progress or otherwise.

The role of the EEA includes contributing to the monitoring, evaluation and assessment of current and expected progress in the implementation and results of such measures.

The EEA was present at COP21 and launched, as it does every year, a package of reports on relevant issues. The EEA report *Trends and projections in Europe 2015 — Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets* shows that, with the current measures in place, the EU is likely to achieve a 24 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and possibly a 25 % reduction with additional measures already being planned in some Member States. However, our analysis also shows that, to meet the target of a 40 % reduction by 2030, new policies need to be put in place.

The EEA report *State of nature in the EU*, launched in April 2015, provided, for the first time, comprehensive facts and figures on the status and trends of the species and habitats covered by the two EU nature directives, fully underpinned by the numerous reports submitted by Member States in 2013.

In March 2015, the EEA launched SOER 2015, which is the fifth in the series. Indeed, one of the main messages of SOER 2015 is that well-designed and well-implemented environmental legislation has improved the environment and quality of life, and is also driving innovation, job creation and growth in Europe.

These are just three of the EEA outputs published in 2015, but they clearly illustrate the role that the EEA and its network, the European Environment Observation and Information Network (Eionet), play, not just in terms of gathering data, but also in turning that data into information, assessments and messages that matter at numerous levels and in a variety of contexts.

This report details the activities of the EEA and our network and partners in 2015 — from data flows to satellite monitoring, and from measuring emissions to visiting groups from around the world. 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, to help answer citizens' questions about the environment as it affects their daily lives, and to ensure that environmental thinking and education is brought into the mainstream of decision-making.

The AWP 2015 was undertaken with Eionet partners (national focal points, national reference centres and European topic centres), cooperating countries and a wide range of partner institutions, including the European Commission's directorate-generals, government departments and agencies, international conventions, UN bodies, the scientific technical and research communities, the private sector and civil society, in order to ensure the relevance and quality of the data, information and analyses that we provide.

INTRODUCTION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA) AND ITS MISSION

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. The decision to locate in Copenhagen was taken in 1993, and the EEA has been operational there since 1994.

OUR VISION

The EEA aims to be recognised as the world's leading body for the provision of timely, relevant and accessible European environmental data, information, knowledge and assessments.

OUR MISSION

The EEA aims to:

- be the leading public body committed to providing environmental information to policymakers and the public, to support sustainable development, and to help achieve significant and measurable improvements in Europe's environment;
- assist European Community institutions and EEA member countries to identify, frame, prepare and implement sound and effective environmental policy measures and legislation; and to monitor, evaluate and assess current and expected progress in the implementation and results of such measures;
- establish and coordinate the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), based on the infrastructure for collection, analysis, assessment and management of data shared with European Commission services, EEA member countries and international organisations, agreements and conventions.

KEY GOALS 2014–2018

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 coming decades, there is an increasing need to speed up the adaptation of environmental information flows and assessments in order to support transition objectives, while maintaining and improving the knowledge base that supports established and developing policies across the cycle.

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 will work closely together with the Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation (RTD), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and others seeking to help inform decisions made in relation to the European Union (EU) framework research programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020 and earlier), which will play a major role in developing such insights.

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) 2014–2018 are as follows:

- to be the prime source of knowledge at 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 European level that facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building in the field of the environment and climate change.

COOPERATION ACROSS EUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

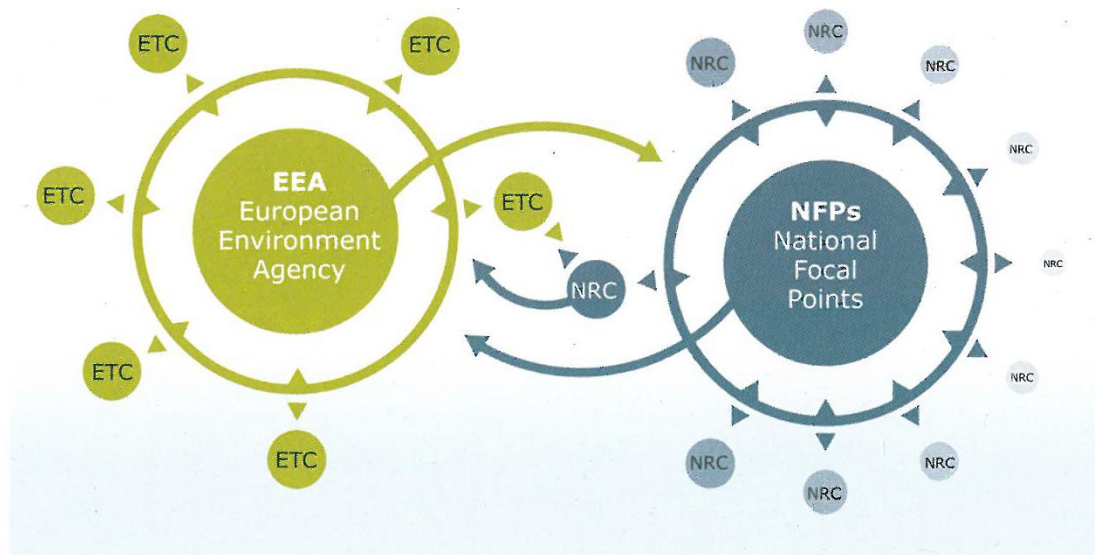
In 2004, the EEA developed an environmental management system to manage its own impacts on the external environment. This system was verified by external auditors for the first time in the spring of 2005. The EEA was the first EU body to be registered under the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

The EEA environmental management system covers the EEA premises, situated in two adjacent rented buildings in the centre of Copenhagen. The total area of the headquarters is 9 940 m²: 7 200 m² at Kongens Nytorv 6 (KN6), where the EEA has operated since operations began in Copenhagen in 1994, and 2 740 m² at Kongens Nytorv 8 (KN8), premises that the EEA has rented since 1 July 2010.

For the purpose of assessing the environmental impacts of EEA activities in 2015, business travel paid for by the EEA also covered non-EEA staff, for example EEA Management Board members, Eionet partners, European topic centres (ETCs) representatives and external experts.

EIONET — COOPERATION ACROSS EUROPE

Eionet is a partnership network of the EEA and its member and cooperating countries. It consists of the EEA itself, six ETCs and a network of around 1 500 experts from 39 countries in up to 400 national bodies that deal with environmental information. These experts are designated as national focal points (NFPs) and national reference centres (NRCs).



The 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).

PART 1 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

1.1 INFORMING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL

To 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 on recognised environmental themes across the 'driving forces–pressures–state–impacts–responses' (DPSIR) assessment chain.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To tailor, harmonise and speed up data flows (including near-real time data flows if 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 for reporting obligations and information requirements under legislative processes and related structured implementation and information frameworks (SIIFs).
- To allow the timely provision, analysis and dissemination of data sets, indicators and assessments across the policy cycle for the themes and sectors of most relevance to achieving environmental policy implementation and effectiveness analysis on different geographical scales.
- To close important information gaps by further developing concepts, analytical methods and indicators, in order to better understand the interlinkages between different themes and sectors, and support enhanced policy coherence.
- To mainstream new data and information needs through incorporating the outcomes of EU-FP7 and Horizon 2020 research projects, as well as of similar ventures at national and international level;
- To continuously and actively engage with stakeholders through a policy–science interface across themes and sectors to ensure that relevant findings are taken up and used, thereby contributing to the achievement of significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The measurable uptake of EEA findings in policy documents.
- The measurable and acknowledged contribution to reporting processes under EU comitology and multilateral agreements.
- The 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.

AIR POLLUTION, TRANSPORT AND NOISE

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, the environment, climate change and the economy.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual reports: reporting status under NEC Directive; EU emissions inventory report under LRTAP Convention	Publication	Eionet Mitigation of air pollution and climate change NRCs DG ENV	NEC Directive (2001/81/EC); LRTAP Convention and its protocols	Done
Annual Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism report (TERM)	Publication	EP, DG CLIMA, DG MOVE, DG ENV, Eionet Transport and Environment NRCs	Transport White Paper (COM/2011/0044); other relevant Regulations and Directives	Done
Technical studies supporting air pollution, transport and noise assessment reports	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG JRC	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC	Done
Updated country air pollution fact sheets	Web publication	Eionet, DG ENV	EC Air quality package, Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC)	Postponed to 2016
Annual overview of summer ozone exceedances in Europe – 2015	Web publication	Eionet, DG ENV	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
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 CCE, WHO	Europe 2020 Semester; resource efficiency scoreboard; EU SDS, EC Air quality package,	Done
Updated compilations of air quality data and statistics, including for cities	Data and maps	Eionet Air quality NRCs DG ENV, DG JRC, DG ESTAT, DG REGIO	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), Air Quality Implementing Decision (2011/850/EU)	Done
Updated compilations of air pollutant emissions data	Data and maps	Eionet Mitigation of air pollution and climate change NRCs, DG ENV, DG JRC, EMEP, CEIP	NEC Directive (2001/81/EC), LRTAP Convention and its protocols	Done
Updated compilations of data and statistics on CO ₂ and NO _x emissions from new cars and from new vans	Data and maps	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), Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), NEC Directive (2001/81/EC)	Done
Updated compilations of noise data and statistics	Data and maps	Eionet Noise NRCs, DG ENV	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Done
Updated air quality maps for EEA member countries	Data and maps	DG ENV, EMEP	Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); Fourth Air Quality Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC	Done
Annual Eionet workshops on air pollutant emissions, on air quality, on transport and environment, and on noise	Workshops and meetings	Eionet Mitigation of air pollution and climate change NRCs, Eionet Air quality NRCs, Eionet Transport and Environment NRCs, Eionet Noise NRCs	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Provision of policy support	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, LRTAP Convention	Air Quality Directives and implementing provisions, NEC Directive, LRTAP Convention and its protocols, Environmental Noise Directive, Regulations for monitoring of CO ₂ from new passenger cars and light-duty vehicles etc.	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The EEA continued to provide policy support for the implementation of legislation in the areas of air pollution, transport and noise.

AIR POLLUTION

A priority in 2015 was the further development of EEA information systems to support countries with data reporting obligations. In particular, these were under the new or amended reporting regimes of the Fuel Quality Directive — for air quality data (via the air quality (AQ) e-Reporting system) — and for air emissions data under the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

Work on the development and implementation of the AQ e-Reporting system continued; as a result, the reporting system is fully operational for almost all air quality data flows.

The EEA, along with the European Commission, encouraged all countries to make the transition from the previously used near-real time air quality reporting system to the new 'Up-To-Date' system. A sufficient number of countries have now migrated to the new system and, therefore, the near-real time system has been switched off and users of these data have been informed (including Copernicus-related atmospheric services).

In late April 2015, the EEA hosted one of its regular meetings with all member countries and the European Commission on the AQ e-Reporting system, in addition to a specific workshop for Western Balkan countries to support their implementation of the system. A second meeting took place in November 2015 to discuss specific technical aspects of the system with countries.

Other work on air pollution focused on quality checking country submissions and calculating summary statistics using the new AQ e-Reporting system, as well as coordinating the stakeholder review of the updated chapters of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP)/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook, which provides guidance on the estimation of emissions from both anthropogenic and natural emission sources.

The annual NEC Directive status report and data set, which focuses on the attainment of the 2010 national emission ceilings by Member States, and the annual EU CLRTAP emission inventory submission and accompanying inventory report were published in June and July 2015, respectively.

The *Air quality in Europe — 2015 report* was published in November and this highlighted the ongoing harmful impacts caused by exposure to air pollution across Europe.

Meetings of the Eionet ETC/ACM and the NRCs for Air Quality were held during the year.

TRANSPORT

The report *Monitoring CO₂ emissions from passenger cars and vans in 2014*, published in November 2015, provides an overview of the performance of car and van manufacturers with regard to meeting their 2014 carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission targets. The average collective CO₂ emissions from cars and vans registered in 2014 are well below the 2015 and 2017 targets, although it is now broadly accepted that the laboratory-based measurements do not accurately reflect real-world driving performances.

The EEA's annual Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) report, published in December 2015, evaluates 15 years of transport and environmental policy integration. It states that a fundamental decarbonisation of the transport sector will require not just technological solutions, but also policies that stimulate significant

behavioural changes, including the correct pricing of transport externalities and planning approaches that stimulate the use of sustainable modes of transport.

In 2015, the EEA took over responsibility for compiling information under the EU Fuel Quality Directive, with the first information being successfully reported by Member States via Eionet in June. The report *EU fuel quality monitoring — 2014*, published in December 2015, is a new annual report that summarises the quality of the petrol and diesel used for road transport in the EU under the requirements of the Fuel Quality Directive.

In addition, a meeting of the Eionet NRCs for Transport was held.

NOISE

In the area of noise, the focus was on quality checking reported noise information: data were quality checked and feedback was provided to Eionet countries.

The Expert Panel on Noise, and a separate Eionet NRC Noise meeting, focused on the development of new procedures for the gap-filling of noise data, an important element with regard to supporting future EEA noise assessments.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *NEC Directive status report 2014*, Technical report No 7/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/nec-directive-status-report-2014>).

EEA, 2015, *European Union emission inventory report 1990–2013 under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)*, Technical report No 8/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/lrtap-emission-inventory-report>).

EEA, 2015, *Monitoring CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars and vans in 2014*, Technical report No 16/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/monitoring-emissions-cars-and-vans>).

EEA, 2015, *EU fuel quality monitoring — 2014: Summary report*, Technical report No 26/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-fuel-quality-monitoring-2014>).

EEA, 2015, *Air quality in Europe — 2015 report*, EEA Report No 5/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2015>).

EEA, 2015, *Evaluating 15 years of transport and environmental policy integration — TERM 2015: Transport indicators tracking progress towards environmental targets in Europe*, EEA Report No 7/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/term-report-2015>).

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

Multiannual objective

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

MULTIANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Data reported by EEA member countries (and/or economic operators) collected, processed, quality-assured, stored and disseminated according to agreed deadlines in a timely manner.
- EEA member countries and industry assisted effectively in their data reporting towards the European Commission, international bodies and the EEA; reporting consolidated and streamlined where possible; support for capacity building provided as needed.

- EEA information systems adapted and improved to accommodate changes in reporting and user needs.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant 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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual internal EU reports (confidential) on ODS and F-Gases	Publication	DG CLIMA, MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (842/2006/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC)	Done
Annual technical reports: reporting on the trade and production of ODS and F-gases, EU submission to the Montreal Protocol	Publication	DG CLIMA, MS, companies	F-Gas Regulation (842/2006/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol	Done
Technical report on EU ETS implementation in Member States (MS)	Publication	DG CLIMA, MS	EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC)	Done
Updated indicators at European level on ODS and F-gases and further development of the industrial pollution indicator framework	Indicators	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, Montreal Protocol	F-Gas Regulation (842/2006/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), Montreal Protocol, Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), Large Combustion Plant Directive (2001/80/EC), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Impact of ODS and F-gases Regulations on past greenhouse gas emissions	Support and contributions	DG CLIMA	ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), F-Gas Regulation (842/2006/EC), Montreal Protocol, greenhouse gas policy area	Done (publication as web article)
Updated compilations of E-PRTR data and statistics (including publication on E-PRTR website maintained by EEA)	Data and maps Information system	Eionet Industrial Pollution NRCs, DG ENV, MS reporters and E-PRTR Committee members, UNECE PRTR Secretariat; OECD	E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Updated compilation of LCP data	Data and maps	DG ENV, Eionet, MS reporters	LCP Directive (2001/80/EC)	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to development of IED reporting and revision of E-PRTR reporting framework	Support and contributions	DG ENV, Eionet, MS reporters	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Annual Eionet workshop on industrial pollution	Workshops and meetings	Eionet Industrial Pollution NRCs	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Provision of policy support	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, UNECE PRTR Protocol, UN Montreal Protocol, OECD	F-Gas Regulation (842/2006/EC), ODS Regulation (1005/2009/EC), EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), LCP Directive (2001/80/EC), Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), PRTR Protocol, Montreal Protocol, E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC)	Done
Streamlining of industrial emissions data collection processes under IED	Support and contributions	DG ENV, IEEG members, E-PRTR expert group	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), E-PRTR Regulation (166/2006/EC), EU ETS Regulation (2003/87/EC), UNECE PRTR Protocol, LRTAP Convention, National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC)	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

A priority in 2015 was to continue to develop the EEA information systems and data flow management processes to support countries and companies with the reporting and quality improvement of data, particularly with regard to the amended reporting regime under the new Fluorinated gases (F-Gas) Regulation, and reporting by large combustion plants (LCPs), which was taken over by the EEA from the European Commission in 2015.

The work in this area focused on data reporting, technical support to EEA member countries and reporting companies, and quality assurance related to plant-by-plant inventory data on LCPs, the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR), ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), fluorinated gases (F-gases) and the implementation of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) in Member States.

Support was also provided to the European Commission on the development of a framework for streamlining industrial pollution reporting with a focus on more integrated reporting under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) and the E-PRTR through the 'EU registry on industrial sites'. This work was presented to Member States in the E-PRTR and at industrial emissions expert meetings, as well as to the NRCs on Industrial Pollution.

A technical report was published in April 2015 on Member States' implementation of the EU Emissions Trading Directive.

The online tool for company-based reporting, in accordance with the revised F-gas Regulation, was brought to the final stage of development. The new web tool for the reporting of LCP data by countries on plant-by-plant inventories and opt-outs was published.

The annual submission on ODSs to the Montreal Protocol was compiled.

The indicator framework for industrial pollution was further developed with the intention of tracking progress towards the achievement of objectives, as defined in relevant EU and international legislation.

The ODS indicator was revised.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *Application of the EU Emissions Trading Directive*, Technical report No 3/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/application-of-the-eu-emissions>).

Ozone-depleting substances 2014, Technical report No 10/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/ozone-depleting-substances-2014>).

Fluorinated greenhouse gases 2014, Technical report No 22/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/fluorinated-greenhouse-gases-2014>).

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ENERGY

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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ACM

Expected outputs

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)	Publication Data and maps Information system	DG CLIMA, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Implementation of the first annual review of Member States' GHG	Publication	DG CLIMA, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
emission inventories under the Effort Sharing Decision				
Technical report: EU GHG inventory 1990–2013 (Official EU submission to UNFCCC); support to emission inventory review activities; support to Member States, GHG inventory reporting; assessment of reasons behind past GHG emission trends	Publication	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS	UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Technical report: Energy-related GHG emissions from an end-user perspective	Publication and data	DG CLIMA, ESTAT, DG ENER, DG ENV	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC), UNFCCC	Not done
Updated EEA Climate Change Data Centre with relevant EU greenhouse gas and energy data sets, including PAMS and projections and EU ETS information	Data and maps	DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS	EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and Implementing/Delegated Acts	Done
Annual Eionet workshops on climate-change mitigation and energy	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Updated indicators at European level on climate change mitigation and energy	Indicators	Eionet, DG ESTAT	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Provision of policy support to the EU in the context of UNFCCC and COP21, including support to the UNFCCC annual review process	Support and contributions	UNFCCC, DG CLIMA, MS	UNFCCC, IPCC, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, EU ETS Directive, 2030 proposal, 2050 roadmap	Done
EEA report: Progress towards meeting GHG emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy	Publication	Eionet, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG RTD,	UNFCCC, 2030/50 roadmaps, EU GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC) and	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
targets in Europe (Annual 'Trends and Progress' report)		DG JRC, Eionet, IEA	Implementing/Delegated Acts, EU ETS Directive	
Technical report(s): Long-lived energy infrastructures versus climate objectives for 2030 and 2050, energy transitions and <i>ex post</i> policy evaluation	Publication	DG CLIMA, DG ENER, Eionet	2050 Roadmap, 2030 proposal, RES Directive, EE Directive, Energy Security Roadmap	In progress, delayed

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The year 2015 was the first complete reporting year during which Member States had to report under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, which forms the basis for implementation and assessments of key parts of the existing 2020 climate and energy policy framework.

Despite the significant delay in reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) data, as a result of serious problems with the (UNFCCC) reporting software, the EEA finished compiling the 1990–2013 EU GHG inventory and submitted it — to the UNFCCC on 25 November 2015 — just in time for the 21st session of the (COP21). The EEA published the technical report *Annual European Union greenhouse gas inventory 1990–2013 and inventory report 2015*, as well as a paper explaining the different emission estimates produced by EU bodies/institutions and the updated GHG data viewer. No UNFCCC review took place in 2015.

As a consequence of the delays in inventory submissions, the planned annual Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) review, which is carried out to check compliance under the ESD, did not take place. Instead, the EEA supported a voluntary review of Member States' GHG inventory data to check compliance under the ESD. The formal review will take place in 2016. The EEA provided the secretariat facility for this 'trial review' and offered various support measures.

An overview of reported national policies and measures on climate change mitigation in Europe in 2015 was published and the online viewer of national policies and measures was updated.

A package of reports, including the *Trends and projections in Europe 2015 — Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets*, was launched in October 2015 by the EEA Executive Director and the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy. The 'Trends and Projections' report and the 'Inventory' form the annual submission of the EU GHG inventory to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and present EU GHG emissions data for the period 1990-2012. In 2015, the energy and climate assessment work was able to make use, for the first time, of approximated data for emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The EEA also provided continued support (GHG- and energy-related data) to the European Commission for the preparation of its first 'State of the Energy Union' report.

The EEA was involved in a number of key meetings, including the meeting of the Director-Generals for Energy (ENER) and Climate Action (CLIMA) on the setup of a governance system for the European Energy Union. The EEA also supported and contributed to the EU 2030 policy framework discussions and preparations related to COP21.

To strengthen the climate and energy integration of this strategic area, an Eionet energy meeting was held. This meeting was well attended by member countries and staff from DG CLIMA and DG ENER. A meeting report was published that highlights feedback from participants on the EEA's ongoing and planned energy-related work, as well as ideas for the future engagement of the EEA in the area of energy and also in relation to the European Energy Union.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *Renewable energy in Europe — Approximated recent growth and knock-on effects*, Technical report No 1/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/renewable-energy-in-europe-approximated>).

EEA, 2015, *Annual European Union greenhouse gas inventory 1990–2013 and inventory report 2015*, Technical report No 19/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-union-greenhouse-gas-inventory-2015>).

EEA, 2015, *Approximated EU GHG inventory: proxy GHG estimates for 2014*, Technical report No 15/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/approximated-eu-ghg-inventory-2014>).

EEA, 2015, *Trends and projections in Europe 2015 — Tracking progress towards Europe’s climate and energy targets*, EEA Report No 4/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/trends-and-projections-in-europe-2015>).

EEA, 2015, *Projections in hindsight*, Technical report No 4/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/projections-in-hindsight>).

EEA, 2015, *Trends and projections in the EU ETS in 2015*, Technical report No 14/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/trends-and-projections-eu-ets-2015>).

EEA, 2015, *Overview of reported national policies and measures on climate change mitigation in Europe in 2015*, Technical report No 21/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/overview-of-reported-national-policies>).

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION

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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/CCA

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Updated and improved European Climate Change	Information system	DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG JRC, DG RTD, DG ECHO, DG	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication)	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT)		ENT, DG REGIO, Eionet, EPA network	European Commission/EEA Work plan on Climate-ADAPT 7th EAP, Europe 2020 Strategy	
Indicators on climate-change impacts and vulnerability (updated and improved)	Indicators	DG CLIMA Eionet, WHO, ECDC, IPCC	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) 7th EAP	Done
Draft EEA reports on 'climate change impacts and vulnerability' (indicator-based) and on 'urban adaptation', to be published in 2016	Support and contributions	DG CLIMA, Eionet, JRC	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) 7th EAP	Done
EEA technical reports on <i>Overview of climate change adaptation platforms in Europe and Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation at national level</i>	Publication	DG CLIMA, Eionet	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication) 7th EAP	Done
Eionet workshops on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (linked with an expert meeting on adaptation platforms and/or on monitoring and evaluation)	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Contribution to the organisation of the second European Climate Change Adaptation conference (2015, Copenhagen) Contribution to the Commission (DG CLIMA) Mayors Adapt project and the annual ICLEI conference on urban adaptation Contributions to other conferences and meetings	Workshops and meetings	DG RTD, DG CLIMA, Eionet, JRC DG CLIMA, ICLEI Copernicus climate change service, UNFCCC, IPCC, ISDR Europe, WHO Europe, EPA network	EU Adaptation strategy (Commission communication)	Done Done: ICLEI conference was postponed to 2016 Done
Support to reporting of climate change adaptation actions under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation	Support and contributions	DG CLIMA, Eionet	EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (525/2013/EC)	Done (updated country pages on Climate-ADAPT)

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

An EEA technical report, *Overview of climate change adaptation platforms in Europe*, was published on 12 May 2015. It was presented and disseminated at the Second European Climate Change Adaptation Conference, held in Copenhagen in May, which the EEA helped to organise. EEA activities at the conference included a keynote speech from the Executive Director, the organisation of sessions on adaptation platforms and on monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and a stand.

The technical report *National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe* was published in December 2015. It provided new insights into adaptation monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems at the national level in Europe.

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) was updated with new case studies, adaptation options and results from many research and other projects. Two webinars were held with experts from member countries and research projects, and six newsletters were published and disseminated. The year 2015 was the first year of reporting information on climate change adaptation under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation. The information submitted by EU Member States was included in updated country profiles on Climate-ADAPT.

A meeting was organised at the EEA headquarters with the Director of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the Copernicus climate change service coordinator. The aim of this meeting was to enhance collaboration. The EEA gave input, from a user perspective, to various expert meetings organised by the ECMWF.

Draft reports on urban adaptation and on climate change impacts and vulnerability were developed, with a view to being finalised for Eionet review in early 2016.

The EEA participated in and presented at many conferences and workshops on climate services, climate change science and urban adaptation, and also in events organised by various regions (e.g. the Baltic Sea region, the Carpathian region and the Western Balkan countries). Furthermore, the EEA participated in various advisory boards for EU-funded research projects. The EEA also contributed to and participated in a range of events on climate change adaptation at COP21 in December 2015.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *National monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation in Europe*, Technical report No 20/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/national-monitoring-reporting-and-evaluation>).

EEA, 2015, *Overview of climate change adaptation platforms in Europe*, Technical report No 5/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/overview-of-climate-change-adaptation>).

WATER MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS

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, DG ESTAT, DG 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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on floods in Europe, focusing on integration of possible measures under different policy areas. A water contribution to preparing EEA climate change assessment in 2016	Publication	DG ENV, DG CLIMA	Floods Directive	Done
Industry Directives report 2014, covering the Bathing Water Directive (BWD), the Urban Waste-Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), and the Drinking Water Directive (DWD)	Publication	DG ENV	Bathing Water Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Drinking Water Directive	Done (Bathing water report 2014) Combined report to be finalised mid- 2016.
Assessment framework to analyse data under WFD Second Reporting of RBMPs, including a report on water economics (cost of measures and impacts of investments) and assessments on policy evaluation in the water policies	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet	WFD, EU Blueprint for Water (the 'Blueprint')	Done
European results for water balances as input for water accounts, environmental accounts and indicators on resource efficiency	Web publication, Indicators, Data and maps	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet	WFD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done
First draft European assessment on eutrophication across land-based sources (incl. point and diffuse pollution) for inland and coastal waters (in cooperation with 1.6) and a water module contribution to the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)	Web publication, Data and maps	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, MS, Eionet	WFD, Blueprint, 7th EAP	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
ecosystem assessment (streamlining across water/marine/biodiversity directives)				
Updated core set of indicators on water	Indicators	Eionet, DG ESTAT	WFD, Blueprint	Done
In line with SEIS and Inspire, taking into account SIIF concepts, develop infrastructure for shared access, integrated assessments and efficient dissemination for all water data in preparation of the launch of WISE 2.0 in 2016. This includes the refit of 'waterbase' and all water data flows in content and process.	Information systems	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	WFD, Blueprint	Done
Chairing WISE technical group; co-chairing WFD CIS group on reporting and water accounts	Support and contributions	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation, WFD, Blueprint	Done
Eionet Freshwater Workshop on new reporting structure and	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	EEA MAWP 2014–2018	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The EEA continued to support the streamlining of water, marine and biodiversity policies with common assessments and reporting-related approaches, and developed a pilot on eutrophication.

Work continued on the development of the assessment framework for the 2016 country assessments (status and pressures) under the second reporting of the WFD. This included measures and water-related economic aspects, as well as the analysis of reported data under the Floods Directive, in connection with climate change and ecosystem vulnerability aspects, done in cooperation with the JRC.

In May 2015, the EEA published the annual European bathing water quality report, *European bathing water quality in 2014*, with the European Commission. The report compared the quality of bathing water sampled at more than 21 000 coastal and inland bathing sites across the EU, Switzerland and Albania in 2014. Alongside the report, the EEA published an interactive map showing the performance of each bathing site.

The report *Water-retention potential of Europe's forests* was published in September 2015. This report notes that water retention plays an important role in buffering the effects of heavy rainfall and droughts. A better understanding of this role will help with the development of measures to tackle the effects of climate change and extreme weather events.

Technical support to the Water Information System for Europe (WISE 2.0) continued. This included the clean-up of 20-year-long time series in various water databases. All technical developments, carried out in cooperation with the directorate-general for the Environment (DG ENV), are on track.

Work on the development of a common typology for reporting quality status, as part of an ongoing integration with Nature Directive-related assessments, was carried out. This was presented in December 2015 at the Water, Marine and Nature EU Directors' workshop on coordinated implementation.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *European bathing water quality in 2014*, EEA Report No 1/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-bathing-water-quality-in-2014>).

EEA, 2015, *Water-retention potential of Europe's forests*, Technical report No 13/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/water-retention-potential-of-forests>).

MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES

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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ICM

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Phase 2 of WISE-Marine and HOPE indicators development	Information system	DG ENV, DG JRC, ICES, Eionet	Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Done
Update of WISE SoE transitional coastal waters data set	Data and maps	Eionet	Water Framework Directive	Done
Technical report on the development of European marine ecosystem (services) assessment	Publication	DG ENV, MS, Eionet	EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, EU Directors' 'Vilnius process'	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Support to MSFD policy process and implementation of MSFD art 19.3 (technical group Data workshop; working papers for WG DIKE)	Workshops and meetings, Support and contributions	DG ENV, MS	Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)	Done
Technical report on criteria for assessing ecological coherence of marine protected areas	Publication	DG ENV, MS	Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive, and Biodiversity Strategy	Done
Scoping and preparing 2016 publications: thematic assessment on eutrophication measures in collaboration with SA1.5; fisheries and aquaculture assessment; Black Sea, Mediterranean and Arctic SoE assessment processes in collaboration with SA3.1. A marine contribution to preparing EEA climate change assessment in 2016;	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG JRC, ICES, Eionet	Marine Strategy and Water Framework Directives	Done
Eionet Marine Workshop	Workshop and meetings	Eionet	EEA MAWP 2014–2018	Not done Postponed to 2016 to accommodate policy process (revision of GES).

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

In collaboration with the European Commission and the extended network of Regional Sea Conventions, in 2015, the EEA continued to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), as well as the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

The project to support the development of a combined data model and knowledge base for the MSFD, including a structure of information flows by individual countries — a shared task of the EEA and DG ENV — continued. It provides a core element of the WISE–Marine concept and includes a reference map of EU marine regions and an operational framework for engaging with the Regional Seas Conventions.

In June 2015, the EEA published the first comprehensive *State of Europe’s seas* report. In line with the development of the EU’s ‘Blue Growth’ objectives, which aspire to achieve a greater and more sustainable use of the seas’ potential, the report examined whether or not the EU is meeting its policy goals with regard to the quality of the marine environment. The report found that although Europe’s seas can be considered productive, they cannot be considered healthy or clean. A presentation of the report to DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), together with SOER 2015, took place in September 2015.

The report *Marine protected areas in Europe’s seas — An overview and perspectives for the future* was released in October 2015. This report, which supports the European Commission’s reporting to the European Parliament and the

Council, found that Europe needs to implement a more holistic approach to the design, management and evaluation of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA networks could play a crucial role in reversing systemic changes observed in Europe's seas.

The EEA hosted a workshop in collaboration with DG ENV to discuss approaches on how to assess good environmental status under the MSFD. A workshop on 'Marine LitterWatch' was also held with regional stakeholders.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *State of Europe's seas*, EEA Report No 2/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-europes-seas>).

EEA, 2015, *Marine protected areas in Europe's seas — An overview and perspectives for the future*, EEA Report No 3/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/marine-protected-areas-in-europes>).

EEA, 2015, *Spatial analysis of marine protected area networks in Europe's seas*, Technical report No 17/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/spatial-analysis-of-marine-protected>).

BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Multiannual objective

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of biodiversity and ecosystems (natural capital), including agriculture and forests 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 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 Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Strategy. To this end, full development and implementation of BISE in partnership with relevant Commission Services (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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/BD

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Contributing to the maintenance and development of the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) in partnership with DG ENV in support of the knowledge base underpinning the MTR of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and Aichi targets (global)	Information System	DG ENV, DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG CLIMA, MS,	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP	Done
EEA Technical report on the conservation status of Species and Habitats of EU interest — <i>State of nature in the EU: Results from the Reporting under the Nature Directives 2007–2012</i>	Publication	DG ENV, countries	Habitats and Birds Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP	Done
Update and upgrade SEBI and AEI indicators within the EEA core set of indicators framework	Indicators	DG AGRI, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENV, MS	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP	Done
Adapted 2010 Biodiversity Baseline (based on the ecosystems classification developed under the MAES process)	Publication	DG ENV, MS	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015); 7th EAP	Done
Continuing to deliver and make accessible key data flows in the area: CDDA; Art17/Art12; and, Natura 2000 Continuation of Inspire: CDDA and Emerald network streamlining pilot exercise	Data and maps	DG ENV, MS	Habitats and Birds Directives; EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020; 7th EAP	Done
Joint EEA/JRC working paper on combining ecosystem conditions and ecosystem services	Publication	DG JRC, DG ENV	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015)	Not done. Postponed to a later point in the joint EC/EEA MAES process
Technical report on mapping and assessment of ecosystems — overview of progress, related	Publication	DG ENV, DG JRC, other relevant DGs	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015)	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
assessment products (under the MAES process)				
Communication actions to disseminate findings of SOER 2015, results from the reporting under the Nature Directives 2007–2012, and material in support of the mid-term review of Biodiversity Strategy (in support of SA3.4.)	Support and contributions	DG ENV, countries	EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015) 7th EAP	Done
Eionet NRC meetings: Biodiversity Data and Information Systems Biodiversity and ecosystems indicators and assessments Agriculture (together with SA2)	Workshops and meetings	DG ENV, other relevant DGs, Strategic partners (IUCN, WCMC, GBIF, OECD as relevant) Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (mid-term review 2015) 7th EAP	Done
Tasks in support of the preparation of the NFP meeting in Paris, celebrating 20 years of the ETC/BD (in support of SA3.1.)	Workshops and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Partially done May NFP meeting Copenhagen. ETC/BD anniversary brochure and event featured appropriately

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The EEA continued to support the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

In May 2015, the EEA published the *State of nature in the EU* technical report. This is a companion document to the European Commission report *The State of Nature in the EU — Reporting under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives 2007–2012* on trends for habitat types and species covered by the EU nature directives.

The report is the first assessment that covers both directives, and is the result of the largest collaborative nature-related data collection and assessment exercise ever undertaken across Europe, which was coordinated and executed by the EEA and ETC/BD. The results — presented by the Executive Director to the European Parliament and the European Council — are clear: biodiversity loss is ongoing. According to the Habitats Directive, 77 % of habitats and 60 % of species assessments are unfavourable, while only 16 % of habitats and 23 % of species assessments are favourable. The report was the key document to provide the results on Target 1 for the mid-term review under the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Its importance in the context of the Biodiversity Strategy was stressed again by a keynote presentation by the Executive Director at the conference on the ‘fitness check’ of the nature directives in November 2015.

The report *European ecosystem assessment — Concept, data, and implementation*, published in June 2015, was a direct contribution to Target 2 Action 5, on mapping and assessing ecosystems and their services, of the EU

Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Meanwhile, the EEA report *EU 2010 biodiversity baseline — Adapted to the MAES typology (2015)*, published in July 2015, presents a revised biodiversity baseline. To intensify the involvement of Member States, national case studies on the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES) were collected using the BISE viewer.

In October 2015, the mid-term review on the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 was reported to the European Parliament and the Council. The EEA contributed extensively to the factual evidence on biodiversity (ecosystem) status, trends and challenges. BISE is being continuously developed as the evidence base and communication vehicle for the mid-term review.

In December 2015, the European Commission organised a workshop to take stock of the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The EEA contributed extensively to this workshop and provided evidence on the condition of ecosystems, and the related trends and challenges. This evidence was summarised in the EEA report presented at the workshop, and published in January 2016 as a joint report with DG ENV.

Further technical support was provided for the DG ENV contract on the mid-term review, as well as for the EU report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the implementation of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and for the publication of *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Work on EU overseas territories was published for the International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change, held on 22–25 October 2014 in Guadeloupe.

Several presentations of thematic SOER 2015 material and the findings of the *State of nature in the EU* report were delivered, including, under the Latvian EU Presidency, at the Nature conference, a joint meeting of the EU Water and Marine Directors; at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conference ‘Little Sydney: Protecting Nature in Europe’, held in Austria; at the JRC’s international conference on ‘Land quality and landscape processes’, held in Hungary; at the European Commission’s ‘Green Week’; at the World Ocean Summit 2015, held in Portugal by *The Economist*; at the Corine Land Cover (CLC) 2012 launch in the United Kingdom; and at the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development conference held in Cataluña.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *State of nature in the EU*, Technical report No 2/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-nature-in-the-eu>).

EEA, 2015, *Linking in situ vegetation data to the EUNIS habitat classification: results for forest habitats*, Technical report No 18/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eunis-habitat-classification>).

EEA, 2015, *EU 2010 biodiversity baseline — Adapted to the MAES typology (2015)*, Technical report No 9/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-2010-biodiversity-baseline-revision>).

URBAN, LAND USE AND SOIL

Multiannual objective

To support and inform policy development and implementation in the area of urban, land 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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/ULS

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Technical report on green infrastructure and climate change mitigation and leaflet on green infrastructure inside and around cities	Publication	DG ENV, DG REGIO	Biodiversity strategy and Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy	Done
Technical report on evaluation of EU policies and their direct and indirect impact on land take and land degradation, supplemented by direct assessment of imperviousness (soil sealing) change	Publication	DG ENV, JRC, ESTAT, DG RTD	7th EAP priority 1, Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe, upcoming communication on land	Done
EEA technical report on land recycling; contribution to joint EEA/JRC report supporting land communication.	Publication	DG ENV, JRC, ESTAT	7th EAP priority 1, Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe, upcoming communication on land	Done (Land recycling report) EEA/JRC report cancelled due to postponement in policy
Reports on sustainable urban areas (development of cities typology; urban sprawl) and related indicators	Publication	DG ENV, FOEN	7th EAP priority 8; Resource efficiency Roadmap	Done
2012 update of CSI 014 Land-take indicator and Country analysis based on Corine Land Cover (CLC) 2012 and Corine Land Cover change data 2006–2012 Pending the conclusions of the 2014 scoping study, initiate the development of a set of indicators for ‘tourism and environment reporting mechanism — TOUERM’ Note: Depending on availability of CLC integrated raster product for Europe	Indicators	DG ENV, DG ENTR, ESTAT UNWTO	EEA/Eionet Regulation, 7th EAP, COM(2010)352, COM (2014)86 final	Done CLC2012 data became available in December (incomplete coverage)

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Eionet Soil and Land Use and Spatial Planning (LUSP) NRC meetings	Workshops and meetings	Eionet, DG ENV, JRC	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

In a report released in September 2015, entitled *Exploring nature-based solutions*, the role of green infrastructure in mitigating the impacts of weather- and climate-change-related natural hazards was analysed. The report proposes a simple, practical methodology for screening (rather than assessing) ecosystem services in areas in which green infrastructure may contribute to reducing current (or future) weather- and climate-related natural hazards.

In December 2015, the EEA published three reports that focus on urban resource efficiency. The reports — *What is a resource-efficient city?*; *Resource-efficient cities: good practices*; and *Enabling resource-efficient cities* — address a wide range of issues and conclude that an effective solution to urban sustainability requires an alignment of visions and strategies across governance structures. Resource-efficient and sustainable cities are identified as a priority in a number of EU initiatives and policy measures. The reports aim to enhance the knowledge base in this area and support policy development and decision-making related to urban management at local, city and regional levels.

The EEA contributed to activities pertaining to the International Year of Soils. This included providing input to the *Eionet NRC Soil* report and the JRC report *Remediated sites and brownfields — Success stories in Europe*, on 4 December 2015. The EEA technical report *Resource efficiency of soils in urbanised areas — Analytical framework and implications for governance* was finalised for publication after a revision in November 2015. This report presents the role of soils in the functioning/malfunctioning of urban and peri-urban areas in the EEA-39, including any economic ramifications.

The EEA participated in the first meeting of the newly established European Soil Partnership (part of the global initiative). With regard to regional cooperation, a new joint working programme with the Alpine Convention for the period 2015–2016 was agreed.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *Urban sustainability issues — What is a resource-efficient city?* Technical report No 23/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resource-efficient-cities>).

EEA, 2015, *Urban sustainability issues — Resource-efficient cities: good practice*, Technical report No 24/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/resource-efficient-cities-good-practice>).

EEA, 2015, *Urban sustainability issues — Enabling resource-efficient cities*, Technical report No 25/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/enabling-resource-efficient-cities>).

EEA, 2015, *European ecosystem assessment — Concept, data, and implementation*, Technical report No 6/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-ecosystem-assessment>).

EEA, 2015, *Exploring nature-based solutions — The role of green infrastructure in mitigating the impacts of weather- and climate change-related natural hazards*, Technical report No 12/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/exploring-nature-based-solutions-2014>).

WASTE AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

Multiannual objective

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

MULTIANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Information on national waste and material resource policies, and accounts and databases on material resource flows, use and efficiency, updated in a timely and reliable manner.
- EEA member countries assisted effectively in their reporting on waste management, waste prevention and material resources, and capacity-building support provided as needed.
- EEA member countries and the European Commission supported in a timely manner with relevant 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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/WMGE

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Analysis of second review of member country waste prevention programmes	Publication	DG ENV, Eionet, DG JRC	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on Circular Economy (CE)	Done
Assessing progress on the implementation of waste-management policies in countries	Publication	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, Eionet	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on CE	Done
New CSI waste indicators and update of current WEEE indicator	Indicators	DG ESTAT, DG JRC	EEA Core Set of Indicators	Done
Detailed review of waste modelling tool as early warning system for monitoring progress by countries towards waste targets	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, Eionet	Waste Framework Directive, Communication on CE	Done
Interactive web tool for input-output analysis	Information system	DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENV, Eionet	Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe, Communication on CE	Not done The prototype web-tool has not been further implemented,

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
				as a revision of the I-O work is ongoing in view of external developments
Eionet workshop on waste	Workshops and meetings	Waste NRCs	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The activities in this work area extend from waste management and waste prevention to supporting the wider perspective of the transition to a circular economy. The EEA continued to support EU waste management policies and the achievement of a circular economy (CE) in Europe as a follow-up to the 2014 European Commission communication on 'Circular economy — Towards a zero-waste society' through:

- assessing the progress made by countries towards the implementation of waste-management policies;
- publishing the annual review of country waste-prevention programmes.

The majority of EEA efforts in this area involved the investigation and refinement of the EU waste reference model, which will be used to analyse progress towards selected EU targets for waste management. The model was tested in a hands-on workshop with Eionet partners, and discussions continued with the European Commission on the use of the model for policymaking based on an in-depth analysis of the model produced by the ETC/WMGE in September 2015.

Work progressed as planned with Eionet with regard to developing country analysis for municipal waste management. A first assessment on hazardous waste was delivered to the European Commission, and all indicators were updated as planned.

The report *Waste prevention in Europe — The status in 2014*, published in December 2015, is the second in a series of annual reviews of waste prevention programmes in Europe, as stipulated by the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). EU Member States are obliged to adopt waste prevention programmes, and the EEA is invited to carry out a review of the completion and implementation of these programmes. The report presented cross-programme comparisons of, for example, scope, objectives, targets, indicators, monitoring systems and measures, and policy instruments. The national programmes are considerably different in terms of detail, coverage, objectives and time horizons. Most waste prevention programmes have the aim of 'decoupling' waste generation from economic growth, but quantitative targets and corresponding monitoring schemes are often lacking. The findings suggest that there is substantial room for improvement of the variety of current national initiatives.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *Waste prevention in Europe — The status in 2014*, EEA Report No 6/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2015>).

1.2 ASSESSING SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES

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, in order to facilitate the transition towards a more sustainable society in Europe.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To provide integrated assessments across thematic areas with a view to signalling synergies, including further opportunities for policy coherence.
- To provide prospective analyses in order to signal emerging issues on both European and global scales.
- To provide knowledge and analysis that allows assessment of the progress made towards the fundamental transitions embedded in long-term EU policy objectives.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The prompt delivery of SOER 2015 and the annual indicator reports for 2014–2018.
- Measurable recognition in the processes for evaluation of the 7th EAP.
- The stimulation of foresight-oriented discussions about transitions to a more sustainable society in Europe.

RESOURCE-EFFICIENT ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Multiannual objective

To monitor progress and identify opportunities to improve the environment in Europe, and indirectly in other regions of the world, in accordance with a resource-efficient economy perspective.

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.

Main ETC partner: ETC/WMGE

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on progress on selected elements of a circular economy (CE) in Europe	Publication	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ENTR, DG SANCO, DG RTD OECD, UNEP, Global Green Growth	Communication 'Towards a circular economy: a zero-waste programme for Europe'	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
		Forum, World Economic Forum		
Updates and publication of selected SCP indicators	Indicators	DG ESTAT, DG JRC, Eionet		Done
Assessment of long-term transition perspectives for the food system	Support and contributions	DG RTD, DG ENV, DG SANCO, DG AGRI, EFSA	Resource Efficiency (RE) Roadmap implementation	Done
Country review resource efficiency policy implementation	Publication	Eionet, DG ENV	RE Roadmap implementation	Done
Eionet workshop on resource-efficient economy	Workshops and meetings	Eionet: Resource-efficient economy and environment NRCs	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

Interest in resource-efficient, green, circular economy issues continues to grow. The EEA has developed a logic for understanding the relationships among the economic dimensions, human well-being and ecosystem resilience. This was shared with the Management Board, as well as the MARE Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) during visits to the EEA headquarters.

A stakeholder meeting on the circular economy, hosted by the EEA in October 2015, focused on transitions, the digital economy, the sharing economy, clean material cycles and bio-based materials, and provided inputs for future knowledge developments in this area. In parallel, discussions continued with the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW) on environmental dimensions of the EU Raw Materials Initiative and its relevance to the circular economy.

In relation to these analyses, the first circular economy report was developed (and published in January 2016.) The report addresses the circular economy from the perspective of reducing the environmental pressures and impacts of material resource use. The EEA will be involved in the process of developing a monitoring framework for the circular economy in cooperation with Commission DGs such as ENV, Eurostat (ESTAT) and GROW. A clarification of responsibilities is expected to emerge in the first half of 2016.

The development of indicators and accounting frameworks was supported by a joint workshop with the Framework Programme 7 (FP7) Desire consortium, held in March 2015, an internal workshop of EEA and ETC staff, and discussions with the UN and Eurostat under the umbrella of the United Nations Committee on Environmental and Economic Accounting (UNCEEA).

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.

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 and 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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Late Lessons 2 summary report — Science, policy and innovation	Publication	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA, WHO, OECD	MAWP	Done
Data support to IPChem on environmental media and human bio-monitoring	Data and maps	DG ENV, DG JRC, EFSA, ECHA	MAWP	Done
Analytical support to systematic approach to risk management	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG JRC, DG SANCO	7th EAP, MAWP	Done
Indicators and integrated accounting approaches for environment and well-being assessment in line with the three priority objectives of the 7th EAP	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG SANCO, DG ESTAT, WHO	7th EAP, MAWP, in preparation of 2018	Done
Eionet workshop on Environment, Health and Well-being	Workshops and meetings	Eionet Environment and health NRCs	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Not done (owing to competing calls on staff resources)

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

In May 2015, the EEA supported a workshop, hosted by DG ENV, on the development of a systematic approach to the risk associated with emerging issues, as called for under Priority Objective 5 of the EU 7th EAP. This was done through a working paper and presentations based on the findings of the ‘Late Lessons’ reports, as well as a workshop report published in November 2015.

The EEA continued to provide support to the Information Platform for Chemicals Monitoring (IPChem) initiative of the European Commission by connecting relevant data sets on environment media and human bio-monitoring.

Work also progressed on the European Human Bio-monitoring Initiative (EHBMI), which had its genesis in a seminar of the EEA Scientific Committee, held in February 2014. In particular, efforts focused on clarifying the governance structure with the policy dossier holders (i.e. DG ENV and DG RTD) and negotiations with potential data providers in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Spain and Sweden. The EEA developed a proposal as regards how it could undertake its role as a knowledge broker and data user as part of the EHBMI. Final decisions on the EHBMI governance structure and the proposed EEA roles are expected in 2016.

MEGATRENDS AND TRANSITIONS

Multiannual objective

To measure, monitor and report on long-term trends and long-term 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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
SOER 2015 — Assessment of Global Megatrends (Part A)	Publication	DG ENV, DG JRC, Eionet, BEPA, IIASA, OECD	EEA/Eionet Regulation; EEA MAWP	Done
FLIServices—Eionet shared information platform on the web	Information system	DG JRC, NRC FLIS	EEA MAWP	Done
Three web tools for content sharing with Eionet; i.e. 1) FLIS Glossary; 2) Horizon scanning/trends; 3) FLIS cooperation (e.g. regional cooperation)	Information system	Eionet, countries providing content voluntarily	EEA MAWP	Done
Environment and Security	Publication	OSCE	EEA MAWP	Done
Global Megatrends background documentation	Web publication	DG ENV, DG JRC, Eionet, BEPA, IIASA, OECD	EEA MAWP	Done
Western Balkans — Climate change impacts and water security	Web publication	ETC/ICM, Eionet (West Balkans)	EEA MAWP	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Eionet workshops on forward-looking information tools, content and services	Workshops and meetings	Eionet NRC FLIS	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

The year 2015 was dominated by the launch and follow-up of SOER. *The European environment —state and outlook 2015: An assessment of global megatrends* (GMT report) was launched, as part of the main SOER launch, as online fiches and also as an A5 report. The report *Assessment of global megatrends — Extended background analysis* was published in September 2015, and is intended to provide a background to the material released in March 2015.

Discussions on a common approach for analysing the national impacts of global megatrends continued throughout 2015 with Eionet; the methodological approach and other information were presented and discussed in various workshops.

Throughout 2015, the EEA began building a profile of external scientific and policy actors that could contribute to the development of the knowledge base for long-term transitions. In this regard, contacts and cooperation were established with the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN) of mostly social scientists, which focuses on socio-technical system transitions, and the Transformations Network of mainly natural scientists, which considers transitions from the perspective of planetary limits. Links were made and discussions were held with staff from relevant EU FP7 research projects, such as ‘Flagship’, ‘Pathways’ and ‘Impressions’, to bring knowledge from these initiatives into the EEA’s reflections on SOER 2020.

In November 2015, the Forward-Looking Information Platform was launched by the EEA with Eionet. The platform has been designed and populated with knowledge developed with the NRCs for forward-looking information and scenarios. The platform provides an effective and efficient basis for co-creating knowledge with Eionet and other EU partners in the coming years, in line with the principles of collecting information once and sharing for many purposes.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *Assessment of global megatrends — Extended background analysis*, Technical report No 11/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/global-megatrends-assessment-extended-background-analysis>).

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

Multiannual objective

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

MULTIANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Timely publication of a report on the state of, trends in and prospects for the environment in Europe in 2015 (SOER 2015) 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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
SOER 2015 — Synthesis report	Publication	Eionet, Commission Services, EEA stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
SOER 2015 — a series of fiches (i.e. global megatrend fiches, thematic fiches, cross-country comparison fiches, country fiches, regional fiches)	Web publication	Eionet, Commission Services, EEA stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Planning and scoping of a new series of annual indicator-based reports that will contribute to the monitoring of the 7th EAP	Support and contributions	DG ESTAT, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG JRC, Eionet	Article 4 of Decision 1386/2013/EU on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (7th EAP)	Done
First draft storyline and mock-up version of 1st (2016) indicator report	Support and contributions	DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ESTAT, Eionet	Article 4 of Decision 1386/2013/EU — see above	Done
Eionet workshop on State of the Environment Reporting (focusing on SOER 2015)	Workshops and meetings	Eionet (NRC-SoE)	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
International cooperation — contributions to GEO-6 report		UNEP	MAWP	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

SOER 2015 was launched on 3 March 2015 in Brussels in the presence of Commissioner Vella, followed by the main launch event, which was co-organised by the European Policy Centre. On 5 March 2015, an event was organised in the European Parliament by MEPs Benedek, Faria and Dalli. On 6 March 2015, the Executive Director made an intervention to the Latvian EU Presidency Meeting.

The SOER package includes two reports — the synthesis report and the GMT report. The GMT report was finalised at the end of January 2015 following final consultations with an external advisory group. The package also includes 87 four-page briefings covering 11 global megatrends, 25 European themes, nine cross-country analyses, 39 Eionet country briefings and three regional areas that are prioritised in the 7th EAP, namely the Arctic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea regions.

The report was promoted throughout 2015. By the end of 2015, the report had been presented at 76 events in 28 countries around Europe. Launch activities in countries and at several EU events have confirmed the strategic value of the contents and messages of SOER 2015. The European Policy Centre delivered a short summary report of the SOER 2015 launch conference and also drafted a policy brief ('Towards a sustainable European economy') that builds on the SOER 2015 synthesis report. This brief was published on 13 October 2015.

After the March 2015 publication of SOER 2015, the EEA started internal reflections as well as activities with EU partners and Eionet on improvements to the knowledge base for SOER 2020. A key vehicle for knowledge development activities is the Environment Knowledge Community (EKC) of Commission services and the EEA. The EKC has established knowledge innovation projects for natural capital accounting, planetary limits, foresight, citizen science and climate adaptation. The EEA leads on planetary limits and supports the other projects.

The Internal Audit Service of the European Commission (IAS) undertook an audit of the SOER 2015 project in the week of 30 November–4 December 2015 and will report its findings in the first part of 2016. In parallel, EEA staff reflected on the experiences that led to the preparation of the component elements of SOER 2015. The IAS results and internal reflections will feed into the roadmap, to be produced in 2016, for SOER 2020.

A draft internal guidance document on policy evaluation was produced. Moreover, a number of specific projects with a strong evaluation component (e.g. the impact of policies on land use, transport and the environment; policies and measures; and climate change adaptation) were carried out in 2015. The EEA also contributed to the preparation of the 2015 European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum (17 and 18 September 2015) organised by the European University Institute, Florence, on 'Knowledge from Climate & Environment Policy Evaluation — Supporting the road from Paris to 2050'.

Published reports

EEA, 2015, *The European environment — state and outlook 2015: Synthesis report* (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer>).

1.3 KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION, SHARING AND USE

GOAL

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

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the quality, availability and accessibility (based on Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles) of data and information needed to support SA1 and SA2.
- To actively communicate data, information and knowledge to policymakers, the public, research communities and others (e.g. non-governmental organisations and businesses), as well as to regional and international processes including those of the UN and its specialised agencies.
- To promote information governance as a driver of public empowerment and behavioural change.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

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, the 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.

Main ETC partner: All

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Monitoring of member country satisfaction with Eionet cooperation	Publication	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Report on Arctic environment	Publication	Eionet, Arctic Council	MAWP	Postponed to be published in step with release of EU Arctic policy in first part of 2016
Member and cooperating country contributions (data, information, etc.) to SOE-online	Data and maps	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done (in general — SoE online not yet developed)
New and strengthened partnerships with stakeholders beyond Eionet	Support and contributions	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Support to the Commission and EU Member States in the context of UNEP assessments and the post-Rio+20 process	Support and contributions	DG ENV	MAWP	Done
Implementation of EEAcademy business plan	Support and contributions	Eionet and Scientific Committee	MAWP	Done Activities ready to start in 2016

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

Eionet activities

A review of the Eionet structure and its functioning, in order to align it with the MAWP, was concluded in the last months of 2014. This led to a number of changes to the specification of NRCs and, in early 2015, NFPs nominated new experts in certain areas if needed. The use of ‘priority data flows’ as a method of benchmarking country performances on reporting was reviewed, and a group was created to support the streamlining of information and communication technology (ICT) tools.

A number of key meetings were organised throughout the year, including the first Eionet meeting on industrial pollution. Eionet meetings on energy and on transport were also held, as was the annual air emission mitigation NRC meeting, jointly with the UNECE Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (TFEIP). An expert workshop on ‘Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of climate change adaptation at national level’ was held, and the first meeting of the External Advisory Group on the development of the 2016 EEA report on climate change impacts and vulnerability took place.

Eionet webinars are now being held at regular intervals to strengthen the involvement of Eionet in discussions on strategic issues and to reduce the administrative burden of NFP meetings. Substantive issues discussed at the

NFP/Eionet meetings in 2015 included SOER 2015; EKC developments and links to Eionet; EEA developments towards 7th EAP implementation and policy evaluation; and the latest developments in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/UNECE/EEA cooperation towards pan-European and global reporting. After the publication of SOER 2015, reflections with Eionet continued on possible improvements to the knowledge base for the green and circular economies, the systemic challenges and the long-term transitions looking ahead to SOER 2020.

The review of the Eionet priority data flows (EPDFs), used to monitor 'reporting performance' of member and cooperating countries, was concluded at the end of 2015 and has resulted in a revised methodology and an expanded set of 'core data flows'. The 'SEIS implementation benchmarking' under development by UNECE for all countries in the pan-European region serves a different purpose and the first results of this will be shared at the Environment for Europe conference in Batumi, Georgia, in June 2016.

After the visit to Turkey of a high-level EEA delegation in autumn 2014, further efforts have been made to enhance integration into all aspects of Eionet; in particular, it was agreed that Turkey will host an NFP/Eionet meeting in Istanbul in October 2016.

Through the Eionet Improvement and Innovation Initiative (E3I), a group of NFPs and EEA staff developed a paper that explains transitions, alongside a questionnaire to gather knowledge on niche innovations in countries relevant to transitions. The results will be shared with the Management Board in early summer 2016. Moreover, steps were taken in the second half of 2015 to intensify ETC coordination, including a cross-review of the ETC Action Plans for 2016, in order to ensure consistency and linkages among the different ETCs.

European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies

The informal European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network) met for its biannual plenary meeting in Riga, Latvia, in April 2015. The EPA Network discussed the role of environment protection agencies in 'greening' the economy, including 'Greening the European Semester'.

In June 2015, the EPA Network organised a conference on the green economy, at which the EEA Executive Director gave a speech on the opportunities for jobs, growth and innovation within a green economy. The conference report, presentations and workshop summaries are documented on the EPA Network website. The findings were also shared at the 25th EPA Network plenary meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, in September 2015. The Executive Director combined this meeting with an official country visit to Iceland.

Support activities in the wider European region and internationally

The EEA's cooperation with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), under two externally financed projects, came to an end in 2015. This cooperation involved:

- practices and activities, which built on the previous European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)-SEIS project (<http://enpi-seis.pbe.eea.europa.eu/>) and that were implemented over the 2010-2015 period. Their aim was to engage partner countries in the ENP-South and ENP-East regions in regional cooperation activities in order to improve national capacities for managing and sharing environmental data and information (ended on 31 March 2015);
- the InSEIS project (<http://inseis.pbe.eea.europa.eu/>), which ran between June 2014 and October 2015, and aimed to contribute to bringing the interested ENP partner countries closer to the EEA/Eionet cooperation work and ENPI-SEIS project work.

In December 2015, two new contracts, under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), supporting further cooperation with European Neighbourhood partners in ENP-East and ENP-South were signed between the EEA and European Commission (DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)).

A framework for EEA's international engagements was completed after discussions with the EEA Management Board in June and December 2015.

The EEA engaged with relevant stakeholders with regard to the scope and content of the EEA Arctic report; this report will flank the 7th EAP and the EU Arctic Policy, which is under development for completion in 2016, with EEA inputs.

The EEA has further conducted bilateral discussions with Greenland with a view to including Greenlandic information in the Arctic report and in future data sets/indicators (if relevant and available), as well as sharing experiences of using local and traditional knowledge in policy development and management.

Since 2014, the EEA has been in dialogue with both UNECE and UNEP in order to encourage a better alignment of regular reporting processes. This will facilitate better uptake of results from SOER at the Europe-wide reporting level of UNECE and at the global level under the Global Environment Outlook (GEO)-6, led by UNEP. During the year, the EEA Executive Director met the Executive Secretary of UNECE, Mr Christian Friis Bach, and the UNEP Director of the Regional Office, Mr Jan Dusik, to discuss the common EEA/UNECE/UNEP approach to supporting national, regional and global reporting on the state of the environment through, among other things, improving the interlinkages between existing networks and platforms in order to ensure free access to environmental information.

Work with the UN on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) matured in 2015; for example, input was provided with regard to the elaboration of indicators. DG ESTAT is leading this on behalf of the EU and the EEA is involved in the area of environmental data. The EEA has established a small reference group to coordinate the different thematic areas, including indicator experts and staff with UN liaison experience. This group works closely with both DG ESTAT and DG ENV to support a common EU approach to the SDG process. The Executive Director of the EEA attended the 16th UNEP IRP meeting in May 2015 in Hanoi, Vietnam, to review drafts.

In his role as a member of the UN International Resource Panel (IRP), s of ongoing assessment reports, to conclude the 2014 Strategic Planning Exercise, to review Panel and Steering Committee membership and to disseminate the findings of the IRP's assessments and outreach to policymakers, academia and other stakeholders at the national level. In this role, the Executive Director also attended the UNEP IRP meeting in Davos, Switzerland, from 12 to 14 October 2015. The meeting took place in parallel with the World Resources Forum and provided a good opportunity for outreach, with a joint plenary session. As a follow-up to a decision made in Hanoi, a workshop was held on resource governance.

TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

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 EEA website rated high and increased number of visitors every year.
- SOE-online tools fulfilling their role in continual update of SOE information after SOER 2015.

Main ETC partner: All

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Improved Reportnet suite of tools	Information system	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved Indicator Management System	Information system	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved Eionet portal and related networking tools	Information system	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved spatial data infrastructure	Information system	Eionet, DG JRC	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Inspire Directive	Done
SOE-online	Information system	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Technical improvements of the EEA website (responsive website)	Information system	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
IT support to data flows, and development of information systems presented under SA1 and SA2 (e.g. E-PRTR, GHG Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, Climate-ADAPT, WISE 2.0, WISE-Marine, BISE, Material flows analysis tool, FLIServices)	Information system	Eionet, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Eionet workshop on Information Systems	Workshops and meetings	Eionet (NRCs for Information systems)	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

Data and information systems

A new fiche management system for the development of briefings with web-to-paper publishing tools was developed and successfully launched in 2015 for the publishing of all SOER 2015 data and information on the EEA website. This was a major step towards improving online access to the latest SOE data and information produced by the EEA, referred to as 'SOE-online'. SOE Online aims to enhance accessibility to updated versions of EEA products and provide the infrastructure needed to support traceability along the EEA reporting chain.

As part of the EEA indicator management system, the workflow for the production of indicators has been improved to include a copy-edit phase and options to produce high-quality PDF fact sheets.

In 2015, Improvements to the EEA website focused on the implementation of a responsive website optimised for desktop, tablet and mobile browsers.

An update of the EEA's ICT strategy was approved by management. This document provides an overview of the strategic actions that the EEA is pursuing with regard to the use of ICT to deliver the MAWP 2014–2018.

The EEA organised, with the University of Copenhagen, the joint International Conference on Environmental Informatics and International Conference on ICT for Sustainability (EnviroInfo & ICT4S Conference 2015). The conference aimed to build a knowledge base for environmental action and sustainability. Research papers provided up-to-date information on topics such as data, software and information systems, modelling, life-cycle assessments, energy, public participation and green tools.

Spatial data infrastructure

During 2015, the support given to the implementation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (Inspire) Directive, for developing a European spatial data infrastructure, focused on:

- the continued participation in the Inspire Maintenance and Implementation Group and its working groups;
- the contribution to the joint Inspire–Geospatial World Forum Conference, held in May 2015 in Lisbon, as a member of the programme committee and the advisory board;
- the development of Inspire data models and data specifications related to protected sites and water bodies.

As part of the 'fitness check' of the Inspire directive, the EEA discussed, together with the European Commission and Member States, a number of issues related to further implementation and priority setting with regard to the support for Inspire until 2020.

MONITORING, DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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 data sets 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 data sets.

Main ETC partner: All

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Report on the Eionet priority data flows 2014–2015	Publication	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Review of Eionet data flows	Support and contributions	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Annually updated progress monitoring of Inspire implementation by countries	Data and maps	Eionet, DG ENV, DG JRC, Inspire NCPs	Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC	Done
Updated European geospatial reference data for the EEA SDI and GIS activities	Data and maps	DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENTR, DG RTD	EEA/Eionet Regulation Inspire Directive 2007/2/EC	Done
SOE-online content update	Indicators, Data and maps	Eionet, DG ESTAT, DG JRC, DG ENV, DG ENTR	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

- EPDFs were upgraded to better reflect all regular data delivery, quality and performance with regard to data sharing and reporting by countries, as part of the implementation of a SEIS.
- New available updates of the thematic data sets, indicators (including the core set), and maps and graphs related to the SOER process (SOE-online) were published online in cooperation with Eionet and other EU-level data and indicator providers, including the further implementation of the SENSE (Shared European and National State of Environment) process and the use of operational Copernicus services.
- Eionet and the European Commission were supported in the further implementation of the Inspire Directive.
- Data sharing among European and national data providers was optimised, in order to support the environmental knowledge needs and gaps with regard to delivering the 7th EAP. This included moving towards a single and seamless European data and indicator landscape in close cooperation with Eurostat and the JRC.
- The EEA's work in the domain of Earth observation and geospatial information management was aligned with the European Commission's objectives in support of policy and information needs through participation in international the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)/Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) networks for the definition of the new 10-year GEO/GEOSS implementation plan. This participation on core geospatial reference data was carried out in close cooperation with Eionet and the European regional committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe).

PRIORITY DATA FLOWS AND REPORTING TOOLS

The environmental policy landscape has changed significantly since 2000 when the first nine EPDFs were agreed. Presently, more than 70 environmental data flows are reported through Eionet Reportnet, around 80 % of which are as a result of EU legal requirements. In relation to the multiannual performance indicator of achieving at least a 90 % average score for Eionet data flows by 2018, the achievement for EPDFs in the May 2014–April 2015 period was 78 %.

During 2015, a review of current EPDFs and associated processes was undertaken by a joint EEA/NFP working group in response to a need to review the existing EPDFs, and the evaluation process in line with EEA priorities and the needs deriving from the MAWP 2014–2018 and the 7th EAP. The review of EPDFs contributed to ensuring the availability, quality, accessibility and sustainability of monitoring, as well as the data and information needed for the knowledge base, to support environment and climate policies.

An overview of regular data flows handled by the EEA was produced and used as input for the EPDF review process. The proposal was approved by the Management Board in November 2015.

At the end of 2015, DG ENV initiated a ‘fitness check’ of EU environmental reporting to help facilitate better regulation within the EU environment policy cycle (i.e. to provide the evidence base for evaluations and impact assessments, and to improve the overall knowledge and evidence base for EU environment policy).

The EEA adopted an organisation-wide data management framework that will implement the EEA’s data policy for daily operations, and a data quality framework to define the key principles, definitions, organisational structures and EEA processes for data quality. Data quality procedures are maintained and updated within the EEA’s Quality Management System (QMS).

DATA PRODUCTS AND RELATED WEB SERVICES

By the end of 2015, the following new or updated data products were published on the EEA website:

- 19 European reference data sets related to bathing water quality, CO₂ emissions from cars and vans, Natura 2000 site habitat types and species, urban waste water and LCPs, air emissions and air quality, marine litter and water quality;
- 255 interactive maps and data viewers, mainly related to air pollution, biodiversity, climate change, coasts and seas, energy, fisheries, industry, land use, transport, waste and material resources, and water;
- 102 maps and graphs, mainly related to air pollution, biodiversity, climate change, coasts and seas, and environmental scenarios.

Within the Indicator Management System, 52 indicators were updated during 2015, 23 of which are part of the EEA’s core set of indicators.

Group on Earth Observations

The EEA participated in the GEO Work Plan Symposium 2015. At this symposium, the progress of the current GEO tasks and the achievements for the first GEO decade (2005–2015), were evaluated.

The EEA, jointly with the European Commission and the Danish Meteorological Institute, organised the 9th GEO European Projects Workshop in June 2015. The workshop, held in Copenhagen, attracted a wide range of participants from all sectors, including those that already contribute to GEOSS in Europe and also many participants for whom GEO is less familiar.

The EEA and the European Space Agency signed a memorandum of understanding in July 2015, which set out common objectives and areas for cooperation in the field of Earth observation and the environment over the coming years. The agreement should foster the exchange of scientific expertise and technical information between the agencies, and provide the basis for mutual access to data and the promotion of joint activities. One important development concerns the use of Sentinel-2A satellite data for the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, which provides information

on land-cover and land-use change, as well as on variables related to vegetation and the water cycle. Sentinel-2A was successfully launched on 23 June 2015 and satellite data are already available to the EEA.

Support to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

UN-GGIM: Europe was officially established at the end of 2014. The EEA has the status of ‘observer’. UN-GGIM aims to play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and promoting its use as a means to address key global challenges (i.e. the SDGs). The EEA supports the UN-GGIM: Europe process of sharing core geospatial data.

COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND USER ANALYSIS

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 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.
- EEA communications 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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Communication of SOER 2015	Communication activities	Eionet, EU Institutions, MS	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Communication plans and activities concerning ecosystem resilience and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the UN year of Soil	Communication activities	EU Institutions, Eionet	UNFCCC, EU Biodiversity Strategy	Done A comprehensive action plan for climate change in relation to COP21 and a lighter approach for ecosystem resilience with EEA presence at Green Week and the UN year of soil
Annual meeting and communication activities with NRCs for Communication	Workshop and meetings	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Quarterly online corporate newsletter	Web publication		EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Signals 2015	Publication	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Annual Report 2014	Corporate document	EEA Management Board	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Improved user experience of EEA website	Information system	Users	EEA/Eionet Regulation	In progress
Media relations	Communication activities	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Quality-assured and targeted EEA outputs (editing, dissemination)	Support and contributions		EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Communication tools and products for the EEA, visual and audio-visual products, infographics	Communication activities	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Promotion of EEA outputs and messages through social media channels.	Communication activities		EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Customer relations and dissemination.	Communication activities	Eionet	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Evaluation of the impact of EEA outputs	Support and contributions	Eionet	MAWP	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

2015 communications quick facts

The EEA

- responded to more than 550 media enquiries;
- produced 30 press communications;
- identified almost 8 000 articles mentioning the EEA;
- issued almost 350 Facebook posts, which generated more than 2.2 million views;
- issued more than 1 100 tweets and increased the number of Twitter followers to more than 40 000;
- hosted 32 external visiting groups;
- responded to 876 public enquiries;
- developed 65 sets of speaking notes and presentations;
- participated in eight exhibitions and conferences;
- published four issues of the EEA Newsletter.

COP21

The EEA took part in COP21 of the UNFCCC (in Paris, 30 November–11 December 2015) and organised two side events (on adaptation and on mitigation monitoring, reporting and verification systems) in partnership with the European Commission. EEA staff were also present, as speakers or participants, at a number of side events, and the EEA held several bilateral meetings with key stakeholders.

SOER 2015 (see box below)

SOER 2015 dominated communications activities in 2015. The launch in March was the culmination of a prolonged communications approach based on a partnership with Eionet and the use of a toolkit of communication products that encompasses, among others, the 'key message matrix', an interactive presentation tool and the press release.

The SOER 2015 outreach events and the dissemination of SOER 2015 material continued until the end of 2015.

Key elements of the SOER 2015 outreach

Communication objectives

To contribute to societal debate on the prospects for ensuring and maintaining a healthy environment by:

- ensuring that SOER 2015 and its spin-off products reach the target audiences at the right time and in the right form to maximise impact and value;
- positioning SOER 2015, and the EEA and Eionet as authoritative, unique, policy-relevant resources for understanding Europe's environment and its prospects;
- maximising the value and impact of SOER 2015 by identifying and exploiting opportunities to use SOER 2015 and its related products throughout 2015 to reach a wide audience.

Events

There were 78 SOER-related events in 2015, including 44 Eionet country events in 30 countries with more than 3 000 participants. A high proportion of the audience that attended the various events identified themselves as 'Policymaker/public servant at national level' followed by 'Researcher/scientist' and then 'Policymaker/public servant at European or international level'/'NGO'.

Media/social media/website

In 2015, 1 835 new items related to SOER were published. The top 15 online stories could have, potentially, reached 55 million readers. Sources included the BBC, *The New York Times*, *Le Monde*, *Blick*, *El País* and *CNBC*. Online coverage of SOER 2015 was provided by 59 countries, with the top three being Germany (269 articles), Switzerland (96) and Bulgaria (87).

Key SOER messages picked up by the media:

- Europe needs to do more to reach the EU 2050 environmental goals.
- Europe needs a radical shift in policies, lifestyle and technologies to achieve the long-term target of living well within the limits of the planet.
- On social media, 801 tweets were produced by the EEA which resulted in 9 540 retweets. The 169 Facebook posts by the EEA reached 493 060 users.

- The SOER 2015 website received 232 028 visits in 2015. A Google AdWords campaign, which ran from 3 to 20 March 2015, showed an SOER 2015 advert about three million times, and resulted in 15 500 'click-throughs' to the website.

Dissemination

When SOER was launched, 81 544 contacts received an electronic notification. Of these, 32 314 were from the media; 3 202 were from national parliaments, ministries and environment protection agencies; and 2 777 were from NGOs.

A total of 38 841 hard copies of the SOER synthesis report and the GMT report were disseminated. The synthesis report was translated into 31 languages.

Corporate design and general brochure

The approved and updated version of the EEA corporate design manual took effect on 1 September 2015. A design toolkit for ETCs was finalised. The new EEA general brochure was printed in 14 languages.

Internal communication

The Internal Communication Coordinator successfully completed the first year of operations and identified a number of internal communication initiatives involving a cross-agency Task Group for Internal Communication.

Signals 2015

The Signals 2015 report, which focuses on climate change, was launched on 30 June 2015, and includes a new set of infographics. Signals addresses the wider public, and all language versions of the Signals 2015 report requested by Eionet were completed, printed and uploaded onto the EEA website.

Review of EEA products

An internal EEA product type review was carried out in order to modernise the EEA product portfolio by incorporating needs that have been identified since the last update in 2008 and implementing the provisions of the EEA communication framework. From 2016, the EEA products will be grouped into eight categories that are aligned with the annual work plans. The products have been streamlined, which has resulted in a reduction from 28 to 14 products. The main changes in the area of assessment products are related to merging EEA reports and EEA technical reports, and introducing a shorter, four-page assessment-related briefing. A new category 'contributions and joint products' has been introduced to better recognise the work co-created with partners.

Publications

EEA, 2015, *EEA general brochure — Who we are, what we do, how we do it*, Brochure No 2/2015 (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea-general-brochure>).

EEA, 2015, *EEA Signals 2015 — Living in a changing climate* (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/signals-2015>).

Multiannual objective

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

MULTIANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Completed verifications and publication of annual verified environmental statements; recertification achieved.
- 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.
- Satisfaction level for facilities management services in the EEA job satisfaction survey kept at the same high level as in previous years.
- Stable and user-friendly IT systems available throughout the year (99 % uptime) and satisfaction level in the EEA job satisfaction survey kept at the same high level as in previous years.
- High percentage (aiming at 100 %) for the registration of documents and records that meet the criteria for registration.
- Timely production of the reports due for publication.
- Staff provided with requested access to databases, books and periodicals (within the limits of the available budget).

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Environmental management system (EMAS)	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EMAS, Relevant Danish environmental legislation	Done
Quality management system (QMS)	Support and contribution	All stakeholders.	EEA internal control standards	Done
Facilities management	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
IT infrastructure and service	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Document management system	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation, Access to documents	Done
Publication	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Library services	Support and contribution	All stakeholders	EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

Efforts in 2015 focused on improving the governance of the EEA's IT, the gradual transfer to cloud-based services, and the preparation and adoption of an updated IT strategy and new frameworks for data and data quality management.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND IT SYSTEMS

The Climate-ADAPT portal was further upgraded with web map viewers and web applications. A new framework for ICT development was put into place to support data flow automation and the development of a common workspace within the EEA infrastructure for ETCs and consultants.

After the 2014 audit by the IAS of the European Commission on the EEA's data and information management (including the IT component), the EEA and the IAS agreed on an action plan. All of the documents covered by the action plan were completed. The topics addressed by the action plan are:

- the IT strategy
- the IT security policy
- the data management framework
- the data quality framework
- the mapping of data flows.

ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME

The yearly audit of the EEA's environmental management system (i.e. EMAS) took place in May 2015. The EEA passed the audit with flying colours and a request for recertification for 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 was sent to the Danish authorities. This is the 10th year of continuous compliance with EMAS.

COPERNICUS OPERATIONAL SERVICES

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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Land-use and land-cover change data of the pan-European component (Corine Land Cover, High Resolution Layers) and the local component (Land cover	Data and maps	DG ENTR, DG JRC, DG AGRI DG ENV, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done

riparian zones, Urban Atlas) of the Copernicus land-monitoring service				
land.copernicus.eu portal for access to Copernicus land-monitoring data and services	Information system	DG ENTR	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done
Overview of in-situ data used by operational Copernicus services	Publication	DG ENTR, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	In progress
Copernicus Reference Data Access Node (CORDA)	Information system	DG ENTR, Eionet	Copernicus Regulation 377/2014/EU	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

With regard to the final year of the Copernicus Initial Operations (GIO), all the Eionet member and cooperating countries finished and delivered the CLC and the CLC change (CLCC) products for the reference year 2012–2013 for final validation.

All high resolution layers (HRLs) with thematic attributes (e.g. imperviousness, forest crown cover) reached 100 % coverage for all 39 EEA member and cooperating countries at 20-m resolution.

Of the verification reports about the quality of the Copernicus land monitoring products, 85 % have been received from Eionet NRCs for Land Cover. A mitigation measures contract was established with some of the service providers to improve the quality of the high resolution grassland layer.

Two high-resolution satellite image mosaics covering the EEA member countries have been included in the Copernicus Land Monitoring Services portal (land.copernicus.eu).

The EEA participated in the regular meetings of the Copernicus Committee and User Forum.

A call for expressions of interest was published in May 2015, with a view to setting up a task force with members from Eionet in order to support the EEA with the coordination of Copernicus *in situ* activities. Such a task force was established during the summer period. A road map was produced for the Copernicus cross-service coordination of access to *in situ* data in 2015–2016.

All the tasks covered by the GIO delegation agreement were successfully completed by the end of 2015.

The final results of the initial operations of the land service (GIO land) and the future outlook of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Services were presented at the conference ‘New Horizons for European and Global Land Monitoring’ organised by the EEA in cooperation with the JRC and held in October 2015 in Copenhagen. The event attracted 180 participants from the public sector and service industry. Achievements, challenges and lessons learned were shared, and the final stage of the initial operations and the move to the Copernicus operational phase were recognised. The event covered the whole range of products, namely the local, pan-European and global components, as well as the *in situ* component.

VERIFICATION, ENHANCEMENT AND VALIDATION OF DATA (SATELLITE IMAGERY, HIGH RESOLUTION LAYERS, CORINE LAND COVER 2012 AND CHANGE MAPPING 2006–2012)

The corresponding and revised ecosystem type map, derived from CLC and additional spatial explicit European data sets, was released.

LOCAL COMPONENT OF THE COPERNICUS LAND MONITORING SERVICE

The final results of GIO land and the future outlook of the Copernicus land monitoring services were presented at the conference ‘New Horizons for European and Global Land Monitoring’, organised by the EEA in cooperation with the JRC and held in October 2015 in Copenhagen. The event attracted 180 participants from the public sector and service industry. Achievements, challenges and lessons learned were shared, and the final stage of the initial operations and the move to the Copernicus operational phase were recognised. The event covered the whole range of products, namely the local, pan-European and global components, as well as the *in situ* component.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN WESTERN BALKAN AND EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY COUNTRIES

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

Multiannual objective

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

MULTIANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Integration of Western Balkan countries in EEA/Eionet activities and products.
- Strong performance of Western Balkan countries in priority data flows.
- Annual data flows for ENP countries for a set of regional indicators linked to the Horizon 2020 process for the south, and to ‘Environment for Europe’ for the east.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Maintenance and further development of Eionet structures in the Western Balkan countries to ensure their contribution to the main EEA outputs (data flows, reports, web products, etc.)	Support and contributions	Eionet in West Balkan countries, DG ENV, DG ENLARG	IPA, MAWP	Done
Working paper on EEA cooperation with the West Balkan countries	Support and contributions	Eionet in West Balkan countries	IPA, MAWP	Done
Pilots for establishing a regular data flow process for the ENP partner countries in line with on-going Eionet practice	Support and contributions	Partners/NFPs under European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)-SEIS and InSEIS projects	ENPI, MAWP	Done — under the two ENP projects implemented by the EEA

		DG DEVCO, DG ENV, UNECE, UNEP/MAP		
Closer interaction/technical assistance activities between Eionet and interested ENP partner countries	Support and contributions	Partners/NFPs under ENPI-SEIS and InSEIS projects DG DEVCO, DG ENV, DG CLIMA	ENPI, MAWP	Done — under the two ENP projects implemented by the EEA (ENPI-SEIS & InSEIS closed in 2015)

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

- The EEA's cooperation with the Western Balkan countries was evaluated, with regard to the different financial instruments, thematic activities, performance within priority data flows and success stories over the years, with a view to developing a roadmap for further integration.
- SEIS implementation and cooperation with the eastern and southern ENP partner countries was further supported in order to improve the quality and access to environmental information and good environmental governance.
- Eionet experience and practices were transferred to five ENP partner countries under technical assistance activities within the InSEIS project.

WESTERN BALKAN COOPERATION

The evaluation of the EEA's cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, with a view to developing a roadmap for further integration, continued throughout 2015.

There was also further integration of the Western Balkan countries into the work of the EEA and Eionet in 2015. Under the EPA network, an interest group on the Western Balkans was created. This group will focus on the development of a strategy towards technical readiness for EEA membership. These activities are supported by Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funding from DG NEAR of approximately EUR 600 000.

The pan-European biogeographical regions data set was updated in cooperation with the Council of Europe. It contains the official delineations used in the EU Habitats Directive, and for the Emerald Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention). Biogeographical boundaries were obtained from the EU Member States and Emerald Network countries, and merged to produce a Europe-wide map of the biogeographical regions, independent of political boundaries.

The EEA will continue to work with the UNECE to ensure synergies with EEA/Eionet activities. The first results of the UNECE pan-European exercise will be shared at the 'Environment for Europe' conference in Batumi, Georgia, in June 2016.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

The ENPI-SEIS project, which was the key instrument for supporting the EEA's cooperation with ENP-East and ENP-South regions, came to an end in March 2015. The aims of the concluding activities of this project were to finalise country support, to finalise the production of communication materials, to finalise the publication of outcomes on the project website and to complete the contractual agreements with key partners. As part of this project, the SOER 2015 synthesis report was translated into Russian and Arabic for broader dissemination.

The project increased collaboration with the EEA and the further implementation of SEIS in interested ENP countries (InSEIS) was successfully completed at the end of October 2015. The 17-month project was initiated in response to the increased interest of five ENP partner countries (namely Jordan, Israel, Morocco, Palestine and the Republic of Moldova) in close collaboration with the EEA.

After extensive discussions with Commission services throughout 2015, continued cooperation with the ENP partner countries in the eastern and southern regions was assured by the signature of DG NEAR, in December, of two new grant agreements. The new funding (EUR 6.6 million and EUR 4 million for ENP-East and ENP-South, respectively) will allow the EEA to continue this cooperation until 2019, in line with previous activities and together with key regional partners (UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and UNECE).

1.4 EEA MANAGEMENT

Goal

Excellence in delivering the work programme.

KEY OBJECTIVES

To provide efficient and effective management and administration of the EEA's work programme and resources (financial and human).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- The delivery of the work programme.
- A positive outcome of the next five-year external evaluation of the EEA (to be carried out in 2018).

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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 deadlines.
- Relevant and timely reporting, advice and recommendations provided by the Internal Audit Capability to the Executive Director, EEA management and EEA Management Board.
- 95 % of agreed development plans and appraisals completed according to the deadlines specified in internal guidelines.
- On average, 10 days/year are used per staff member for development of competencies (including language training).
- Positive outcome of the next five-year external evaluation.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
AWP 2016 and Multiannual Staff Policy Plan 2016–2018	Corporate document	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Draft programming document (especially AWP 2017, Multiannual Resource Programming 2017–2019), and Provisional Budget Estimate 2017	Corporate document	Management Board, Eionet, Scientific Committee, Commission services	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Deliveries defined in the annual audit plan approved by the EEA Management Board	Corporate document	Management Board, EEA management	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

During the first quarter of 2015, internally, the Senior Management Team (SMT) focused on aligning the organisational structure with the MAWP 2014–2018. The proposed reorganisation was discussed in the programmes and on an individual basis with relevant staff members. The Staff Committee was formally consulted for its opinion in December 2015. In the first staff meeting of the new year (7 January 2015), the Executive Director presented the reorganisation by explaining its underlying logic and bringing together the various processes that were carried out in 2014.

From 1 January 2015, EEA activities related to ICT infrastructure, development, data processing and management from the OSE and MDI programmes were merged into a new programme for the support of ICT and data management (IDM). This will provide efficiency gains by ensuring that IT systems better meet organisational needs, and thus enabling the efficient implementation of the MAWP. The main focus is on providing IT support for work processes, the hosting and maintenance of thematic and enterprise applications, the management of data services and the spatial data infrastructure.

In January 2015, members of the SMT met with the DG ENV directors to discuss the overall strategic coordination of the partners with regard to the further development of a knowledge innovation project (KIP) within the EKC and a joint meeting with DG NEAR on the ENI.

The staff engagement survey, conducted in autumn 2014 by an external consultant for all EU agencies, had a participation rate of 80 %. The results were discussed with consultants at SMT level and presented to staff on 28 October 2015. The seven identified areas of improvement were further analysed by the consultants. Both the survey results and the further findings, based, inter alia, on staff participation, were used by the SMT to develop an action plan. At the fifth staff meeting in October, the Executive Director presented the results of the second staff engagement survey that yielded a 70 % participation rate and showed an almost satisfactory overall result; however,

relevant areas for improvement were identified. In this benchmarking exercise among 15 EU agencies, the EEA achieved, on average, a result of 59 %.

Work continued on the development of the two annual work programmes (AWP 2016 and AWP 2017), the overarching 'Programming Document 2017–2019', discussions with the European Commission on the budget for 2016 and 2017, as well as the continued implementation of the Executive Director's action plan of January 2015. The action plan combines the results of the projects on matrix management, the staff engagement survey, the strategic discussions of the SMT and the input received from the internal audits.

With regard to the stronger focus on the cascading of information throughout the organisation as part of the action plan, the Executive Director met all staff at regular staff meetings, and heads of groups at the fourth management group meeting in September 2015. Meetings with the Staff Committee and with individual programme representatives continue to be held regularly.

INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY

The internal audit capability (IAC) performed most of the tasks foreseen in the internal audit plan and reported to the Management Board about completion of the work plan, how time has been spent and the results.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

A call for expressions of interest from experts with regard to being appointed as members of the EEA Scientific Committee was finalised in 2014, and three new members took up office in 2015.

The Scientific Committee prepared a note on SOER 2015, which was shared with the Management Board in November 2015. This, together with other ongoing reflections on SOER 2015, will form the basis of the SOER 2020 planning process, which will commence in 2016.

The EEA Scientific Committee organised two seminars in 2015 entitled 'Living well within the limits of the planet: EU knowledge base prospects' (Copenhagen, 11 February 2015) and 'Use of the Underground' (Zurich, 2 June 2015).

ADMINISTRATION

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 were received from audits.
- 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.

Expected outputs

Description	Type	Key partners	Justification/legal reference	Outcome
Annual Accounts and Budgetary and Financial Management Report 2014	Corporate document	Management Board, Commission services, Court of Auditors	Financial Regulation	Done
Procurement Plan 2015	Corporate document	Commission services	Financial Regulation	Done
Budget 2016	Corporate document	Management Board, Eionet, Commission services	Financial Regulation, EEA/Eionet Regulation	Done
Building Policy	Corporate document	DG BUDG	Financial Regulation	Done

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

- Management assessments (towards 360 degree) were developed.
- A personnel database (carry over from 2014) was developed.

The management assessment was kicked off by developing a core competency framework containing competencies that apply to all staff within the organisation. These are complemented by leadership competencies that will form the basis for the management assessment. This assessment will not be finalised until 2016.

The European Commission made it clear that agencies, after many years of requesting, will be allowed access to the Commission-developed personnel database, Sysper. Because of this, the development of a database was stopped and, consequently, the ambition to have a new personnel database in place was not met.

THE EEA BALANCED SCORECARD

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

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

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

In an attempt to capture the complexity required to describe progress in a strategy, the chosen metrics are a combination of performance and process indicators. The relationships between the 'resources', the 'business process' and the 'client' perspectives should be considered in an attempt to unfold the entire 'value chain' of the EEA. Each

perspective should not be considered in isolation, as this may result in sub-optimisation, whereby one perspective improves at the expense of another. Global optimisation is always our primary concern.

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

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

1.5 RUNNING AN EMAS-REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE IN 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The EEA uses an environmental management system, which was registered under the European EMAS in 2005. The first EMAS Regulation, which encompassed public and private sectors, was adopted in 2001 ((EC) No 761/2001). It was subsequently updated with the revised EMAS Regulation ((EC) No 1221/2009), which entered into force on 11 January 2010.

The EEA publishes an annual environmental statement, which, since 2009, has been incorporated into its annual activity report.

EMAS is part of the EEA's QMS and is linked to other management processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF EEA ACTIVITIES

The EEA's activities have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. The EEA routinely monitors its use of electricity, energy for heating, water and paper, and the generation of waste, as well as the CO₂ emissions resulting from business travel. The EEA regularly evaluates its activities in order to optimise and improve outputs, while limiting the use of resources and minimising the negative impacts on the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The EEA environmental management system is an integral part of the organisation's management plan and is designed to make environmental responsibilities clear to employees. Staff members are encouraged to actively engage in projects that will lead to positive environmental impacts. New employees receive a 30-minute introduction to the environmental management system, and several complementary activities exist to further inform staff about EMAS priorities.

The environmental management system is documented in a handbook on the EEA's intranet; this handbook explains who is responsible for doing what, when and how.

EMAS COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The EEA recognises the important role that communication has in sustainable environmental management. As a result, an active approach to communicating the EMAS objectives is included in the EEA's internal and external outreach activities.

The EEA's website has a section dedicated to promoting positive environmental practices to external audiences and organisations. This section includes information about the EEA's commitment to environmental management. Internally, the EEA produces periodic newsletters, organises events and manages a system to solicit and incorporate recommendations from staff for improvements. Through these internal activities, the EEA transmits information on its environmental performance and fosters engagement from staff members.

EEA ENVIRONMENT POLICY



The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union mandated to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment and to support sustainable development. In that role we recognise that we have a special responsibility to act as a role model when it comes to managing our own environmental performance.

Like all organisations we consume natural resources and pollute the environment through our daily operations. In order to minimise our environmental impacts and continually improve our performance, we have in place an environmental management system, which complies with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

Our vision is to be a climate friendly and resource efficient organisation and in that context we are committed to:

- continuously improving our energy and material efficiency
- maintaining staff's awareness and understanding of environmental issues at a high level and encouraging the sharing of ideas for environmental improvement
- making use of own experience and accumulated knowledge in managing environmental performance to influence and inspire sister organisations (other EU bodies and institutions)
- complying with all environmentally relevant legislation and regulations of our host country

This environment policy covers Agency's operations and staff, also when on missions and travelling to and from work. The policy applies also to all other persons working at the Agency's premises.

March 2015

Hans Bruyninckx
Executive Director

RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Information on the EEA's commitment to, and practice of, EMAS is part of the induction programme for all new employees. As part of regular biannual internal audits, members of staff are interviewed at random about the aspects of their work that relate to EMAS.

The EEA also continues to assist other EU bodies with regard to raising awareness of their environmental impacts. The Greening Network, created by the EEA in 2006, fulfils this task and now consists of 16 member organisations, all of which are EU agencies.

The presentation of the EMAS 2014 results and 2015 targets, the so-called 'EMAS refresher visit', was given for each EEA programme separately.

RUNNING THE EEA OFFICES

The environmental impact of running the EEA offices is detailed below in several tables of time series ranging from 2006 to 2015.

The tables cover electricity consumption, energy equivalent for district heating, water consumption, paper consumption and waste generation.

The environmental performance in these areas is defined in relation to the number of persons working at the EEA and the area of the office.

The number of persons working at the EEA is expressed as full time equivalents (FTEs) and is derived from the time recording system that both staff and in-house consultants use, it has been based on a 40 hour week.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
FTE	155	172	173	175	198	219	235	226	211	193

The calculation of performance in terms of impacts per square metre is complicated by the fact that, since 2005, some EEA staff members have been working in buildings other than the main building at KN6. Since 2010, the EEA has been renting an adjacent building (KN8) — initially two floors were rented, but since 2011, three floors have been rented. The size of the two buildings is approximately 10 000 m² in total (7 200 m² in KN6 and 2 800 m² in KN8).

Electricity

Consumption of electricity 2006–2015

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total KWh	796 858	768 424	724 110	735 669	683 004	735 148	779 851	762 206	779 251	768 361
KWh/ FTE	5 138	4 478	4 188	4 199	3 451	3 365	3 321	3 374	3 693	3 981
KWh/ m²	111	107	101	102	95	102	78	76	78	77

The figures from 2006 to 2011 cover only KN6 (7 200 m²) and the 2012–2015 figures cover both buildings (10 000 m²).

The consumption of electricity can be broadly divided into two approximately equal parts: (1) the electricity needed for central computing (i.e. servers) and data storage (including the electricity used to cool the server room); and (2) the staff-related use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms. The main server room is located in KN6.

As gathering, managing and disseminating environmental data are some of the main objectives of the EEA, the reduction of the overall use of electricity is not a goal per se. This has led to an increase in overall electricity use and use per FTE. However, the installation of more energy efficient computing, new light sensors in corridors and a switch to energy efficient LED lights, as well as higher environmental awareness among staff, have kept the results within range.

Specific improvement has been achieved through the replacement of the server cooling system in July 2015 (3rd floor KN6). This new system uses the outside temperature to regulate the cooling system, with the result that the energy consumption went down by almost 20 000 kWh since July.

Furthermore, in 2015, the EEA bought electricity from renewable sources (wind energy) through the renewable energy certificate system (RECS): the agreed quantity of 768 MWh, which corresponds to the EEA's expected annual electricity consumption, was purchased in the form of a RECS certificate.

Heating

Consumption of energy for heating 2006–2015

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
m ³	876	907	944	902	1 092	969	943	937	845	989
KWh ¹	613 000	634 900	661 000	631 591	764 400	678 300	660 100	655 900	591 500	692 300
KWh/FTE	3 952	3 700	3 823	3 605	3 863	3 104	2 811	2 903	2 803	3 587
KWh/m ²	85	88	92	88	106	94	92	91	82	98

For all years, the figures cover only KN6 (7 200 m²). FTE includes all staff, but since 2010 an increasing number of staff are located in KN8. Therefore, the downwards trend for 2010–2014 is mainly an artefact.

The steam used by the EEA for heating its premises is provided by the local district heating provider, HOFOR². However, the district heating grid of HOFOR is undergoing a reorganisation from steam to hot water, which is due to be complete by 2021. This modification of the existing system will provide energy and environmental benefits not only for the EEA, but also for the inner city of Copenhagen.

Water

Consumption of water 2006–2015

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
m ³	1 581	1 545	1 564	1 854	2 636	2 381	1 827	2 326	1 787	1 609
m ³ /FTE	10	9	9	11	13	11	8	10	8.5	8.3
l/m ²	220	215	217	258	366	331	254	323	248	223

For all years, the figures cover only KN6 (7 200 m²). FTE includes all staff, but since 2010 an increasing number of staff are located in KN8.

The EEA's consumption of water has decreased in recent years and, in 2015, a further 10 % decrease in water consumption was registered.

² According to HOFOR, heating supplier for the EEA, it takes about 700 KWh of energy to evaporate 1 m³ of water (<http://www.hofor.dk/fjernvarme/>).

Paper

Consumption of paper 2007–2015

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 ^(b)	2013	2014	2015
No of sheets printed in-house	725 500	1 583 000	549 000	906 500	134 500	1 366 570	1 327 381	1 188 345	1 163 454
In-house sheets per FTE	4 228	9 156	3 134	4 581	616	5 820	5 876	5 632	6 028
No of pages in published reports ^(a)	14 047 732	6 651 600	6 309 400	9 844 500	10 674 600	10 228 150	12 651 000	4 901 400	15 253 400 ^(c)

Note:

^(a) (Sum of pages per report) × (print run).

^(b) Since 2012, the calculation method for in-house printing has been based on counters on printers. Data before 2012 are not deemed reliable or comparable.

^(c) The SOER alone is responsible for more than 11 000 000 printed pages.

The new method that was introduced in 2012 to monitor in-house printing gives rather accurate and comparable figures. Because of the nature of the EEA's operations, one of which is dissemination of information in the form of written reports, the high consumption of paper per FTE is noteworthy. The use of paper can fluctuate, depending on the type and number of reports published in-house (EEA technical reports are printed on demand in-house, while reports in the series 'EEA reports' and some other publications are printed externally). Since 2014, the EEA has attempted to increase its dissemination of outputs electronically to further reduce paper consumption, but printed publication of SOER 2015 led to a significant increase.

Waste

Generation of waste (in kg) 2007–2015

	2007	2008	2009	2010 ^(a)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Household	26 570	25 090	28 500	25 730	23 735	21 095	25 910	23 995	18 050
Cardboard	5 185	6 765	13 790	4 100	2 510	2 210	2 055	2 400	2 215
Paper				6 430	6 400	5 410	3 405	10 865	5 583
Organic	2 400	1 930	3 300	2 850	1 050 ^(b)	No data ^(c)	No data ^(d)	No data ^(d)	No data ^(d)
Electronic	1 170	2 150	1 570	2 492	1 904	1 237	1 306	2 046	1 290
Glass	335	150	320	510	470	No data ^(c)	600	200	600
Total	33 260	34 155	44 180	39 262	35 019	29 952	33 276	39 506	27 738
Total/FTE	193	197	252	198	159	127	147	187	144

Note:

^(a) The year 2010 was the first year in which cardboard waste was separated from paper.

^(b) The data series covers only January to March 2011.

^(c) The weighing of glass was suspended in 2012 because of collector-related logistics.

^(d) The weighing of organic waste was suspended because of collector-related logistics in 2012 and hence these data are no longer included in the overall total.

Carbon Dioxide emissions related to travelling

CO₂ emissions (in tonnes) 2006–2014

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CO₂ emissions related to staff missions				308	351	259	287	238	430
CO₂ emissions for meeting participants				227	301	375	330	247	552
Total	447	526	600	535	652	634	617	(922) ^(a) 485	982

Emissions related to staff travel activities have been reported since 2006. During this year, a carbon offsetting scheme was introduced and the EEA became well known for limiting the carbon footprint of its business travel. The carbon

offsetting scheme is managed by the EEA's travel agent Seneca, and the offsets are used to support Gold Standard energy efficiency projects in Africa ⁽³⁾. Every quarter, diplomas are issued to confirm the offsetting of CO₂.

(a) *The apparently large increase in CO₂ emissions between 2013 and 2014 is due to a change in the calculation method to one based on the radiative forcing index. This method uses a multiplier of 1.9, which accounts for other GHGs, such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and water vapour, and is added to the emissions factor to take into account the effects of GHG emissions at high altitude caused by aviation. The EEA chose to begin applying this index in 2014.*

Procurement

Building environmental considerations into procurement is a standard practice at the EEA. Our green procurement cycle includes an 'environmental impact statement' in the initial proposal for procurement, as well as specific, robust environmental criteria and 'environmental considerations' in the tender specifications.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.co2balance.com/>

Environmental targets for 2015 with performance indicators

Environmental issue	Source of impact	Action plan	Performance indicator	Performance in 2015
1. Electricity consumption	1. Central computing and data storage by servers	Introducing more energy efficient servers and related technology	Zero growth in 2012–2015 (base year 2011)	2011: 239 622 KWh 2015: 265 330 KWh
	2. Cooling in server room	Ensuring optimal temperature at all times	Zero growth in 2012–2015 (base year 2011) NB: Only until June 2015 as new cooling system has no separate meter and hence cannot be compared to 2014	2011: 87 228 KWh 2015: 43 070 KWh
	3. 'Staff-related' use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms (personal computers, printers, copy machines, faxes, lights, etc.)	Increasing awareness among staff about this aspect	3 % reduction in 2012–2015 (base year 2011) Absolute and per-FTE figures	2011: 413 339 KWh 2011: 1 887 KWh/FTE 2015: 459 961 KWh 2015: 2 383 KWh/FTE
2. Paper consumption	4. Printing documents and emails	Raising awareness about printing habits	3 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures	2013: 1 327 381 (A4) 2013: 5 876 (A4)/FTE 2015: 1 163 454 (A4) 2015: 6 028 (A4)/FTE

	5. Printing publications at external printers	Reducing the number of paper publications through more targeted dissemination and electronic publishing	Zero growth (base year 2013) 11 000 000 pages linked to SOER reports	2013: 12 651 000 (A4) 2015: 15 253 400 (A4)
3. Sustainable resource use	6. Electricity, paper, heat and water consumption	Devise suitable campaigns throughout the year aimed at achieving measurable reductions	Reporting on the results	See 'Raising environmental awareness'
4. Waste production	7. Elimination of unnecessary waste, such as the use of plastic bags in office bins	Devise a suitable campaign and identify actions to reduce waste	Reporting on the results	No progress
5. GHG emissions	8. Staff going on missions	Using videoconferencing and Skype conferencing if possible, including for meetings with ETCs, except for one meeting annually	CO ₂ tonnes (t), 3 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures	2013: 286.9 t 2013: 1 269 t/FTE 2015: 430 t 2015: 2 228 t/FTE
	9. External participants coming to EEA-organised meetings by plane	Using videoconferencing/Skype conferencing if applicable	CO ₂ tonnes, zero growth (base year 2013)	2013: 330.4 t 2015: 552 t
6. Various negative environmental impacts of the EEA	10. All procurement	Calls for tenders have to have an environmental criteria specification according to the type of goods purchased. All purchases carried out against best-available environmental criteria	New EU directives requiring new certifications are taken into account	Fully implemented

<p>7. Various positive environmental impacts of EEA — awareness raising</p>	<p>11. Green communication/awareness-raising activities</p>	<p>Continue developing and implementing an integrated approach to awareness raising</p>	<p>Communication plan progress report</p>	<p>Internal communication activities carried out</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SMT was informed about the EMAS communication activities 2) Announcements regarding EMAS included posters, a video loop in the canteen, a refresher in programme meetings, introduction of EMAS to new staff
<p>8. Environmental, economic and social impacts</p>	<p>12. All EEA activities</p>	<p>Integration of EMAS and health and safety issues, (reference EU standards, OHSAS 18001 standard) into a Total Quality and Environmental Management System (TQMS)</p>	<p>Reporting on the results</p>	
<p>9. Internal environment</p>	<p>13. Environment in buildings</p>	<p>Improving insulation of window frames and doors</p>	<p>Communication of the results of the projects</p>	<p>No real progress as this would require a replacement of the windows</p>

Environmental Management Programme 2015

Environmental issue	Source of impact	Action plan	Performance indicator
1. Electricity consumption	1. Central computing and data storage by servers	Introducing more energy efficient servers and related technology	Zero growth in 2015–2017 (base year 2011)
	2. Cooling in server room	Ensuring optimal temperature at all times. New cooling system installed in April 2015	50 % reduction in 2015–2017 (base year 2011)
	3. ‘Staff-related’ use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms (personal computers, printers, copy machines, faxes, lights etc.)	Increasing awareness among staff about this aspect	6 % reduction in 2015–2017 (base year 2011) Absolute and per-FTE figures
2. Paper consumption	4. Printing documents and emails	Raising awareness about printing habits	6 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures
	5. Printing publications at external printers	Reducing the number of paper publications through more targeted dissemination and electronic publishing	Zero growth in 2015–2017 (base year 2013) (but with a peak in 2015 because of the five-yearly report published in all languages of the EEA member countries)
3. Sustainable resource use	6. Electricity, paper, heat and water consumption	Devise suitable campaigns throughout the year aimed at achieving measurable reductions	Reporting on the results
4. Waste production	7. Elimination of unnecessary waste, such as the use of plastic bags in office bins	Devise a suitable campaign and identify actions to reduce it	Reporting on the results

5. GHG emissions	8. Staff going on missions	Using videoconferencing and Skype conferencing if possible including for meetings with ETCs, except for one meeting annually	CO ₂ tonnes: 6 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures
	9. External participants coming to EEA-organised meetings by plane	Using videoconferencing/Skype conferencing if applicable	CO ₂ tonnes, zero growth (base year 2013)
6. Various negative environmental impacts of EEA	11. All procurement	Calls for tender have to have an environmental criteria specification according to the type of goods or services purchased. All purchases carried out against best-available environmental criteria	All procurement aligned to EU directives
7. Various positive environmental impacts of EEA — Awareness raising	12. Green communication/awareness-raising activities	Continue developing and implementing an integrated approach to awareness raising	Communication plan progress report
8. Environmental economic and social impacts	13. All EEA activities	Integration of EMAS and health and safety issues (reference EU standards, OHSAS 18001 standard) into a Total Quality and Environmental Management System (TQMS)	Reporting on the results
9. Internal environment	14. Environment in buildings	Support the 'new premises' evaluation project by comparing the potential benefits of the environment in the 'old' and 'new' building	Reporting on the results



GUARANTEE OF ORIGIN (2015)
FOR THE PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION
FROM ANHOLT WIND PARK – WITH CLIMATE INVESTMENT

ISSUED TO:

EEA

With this Guarantee of Origin (GO), DONG Energy EI & Gas A/S guarantees purchase and redeem the agreed quantity of **768** MWh in the form of RECS certificates from wind energy plants, covering the period 01-01-2015 - 31-12-2015.

RECS stands for Renewable Energy Certificate System. RECS certificates are issued and controlled in accordance with internationally accepted rules for trade in renewable energy. Purchase and redemption of RECS certificates are reviewed by an independent accountant every year. Read more about RECS at www.recs.org.

With Climate Investment, DONG Energy pledges to invest an amount equivalent to the net income obtained from the redemption of RECS certificates related to Anholt Offshore Wind Farm in new renewable energy plants and undertakings.



DONG Energy is a member of RECS International

DONG Energy EI & Gas A/S, Kraftværksvej 53, Skærbæk, 7000 Fredericia, CVR nr. 25472365

DONG
energy

Certifikat for EMAS-registrering
Certificate of EMAS-Registration



European Environment Agency

Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050-København K

Registreringsnummer
Registration Number
DK-000244

Registreret første gang
Date of first registration
05-04-2005

Certifikatet er gyldigt indtil
This certificate is valid until
01-07-2016

Udstedelsesdato
Date of issue
16-07-2015

Denne organisation har indført et miljøledelsessystem, og udarbejdet en miljøreddegørelse i henhold til forordning (EF) nr. 1221/2009 med det formål at fremme en løbende forbedring af organisationens miljøsindsats og resultater, og informere offentligheden herom. Miljøledelsessystemet og miljøreddegørelsen er verificeret af en uafhængig tredjepart.

This organisation has established an environmental management system and prepared an environmental statement according to Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2009 to promote the continual improvement of environmental performance and to inform the public hereof. The environmental management system and the environmental statement are verified by an independent third party.

Lars Hindkjær
Direktør
Director-General

Miljø- og Fødevarerministeriet
Miljøstyrelsen

PART 2 (A) MANAGEMENT

2.1 MANAGEMENT BOARD

In 2014, the mandate for some members of the Management Board changed. The Management Board elected Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler (MB Austria) as Chairperson, and Bruno Verlon (MB France) as Vice-Chair/Bureau member for a three-year mandate. Andrzej Jagusiewicz (MB Poland) was re-elected for another three-year term as Vice-Chair/Bureau member.

In relation to the EEA internal control system, the Board members approved the audit work plan of the IAC for 2015 and 2016. The rules of procedures for both the Management Board and the Scientific Committee were amended in November 2015.

In addition, the AWP 2015 was endorsed, and the EEA Budget 2015 was adopted.

As the EEA is a network agency, it is worth highlighting that the Management Board approved a new structure for the NRCs. The revised structure should be optimally linked to the priorities defined in the MAWP and continues to provide the flexibility to accommodate different national settings.

2.2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

No major internal or external events had an impact on the EEA in 2015.

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:

1. the EEA shall prepare a report on budgetary and financial management for the financial year;
2. 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 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 appropriation.

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 2015 (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	22 946 540.00	99.7 %	98.3 %
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4 385 412.00	96.2 %	87.6 %
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	14 386 354.00	99.7 %	70.2 %
Total budget	41 718 306.00	99.4 %	87.2 %

B) INDICATION OF COMMITMENTS FOR ACTIONS THAT WILL EXTEND FOR MORE THAN ONE FINANCIAL YEAR; MAJOR ITEMS ONLY (> EUR 500 000)

No financial commitments ⁽⁴⁾ that exceed EUR 500 000 have been carried forward into the following financial year.

C) INFORMATION ON TRANSFERS AND AMENDING BUDGETS

TRANSFERS

According to Article 27.1.a. of the EEA Financial Regulation, the Director may transfer appropriations of up to a maximum of 10 % of the appropriations of the year between titles, that is, the Director may move funds among staff, administrative and operating expenditures. A total of 28 transfers were made in 2015, which amounted to a total of EUR 814 744 (1.96 % of the total appropriations); 40 % of the transfers were made with non-core funds and hence are not included in the 10-% calculation.

	2014	2015
Title 1 — Staff	-1.1 %	-3.1 %
Title 2 — Administrative expenditure	4.5 %	4.5 %
Title 3 — Operating expenditure	0.5 %	4.3 %

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.

⁽⁴⁾ 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.

AMENDING BUDGETS

Three amendments to budgets were made in 2015. Amendments 1 and 3 were related to the inclusion of non-core funds for cases in which the EEA had concluded contracts with the Commission to carry out specific tasks. All of these tasks are multiannual and will run for several years. Amendment 2 relates to the annual update of the EFTA contribution and the contribution from new member countries.

No of revision	Subject	Amount (EUR)	Comments	Decision
First amended budget	ENI South ENI East	6 838.168	ENI agreements	Management Board written procedure approval (13 November 2015)
Second amended budget	Change in EFTA contribution and new member countries	35 862	Change in contribution	Management Board written procedure approval (13 November 2015)
Third amended budget	IPA 2015	600 000	IPA 2015 agreement	Management Board written procedure approval (14 December 2015)

D) (LEVEL OF) APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED FORWARD TO THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR

		2014–2015	2015–2016
Total	Automatic carryovers	4 994 581	4 944 739
	Total budget	41 432 779	41 451 788
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	12.1 %	11.9 %
	Cancelled carryforward	854 824	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	17.1 %	

		2014–2015	2015–2016
Title 1	Automatic carryovers	390 194	324 051
	Total budget	23 157 723	22 882 657
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	1.7 %	1.4 %
	Cancelled carryforward	229 713	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	58.9 %	

		2014–2015	2015–2016
Title 2	Automatic carryovers	477 098	376 684
	Total budget	4 315 817	4 219 735
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	11.1 %	8.9 %
	Cancelled carryforward	268 472	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	56.3 %	

		2014–2015	2015–2016
Title 3	Automatic carryovers	4 127 289	4 244 003
	Total Budget	13 959 239	14 349 396
	Carryforward as a percentage of total budget	29.6 %	29.6 %
	Cancelled carryforward	356 638	
	Cancelled carryforward as a percentage of total carryforward	8.6 %	

For further details, see Annex 2.

E) PROCUREMENT TYPES USED IN 2015

Background — Obligation to report

Pursuant to Article 66 of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and Article 53 of its rules of application, the authorising officer shall record, for each financial year, contracts concluded by the negotiated procedures referred to in points (a) to (g) of Article 134(1) and points (a) to (d) of Article 135(1) of the rules of application. If the proportion of negotiated procedures relative to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increases appreciably compared with earlier years, the authorising officer shall report to the Management Board and set out any measures taken to reverse the trend.

Definitions

Negotiated procedures

Negotiated procedures are referred to in points (a) to (g) of Article 134(1) and points (a) to (d) of Article 135(1) of the rules of application funded by the EEA core budget.

The low-value contracts, that is, those not exceeding a value of EUR 60 000.00, as specified in Article 137 of the rules of application, as well as negotiated procedures funded by external assigned revenue (e.g. the Copernicus programme), are not included in this report.

Contracts

Contracts stem from public procurement procedures with a value equal to or above EUR 15 000.00 (excluding contracts resulting from interinstitutional/joint procurement procedures led by another contracting authority, and specific contracts/order forms that implement framework contracts).

Negotiated procedures carried out in 2015

No	Contractor	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of procedure	Type of contract	Legal basis
1	IBM Danmark	Setting-up of the EEA competence management-based system (competency framework; 360° assessments; ancillary human resources-related services)	180 000.00 (Lot1: 95 000.00) (Lot2: 35 000.00) (Lot3: 50 000.00)	Negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice	Framework service contract	Article 134(1)(a)

Proportion of negotiated procedures in 2015

In total, 33 contracts funded by the EEA core budget were awarded in 2015; of these, 73 % (i.e. 24 contracts in total) resulted from negotiated procedures and were distributed as follows:

- one contract was awarded following a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to Article 134(1)(a) RAP;
- one contract was awarded following a negotiated procedure after prior publication of a contract notice pursuant to Article 135(1)(e) RAP;
- four contracts were awarded following negotiated procedures based on Article 137(1) RAP for contracts of a value not exceeding EUR 60 000.00;
- 18 contracts were awarded following negotiated procedures based on Article 137(2) RAP for contracts not exceeding EUR 15 000.00.

Statistics from previous years

Negotiated procedures carried out in the five years prior to 2015 (Articles 134(1) and 135(1))

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average
Total number of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officer	30	19	14	31 (⁵)	31 (⁶)	
Number of contracts resulting from negotiated procedures	3	3	1	3	5	
Proportion	10 %	15.8 %	7.1 %	9.7 %	16.1 %	11.7 %

Conclusion

The proportion of negotiated procedures relative to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer was significantly lower in 2015 than it was in the five years prior to 2015.

F) INFORMATION ON INTEREST CHARGED BY SUPPLIERS THROUGH LATE PAYMENTS (> 30 DAYS LATE)

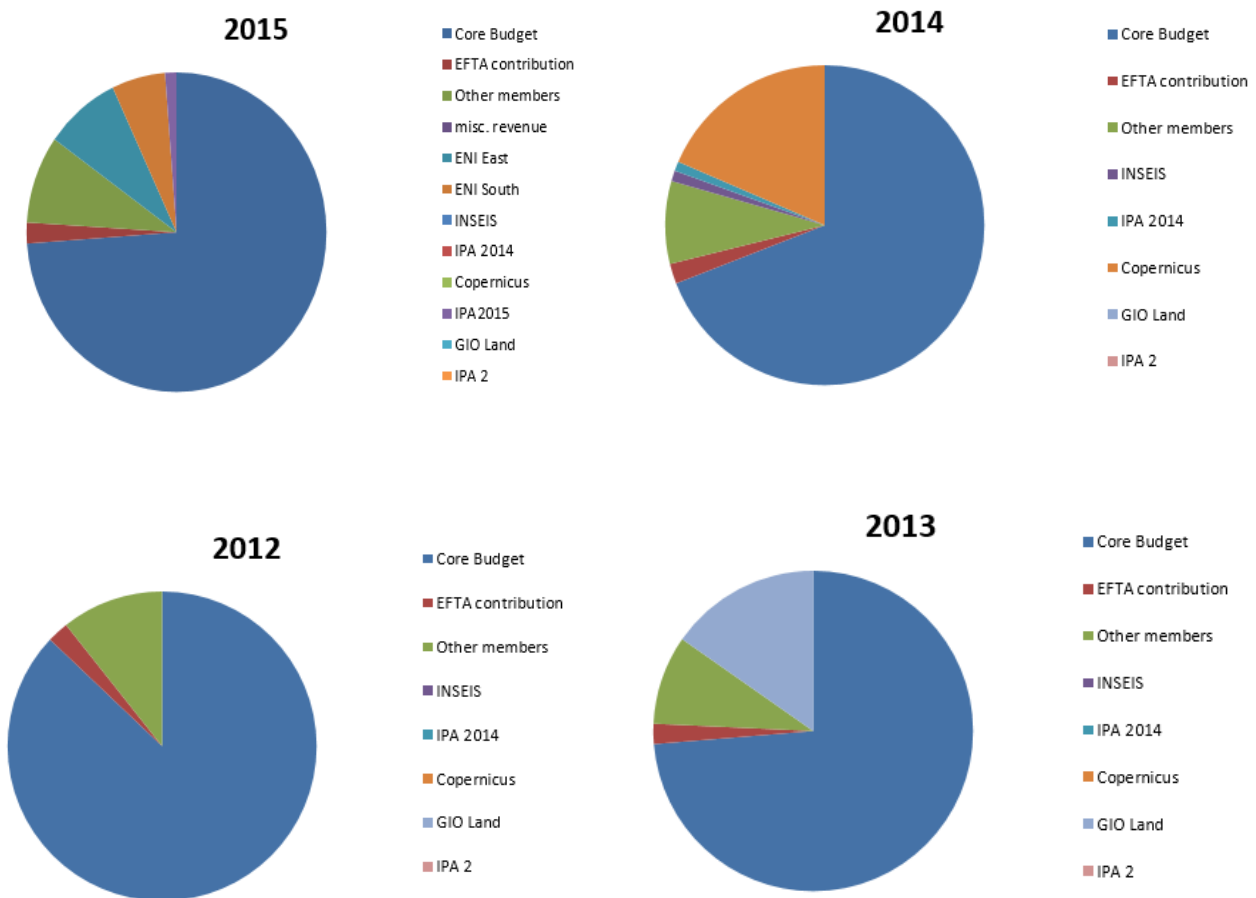
No interest was paid on late payments in 2015.

(⁵) This number includes five framework partnership agreements for ETCs; four contracts of a value that does not exceed EUR 60 000.00 and that resulted from negotiated procedures based on Articles 137(1) and 137(2) RAP; one contract of a value that does not exceed EUR 60 000.00 and that resulted from a negotiated procedure based on a SKI framework contract; and five contracts awarded on the basis of Article 5 of the EEA Founding Regulation.

(⁶) This number includes 16 contracts of a value that does not exceed EUR 60 000.00 and that resulted from negotiated procedures based on Articles 137(1) and 137(2) RAP; and 2 contracts awarded on the basis of Article 5 of the EEA Founding Regulation.

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

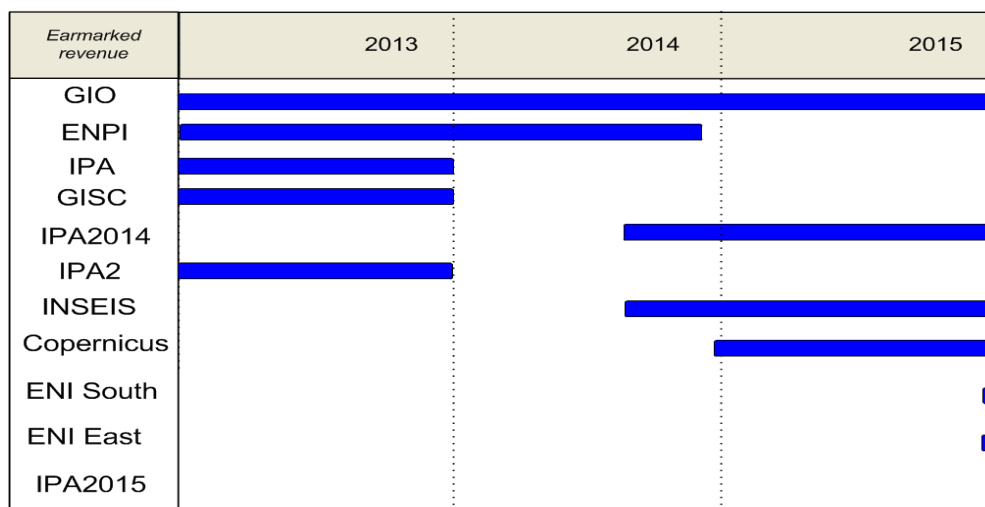
	2013	2014	2015	Difference between 2014 and 2015
EU subsidy	36 309 240	36 309 240	36 309 240	0
Contributions from other member countries	5 431 482	5 461 657	5 409 066	-52 591
<i>Earmarked funds</i>	<i>7 530 000</i>	<i>10 802 174</i>	<i>7 438 168</i>	<i>-3 364 006</i>
Miscellaneous revenue				0
Total	49 270 722	52 573 071	49 156 474	-3 416 597



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

<i>External assigned revenue</i>	2013	2014	2015
IPA 2015			600 000
ENI South			2 838 168
ENI East			4 000 000
IPA 2014		500 000	
Copernicus		9 730 000	
GIO	7 530 000		
<i>Total</i>	7 530 000	10 802 174	7 438 168

Figure 1 OVERVIEW OF EARMARKED REVENUE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS



- GIO GMES Land monitoring service agreement
- ENPI Towards a shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood countries
- IPA Specific project for the participation of Western Balkan Countries in the work of the EEA 2009–2011
- GISC GMES in-Situ Coordination — grant agreement
- IPA 2014 Specific project for the Western Balkan Countries (2014/338–534)
- IPA2 Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan Countries) 2011–2013
- INSEIS Increased collaboration with EEA and further implementation of SEIS in interested ENP countries
- Copernicus Copernicus Land monitoring service agreement
- IPA 2015 Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan Countries) 2015–2016
- ENI South Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan Countries) (2014/347–199)
- ENI East Instrument for pre-Accession (Western Balkan Countries) (2014/344–044)

2.4 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2.4.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENTS (I.E. CHANGES BROUGHT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT PLAN IN THE REPORTING YEAR; CHANGES OF 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 in the period 2013–2018). The Commission has classified the EEA as a ‘cruising speed agency’, which implies that an additional 5 % reduction is expected. This has led to a reduction of three temporary agent posts for 2015. An adjustment of the organisational structure at the beginning of 2015 made it possible to find the needed redundancies without detrimental effects on the capacity to deliver the main parts of the MAWP. This is however becoming increasingly difficult.

The EEA continues to adopt implementing rules at the pace that they are made available by the standing working party (working group between the network of EU agencies and the DG for Human Resources and Security).

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

Approximately 80 % of all staff are dedicated to operational activities, which is more or less the same as in 2014.

As this was only the second year of this screening exercise, there is not a solid basis for comparison. For details on the results of the screening exercise, please see Annex 6.

2.4.3 REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 28 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S REPORT 2011 DISCHARGE: PERFORMANCE, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF EU AGENCIES (P7_TA(2013)0134) ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF LEAVE AUTHORISED TO EACH GRADE UNDER THE FLEXTIME AND COMPENSATORY LEAVE SCHEMES

	Sum of flexitime days 2015
AD14	12
AD13	6
AD12	50
AD11	43
AD10	61
AD9	93
AD8	90
AD7	73
AD6	58
AST10	14
AST9	19
AST8	67
AST7	77
AST6	44
AST5	76
AST4	101
AST3	48
AST2	29
AST1	13
GFIV16	62
GFIV14	166
GFIV13	35
GFIII10	9
GFIII9	41
GFIII8	19
GFII5	43
GFII4	10
END	164
Grand total	1 515

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)

During 2014, the EEA created guidelines for the beneficiaries of EEA grants with regard to the criteria of eligibility of costs and, in particular, the acceptable methodologies. In 2015, the focus was on the documentation of verification procedures for the financial controllers in charge of *ex ante* verifications. The guidelines developed will be applied from the financial year 2016.

In line with the verification policy adopted in May 2014, payments were verified on the spot for three different grants. The selection was based on a risk assessment and took into account the results of missions conducted in 2014. The verification carried out consisted of recalculating the personnel costs claimed and, furthermore, analysed the reliability of the internal control systems put in place. This work was performed in May 2015. As a result, corrections to the final payments were made in line with the verification process decided in the policy.

Further to the final observations of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) for the financial year 2014 (issued in October 2015), EEA management took note of the remark on the involvement of the IAC in the process and, subsequently, updated the verification policy. The latter ensures that the internal auditor will carry out only *ex post* controls, including on-the-spot verifications, and will verify the effectiveness of the EEA's *ex ante* verification process.

2.6 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION TASKS ENTRUSTED TO OTHER SERVICES AND ENTITES

2.6.1 ASSURANCE RECEIVED FROM OTHER AO IN CASES OF CROSSED SUB-DELEGATIONS

A) N/A

2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

2.7.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The report of the audit on data/information management (including an IT component) was finalised in 2015. The objective of the audit was to make an assessment and provide the management of the EEA with an audit conclusion regarding the design and effective implementation of the internal control systems and their capacity to ensure effective data/information management in the EEA.

The audit concluded that the management and control systems set up by the EEA to support data/information management are effective under the current circumstances.

However, the IAS suggested that in order to face upcoming challenges, such as the expected significant increase in the volume of data/information that the EEA must be able to handle, the EEA should further develop its data/information management. Therefore, the recommendations made relate to the data/information management strategy framework, the IT strategy and architecture, and the data operations and data flow management.

The IAS highlighted the following strengths and good practices of the EEA during the audit:

- the functional organisation structure, which serves the business objectives;
- the established networks and, over time, well-calibrated tools for data gathering;
- the employment of new technological solutions and the application of universally accepted SEIS principles;
- the dedicated key staff, with adequate professional backgrounds, that are responsible for data/information management.

In addition to this audit on data/information management, an audit was conducted on SOER 2015, which will be finalised in 2016.

2.7.2 INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY

In line with the new requirements of 2014, the IAC plans for 2015 and 2016 were approved by the Management Board and included three main areas of contribution: audit assignments, advisory tasks and liaison with other auditors (e.g. the IAS and the ECA).

Audit

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

Subsequently, payments were verified (on the spot) for three different grants to ensure accuracy and reliability of the staff costs claimed.

On the basis of the new policy, approved in October 2015, further on-the-spot verifications will be conducted in 2016. These relate to 2015 payments and aim to verify the effectiveness of the EEA's *ex ante* verification process.

Advisory tasks

The ABAC access rights were reviewed to ensure the correct validation of the access granted to the accounting system of the EEA.

The IAC contributed to the annual risk assessment of the EEA by advising the SMT.

Additional advisory work was performed in line with the action plan of the EEA Anti-Fraud Strategy, adopted by the Management Board in 2014.

Liaison with other auditors

In 2015, the ECA intensified its checks on grants by adding to the yearly mission of the EEA financial year 2015 a specific audit entitled 'Agencies use of grants: not always appropriate or demonstrably effective'. This required the specific involvement of the IAC.

Some coordination was needed for the IAS audit on SOER 2015. However, this was not as intense as other audits because the main programme being audited was the IEA programme (an operational programme within the EEA).

2.7.3 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

[Awaiting the observations from the CoA on financial year 2015].

The final report on grant management entitled 'Agencies use of grants: not always appropriate or demonstrably effective' was released at the end of April 2016. The results will be presented in the 2016 report.

2.8 FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS

2.8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

Three recommendations were rated 'very important' and four were rated 'important'. An action plan has been developed and accepted by the IAS in order to respond to them adequately. The implemented measures will reduce the risks identified during the audit.

We are currently awaiting the assessment of the IAS auditors with regard to whether the recommendations should be closed or need further actions.

'Very important' recommendations

Recommendation No 1 — Define and implement a data/information management framework
EEA should develop and adopt an organisation-wide data/information management framework supported by a set of procedures that would consistently, effectively and efficiently implement the EEA's data policy in the day-to-day operations across the whole organisation;
The EEA should also ensure the implementation of this framework through the AWP.

Recommendation No 2 — Update and implement the IT strategy
The EEA should update its organisation-wide IT strategy and align it with the new MAWP and thematic area needs, as well as emerging new IT technologies. In parallel, the EEA should develop an IT strategy that can be implemented in the frame of the AWP.
In this context, the EEA should ensure that all key stakeholders are involved in defining an organisation-wide service-oriented IT architecture that covers scalability, resilience, security, and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
The EEA should consider the need to sign SLAs for hosting services with EC DGs.
The EEA should also consider including representatives of the thematic areas as permanent IT steering committee members.

Recommendation No 3 — Map the data/information flows
The EEA should carry out an organisation-wide mapping of the data/information life cycle: from data sources to data flows, data sets and outputs/products, to stakeholders/target audiences. The mapping should reflect data criticality, associated risks, dependencies and interdependencies.
The EEA should use the data/information flow mapping to coordinate thematic groups that relate to specific data flows in order to rationalise the way the EEA, as an organisation, interacts with the ETCs and other partners.
The mapping may also support the process of data-/information-provider management.

'Important' recommendations

Recommendation No 4 — Establish an organisation-wide cross-cutting data/information management function
The EEA should define organisation-wide data/information management-related roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities for the complete data/information life cycle across the organisation; assign the roles to individuals; and set up a process for executive oversight of data/information management.

Recommendation No 5 — Use business cases for data/information management-related decision-making
<p>The EEA should introduce the practice of using business cases to support data/information investment decisions. A sound business case should reflect the total cost of activity ownership covering the complete data life cycle, potential benefits and associated risks.</p> <p>EEA management should define measurement/monitoring methods and set up tools for monitoring data management activities. Such methods and tools could be used for measuring activities in cases in which an analysis is needed to support important management decisions (e.g. the input for business cases).</p>

Recommendation No 6 — Define and implement an organisation-wide data/information quality framework
<p>The EEA should define and implement a data/information framework, which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standardise data quality objectives, targets and thresholds; identify internal and external roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities; differentiate the sources of data/information and define minimum requirements for corresponding data sets; disseminate data/information quality requirements to relevant partners.

Recommendation No 7 — Improve the management of the supporting IT processes
<p>The EEA should define the requirements for relevant supporting IT processes, assess the existing processes against these requirements, identify any gaps and take corrective actions to eliminate any deficiencies.</p> <p>IT controls for the data centre should be strengthened to mitigate the risk of disruption in cases of environmental or other hazards.</p>

No	RECOMMENDATION TITLE	PRIORITY	ACTION PLAN	TARGET DATE
1	Define and implement a data/information management framework	Very important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of applicable reference frameworks Define overarching data management principles and framework document, including roadmap Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP 2016 Document and implement detailed data management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Complete Complete June 2016
2	Update and implement the IT strategy	Very important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update IT strategy according to MAWP Update terms of reference of ICT SC (SMT decision) Inventory of existing IT services commissioned by or hosted for the Commission Definition of criteria for use of SLAs (proposed SMT decision) Procedure on decisions for initiating new systems/services at EEA Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Complete Complete Complete Complete Complete

3	Map the data/information flows	Very important	<p>Initial dataflow mapping document</p> <p>Initial analysis of how to coordinate, rationalise and manage interactions</p> <p>Revisit Eionet priority data flows and proposal to Management Board on stepwise implementation of new set in AMP 2016</p> <p>Systemised overview of Eionet data flows and monitoring tools available</p> <p>Data inputs for EEA products made explicit in work planning</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>October 2016</p> <p>June 2016</p>
4	Establish an organisation wide cross-cutting data/information management function	Important	<p>Definition of roles and terms of reference for groups and teams</p> <p>Adjustments to organisational structure of EEA</p> <p>Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP 2016</p> <p>Proposal to SMT for adjustments to take into account b-case approach</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>June 2016</p>
5	Use business cases for data/information management related decision-making.	Important	<p>Design of systematic approach based on template</p> <p>Proposal to SMT on Initial definition of EEA decision points/roles</p> <p>Ensure stepwise implementation of approach (see Recommendation No 4)</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>November 2016</p>
6	Define and implement an organisation-wide data/information quality framework	Important	<p>Assessment of existing EEA data quality policies and procedures and benchmarking against reference frameworks from Eurostat and others</p> <p>Define the data quality metrics and formulate a data/information quality framework</p> <p>Data management procedures revised and extended in QMS</p> <p>Communication and promotion of the new quality framework</p> <p>Analysis of technical possibilities for quality monitoring and measuring</p> <p>Machine-readable quality assessment for pilot data flows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include training, objectives and performance indicators in AMP 2016 • Roadmap for implementing the data quality framework for all EEA data flows 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
7	Improve the management of the supporting IT processes	Important	<p>Scoping study to define requirements and benchmark against capacities</p> <p>Analysis of IT processes and documents</p> <p>Improve data centre environmental controls</p> <p>Undertake corrective actions stepwise through AMP2016/17</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>

2.9 FOLLOW-UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DISCHARGE AUTHORITY

The reply to the discharge authority on the 2013 budget was submitted via the agencies' network in December 2014. There was one specific question for the EEA related to the management of grants for ETCs, part of the Founding Regulation of EEA and the Eionet. The question was related to an observation made by the ECA as to what percentage of the controlled costs were ineligible; 0.12 % of the verified costs were found ineligible (out of the 18 % of total staff costs verified).

The EEA has continuously improved the verification methods and provided guidelines and training to the ETCs regarding criteria for eligibility of costs.

PART 2 (B) EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS

The last external evaluation was carried out in 2013 and submitted to the Budgetary Authority on 5 April of the same year.

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

‘... the evaluation finds that the EEA and Eionet are well established and well-functioning structures, delivering comprehensive and reliable outputs which, to a large extent, satisfy stakeholders’ needs. The qualitative assessment inherent in this evaluation indicates that the EEA continues to be the most effective and efficient solution to providing credible information on the state of the European environment.’

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

A new evaluation of the EEA is expected to be carried out by the European Commission in 2016–2017.

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 (FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE RELEVANT, DATA PROTECTION ISSUES, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, ETC.)

The most important areas of risk associated with the EEA are summarised in the risk register for 2014 shown in the table below.

EEA — ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW — CAAR2015

Main risk group		Date of origin	Generic risks identified	Likelihood of occurrence	Financial impact	Reputation impact	Compliance impact	Impact on EEA objectives
External	External environment	2014	Reopening of the Founding Regulation in 2016 could lead to changes, which could have unforeseen impacts on the scope of the mandate of the EEA and/or on the objectives set out in the MAWP	High	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
		New	Lack of synchronisation between EEA and EC work programming because of formal requirements could lead to duplication of work and a waste of resources	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium
		New	Increasing demands from our stakeholders under decreasing resources could affect the quality of our deliverables	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Internal	Planning, processes and systems	New	Difficulties in implementing the delegation agreement related to Copernicus given the framework defined by the EC and possible additional demands	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
		2014	Ageing and limited reliability of the inventory system of fixed assets with limited IT development could hamper a clear reporting on EEA fixed assets	High	Medium	Low	High	Low
		2014/2015	Increased pressure on staff contract management after the reform of the staff regulation applicable from 1.1.2014 and the number of projects financed by earmarked funds	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
		New	Difficulties in sustaining skills, knowledge and motivation in the organisation under increased resource pressure	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium

		2014	Retrieval of key documentation can be difficult because of non-streamlined practices in document registration and the absence of a log system for key documentation	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low
	Legality and regularity aspects		No risk identified					
	Communication and information	New	Poor translation quality by external providers may mean a delay in receiving the final translated versions of the SOER 2015 synthesis report	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
		New	Misrepresentation and de-contextualised use of the messages of the SOER 2015 by different societal interests	High	Low	Medium	Low	Low

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

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

3.1.3 VERY HIGH LEVEL INFORMATION ON FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION

With a view to responding to the requirement of the roadmap, adopted by the EC, 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.

An action plan was developed as a result of the fraud risk assessment performed; this action plan covers three objectives:

1. to ensure an effective internal organisation for detecting potential fraud;
2. to strengthen the formalisation of authorisation of access rights to the Business Data Repository database; and to ensure a yearly verification of the authorisation of access rights granted and proper documentation of any intervention in the reporting database;
3. to maintain a high level of ethics and fraud awareness within the EEA.

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

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

N/A

3.2 COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

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

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

The EEA complied with all Internal Control Standards approved by the Management Board.

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 II and III stems from the results of management and audits. Audit reports result from a systematic analysis of the evidence available and widely cover all areas of activity within the EEA. Furthermore, audit reports are based on the fact that the different audit capacities (the IAC, the IAS and the ECA) cover different areas and, therefore, between them, a comprehensive basis for assurance is ensured.

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

In conclusion:

- there were no reservations listed in the previous years' annual activity reports;
- all IAS recommendations issued were considered adequately implemented and 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 II AND PART III, 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,

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, 15 June 2016



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 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, 14 June 2016



Søren Brostrup Nielsen

4.2 RESERVATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

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

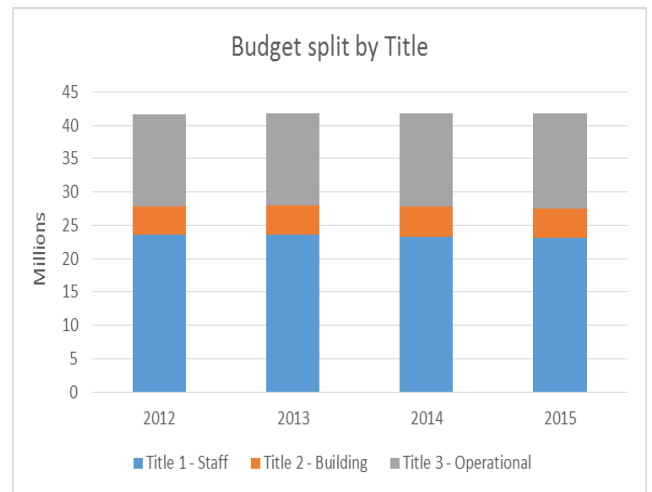
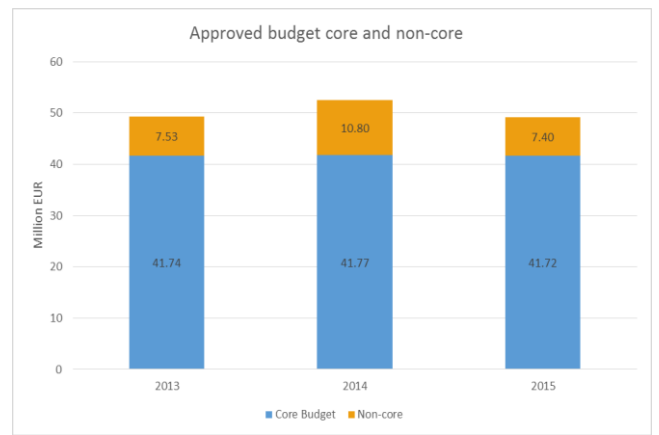
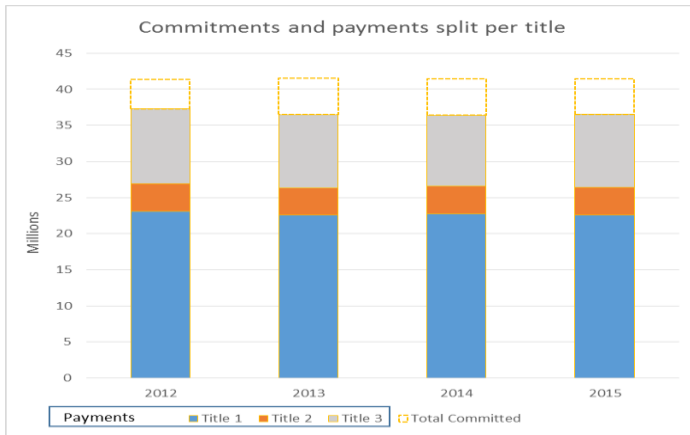
4.3 OVERALL CONCLUSION ON ASSURANCE (IF APPLICABLE)

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, WIGHED BY THE RELATIVE SHARE OF THE ACTIVITY CONCERNED BY EACH RESERVATION I.E. TO WHAT EXTENT DO THE RESERVATIONS REFER TO CORE BUSINESS VS. OTHER ACTIVITIES?

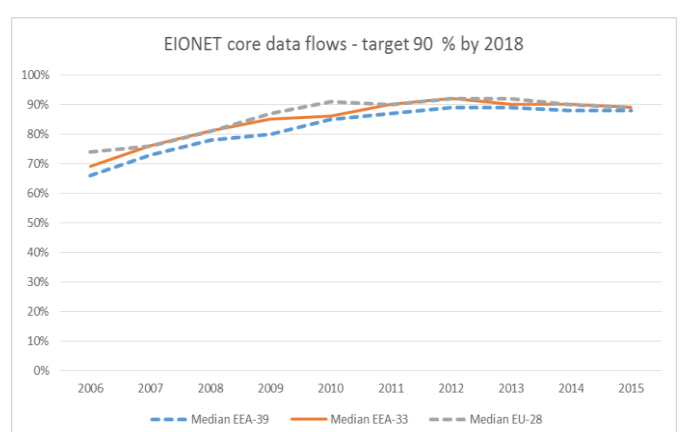
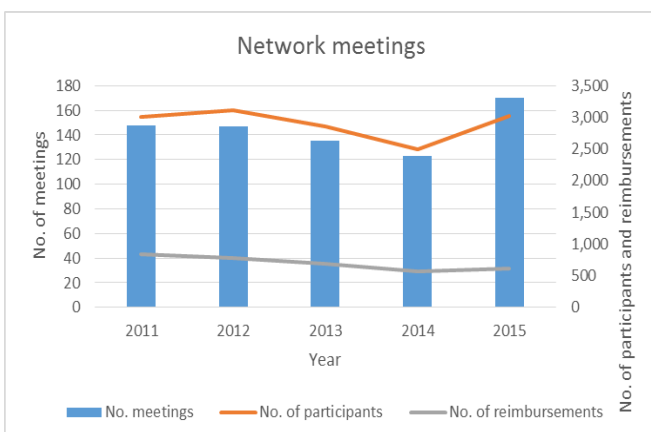
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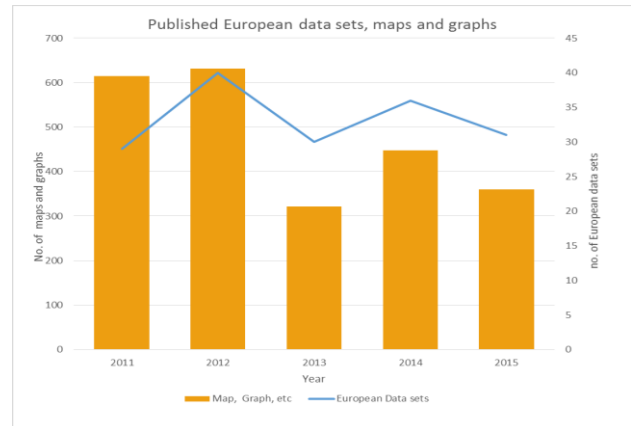
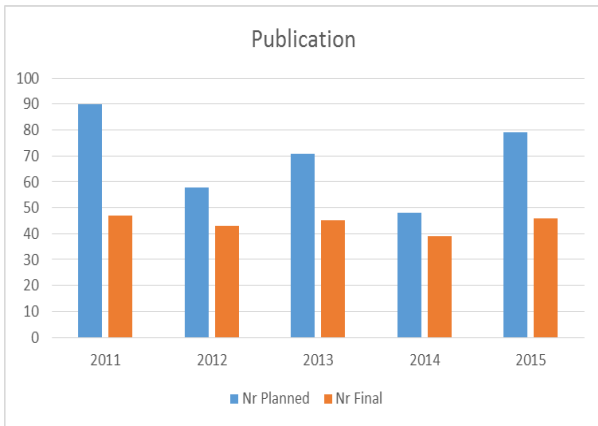
ANNEX 1 CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE PERSPECTIVE

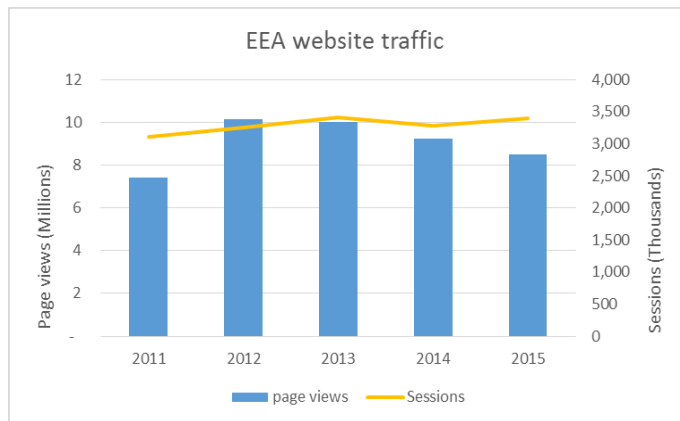
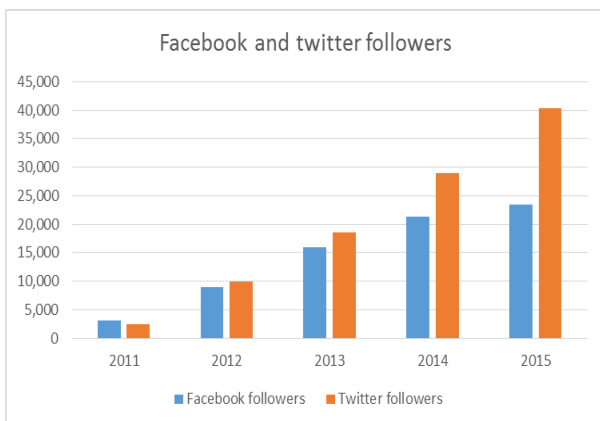
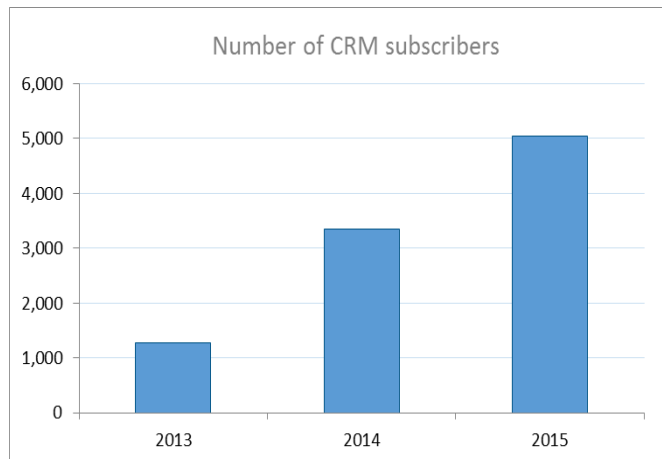
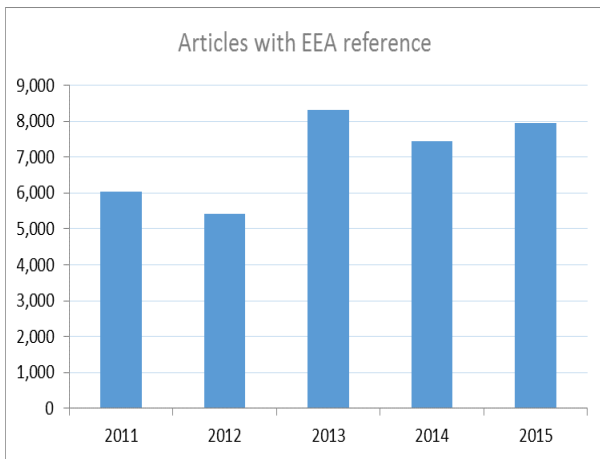


PRODUCTION PERSPECTIVE

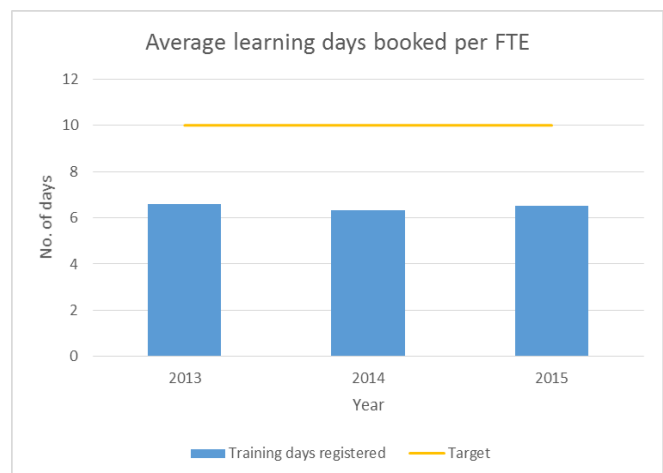
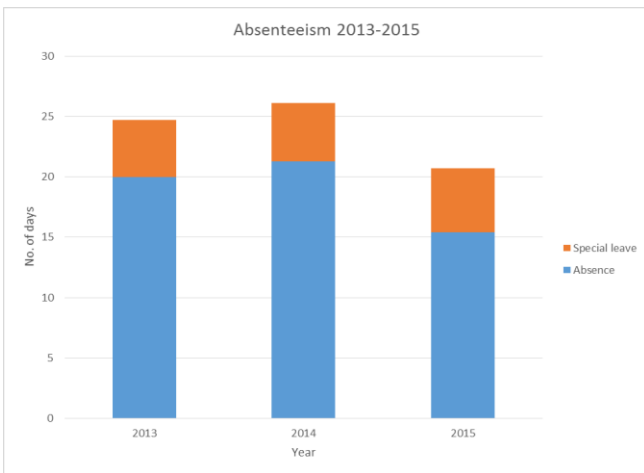
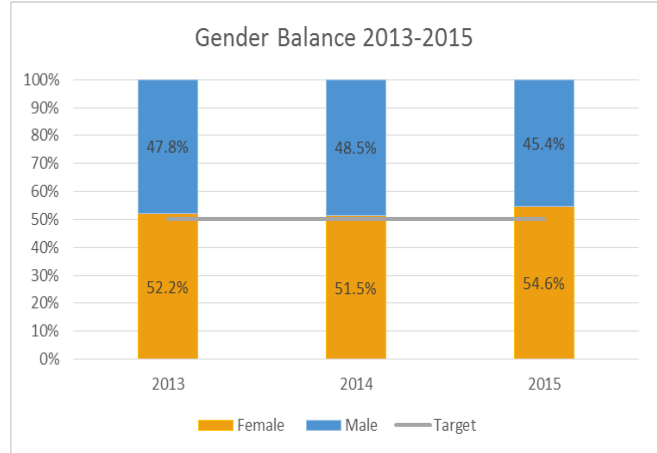
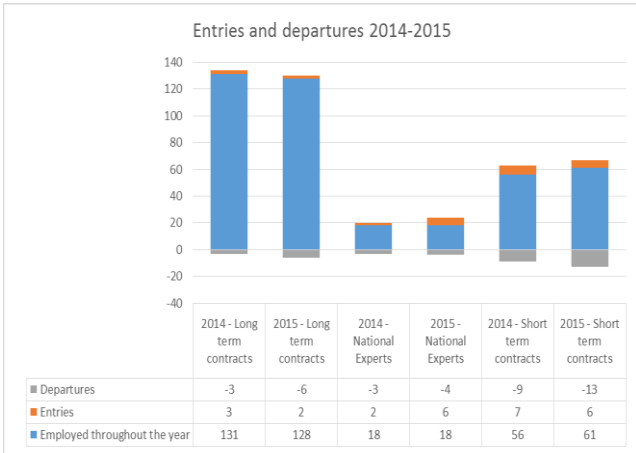




USER PERSPECTIVE



LEARNING AND GROWTH PERSPECTIVE



ANNEX 2 STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

COMMITMENTS (C1 — 2015 — CORE ONLY)

Titles	Appropriation 2015 (core funds only)	Committed	Non-committed appropriations cancelled	Paid	Available for carryover	Carried over	Committed appropriation cancelled
1. Staff expenditure	22 946 540.00	22 882 656.63	63 883.37	22 558 604.51	324 052.12	324 051.38	0.74
2. Adm expenditure	4 385 412.00	4 219 735.18	165 676.82	3 843 050.78	376 684.40	376 684.40	0
3. Operating expenditure	14 386 354.00	14 349 395.88	36 958.12	10 105 392.45	4 244 003.43	4 244 003.43	0
Total	41 718 306.00	41 451 787.69	266 518.31	36 507 047.74	4 944 739.95	4 944 739.21	0.74

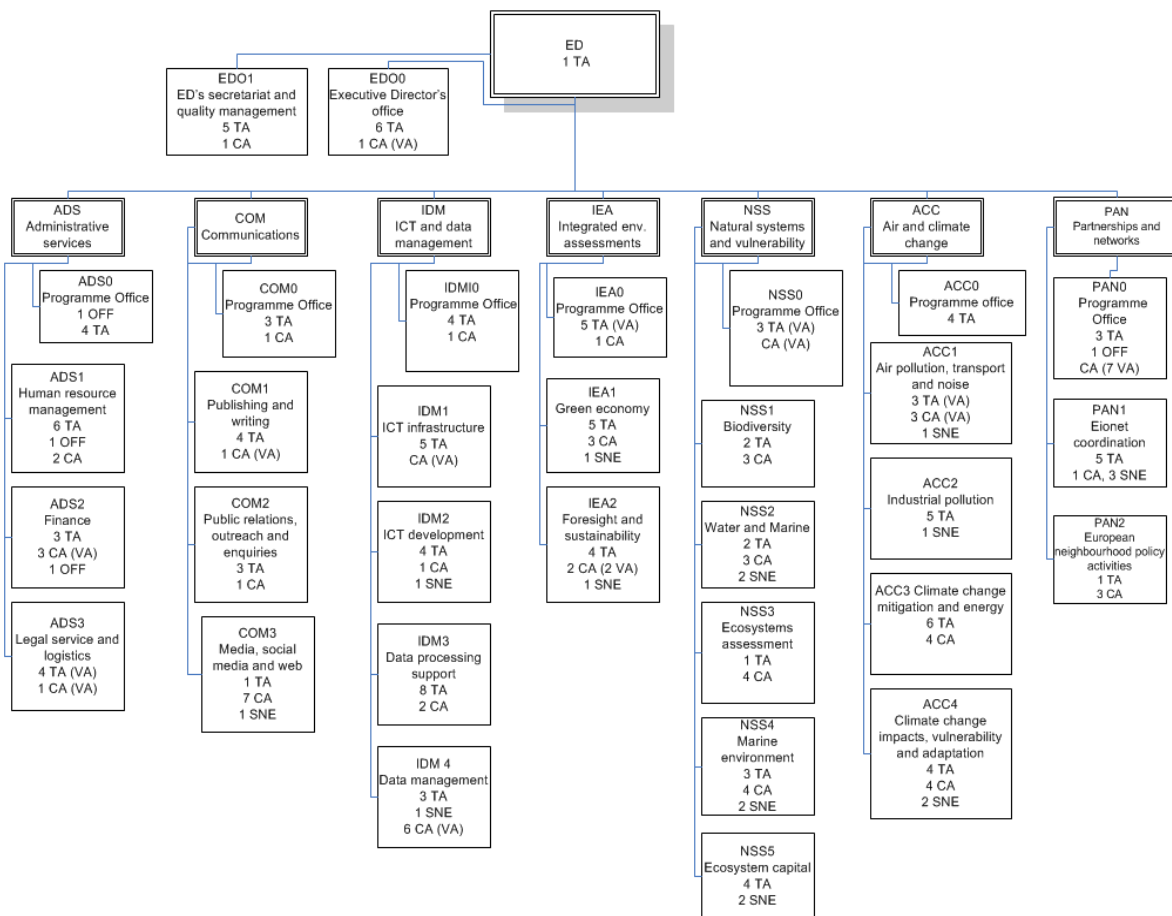
2015 — C8

Titles	Carryover from 2014	Paid	Committed appropriation cancelled
1. Staff expenditure	390 194.29	160 480.98	229 713.31
2. Administrative expenditure	477 097.71	208 625.57	268 472.14
3. Operating expenditure	4 127 288.50	3 770 649.78	356 638.72
Total	4 994 580.50	4 139 756.33	854 824.17

TOTAL CANCELLED APPROPRIATIONS

Titles	2015 — C1: non-committed	2015 — C1: committed appropriation cancelled	2015 — C8: committed appropriation cancelled	Total cancelled appropriations
1. Staff	63 883.37	0.74	229 713.31	293 597.42
2. Administrative expenditure	165 676.82	0	268 472.14	434 148.96
3. Operating Expenditure	36 958.12	0	356 638.72	393 596.84
Total	266 518.31	0.74	854 824.17	1 121 343.22

ANNEX 3 ORGANISATIONAL CHART



ANNEX 4 ESTABLISHMENT PLAN — MULTIANNUAL STAFF POLICY PLAN

Category and grade	Establishment plan in EU budget 2015	
	Officials	TA
AD 16		
AD 15		1
AD 14		2
AD 13		2
AD 12	1	10
AD 11		10
AD 10		10
AD 9		10
AD 8		10
AD 7		7
AD 6		2
AD 5		
Total AD	1	64
AST 11		3
AST 10		3
AST 9	2	8
AST 8	1	10
AST 7		10
AST 6		10
AST 5		10
AST 4		8
AST 3		2
AST 2		1
AST 1		
Total AST	3	65
AST/SC 6		
AST/SC5		
AST/SC4		
AST/SC3		
AST/SC2		
AST/SC1		
Total AST/SC	0	0
Overall total	4	129

Number of contract agents					
	GF I	GF II	GF III	GF IV	Total
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 under core funds		12	9	31	52
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 under InSEIS				1	1
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 under ENPI		1		1	2
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 under Copernicus				2	2
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 under GIO land			2	2	4
Positions filled on 31.12.2015 in total	0	13	11	37	61

ANNEX 5 INFORMATION ON ENTRY LEVEL FOR EACH TYPE OF POST

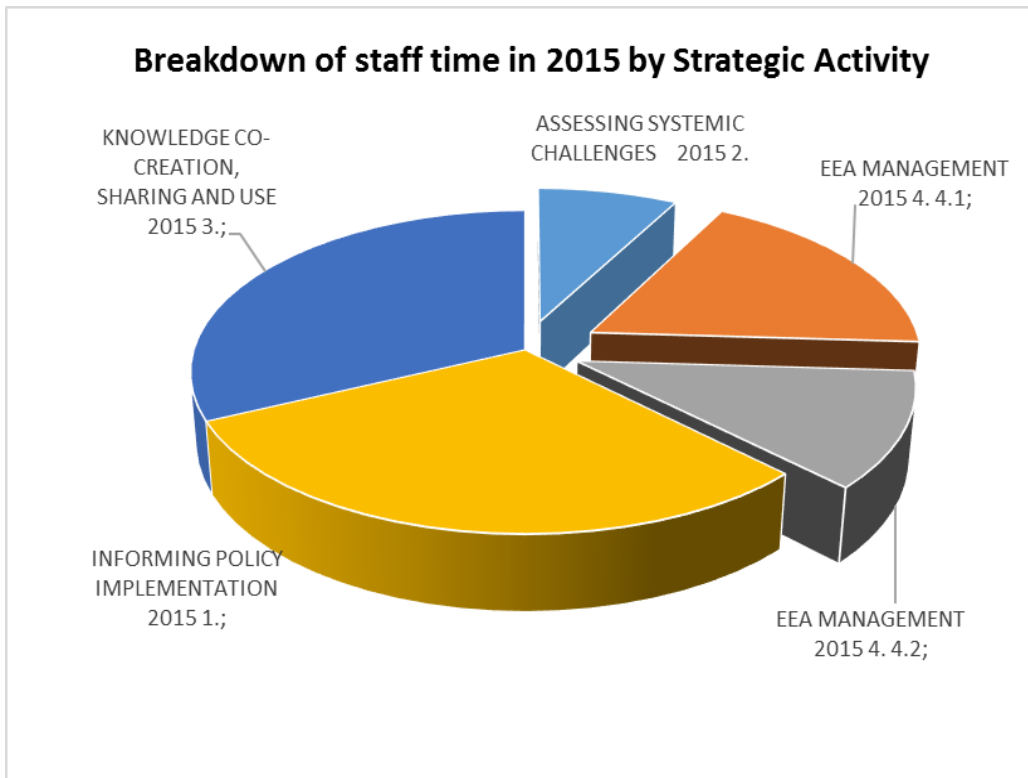
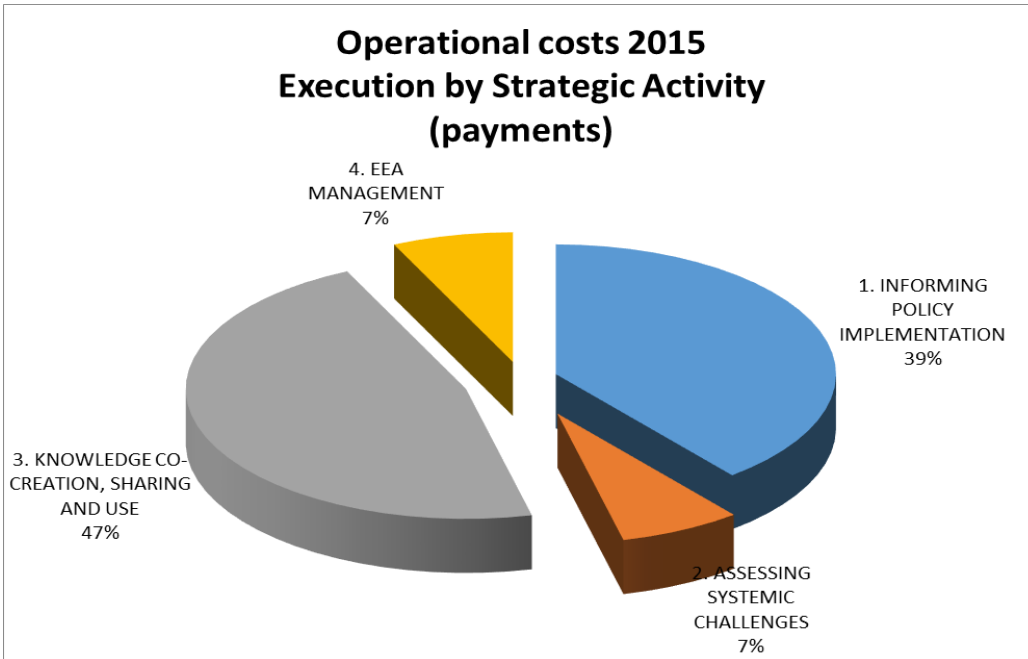
Key functions (examples)	Type of contract (official, TA or CA) (*)	Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
Executive Director — level 1	TA	AD14–15
<i>Head of Department</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	n/a	n/a
<i>Head of Unit</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	Official/TA Head of Programme — level 2	AD9–14
<i>Head of Sector</i> (please identify which level in the structure it corresponds to assuming the Director is level 1)	Official/TA Head of Group — level 3 (excluded from management allowance)	From AD6/AST6
<i>Senior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Officer</i>	Official/TA/CA Project Manager	From AD6/FGIV From AST3/FGIII
<i>Junior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Senior Assistant</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Assistant</i>	Official/TA Resource Officer	From AST1
<i>Junior Assistant</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Head of Administration</i> Head of Programme — level 2	Official/TA Head of Programme ‘Administrative Services’	AD9–14
<i>Head of Human Resources</i>	Official/TA Head of Group ‘Human Resource Management’	From AD6; from AST6
<i>Head of Finance</i>	Official/TA Head of Group ‘Finance and legal services’	From AD6; from AST6
<i>Head of Communication</i>	Official/TA Head of Programme ‘Communications’	AD9–14
<i>Head of IT</i>	Official/TA Head of Group ‘IT and internal systems’	From AD6; from AST6
<i>Senior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Officer</i>	Official/TA/CA Project Officer	From AST3 (plus pre-reform B-grades); from FGIII
<i>Junior Officer</i>	n/a	n/a
<i>Webmaster — Editor</i>	Official/TA/CA Project Officer	From AST3 (+pre-reform B-grades); from FGIII/8

<i>Secretary</i>	Official/TA/CA Secretary	From AST1 (plus pre-reform C-grades); from FGII/4 Phasing out of AST in light of the new category AST/SC
<i>Mail Clerk</i>	Official/TA/CA Technical Assistant	Pre-reform D-grades/FGI
<i>Data Protection Officer</i>	Official/TA Data Protection Officer	From AD6
<i>Accounting Officer</i>	Official/TA Accountant	From AD8
<i>Internal Auditor</i>	Official/TA Project Manager — IAC	From AD8

(^a) The text in bold indicates official EEA titles.

ANNEX 6 INFORMATION ON BENCHMARKING EXERCISE IF APPLICABLE

Results of the screening exercise to be included in the annual activity report job type (sub-) category	Year N – 1 (%)	Year 2015 (%) (=Year N)
Administrative support and coordination	14.6	13.93
<i>Administrative support</i>	11.7	11.55
<i>Coordination</i>	2.9	2.38
Operational	79.2	78.33
<i>Top-level operational coordination</i>	4.2	3.8
<i>Programme management and implementation</i>	74	73.57
<i>Evaluation and impact assessment</i>	0.5	0.48
<i>General operational</i>	0.5	0.48
Neutral	6.2	7.74
<i>Finance/control</i>	6.2	7.74
<i>Linguistics</i>	0	0



ANNEX 8 FINAL DRAFT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Budget outturn and cancellation of appropriations

Calculation of budget outturn (EUR)

Budget outturn	2013	2014	2015
Revenue actually received (+)	62 749 664	52 313 845	43 022 053
Payments made (-)	-43 352 793	-43 777 178	-51 024 771
Carryover of appropriations (-)	-27 476 073	-21 982 721	-16 726 848
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	380 949	385 124	854 824
Adjustment for carryover of assigned revenue appropriations from previous year (+)	22 595 916	23 273 912	16 988 141
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	2 060	2 741	-13 013
Adjustment for negative balance from previous year (-)	-13 476 850	-9 463 337	8 042 450
Total	1 422 873	752 386	1 142 835

Cancellation of appropriations

Cancellation of commitment appropriations

Non-committed core funds in 2015 amount to EUR 266 518 (i.e. 0.64 % of total commitment appropriation).

Cancellation of payment appropriations for the year

See above.

Cancellation of payment appropriations carried over

Unpaid C8 amounts to EUR 854 824; this amount is spread more or less equally between titles 1, 2 and 3.

Justification

Budget outturn (EUR)

Budgetary result specification	2015	2014
C1- CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATIONS		
Amount not recuperated		0
Amount not made available in the budget		3,779
Non-committed	266,519	338,119
Committed, carried over to C9	1	18,287
C4 - Reused funds current year		
Amounts not made available in the budget	34,504	4,336
Cancellation of unused appropriations		
C5 - Reused funds carried over		
Cancellation of unused appropriations		0
C8 - APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR		
Cancellation of unused appropriations	854,824	385,124
Exchange rate difference (gain +/-loss-)	-13,013	2,741
RO - grant surplus not recuperated by grant provider		
Sum:	1,142,835	752,386

Cancellation of appropriations

The total surplus of cancelled appropriations amounts to EUR 1 142 835; this constitutes approximately 2.7 % of the requested 2015 budget.

AEI	Agri-Environmental Indicators
AMP	Annual Management Plan
AQ	Air quality
AWP	Annual Work Programme
BEPA	Bureau of European Policy Advisors
BISE	Biodiversity Information System for Europe
BWD	Bathing Water Directive
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CE	Circular economy
CEIP	(EMEP) Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CHECK)
CLC	Corine Land Cover
CLCC	CLC change
Climate-ADAPT	European Climate Adaptation Platform
CLP	Classification, Labelling and Packaging(CHECK)
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COP21	21st session of the Conference of the Parties
CRM	Client relationship management (CHECK)
CSI	Core set of indicators
DG	(European Commission) Directorate-General
DG AGRI	DG for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG CLIMA	DG for Climate Action
DG BUDG	DG for Budget
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 SMEs
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
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
EAP	Environment Action Programme
E3I	Eionet Improvement and Innovation Initiative
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
EEA	European environment Agency
EFSA	European Food Safety Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association

EHBMI	European Human Bio-monitoring Initiative
Eionet	European Environment Observation and Information Network
EKC	Environment Knowledge Community
EMAS	EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EMEP	European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPI	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
EP	European Parliament
EPA	Environment Protection Agencies
EPA Network	Heads of Environment Protection Agencies
EPDF	Eionet priority data flow
E-PRTR	European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
ESD	Effort Sharing Decision
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
ETC/ICM	ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters
ETC/ULS	ETC on Urban, Land and Soil Systems
ETC/WMGE	ETC on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EU SDS	EU Sustainable Development Strategy
F-gas	Fluorinated gases
FLIS	Forward-Looking Information and Services
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)
FTE	Full-Time Employee
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GES	Good Environmental Status
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIO	Copernicus Initial Operations
GIO land	Copernicus Initial Operations (CHECK)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GISC	Global megatrends
HRL	High resolution layers
IAC	Internal audit capability
IAS	Internal Audit Service of the European Commission
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDM	ICT and data management
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
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 Chemicals Monitoring
IRP	(UN) International Resource Panel
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KIP	Kknowledge innovation project
LCP	Large combustion plant
LRTAP	Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
MAES	Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MAWP	Multiannual Work Programme
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MPA	Marine protected areas
MS	Member State
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NEC	National Emission Ceilings
NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	National Reference Centre
NO _x	Nitrogen oxide
ODS	Ozone-Depleting Substance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
QMS	Quality management system
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RE	Resource Efficiency
REC	Regional Environmental Centres
RES Directive	Renewable Energy Directive
SC	Scientific Committee
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructure
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System for Europe
SENSE	Shared European and National State of Environment
SIIF	Structured implementation and information framework
SLA	Service-level agreement (CHECK)
SMT	Senior Management Team
SoE	State of Environment
SOER 2015	The European environment — state and outlook 2015
STRN	Sustainability Transitions Research Network
TFEIP	(UNECE) Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections
TERM	Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism
TQMS	Total Quality and Environmental Management System
UN	United Nations
UNCEEA	United Nations Committee on Environmental and Economic Accounting
UN-GGIM	UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
UWWTD	Urban Waste-Water Treatment Directive
TERM	Annual Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism report

WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive
WFD	Waste Framework Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	Water Information System for Europe