

European Environment Agency

2002 Work Programme



European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Tel. +45 33 36 71 00
Fax +45 33 36 71 99
E-mail: eea@eea.eu.int

Homepage: www.eea.eu.int

Introduction

The EEA was set up as a legally independent European Community body under a Regulation adopted in May 1990 (1210/90) and revised in 1999 (933/99). The Agency started working in Copenhagen in 1994. EEA membership is open to non-EU countries, which share the Agency's objectives.

The EEA is mandated to provide high quality information to support the environmental policy process and sustainable development, and for the assessment of environmental results.

The main objectives are:

- To assist the Community and member countries to:
 - identify, frame, prepare and implement sound and effective environmental policy measures and legislation;
 - monitor, evaluate and assess actual and expected progress in the implementation and results of such measures.
- To establish and coordinate the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET). This is based on an information infrastructure for the collection, analysis, assessment and management of data shared with European Commission services, EEA member countries and international organisations, agreements and conventions.

The main clients are:

- Users of information in the European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Ministers and EEA member countries, both in the field of environment and economic sectors, focusing on policy developers, deciders, and implementers;
- Key actors in the general public who participate in the policy debate, thereby supporting their involvement in the policy process.

The general public is kept informed, and access to information is assured, through the Agency's website and open access to the Reference Centre. EEA also supports agents responsible for environmental reporting from sub-national to international levels, within and outside the EIONET.

The EEA's contribution in 2002

The EEA's work programme for 2002 is geared towards meeting the information needs arising from the current EU and international policy framework. It is kept under constant review in consultation with the Agency's clients.

The major directions of the work programme are as follows:

- Enhancing delivery of environmental information to serve major policy priorities
Four policy priorities will be targeted:
 - Environmental issues identified in the EU's 6th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP);
 - Integration of environmental considerations into sectoral policies;

- The EU Sustainable Development Strategy;
 - Streamlining of the reporting process through the European Environment Information System, integrating EIONET with other networks.
- Preparing and delivering environmental information for major international policy meetings (including the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, August 2002 and the pan-European conference of environment ministers in Kiev, May 2003);
 - Moving towards a system of continuous monitoring and reporting on Europe's environment;
 - Ensuring the smooth and efficient integration of new member countries into the EEA;
 - Ensuring the provision of environmental information on emerging issues.

To support or implement these processes, key EEA products or activities in 2002 will include:

- Producing the indicator-based assessment report *Environmental signals 2002* and associated fact sheets;
- Producing indicators, indicator fact sheets and/or reports on specific environmental issues, including air pollution, climate change, energy and environment, biodiversity, and transport and environment in the accession countries;
- Preparing an assessment of the pan-European environment for the Kiev conference as well as scenarios for the next report on the state of, and outlook for, the EU environment, scheduled for publication in 2004/2005;
- Developing a common framework for reporting on integration of the environment into economic sectors, and contributing in particular to the development of agri-environmental indicators;
- Extending the European environment information and observation network (EIONET) to accession countries, thus broadening the geographical coverage of data and information collection across Europe;
- Providing input to European Parliament own-initiative reports, for example those reviewing the directives on standardised reporting and dangerous substances in water.

The key products and services for 2002 are guided by the EEA reporting strategy, which aims to develop the most efficient combination and coordination of Agency reports to best respond to an synergise with the policy need. The products and services are:

- Environmental signals 2002;
- Transport and Environment reporting;
- Energy and Environment Indicator report 2002;
- European Community and Member States greenhouse gas emission and projections trends;
- Air Pollution in Europe;
- Indicator-based report on Europe's water resources: quality and quantity;

- A revamped Web site, serving EEA's transition from "report producer" to "information provider";
- Regular thematic newsletters.

For more detailed information on the Agency's work programme activities in 2002 please refer to our website: www.eea.eu.int where the full version can be located.