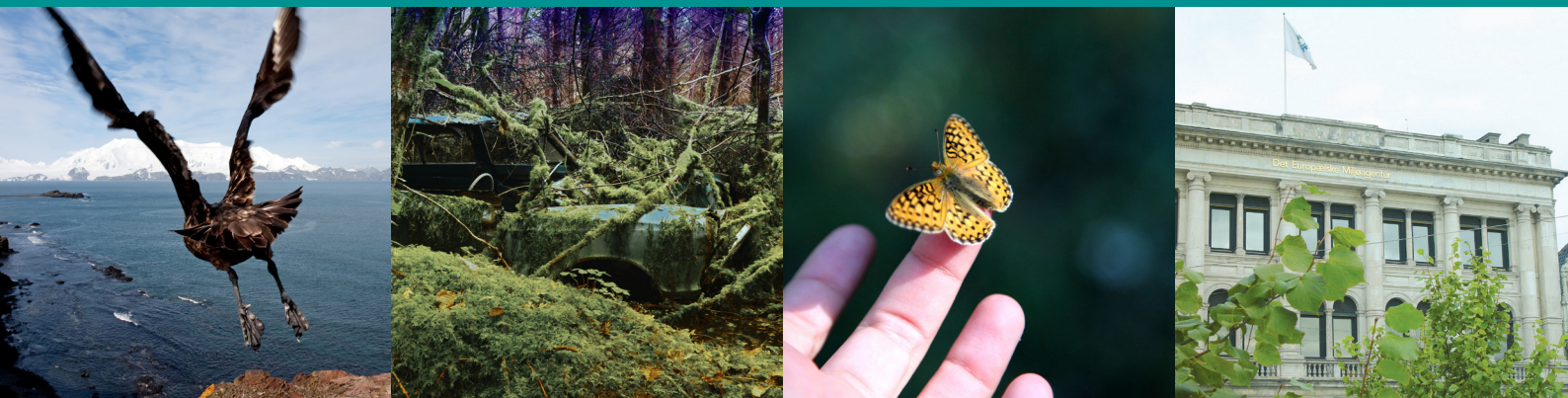


The European Environment Agency



who we are | what we do | how we do it



Mission and goals

The European Environment Agency (EEA) aims to support sustainable development by helping to achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment, through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policymaking agents and the public.

Our key goals are to be the prime source of environmental knowledge at European level, play a leading role in supporting long-term transition to a sustainable society, and to be a lead organisation for environmental knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.

Members

Membership of the EEA is comprised of EU Member States. Membership is also open to other countries which share the concern of the European Community and the Member States as regards the objectives of the Agency. The current 33 members are the 28 EU Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have applied jointly for membership and

have been cooperating with the EEA for several years. EEA is also cooperating with Kosovo*, while Greenland has observer status in a number of processes.

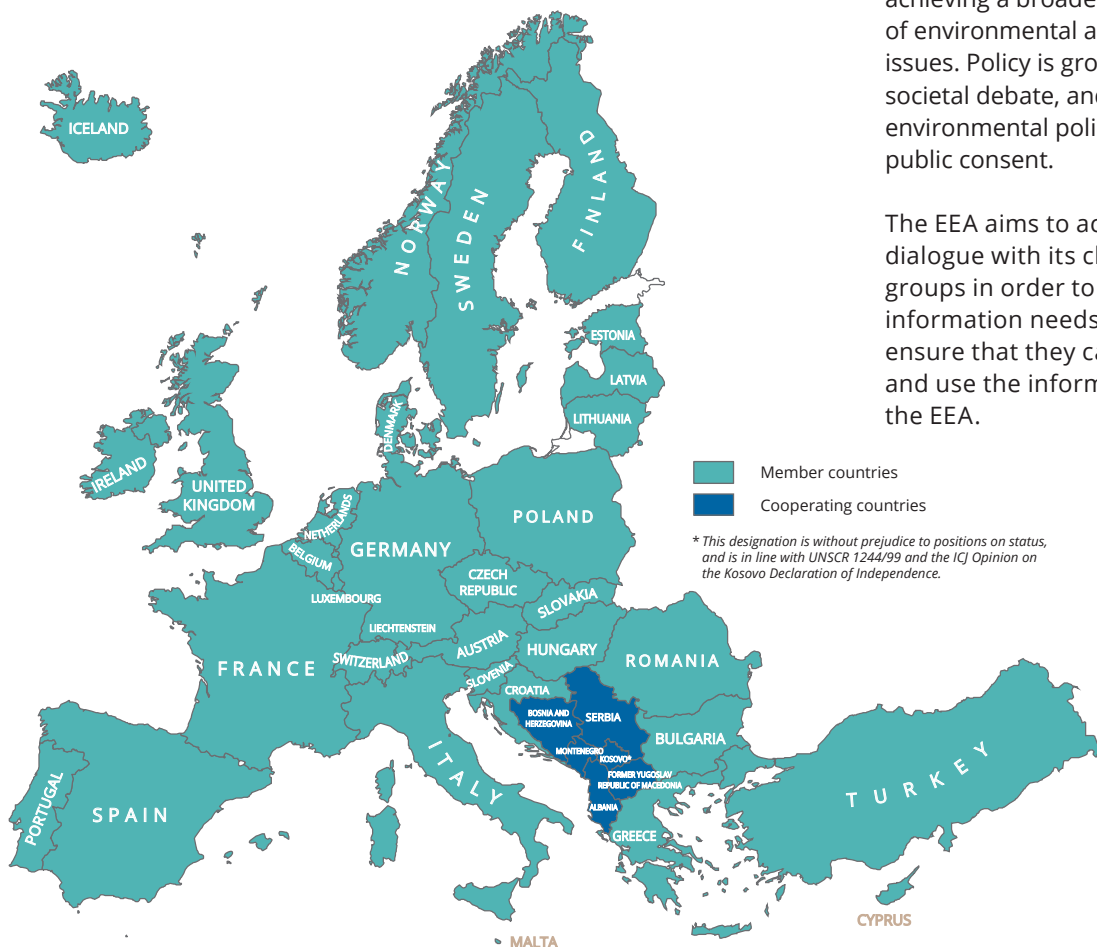
Clients and target groups

The EEA's main stakeholders are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union — addressing in particular the needs of the changing EU presidencies — and the EEA member countries.

In addition to this core group of European and national policy actors, the EEA works with other EU institutions. We also engage with broader interest groups within the policy sphere, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientific and academic communities, business organisations, consultancies and think tanks.

The public is also seen as an important audience by the EEA. This is in line with existing EU legislation on access to environmental information and EEA efforts to support policy implementation and achieving a broader understanding of environmental and climate change issues. Policy is grounded in a wider societal debate, and acceptance of environmental policies rests on broad public consent.

The EEA aims to achieve a two-way dialogue with its clients and target groups in order to identify their information needs correctly and ensure that they can understand and use the information provided by the EEA.



Outputs

The EEA provides assessments and information in the form of reports, short briefings and articles, press material and a range of online products and services. The material covers the state of the environment, current trends and pressures, economic and social driving forces, policy effectiveness, and identification of future trends, outlooks and problems, using scenarios and other techniques.

Some of the reports aimed at a broader audience, summaries of major reports and various articles and press releases are translated into the official languages of EEA member countries.

Online

eea.europa.eu is one of the most comprehensive public environmental information services on the internet and the EEA's busiest information channel. The EEA strives to shift from paper to web publishing in order to adapt to the preferences of an increasing number of users, to improve timeliness and cost efficiency — and to shrink its own environmental footprint.

The full texts of all reports, summaries and articles are found on the website, as are interactive graphs and map-based applications as well as the datasets and background information supporting the reports. Social media and multimedia content are actively used to facilitate communication and reach a wider audience.

On the online EEA Forum we give individual responses to external requests for information. The public may also put forward their enquiries on the phone or with a personal visit.

Organisation

The European Community adopted a regulation establishing the EEA and its European environment information and observation network (Eionet) in 1990, and the EEA began its work in earnest in 1994.

Drawn from across the organisation's 33 member countries, EEA staff are primarily located at

Networking

Of crucial importance for reaching our objectives are the efforts made by EEA staff to communicate our facts and findings directly; continuously engaging with the Eionet and other key stakeholders, talking to contacts, participating in expert meetings, speaking at seminars and conferences, etc. Despite our output of printed material and the continuous growth in volume of our internet-based communication, there is still nothing that can substitute the qualities of a face-to-face exchange between information providers and users.

the organisation's headquarters in Copenhagen. Staff members include experts in the fields of environment and sustainable development, information management and communication. Together they work to gather, analyse and interpret information from member countries and disseminate it to stakeholders and citizens within the EU system and beyond.

Ordering EEA products

You may sign up for our subscription service in order to receive our newsletter and electronic or hard copies of reports and other free-of-charge material on a regular basis.

You may also follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or subscribe to the EEA's RSS feeds or notifications to receive alerts when new material is published.

Hard copies of EEA print publications can be ordered, most of them free of charge, from the online bookshop of the EU Publications Office (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>). As part of the transition from paper to web publishing, some product categories are only available in electronic format. For an up-to-date overview of available publications, please consult the 'Publications' section on our website.

To support data collection, management and analysis, the EEA has established and manages six European Topic Centres (ETCs) covering the major environmental and operational areas of the EEA's work programme. The Topic Centres are networks, comprising some ninety specialised institutions distributed across the EEA member countries.

The EEA wants to contribute to Europe's ambition to make the transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and ecosystem-resilient society by 2050. Long-standing environmental problems are interconnected, and at the core lies the socio-economic systems that provide us with the requirements of a modern society such as food, energy and transport. Fundamental shifts in such core societal systems will be necessary if we are to follow a credible trajectory towards the 2050 goal.

Dr. Hans Bruyninckx
Executive Director

Governance

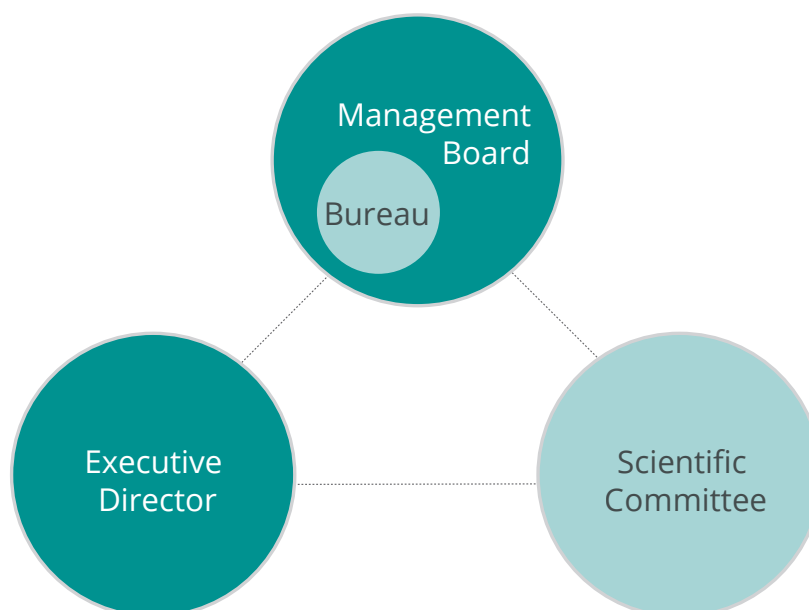
The EEA Management Board consists of one representative of each of the 33 member countries, two representatives of the Commission and two scientific experts designated by the European Parliament. Among its tasks, the Management Board adopts the EEA's work programmes, appoints the Executive Director and designates the members of the Scientific Committee.

The EEA Scientific Committee is composed of a maximum of 20 scientists covering a range of environmental topics. It is the advisory body on scientific matters to the Management Board and the Executive Director. The chairman of the Scientific Committee acts as observer in the Management Board.

The Executive Director is responsible to the Management Board for implementing the work programmes and for the day-to-day running of the EEA.

The EEA organises its activities in yearly work programmes, overarched by a five-year Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP). The current MAWP covers the period 2014–2018 and is structured around four main areas:

- informing policy implementation, which implies feedback and input to EU policy frameworks, objectives and targets through continuous reporting on progress in key environmental themes;
- assessing systemic challenges, providing assessments that take a macro, cross-sector and long-term view, thereby supporting the long-term visions in the EU's 7th Environment Action Programme;
- knowledge co-creation, sharing and use, meaning building and maintaining the networks of people and information systems that form the backbone and sine qua non of our reporting;
- EEA management, where the aim is to adhere to all rules and regulations applying to the Agency while continuously improving the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness.



As reflected in the Multiannual Work Programme adopted by the Management Board, the EEA's ambition is to remain a leading actor in the provision of the core information necessary to improve environmental policy performance. The EEA also wishes to engage in the creation of new insights and knowledge that will be necessary to understand and support the more fundamental transitions towards long-term sustainability for our societies.

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler
Chair — EEA Management Board

Eionet and other EEA partners

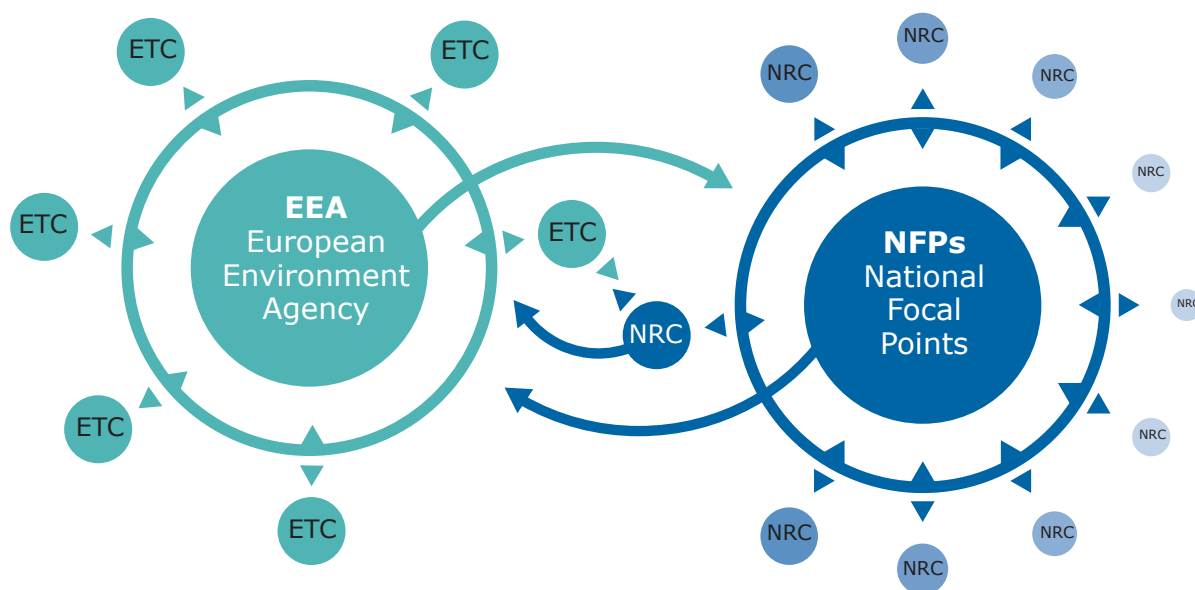
The information provided by the EEA comes from a wide range of sources. A network of national environmental bodies was set up to work with the EEA — Eionet — which involves more than 300 institutions across Europe. The EEA is responsible for developing the network and coordinating its activities. To do this, we work closely with National Focal Points (as in the figure below) — typically national environment agencies or environment ministries in member countries. They are responsible for coordinating the activities of Eionet at national level.

Among other tasks, NFPs develop and maintain the national network, identify national information sources, capture and channel data and information from monitoring and other activities, help the EEA analyse information and assist in communicating EEA information to end-users in member countries.

Other important partners and information sources are European and international organisations, such as the Statistical Office (Eurostat) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). The EEA cooperates closely with these organisations in producing information and assessments for its clients and target groups. The EEA also takes part in and acts as the secretariat for the informal network of Environment Protection Agencies in Europe.

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)



The EEA operates in a complex, multi-level and multi-actor governance setting at EU, national, and global levels. This setting also includes research institutes, businesses, and NGOs. The specific role of the EEA is to support policymaking at the EU level, and to build capacity in member countries, using Eionet as its unique partner to generate two-way flows of quality-assured environmental data and information.

EEA Multiannual Work Programme 2014–2018



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