Aarhus convention
EEA and access to environment information

European Environment Agency

EEA Founding regulation Regulation (EC) No 401/2009

- …provides for the European Environment Agency, hereinafter referred to as 'the Agency', and aims at the setting up of a European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

- The objective of EEA and Eionet shall be to provide the Community and the Member States with:

  - **objective, reliable and comparable information at European level** enabling them to take the requisite measures to protect the environment, to assess the results of such measures **and** *to ensure that the public is properly informed about the state of the environment…*

Tasks of EEA

- to establish, in cooperation with the Member States, and coordinate the Network; in this context, the Agency shall be responsible for the **collection, processing and analysis of data**;

- to provide the Community and the Member States with the **objective information** necessary for framing and implementing sound and effective environmental policies; ..to provide the Commission with the information for... evaluating measures and legislation in the field of the environment;

- **to record, collate and assess data on the state of the environment**, to draw up expert reports on the quality, sensitivity and pressures on the environment within the territory of the Community, **to provide uniform assessment criteria for environmental data to be applied in all Member States**, to develop further and maintain a reference centre of information on the environment;

- to help ensure that **environmental data at European level are comparable and, if necessary, to encourage by appropriate means improved harmonisation of methods of meas**urement;

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Tasks of EEA

- **to publish a report on the state of, trends in and prospects for the environment every five year**s, supplemented by indicator reports focusing upon specific issues;

- to promote the **incorporation of European environmental information into international environment monitoring programmes** such as those established by the United Nations and its specialised agencies;

- to **stimulate the exchange of information** on the best technologies available for preventing or reducing damage to the environment;

- to ensure **the broad dissemination of reliable and comparable environmental information**, in particular on the state of the environment, to the general public and, to this end, to promote the use of new telematics technology for this purpose

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Initial areas of work

- Air quality and atmospheric emissions

- Water quality, pollutants and water resources;

- The state of soil, of the fauna, flora and biotopes;

- Land use and natural resources;

- Waste management;

- Noise emissions;

- Chemical substances;

- Coastal and marine protection…..

…..Further expanded today

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Geographical coverage

- EU Member States

- EU institutions and bodies…

    BUT ALSO OPEN …

- **to other countries which share the concern of the Community and the Member States for the objectives of the Agency** *under agreements to be concluded between them and the Community*

EEA member and collaborating countries
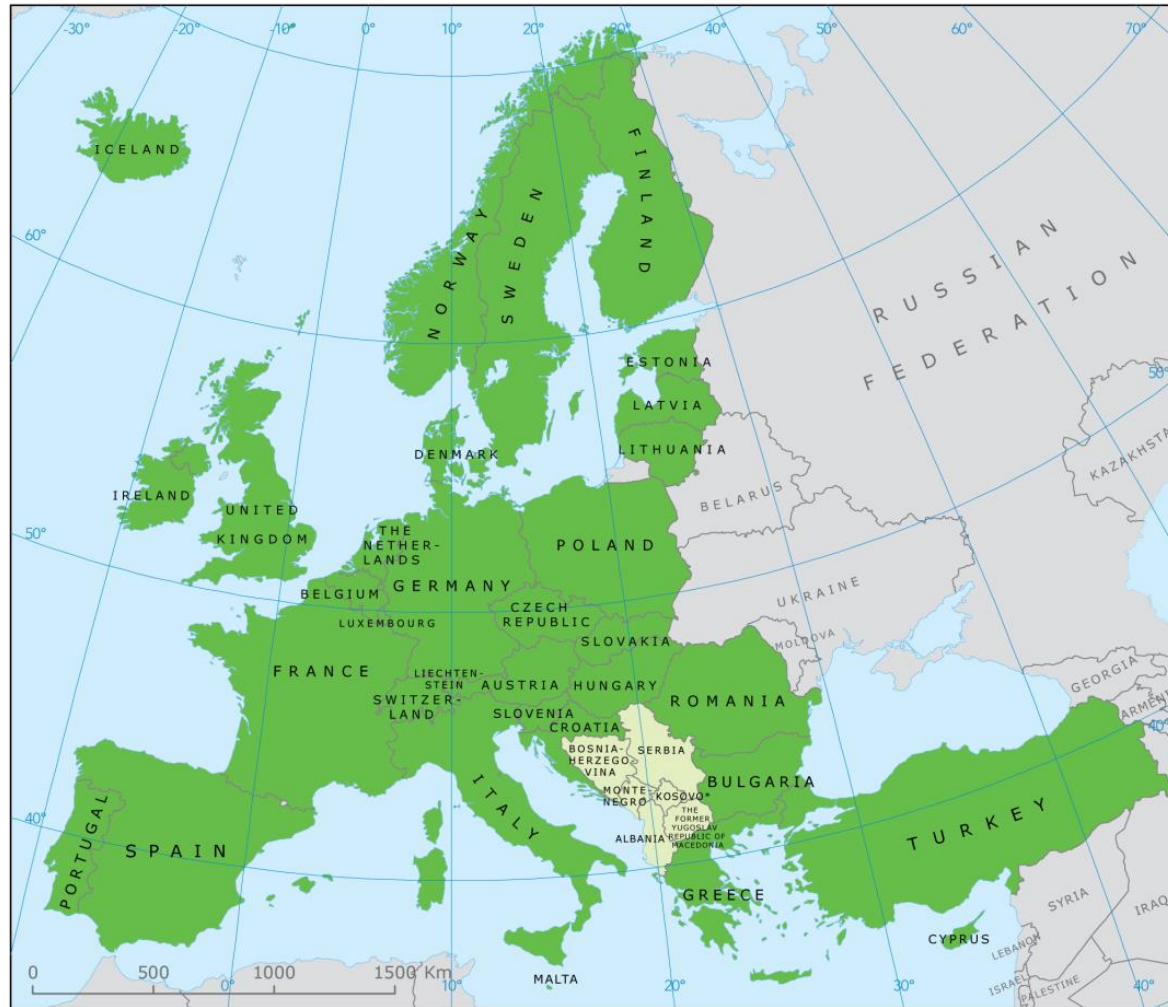
EEA coverage

■ Member countries   □ Cooperating countries

*Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99

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EU neighbouring countries cooperating with EEA

EEA and ENPI–SEIS project coverage

- EEA member countries
- EEA cooperating countries
- ENP East
- Strategic partnership
- ENP South

The map does not imply any opinion from EEA concerning the legal status of any country or territory, its area of authority or the delineation of its frontiers and boundaries.

* Syria: Collaboration is temporarily suspended

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Legal framework

- 2005 - EU becomes party to Aarhus convention (Decision 2005/370/EC)

- 2003 –two Directives concerning the first and second "pillars" of the Aarhus Convention were adopted (to be implemented by 2005):

  - Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on **public access to environmental information**

  - Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for **public participation** in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment

  Both directives contain provisions on access to justice.

- 2006 – Regulation 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies (applicable from 2007)

  The "Aarhus Regulation" covers not only the <u>institutions, but also bodies, offices or agencies </u>established by, or on the basis of the EC Treaty. They now need to adapt their internal procedures and practice to the provisions of the Regulation.

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EEA data policy

- Approved by the Management Board in 2013.
- Provides guidelines about EEA's handling of data and ensures that **data is handled in a consistent and transparent manner**.
- **Publicly available** at:

http://www.eea.europa.eu/legal/eea-data-policy

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EEA data policy

EEA expects the data providers to follow the principle that all data and products, financed with public means should be fully available for use by public bodies, and that these data should be made available for others to use with as few restrictions as possible.

- The data policy provides *guidelines about EEA's handling of data*.

- It ensures that data is handled *in a consistent and transparent manner*.

- EEA aspires to promote the *sharing of environmental data*.

- In agreeing to share, *data providers need to have assurance that their data are properly handled, disseminated and acknowledged following similar principles and rules* across countries and stakeholders.

http://www.eea.europa.eu/legal/eea-data-policy

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Key elements

- **Credibility:** protection of integrity, transparency, and traceability in environmental data, analysis and forecasts;

- **Accessibility**: full, free and open access to all kinds of data where possible, whilst recognizing and respecting the variety of business models and data ownerships that enable these data to be created;

- **Multiple use**: wider exploitation, re-use and re-combination of data from different sources in different frameworks and media than those for which they were originally commissioned;

- **Ownership**: recognition of data providers, their intellectual property rights through citation and data licenses; Publication of relevant metadata;

- **Quality/ Reliability**: recognition of the quality of data through QA/QC procedures, documented in the Agency's Quality Management System (QMS). This does not apply to crowd sourced data.

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What is available

- **Environmental data collected, acquired, processed and disseminated by EEA**, including data flows within the framework of Eionet;

- **Products created by EEA** are considered a public good and where possible, they will be made fully, freely and openly available for others to use.

- All data held by EEA shall be made available with **minimum time delay** and at **no cost** (some exceptions but limited due to : ownership, licensing, handling capacities)

- EEA will aim to provide **meta-information** for all data.

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EEA indicators by theme & their updates

EEA indicators by theme (CSIs)	
Theme	**Indicators**
Air pollution	11 (5)
Biodiversity	27 (3)
Climate change	45 (5)
Energy	11 (5)
Environmental scenarios	2 (0)
Fisheries	3 (3)
Green economy	1 (0)
Household consumption	1 (0)
Land	1 (1)
Soil	1 (1)
Transport	20 (3)
Waste	2 (2)
Water	11 (7)
Total	**136 (35)**

The EEA currently maintains 136 indicators from 13 themes:
- Core Set Indicators (CSIs), established to support EU policy priorities
- other indicator sets (SEBI, TERM, etc.), developed for specific processes such as supporting sectoral targets or reporting on progress with sectoral integration

Most indicators are based on statistics from international organisations and EU partners as well as on national data

53% of EEA indicators updated every year

www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators

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Traceability of data ....

1) STORY / ASSESSMENT

3) INDICATOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

2) INTERACTIVE GRAPHS

4) ACCESS TO DATA
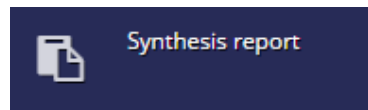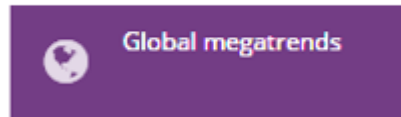
SOER 1995 SOER 1999 SOER 2005 SOER 2010 …
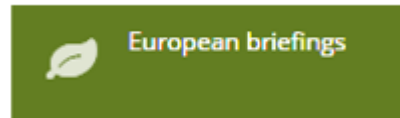
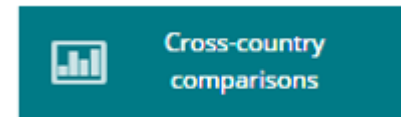## THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT
STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015

Synthesis report

Global megatrends

European briefings

Countries and regions

Cross-country comparisons

A suite of products

www.eea.europa.eu/soer

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EEA Official languages

SEIS components

- **SDI -Spatial Development Infrastructure**
- **Web services**
- **Standards**
- **Copernicus**
- **…**
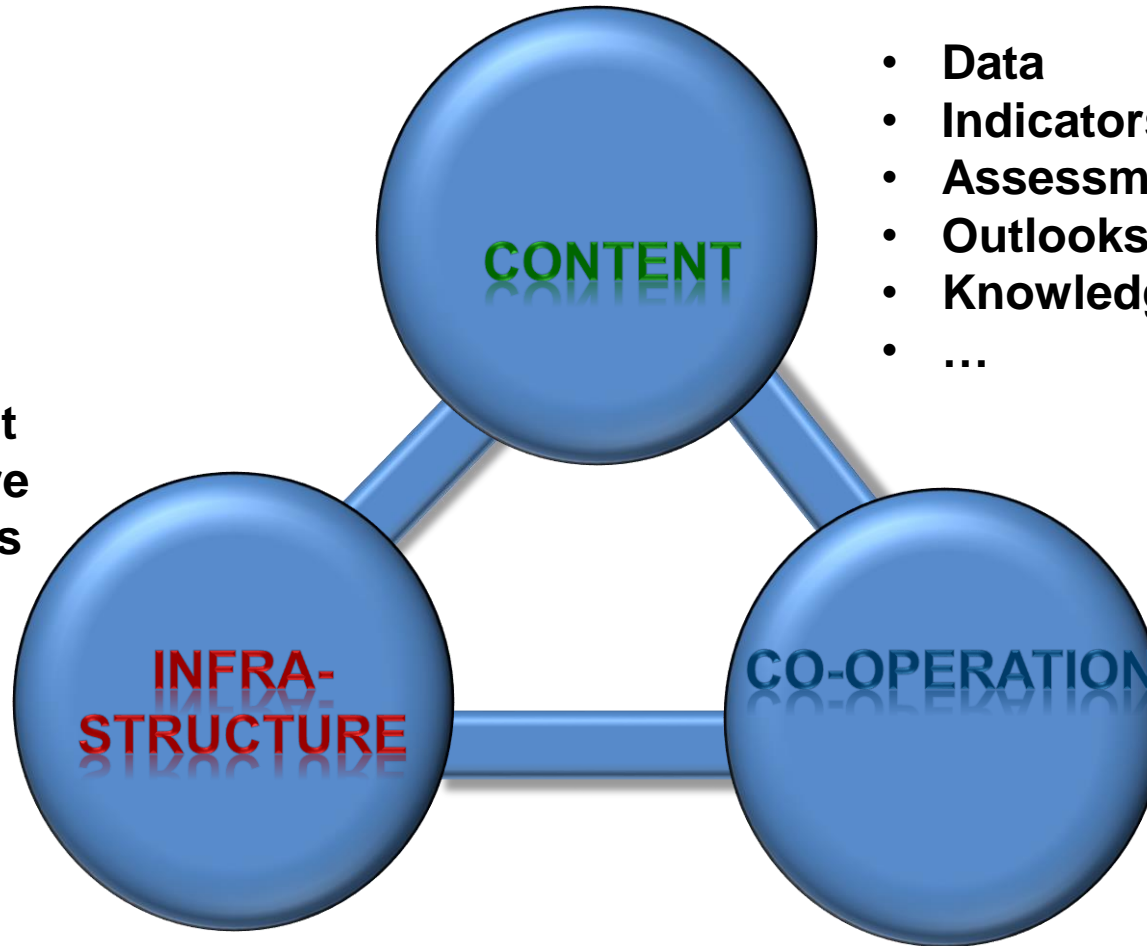
- **Data**
- **Indicators**
- **Assessments**
- **Outlooks**
- **Knowledge**
- **…**

- **Networks**
- **Governance**
- **Agreements**
- **Projects**
- **Citizens**
- **…**

CONTENT

INFRA-STRUCTURE

CO-OPERATION

SEIS
Shared environmental information system

European Environment Agency

Thank you!

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