

Member and cooperating countries

The EEA currently has 33 member countries and six cooperating countries. The 33 member countries include the 28 European Union Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

The six West Balkan countries are cooperating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo. The cooperation activities of these countries are integrated into Eionet and are supported by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

The EEA also engages in international cooperation beyond its own member and cooperating countries.



Picture 2: EEA member and cooperation countries

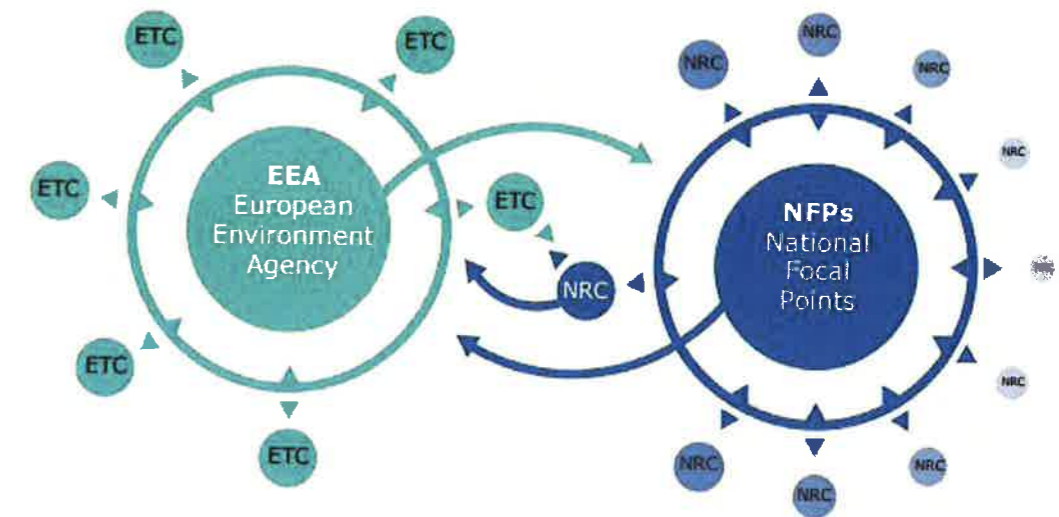
European Topic Centres

Apart from the NFPs and NRCs, Eionet currently covers six European topic centres (ETCs). European Topic Centres are consortia of institutions across EEA member countries dealing with a specific environmental topic and contracted by the EEA to perform specific activities as defined in the EEA Strategy and the Annual Management Plan.

- Air pollution and climate change mitigation
- Biological diversity
- Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
- Waste and materials in Green economy
- Inland, coastal and marine waters
- Urban, land and soil systems

²This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)



COOPERATION OF THE SLOVAK ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (SEA) WITH THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EEA)

SR officially joined EEA on 1st august 2001, when Contract between European Economic community and SR about membership of SR in EEA came into the force. EEA was first EU agency who enabled membership of the countries who were not officially EU members.

National Eionet – the structure is complex and simple. NFP is nominated by MoE SR and nominates experts from national institutions who thematically covers required expertise There are institutions that nominate their experts to participate and be a part of NRCs. The MB member is officially nominated by State Secretary and is appointed by Permanent representation of the SR to the EU in Brussels.

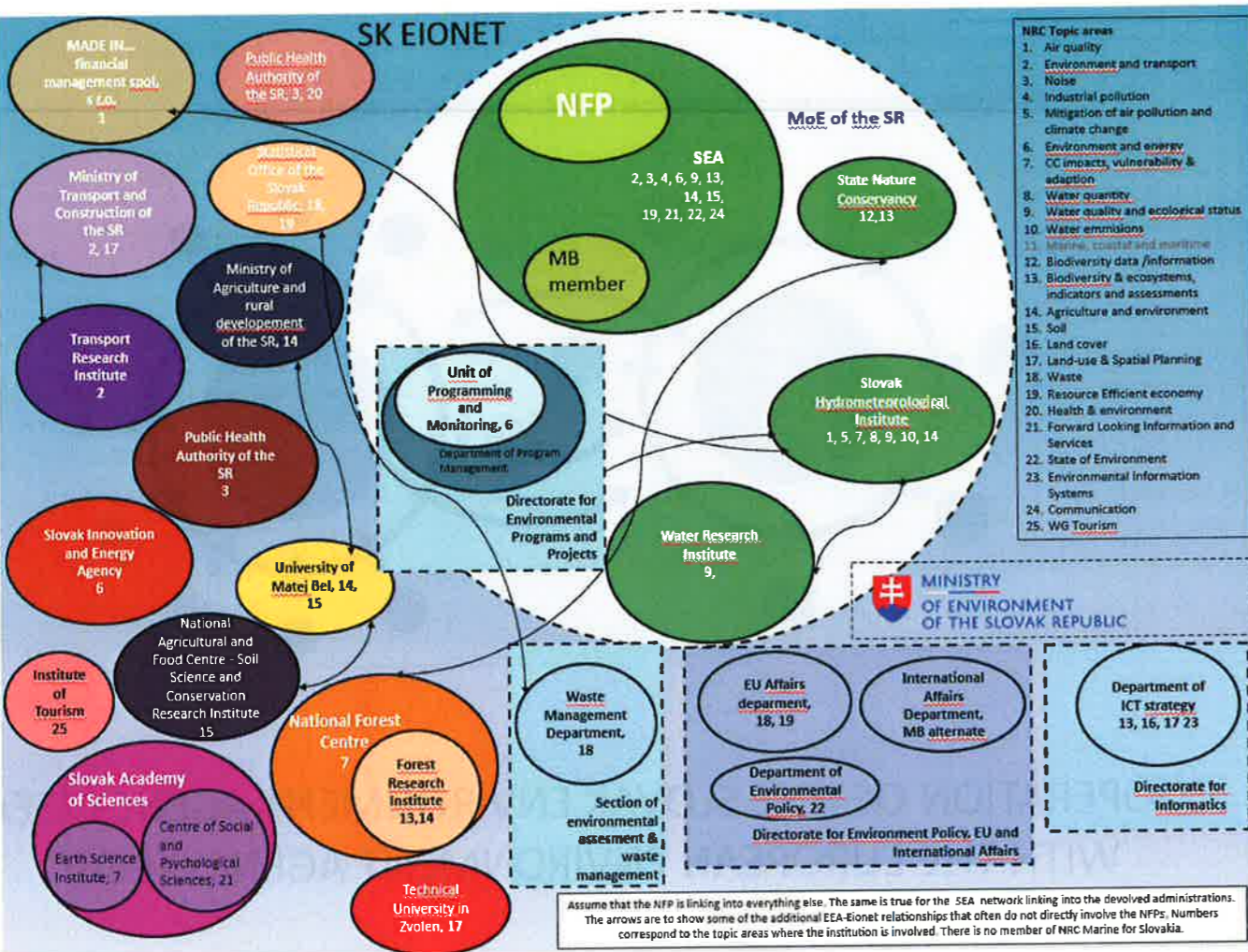
There is NFP/ Eionet Interest Group– working platform for communication between EEA and the group on NFP/Eionet group meetings, product reviews, data flows, general aspects of EEA and Eionet.

National network Eionet SK as for October 2017

- **Management Board members** – SEA Director General MatejOvčiarka, MB alternant Barbora Doričková, MoE SR;
- **NFP Institution** – SEA, appointed by MoE SR;
- **National Focal Point NFP SK** – Katarína Kosková – officially nominated & Sylvia Baslarová – alternate, SEA;
- National Reference Centres are national institutions, not an individual person. There are officially nominated experts in thematic areas – see Picture 4;
- **24 NRC - 17 institutions with 74 experts** (4 resort MoE SR, 13 out of MoE SR resort).
- **CDO – Country Desk Officer for Slovakia** – Bert Jansen;

³Slovakia has a representative in ETC Biological Diversity

⁴See Picture 4.



Responsibilities of Eionet SK

The National Focal Point (NFP) is the organization nominated and funded by an EEA Member or collaborating country to be the primary link and contact between the country and EEA, other Eionet members and other relevant actors. Persons to whom the NFP organization has assigned the management of the NFP duties and responsibilities may be referred to as NFP representatives, NFP contacts, NFP teams, NFP staff or even NFP.

The NFPs coordinate the national contribution to the implementation of the EEA.

Multi Annual Work Programme, the more detailed Annual Work Programmes and support relevant activities at country level. Their organisational set-up and working methods differ from country to country. This partly reflects the diverse nature of the national structures established for the environmental administration and the related national information systems and networks. The NFPs may be environmental Ministries, Agencies or other institutions in a centralised national administration or operate in a decentralised, federal, or other structure.

All the network is active and participates on MB meetings and seminars, on NFP meetings and webinars. NRC meetings and webinars are usually covered by one or more representative for each NRC. There is an Eionet forum, where all the documents and presentations can be found.

In Slovakia the NFP team organizes annual NRC meeting on national level, knowledge and experience sharing, informing each other, following new trends for pertinent areas, projects calls.

NFP, MB member and NRCs reflections on open consultations, comments, position papers, questionnaires, ECDFs, general communication, coordination role on national level and presentation on national level.

NFP SK team is active in NFP working groups – ICT UG (Information, Communication and Technology); CCC – Communication, Coordination and Cooperation and Copernicus – this working group was also chaired for several years by NFP SK.

THE ECDF

The Eionet Core Data Flows (ECDF) are a subset of existing keydata flow reported by EEA member and cooperating countries using the Reportnettools. The current set of CoreDataFlows has been agreed by the Management Board in November 2015. The reported data are used by the EEA for its main assessments, products and services. The objective of the data flow monitoring and evaluation is to encourage countries towards better performance through friendly competition concentrating on praise for achievements rather than blame for failures. As for Slovakia the score is 92 %.

European Environment Agency (EEA) and European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET)

COOPERATION OF THE SLOVAK ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (SEA) WITH THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

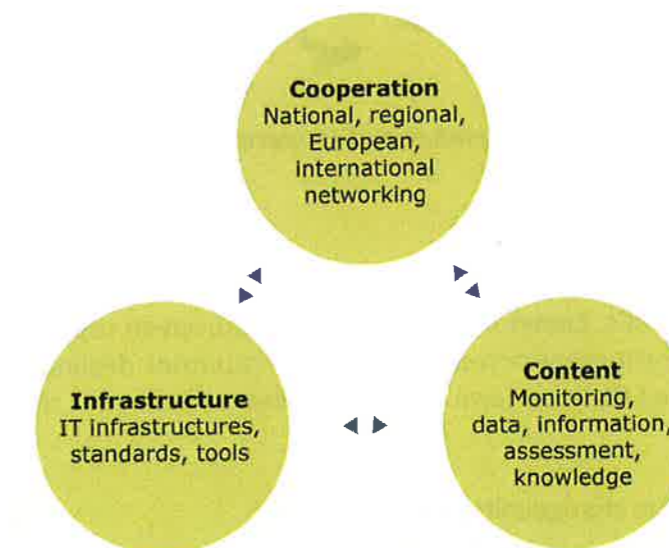
The EEA is responsible for developing Eionet and coordinating its activities. To do so, the EEA works closely with National focal points (NFPs), which are typically based in national environment agencies or environment ministries. NFPs are responsible for coordinating national networks, involving many institutions.

NFPs are responsible for coordinating networks of National reference centres (NRCs), bringing together experts from national institutions and other bodies involved in environmental information.

Taking up its work in 1994, Eionet has become a well-known and trusted provider of high quality data, information and assessments for Europe.

The concept of Eionet encompasses the following defining elements:

- Strong **institutional cooperation** across several levels (national, regional, European, international) as well as partnerships with civil society, facilitated by a coordinating entity
- Agreed **common content** – data, information, indicators, analysis
- Shared **infrastructure**, standards and tools.



Picture 1: Eionet concept

¹Source: © EEA.