



Consolidated annual activity report 2024



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Management Board's analysis and assessment

Introduction

The Management Board welcomes the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2024 (CAAR 2024) and makes the following observations.

Commentary on Overall Achievements

The Management Board acknowledges the following achievements by the EEA in 2024. The Management Board noted the continued commitment of the EEA to delivering at a high level and adapting to the evolving context, as confirmed in the EEA-Eionet evaluation 2017-2021.

- Effective management of the governance processes and functioning of the Management Board and Bureau was ensured during 2024. The Management Board led the EEA through the year of EU elections and policy changes related to the new European Parliament and new EU Commission.
- The Management Board elected two new Bureau Vice Chairs and selected nine new members of the Scientific Committee. The Management Board continued implementing changes in its ways of working in terms of format, conduct, and content of meetings, following a review of Management Board and Bureau operations and preliminary outcomes of the EEA-Eionet evaluation. For instance, the Management Board had a strategic discussion on the EEA flagship products and held regular discussions on SOER 2025. The March Management Board meeting, hosted by JRC in Ispra, Italy, provided an opportunity for the Management Board to better understand JRC's work.
- 2024 was the fourth year of implementation of the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030. The Management Board actively contributed to the discussion on the re-alignment of priorities to the new policy context during the second half of the strategy implementation at the Management Board/Scientific Committee/National Focal Points Seminar organised in June 2024. The EEA and the countries further built on the modernisation of Eionet to ensure that the network continues to jointly deliver on the EEA-Eionet Strategy and new policy ambitions.
- A Management Board Advisory Committee (MBAC), set up to follow the EEA/Eionet evaluation 2017-2021, has been instrumental in bringing knowledge and insights to the exercise from the Management Board and country/Eionet perspective. The MBAC worked throughout the year preparing for the EEA Management Board response to the European Commission Evaluation of the EEA and Eionet 2017-2021, adopted at the Management Board meeting in November 2024.
- The Management Board set up an MBAC on European Topic Centre (ETC) design to support discussions towards a new model of the ETCs and their selection.
- The EEA continued supporting the delivery of Europe's environmental ambitions as part of the European Green Deal (EGD) and the 8th Environment Action Programme (8th EAP), also contributing to Europe's global commitments, while preparing for future engagement with EU institutional stakeholders and the countries in anticipation of the next policy cycle. The EEA published seven key flagship reports which had an impact on policies in the new circle: *European Climate Risk*

Assessment; Accelerating the circular economy in Europe; Europe's state of water 2024 – The need for improved water resilience; Europe's sustainability transitions outlook, Trends and Projections in Europe; Zero pollution monitoring assessment; and Monitoring report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives.

- The delivery rates for the EEA key performance indicators (KPIs) in 2024 were high, with a budget execution rate of 100% of the annual budget, 97% delivery rate of key reports and assessments, and high engagement with key stakeholders and network partners throughout the year. To align with the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030 and to reflect on the outcomes of the EEA-Eionet evaluation 2017-2021, the EEA initiated the process towards the revision of the KPIs. Outcomes of the first phase were discussed with the Management Board in November 2024.
- The Single Programming Document 2025-2027 (SPD) was further streamlined, resulting in improved quality and readability, reflecting the new EEA delivery model. The SPD consultation with the countries was further improved, involving NFPs, resulting in more consolidated input and increased engagement in the process.

Recommendations

With the aim of ensuring efficient operation in the period to come, the Management Board puts forward the following recommendations:

- In view of the new policy context and priorities for 2024-2029 and the ongoing review of the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030, the Management Board recommends that the EEA continues its reflections with the Management Board on widening the EEA-Eionet resource base, modernising Eionet, strengthening the uptake of EEA-Eionet capacities, data, and knowledge in support of EU policies, increasing the use of digital tools and technologies, following up on the outcomes of the EEA-Eionet Evaluation 2017-2021, and enlarging the EEA, including closer cooperation with the Western Balkans, in line with the founding Regulation.
- The Management Board also invites the EEA to reflect on how to engage its member countries, through Eionet, to support the simplification agenda for effective and proportionate implementation, and provide input to the overall exercise being conducted by the Commission.
- The Management Board recognised the instrumental role played by the MBAC in following the evaluation of EEA/Eionet for the period 2017-2021, bringing together Management Board members and Eionet National Focal Points. In line with the advice from the MBAC, the Management Board recommended that the EEA focuses on the 10 recommendations defined in the Management Board response to the EEA/Eionet evaluation agreed upon in November 2024. The Management Board also recognises the value of the discussions between the MBAC on ETC Design and the EEA on the future of the ETCs.
- The Management Board also recommends that the EEA continues discussions on the partition of the EEA budget with a view to reaching a balance between core and non-core budget.
- The Management Board recommends that the EEA continues its efforts to harvest improved input and ensure high engagement from Management Board members and the whole community of stakeholders consulted on the SPD, ensuring the timely submission of the final SPD to the Management Board for adoption by the end of the year.

- Building on previous years' efforts to bring more substantive issues to meetings, the Management Board invites the EEA to continue this effort to enable strategic discussions with Management Board members.
- The Management Board welcomes the regular discussion on the European State of the Environment and Outlook report 2025 and recommends that the EEA focuses on designing a robust communication plan and outreach after the launch. In line with the EEA-Eionet evaluation recommendations and Management Board response, a reflection will need to start after the publication on the timing of the next edition.
- The Management Board notes the importance of the EEA having sufficient resources allocated to support functions to continue delivering on its operational tasks, in a context where new tasks are allocated to the Agency, in addition to the EEA's continuous efforts to achieve synergies. The Management Board encourages the EEA to continue to actively engage with the European Commission to ensure an adequate balance between operational and support tasks, and the possibility to refocus and fully exploit synergies among activities to optimise the use of existing resources.
- The Management Board notes the importance of the EEA continuing to provide an annual update to the Bureau and Management Board on the Agency's risk identification, including information on mitigation measures to respond to risks and a summary of risks that have materialised.
- The Management Board recommends that the EEA continues reflecting, building on the outcomes of the first phase of the review, on the Agency's KPIs, which could be strengthened to better address the efficiency, uptake and impact of the EEA-Eionet work.

The year in brief

The stakes could not be higher. The impacts of climate change are becoming more devastating. Nature is degrading, with dire consequences. 2024 was the hottest year on record, surpassing the recent record high of 2023. And Europe isn't escaping unscathed. Our continent is the fastest warming one on the planet. Climate risks are threatening the very building blocks of our lives – from energy to ecosystems, to food security and water supply – and putting our finances and health at risk.

In this context, reliable and accurate data about where we're heading and what we can do to change course are crucial. That's why the EEA, alongside its partner countries and knowledge network in 38 countries, Eionet, supports the EU's environment and climate policies with compelling analyses and scientific facts.

In 2024, we continued to live up to our mission.

Providing knowledge

Our assessments provided knowledge that underpins and validates the European Commission's (EC) policy priorities. These include the European Green Deal (EGD) and its flagship initiatives; the Eighth Environment Action Programme (8th EAP); and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We also took on additional tasks linked to policy priorities, including the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRL) and the Land Use, Land Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector.

Specifically, the EEA published the first-ever [European Climate Risk Assessment](#) (EUCRA): a report that helps identify policy priorities for climate change adaptation, especially within the sectors particularly sensitive to climate change. EUCRA stresses that the EU and its Member States must work together to truly address climate risks in a sustainable, long-term way. On its launch date, EUCRA received more media attention over 24 hours than any other EEA product in history. It also made waves across the EU policy sphere, informing discussions with over a dozen institutional stakeholders. The EEA also produced the 2024 edition of the [Monitoring report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives](#), based on 28 headline indicators and corresponding targets.

There is significant pressure on Europe's water – with impacts on 20% of Europe's territory and 30% of the population. The EEA's [assessment on the health of Europe's water bodies](#) outlines three overarching challenges: protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems, achieving zero pollution and adapting to water scarcity, drought and flood risks.

When it comes to human health, the EEA continued to explore how the environment impacts our well-being, covering topics like air pollution, chemicals, climate change and noise pollution. For instance, we published up-to-date data on the [Air Quality Portal](#), the [European city air quality viewer](#) and the [EEA Air Quality Index](#) together with the mobile app. These provide information about the air we breathe in Europe no matter where we live, work or travel.

The EEA also supported the European Commission's circular economy monitoring framework. For example, we expanded our [Circularity Metrics Lab](#). We also published an assessment report: [Accelerating the circular economy in Europe](#). This explains

the benefits of setting potential future targets on resource use or the material footprint and possible avenues to speed the transition to a more circular economic model. It was well received and had a notable impact on policy discussions.

Just as Europe is being impacted by climate change, it is simultaneously grappling with socioeconomic challenges and geopolitical volatility. These issues aren't standalone ones, which is why the EEA's foresight report *Europe's sustainability transitions outlook* argues that we must take a broader view on security, competitiveness and fairness. The report suggests ways to anchor European sustainability objectives as fundamental parts of wider European policies, to converge with the long-term vision of 'living well within the limits of our planet'. Throughout 2024 we continued development of the EEA's *European environment – state and outlook 2025* report, which will be published in September 2025.

Progress at the EEA

In 2024, we also refined how we work as an agency and with our partners.

For instance, the EEA initiated work on a Digital Capability Strategy for 2025-2030 and revised its Data Management Strategy and IT Strategy. Together, these strategies guide us to ensure we can meet our current and future needs regarding our reporting, data, knowledge and stakeholder collaboration services.

Given the sheer number of new activities and responsibilities assigned to the EEA through the EGD, the EEA's Management Board began discussions on the future direction of the EEA-Eionet Strategy to 2030. These ongoing discussions also take into account the recommendations of the EEA/Eionet evaluation for 2017-2021. A decision is expected to be taken in 2025.

In June, the EEA Stakeholder Seminar united key stakeholders: the Management Board, Scientific Committee, national focal points and European Topic Centre managers. The purpose was to make the most of the collective knowledge in the room, especially when discussing how to respond to political developments up to 2030. The seminar aimed to guide the EEA's future direction and pinpoint priorities for the second period of the EEA-Eionet Strategy. Building on the seminar outcomes, EEA staff were invited to give their input to the strategy's future.

Last but not least, the EEA's senior management initiated an internal process of updating the EEA's delivery model, with the aim of creating greater transparency and aiding management in setting priorities in line with EEA stakeholders' demands. Additionally, it will clarify further where resources are going and why. In support of this and to better reflect new challenges, the EEA modernised its structure in 2024. This was introduced alongside the updated delivery model in 2025.

These are just a few examples to illustrate how the EEA continued to play a key role as a reliable knowledge-provider in Europe in 2024. Our agency remains trusted and valued by partners, stakeholders and the public both for its analytical depth and for its support to EU policies.

The EEA in brief

The EEA's mission is 'to support sustainable development and to help 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'.

The EEA is a decentralised agency of the EU. The EEA/Eionet Regulation ⁽¹⁾ established the EEA as an independent EU body with its own legal personality and for an indefinite period. The Agency's founding regulation also established the European Environment Information and Observations Network (Eionet) ⁽²⁾ and includes the provision that the Agency is open to countries that are not members of the EU ⁽³⁾.

The overall objective of the EEA is to achieve the aims of environmental protection and improvement laid down by the Treaty and by successive community action programmes on the environment, as well as of sustainable development. The objective of the Agency and Eionet is to provide the community and Member States with:

1. 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, and to that end;
2. the necessary technical and scientific support.

EEA funding consists of an EU subsidy (subject to approval by the budgetary authority) and in addition non-core budget (not part of the EU subsidy) and payments for services rendered. The EU's Financial Regulation (and its rules of application) and Framework Financial Regulation apply. The European Parliament is the Agency's discharge authority.

With respect to human resources, the Staff Regulation defines the overarching principles for EEA staff and implementing provisions have to be adopted in agreement with the European Commission. Furthermore, the establishment of and mandate for both the EEA Management Board and the EEA Scientific Committee are defined, as is the responsibility and accountability of the executive director as the legal representative of the Agency.

The EEA's organisational structure for 2024 included three hierarchical levels:

1. Executive Director's Office, led by the executive director;
2. seven programmes, led by heads of programmes;
3. 21 groups, led by heads of groups.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32009R0401>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.eionet.europa.eu>

⁽³⁾ Agreements with the EEA in the context of Article 300 of the Treaty have been established with the following non-EU countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Türkiye.

On top of these, the Management Board (with its Bureau), is the main decision-making body of the EEA. For more information, see the organisational chart in Annex 3.

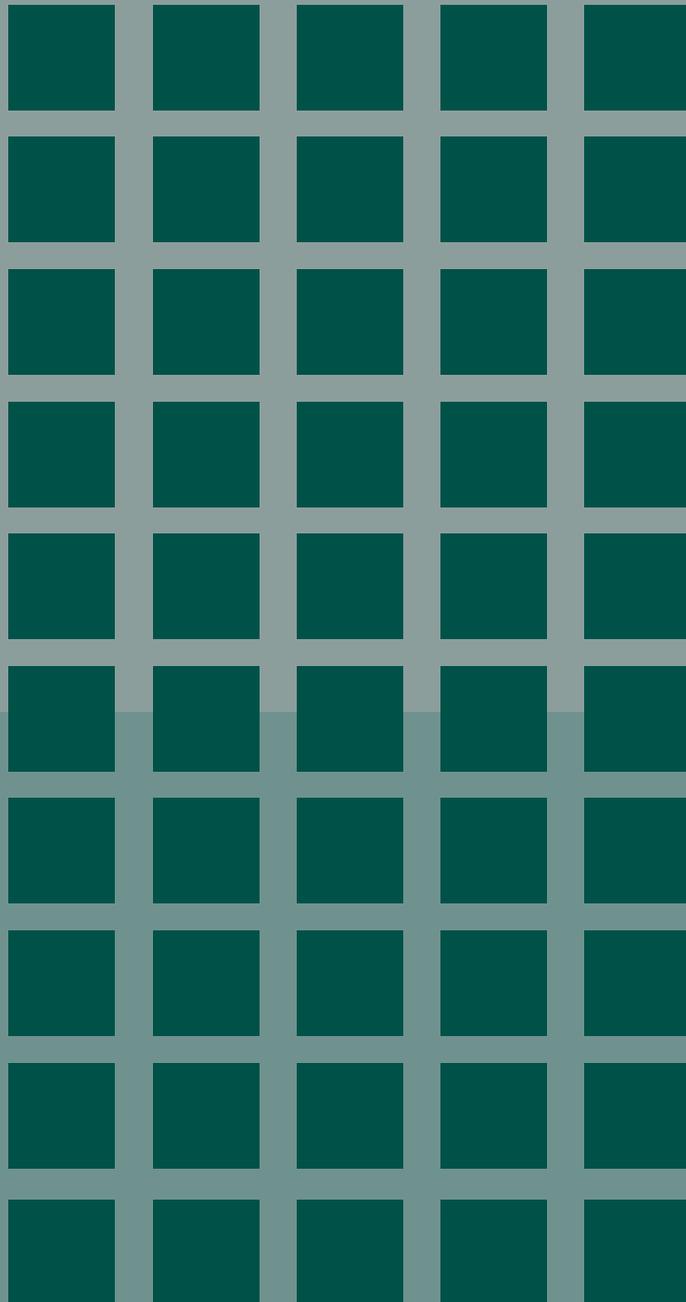
Article 41 of the EEA's Financial Regulation entitles the director to delegate the powers of budget execution and for these to be sub-delegated. In 2024, powers to execute each type of expenditure were delegated to the heads of programme, with the head of administration having delegated authority for all types of expenditure. Sub-delegation was given to the heads of groups in the administration programme and the head of group responsible for the secretariat for the European Scientific Advisory Board for Climate Change.



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1 Achievements of the year



Part 1 of this report is structured around the EEA's five activities, as set out in the Single Programming Document 2024-2026 ^(*). The overall achievements for 2024 are placed in the context of multiannual goals, key objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs). These are reported in comparison with the performance indicators, specific objectives and expected results defined in the EEA's annual work programme for 2024.

The EEA's performance framework is closely related to KPIs for the Executive Director. These aim to achieve a quantitative monitoring of the Agency's performance in relation to its operational work planning and to its financial and human resource management. The EEA performance framework is structured around five performance objectives (Table 1.1), which are monitored by 17 multiannual KPIs (Table 1.2).

Table 1.1 EEA annual performance objectives

	Performance objective	Type
1	Sustainable use of financial and human resources, and adequate and efficient internal control systems	Input
2	Timely and qualitative delivery of key products planned in the EEA work programme	Operational output
3	Development and distribution of EEA products aligned with user needs	Uptake
4	Sustainable interaction between the EEA and its network	Eionet
5	Sustainable human resource management	Staff well-being

The monitoring of the 'Operational output' and for 'Eionet' (European Environment Information and Observation Network) KPIs is based on the operational performance across the five activities of the EEA's annual work programme.

^(*) <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/single-programming-document-2023-2025>

Table 1.2 EEA multiannual key performance indicators

Performance objective	No.	KPI	KPI measurement	Baseline (2021)	Target	2024 realisation
Input	1 ^(a)	Staff occupancy rate	Realised staff resources in annual establishment plan	99.3%	Min. 95%	96%
	2 ^(a)	Budget execution – outturn	Rate of annual outturn and carry forward of EEA core budget	100%	Min. 98%	100%
	3 ^(a)	Budget execution – cancellations	Cancellation rate of payment appropriations in year <i>n</i>	0.0%	Max. 2% of core budget	0.3%
	4 ^(a)	Budget execution – executions	Payments executed within legal/contractual deadline	99.2%	100%	91% ^(b)
	17 ^(a)	Audit compliance	Rate of recommendations from European Court of Auditors implemented (with deadline in year <i>n</i>)	100%	-	100%
Eionet	7 ^(a)	Eionet – data submission	Annual performance for Eionet core data flows	86%	90%	77% ^(c)
	12	Eionet – network interactions	Eionet country participation rate in webinars and meetings (updated 2022)	66%	Stable/increase	50%
	13	Eionet – network satisfaction	Average participant satisfaction rating (updated 2022)	91%	80%	90% ^(d)
Operational output	5 ^(a)	Annual work programme delivery – assessments	Delivery rate of key reports/assessments as planned for year <i>n</i>	93.1%	Min. 90%	97%
	6 ^(a)	Annual work programme delivery – indicators	Share of core set indicators updated as planned for year <i>n</i>	96%	Min. 90%	100%
Uptake	8	Media visibility – EEA references	Articles with reference to the EEA (no)	23,000	Stable/increase	31,991
	9	Media visibility – social media	Number of followers on social media (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn combined)	207,000	Stable/increase	264,072
	10	Web traffic	Number of registered sessions on the EEA website	9.8m	Stable/increase	8.99m ^(e)
	11	Downloads	Registered use of map services (number measured as 'machine-to-machine' traffic)	660m	Stable/increase	899m
Staff well-being	14 ^(a)	Staff satisfaction	Average favourable rate for common items for agencies	63%	-	60%
	15 ^(a)	Learning	Average registered time for learning and development (days)	4	7	7.5
	16 ^(a)	Absence	Annual average short-term sick leave (days)	5	Stable/decrease	3.4
Uptake	18	EEA support to EU policy documents	Number of EU policy documents referencing the EEA or its products	900	Stable/increase	3,270

Notes: ^(a) Mandatory KPIs of the Executive Director.

^(b) The EEA is experiencing problems regarding timeliness of payments. A contributing factor to the level of delayed payments has been the increasingly heavy workload borne by finance officers. Under the current MFF, the European Commission has substantially increased the EEA's tasks and operational posts with limited increase in support posts (approximately 2% of the new posts have been given to support function), which is placing an untenable burden on support functions. The EEA has repeatedly requested additional support posts in its budget submissions without success. The EEA is investigating mitigating measures and controls to improve payment timeliness.

^(c) The 2024 core dataflows are evaluated on 13 selected dataflows. The overall score is driven by the number of countries which do not deliver to the late deadline, i.e. one month after the official deadline, which gives 0 points. The detailed results can be found [here](#).

Table 1.2 EEA multiannual key performance indicators (cont.)

Addressing the score to achieve the target would be done in two ways. Firstly, understanding issues in countries which consistently do not meet the deadline, and secondly understanding the issues in dataflows which scored low, i.e. these dataflows scored less than 70% in 2024: IED EU registry, EPRTR, WISE2 and WISE3. These four dataflows also scored similarly in 2023.

^(d) The Eionet satisfaction KPI is based on richer data from the Eionet modernisation dashboard. It is the average scoring for satisfaction surveys carried out for 72 meetings.

^(e) After a drop in 2023 due to migration of the site and large amounts of content archived, the number of visits is slowly recovering. This is also in the context where the increased use of AI results in lower traffic from search engines.

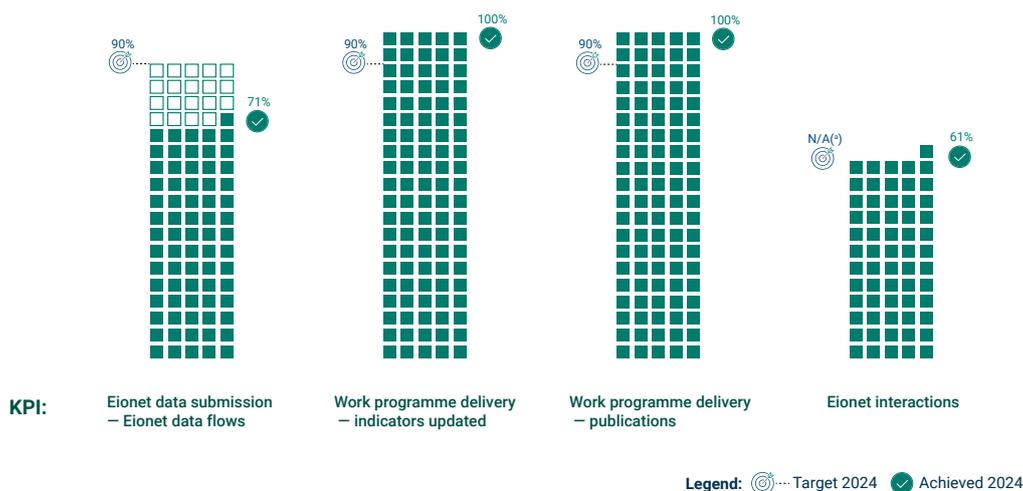
M = million.

1.1 Biodiversity and ecosystems

1.1.1 Specific objective

To ensure the delivery of data, information and actionable knowledge contributing to the maintenance and restoration of good ecosystem conditions and halting the loss of biodiversity across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Figure 1.1 Activity 1: Key performance indicators



Note: ^(e) There is no target agreed at activity level for the Eionet interactions KPI. At organisational level, the target is to improve on performance from 2021 of 66%, whilst acknowledging that approaches to interactions and their monitoring continue to evolve through increased digitalisation.

1.1.2 Achievement of objectives and results

Action 1: Monitoring and reporting in support of EU policies on nature, freshwater and marine

Throughout 2024, the EEA focused on supporting the European Commission and EEA countries with the implementation of a range of EU legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Bathing Water Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Water Reuse Regulation, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, the Invasive Alien Species Regulation, the Pollinators Initiative, the 2030 biodiversity strategy and the recently adopted Nature Restoration Regulation.

In 2024, the EEA published its flagship report *Europe's state of water 2024: the need for improved water resilience*. It was supported by a website published in *WISE-Freshwater*, showing key results and enabling exploration of information. The report and the WISE-Freshwater website is underpinned by data and information from the 3rd River Basin Management Plans reported electronically by EU Member States and Norway under the Water Framework Directive. Managing the reporting and processing of received information was a major EEA activity. The report became one of the most widely cited publications of the EEA in 2024. It has been presented to the Council and Parliament and was used as input for the Environment Commissioner's hearing.

Additionally, the annual WISE-State of the Environment data calls were launched, with notable participation from 34 out of 38 countries for WISE-6. Other support included the preparation of compliance dashboards for the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Data models, quality checks and reporting guidance were developed for the Drinking Water Directive and Water Reuse Regulation. For the Bathing Water Directive, the latest data from 2023 were reported and the *bathing water map viewer*, *country fact sheets* and the *European Bathing Water Quality in 2023* briefing were published in June.

The data flows for protected areas reporting at EU and national levels have been launched, implemented (including an update of the Standard Data Form for Natura 2000 reporting) and updated indicators delivered. Progress has been made in preparing the reporting under Art.12 and Art.17 of the birds and habitats directives (deadline July 2025), the reporting under the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (deadline June 2025) as well as developing the uniform formats for the reporting of nature restoration plans (deadline September 2026). The EEA mobilised significant resources to contribute to the development of the reporting format in close coordination with the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) and Member States as soon as the Nature Restoration Regulation was adopted in June. The EEA continued to provide data flow and reporting support in view of the proposed monitoring laws for soil and forests.

The *BISE*, *WISE (Freshwater)*, *WISE (Marine)* and *Forest* online information (FISE) systems for Europe were enhanced to offer integrated, comprehensive knowledge aligned with the EEA web design and further harmonised across other jointly owned information systems. Specifically, the work on FISE allowed the release of a new version in April 2025. The EEA has also updated and published a number of *indicators*, including key indicators for the *Eighth Environment Action Programme* report published on 19 February 2025.

Networking activities included meetings and webinars with thematic groups covering freshwater, marine, biodiversity protection and restoration, biodiversity monitoring, food systems, forests and soil. A co-creation activity was established in 2023 with the Eionet Working Group on antimicrobial resistance in surface waters with engagement from 15 Member States. The work of the group has led to an Eionet report to be published in 2025. The ETC Biodiversity and Ecosystems, which started operations on 1 January 2023, delivered on its 2024 Action Plan and has had considerable activity across Action 1.

Finally, in April 2024 the EEA started to support DG ENV and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on their implementation of the Nitrates Directive and reporting based on a service level agreement with the JRC. In November 2024, work started on the four-year Mission Oceans Service Level Agreement with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Action 2: Assessments, solutions and sustainability challenges for nature and ecosystems protection and restoration

The EEA has undertaken various initiatives to support the EU biodiversity strategy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These include collecting data, developing indicators and delivering various products focused on freshwater, marine and biodiversity topics.

In relation to the Nature Restoration Regulation, the EEA shared its knowledge at a range of stakeholder meetings in countries and EU institutions. Throughout the year, it published several briefings to help increase understanding of nature restoration. These briefings covered topics such as the importance of restoration in Europe, [Solutions for restoring Europe's agricultural ecosystems](#) and the [international cooperation to strengthen biodiversity](#). In addition, the ETC on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (ETC BE) published reports on [societal factors enabling to halt and reverse the loss and change of biodiversity](#) and [approaches to identify terrestrial priority areas for achieving the 30% and 10% protection target in the EU](#).

Furthermore, the EEA contributed advice and knowledge on proposed laws related to forests and soil monitoring. The EEA also continued to collaborate with the European Investment Bank on finance and investments in nature, in view of the need to integrate nature-based policy responses into economic models. Efforts and engagement with Eionet countries specifically addressed nature restoration and protection, biodiversity monitoring, food systems, soil and forests.

Another focus was the development and analysis of [pledges](#) regarding the ambition of [protected areas](#) for land and sea, and [measures](#) to improve the state of nature in the EU.

Efforts were also directed towards water scarcity and droughts, resulting in the draft of a technical report on water-saving measures and input to the European climate risk assessment. Automating workflows and implementing machine learning techniques improved efficiency by around 300% when compared to working hours used for the previous (2019) update, enabling future updates to the [Water scarcity conditions in Europe](#) and [Water abstraction by source and economic sector](#) indicators to become more frequent.

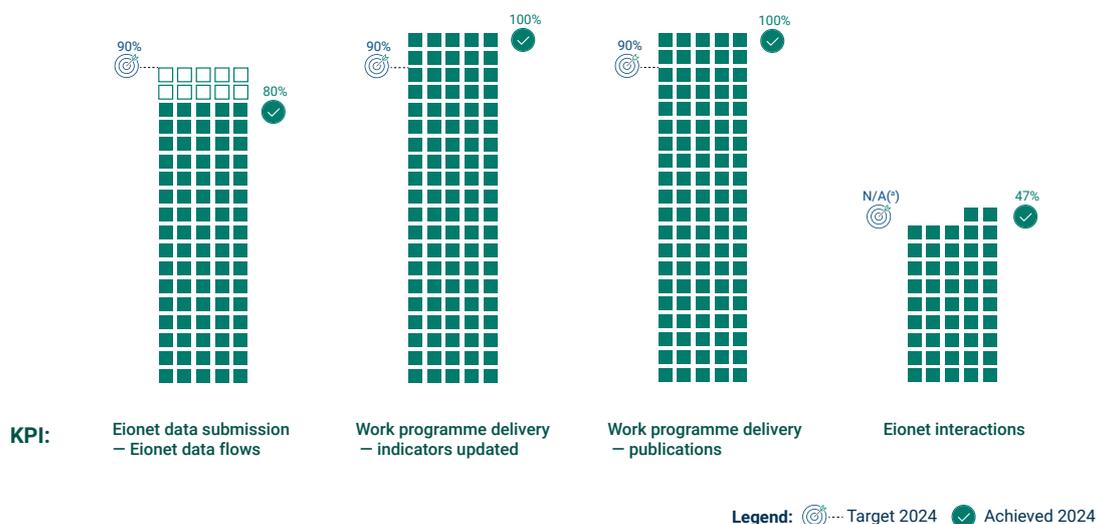
Collaboration with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for the 2nd European Maritime Transport Environmental Report (EMTER 2025) was concluded, with a final draft and consultations conducted with stakeholders through workshops and written feedback. The EEA supported the European Court of Auditors in their audit on seawater pollution from vessels and published the following briefings: [Harnessing offshore wind while preserving the seas](#); [Managing the growth of offshore wind energy and marine ecosystem protection in Europe](#) and; [Healthy seas, thriving fisheries: transitioning to an environmentally sustainable sector](#).

1.2 Climate change mitigation and adaptation

1.2.1 Specific objective

To ensure the delivery of data, information and knowledge in support of the implementation and further development of policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Figure 1.2 Activity 2: Key performance indicators



Note: ^(*) There is no target agreed at activity level for the Eionet interactions KPI. At organisational level, the target is to improve on performance from 2021 of 66%, whilst acknowledging that approaches to interactions and their monitoring continue to evolve through increased digitalisation.

1.2.2 Achievement of objectives and results

2024 was the warmest year on record, with global temperatures surpassing the 1.5°C warming threshold, according to Copernicus. In response, the European Commission presented a 2040 climate target, aiming to reduce the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 compared to 1990 levels. This target is a key step towards climate neutrality by 2050. The EU's 2030 target to reduce net emissions by at least 55% is the first milestone on this path. The European Commission also emphasised carbon removals in Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors and proposed a 2030-2050 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission budget. Member States submitted updated National Energy and Climate Plans and a new European Climate Adaptation Plan was announced, to be launched at a later date.

The EEA's support for the European Commission and Eionet has taken place in the context of existing and new objectives, policies and legislation related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy and transport. The EEA delivered data, information and actionable knowledge in support of the implementation and further development of policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This includes monitoring EU and national progress to the new, more ambitious targets set through the Fit for 55 package and RePowerEU plan, as well as in the European Climate Law. Engagement with the climate Eionet groups took place throughout the year via webinars, workshops, bilaterals, consultations and in-person meetings.

Action 1: Monitoring and reporting on progress towards climate neutrality

In 2024, the EEA collaborated with the European Commission on decarbonisation, renewable energy and energy efficiency to align with the Governance Regulation (Article 42). This involved supporting regular reporting on climate and energy policies and measures, greenhouse gas inventories and projections, as well as the use of the Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) auctioning revenues and support to

developing countries. Further data collection addressed EU ETS implementation, ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases), fuel quality and fuel greenhouse gas intensity and average CO₂ emissions from new cars, vans and heavy-duty vehicles.

To support the dissemination of data and information reported under the Governance Regulation, the EEA provided climate and energy data and information via its online platform on the [climate and energy](#) website; the [EU ETS data viewer](#), the [EEA greenhouse gases data viewer](#) and [EEA GHG projections data viewer](#); the [policies and measures database tool](#); and the [EEA's datahub](#).

In collaboration with the European Space Agency, the EEA organised the conference [Earth Observation for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification of Carbon Removals](#) in October. The event brought together 160 experts from a wide range of disciplines to discuss how Earth observation technologies can support the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of carbon removals, with a particular focus on the LULUCF sector.

The EEA also continued to work with the European Commission on tracking progress towards 2030 targets and climate neutrality, with the annual [Trends and Projections flagship report](#) showing an 8% reduction in EU emissions between 2022 and 2023 – a significant step towards climate neutrality. Additionally, preparation for an energy-system transition report progressed, focusing on key factors in the energy transition such as efficiency, pricing, electrification and others. The EEA worked on better linking circular economy policies with their decarbonisation potential. This resulted in the publication of a joint European Topic Centre report (ETC CM and ETC CE), a joint briefing and technical support/report to DGs CLIMA and ENV.

The EEA worked with the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Mitigation (ETC CM) on assessing the state of play of national systems for reporting on GHG projections, and policies and measures to better understand reporting challenges and good practices from EEA member countries, which resulted in the [ETC-CM report 2024/08: Strengthening National Governance Systems](#).

In transport, the EEA monitors European trends in CO₂ emissions from new cars, vans and heavy-duty vehicles via annually published data, visualisations and indicators. For cars and vans, the gap between lab-tested and real-world CO₂ emissions is monitored as well. Further, updated data demonstrate the accelerated [uptake of electric vehicles](#) in Europe's passenger car and vans fleet. The EEA report [Sustainability of Europe's mobility systems](#) sums up the transport sector's key trends as of 2024, and their environmental and climate impacts. This will be updated annually in the coming years.

EEA indicators also help to monitor progress towards the goals of the 8th EAP and the global Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). Among these, the indicator on [Share of buses and trains in inland passenger transport in Europe](#) shows that since 2005, the share of buses and trains in Europe's inland passenger transport has remained mostly stable, with some fluctuation due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, the [Share of trains and inland waterways in freight transport](#) peaked in 2012 but has been declining since. [CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars](#) have steadily dropped. There was a 28% reduction between 2019 and 2023, driven by a rise in electric vehicle registrations, which reached 23.6% of new cars in 2023. Similarly, [CO₂ emissions from new vans](#) fell by 11% between 2019 and 2023, with electric vans making up 8.2% of the new van fleet in 2023.

The EEA is adapting its reporting tools considering the revised regulations on ozone-depleting substances and F-gases and the enhanced electronic F-gas verification process. Updated indicators on these issues continued to show progress in phasing out the use of both [ozone depleting substances \(ODS\)](#) and [fluorinated gases \(F-gases\)](#) in line with the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali amendment.

The EEA supported monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use under the Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, conducting quality checks and assisting Member States with their inventories. In May 2024, the EEA and DG CLIMA published a comprehensive handbook to assist EU Member States implement the updated LULUCF Regulation. The guide includes reporting requirements, practical tips and case studies, focusing on improving greenhouse gas data quality and promoting the latest methodologies. It targets emission inventory experts, policymakers and professionals in forestry and agriculture. The initial version was presented in December 2023, with feedback gathered until March 2024.

To contribute to the significant geospatial ambitions set out in the revised LULUCF Regulation, the EEA implemented the operational production of an annual LULUCF reference dataset (the LULUCF Instance). This annual product is based on Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) products. An operational workflow for use of these datasets in the MRV system for LULUCF is under development.

The EEA continued its engagement with the nine contracting parties of the Energy Community (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo ⁽⁵⁾, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine). The engagement consisted of preparing for the incoming reporting obligations of 2025, where the contracting parties will report on an adapted version of the Governance Regulation, providing a fuller picture of their advancements on energy and climate matters. The engagement included virtual and in-person events, notably a meeting in Copenhagen in September where representatives from most contracting parties participated together with the Energy Community Secretariat and representatives of the European Commission.

The EEA is supporting the implementation of the [Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming \(CRCF\) Regulation](#) (EU/2024/3012), a voluntary EU framework for certifying carbon removals, farming and carbon storage in products. It assists DG CLIMA with developing monitoring and reporting methodologies aligned with IPCC guidance, ensuring consistency in GHG inventories across Member States. The EEA participates in the European Commission's Expert Group on Carbon Removals, contributing to meetings, workshops and providing expert feedback on methodology drafts.

Finally, in partnership with its country network, the EEA further developed knowledge on the transition of the energy and mobility systems towards climate neutrality and sustainability.

Action 2: Monitoring and reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation

The EEA worked closely with the European Commission, the Member States, the Copernicus programme and its services, the European Climate and Health Observatory partners, and researchers and data providers to collect critical data on climate change risks and adaptation.

⁽⁵⁾ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

A key milestone in this effort was the launch of the inaugural [European Climate Risk Assessment \(EUCRA\) 2024 flagship report](#), which presented a thorough analysis of climate vulnerability and risk assessment. This report underscored climate change as a significant threat to Europe's energy security, impacting generation, transport, demand and infrastructure. It emphasised the need for resilience to be central in EU climate and energy policies. Additionally, the EEA contributed valuable insights to the Horizon Europe [Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#).

The EEA collected data that served as the foundation for developing policy-relevant indicators and assessments on climate change and its impacts on economic sectors, ecosystems, social systems and human health. These efforts played a crucial role in supporting the preparation and implementation of adaptation actions across various geographical and governance levels. This included analysing the reported information and updating country profiles on [Climate-ADAPT](#), launching the regional adaptation support tool (RAST), publishing interactive viewers on climate change risks in Europe and releasing climate change adaptation assessments that covered adaptation solutions and case studies across governance levels and sectors.

In collaboration with Copernicus services, the EEA also gathered data on climate hazards, impacts and vulnerabilities across Europe. Furthermore, the agency assessed the effects of climate change on carbon removals in the land use sector and evaluated nature-based solutions to mitigate climate impacts and risks. The EEA supported regional-scale monitoring and reporting on adaptation through the EU Mission on Adaptation to climate change, contributing to the development of the [Mission Portal](#) hosted by Climate-ADAPT and assisting with the Mission Implementation Platform. Additionally, the [European Climate and Health Observatory](#) was regularly updated, with a particular focus on water, climate-related health issues, heat-related diseases and climate and health literacy.

Through these initiatives, the EEA continued to make significant strides in addressing the challenges of climate adaptation and resilience across Europe, driving meaningful progress towards a more sustainable future.

Action 3: Assessing solutions for the transition towards climate neutrality and resilience

The EEA worked with key partners and Eionet countries to explore and present solutions for achieving climate neutrality and resilience. Central to this effort was assessing urban and regional climate resilience, which involved preparing evaluations of local adaptation actions. The EEA also focused on identifying solutions to reduce climate risks across Europe, culminating in the preparation of the *European Climate Risk Report*. In addition, the Agency investigated health-related adaptation solutions in the context of climate change and upgraded the Climate-ADAPT platform, enhancing it with a new content management system and additional language options. This platform was continuously updated with fresh content, including best practice examples and valuable insights from sources like Copernicus Climate Change Service, Destination Earth and the adaptation mission.

The EEA further analysed the role of biomass in Europe, exploring its potential contribution to achieving climate and biodiversity targets. Strategies were also examined to enhance carbon removal in the land use sector, ensuring these efforts did not compromise other environmental or climate goals. In addition, the Agency explored the quality and traceability of data collected on climate finance (ETS auctioning revenues, support to developing countries, policies and measures finance data).

Additionally, the EEA provided input for the *European environment – state and outlook* (SOER) snapshot regarding progress towards financing climate change mitigation actions. Together with the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Mitigation, the EEA also built knowledge on energy demand management to fulfil EU climate commitments.

Further, the EEA contributed to assessing resilience solutions by publishing reports reports and briefings on [urban adaptation in Europe](#), the [health impacts of climate change](#), [preparing society for climate risks in Europe](#) and the [impacts of heat on health](#).

The 29th Conference of the Parties for Climate Change (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024. As members of the European Commission delegation EEA experts participated actively in negotiating agenda items linked to transparency, international carbon markets, adaptation, just transition and agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU).

Throughout these initiatives, the EEA ensured continued and improved access to information, fostering knowledge-sharing on policies and measures implemented by European countries to meet climate change mitigation and energy targets. Through these combined efforts, the EEA contributed to a more resilient and climate-neutral Europe by identifying and promoting effective, actionable solutions across multiple sectors.

Action 4: Supporting the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change ⁽⁶⁾

The EEA-hosted Secretariat supported the Advisory Board in the delivery of its 2024 work programme. A detailed account of the work programme's implementation is presented in section 2.2 of the [Advisory Board's work programme for the year 2025](#).

A key highlight was the publication of the Advisory Board's recommendations on a series of actions to put the EU on track towards climate neutrality in its report [Towards EU climate neutrality: progress, policy gaps and opportunities](#), published in January 2024.

Later in the year, the Advisory Board provided European institutions with an assessment of the draft scenarios used for the development of EU energy infrastructure, which was published in the report [Towards climate neutral and resilient energy networks across Europe – advice on draft scenarios under the EU regulation on trans-European energy networks](#).

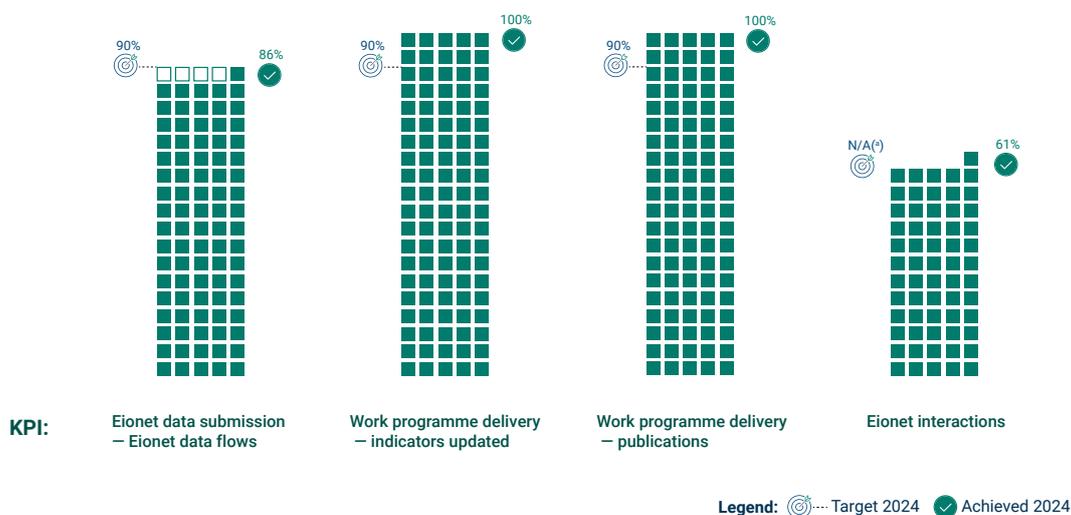
1.3 Human health and the environment

1.3.1 Specific objective

Deliver data and information to improve knowledge of the health impacts caused by air, water, and soil pollution, noise, chemicals and the changing climate in Europe.

⁽⁶⁾ The Advisory Board is an independent body providing the European Commission with scientific knowledge, expertise and advice relating to climate change. The EEA hosts the secretariat that supports the Advisory Board.

Figure 1.3 Activity 3: Key performance indicators



Note: ^(a) There is no target agreed at activity level for the Eionet interactions KPI. At organisational level, the target is to improve on performance from 2021 of 66%, whilst acknowledging that approaches to interactions and their monitoring continue to evolve through increased digitalisation.

1.3.2 Achievement of objectives and results

The EEA's work on human health and the environment supported the implementation and further development of key policies on air quality, emissions to air, chemicals, environmental noise and industrial emissions.

Action 1: Health-related environmental pressures

In the area of reporting of emissions to atmosphere, the EEA supported data exchanges under the National Emission reduction Commitments Directive (NECD) and the Air Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (CLRTAP). As part of the annual cycle, the EEA published the briefing *Air pollution in Europe: 2024 reporting status under the National Emission reduction Commitments Directive*. The EEA also supported the EU submission to CLRTAP, and the *European Union CLRTAP Inventory report 1990-2022*. All relevant [EEA indicators](#) on emissions of air pollutants to air were updated in 2024.

Reporting in the area of industry delivered as planned and data sets compiled through the various data flows are feeding the [European Industrial Emissions Portal](#) and relevant EEA indicators. Reported industry data were also used to calculate the [external costs of industrial air emissions in the 2012-2021 period](#), which shows the impacts of industry's emissions on human health and the environment. The EEA is also supporting countries and the European Commission in the process of designing and developing guidance documents, manuals and reporting requirements for informing the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive and the environmental performance of industrial sectors in the scope of the Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation (former European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register). This process was launched with a workshop with reporters in Copenhagen in June. As part of the EEA's support to the European Commission, its [ETC Health and Environment](#) worked on a series of targeted interviews and a literature review on the availability of emission limit values (ELVs) and environmental

quality standards (EQSs) on PFAS for industrial installations. This report was published in February 2025.

The EEA also initiated a new workstream on industrial transformation in 2024, which will deliver more knowledge in future years on cross-cutting aspects of the EU's green industrial transformation and identify opportunities for scaling ambition with a particular emphasis on synergies between decarbonisation, zero pollution and circular economy.

The EEA continued the process to take over Seveso Directive reporting from the JRC (regarding industrial accidents involving dangerous substances). Good cooperation with the JRC has allowed for the setup of the processes to test the data transfer into two newly created secure databases. The Seveso Community of Practice has been consulted on the data formats, both in writing and in webinars, following which, the EEA has been working on the new reporting setup, including webforms. The operational phase for the reporting will start on 1 January 2026.

Action 2: Environmental impacts on human health and well-being

The EEA collected air quality datasets from member countries and published and maintained regular air quality assessments and data in 2024 including [up-to-date data](#), the [EEA Air Quality Index](#), the [Air Quality Portal](#) and related data tables/viewers, and European city air quality viewer. Development of the EEA mobile app ^(?) also continued.

Briefings on the [status of air quality in Europe](#), the [impact of air pollution on ecosystems](#) and on the [harm to human health from air pollution](#) were published in 2024, in addition to a suite of air quality indicators. Estimates were made on the health effects of long-term exposure to ozone for the first time, with 70,000 premature deaths estimated for the EU. In collaboration with our Eionet partners a revised methodology and assessment bands for the Air Quality Index were developed in 2024 and will be published in 2025.

While the revised ambient air quality directive entered into force in December 2024, the EEA had already started working closely with the European Commission during the year to begin the process of developing new reporting dataflows and associated collection tools. It is also supporting the European Commission in the preparation of new implementing decisions and guidance documents. Plans are also under way for switching the air quality data reporting platform to Reportnet 3. This upgrade aims to streamline air quality e-reporting, reduce the reporting burden and simplify the air quality dataflows. To ensure a smooth transition, the EEA has established a pilot group comprising 13 Member States to play a key role in testing the system, providing feedback and helping shape the implementation process.

In 2024, two technical meetings on the implementation provisions for reporting (IPR) were held for national air quality reporters – one online in April and another in Madrid, Spain in November. These meetings focused on the impacts of the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive, its reporting requirements and the transition to Reportnet 3. An online meeting with the Eionet Thematic Group on Air was held in October to discuss different issues related to air quality.

For reporting on noise pollution, the harvesting and processing of strategic noise maps reported by countries was completed in 2024. These provided the dataset on which the 2025 Noise in Europe Report will be developed.

^(?) Download app here: [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple Store](#).

Not all countries completed reporting their data and the EEA has provided information to support the European Commission in initiating infringement proceedings against several countries. In addition to this, in 2024 the EEA provided support to Member States in preparing noise action plans for submission in January 2025. The [impact of noise pollution on children's reading ability and behaviour](#) was highlighted in a briefing published in December 2024. Work was also carried out in relation to determining access to quiet/green spaces in urban areas in Europe, on behalf of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO).

The EEA also supported the preparation of the *European Aviation Environment Report 2025* (published in January 2025) with data and knowledge on air quality, noise and climate-related impacts, along with the *European Maritime Transport Environmental Report 2025* (published in February 2025), which details the impacts of ports on air quality.

Looking more broadly at the impact of environmental stressors on health, the EEA produced a [briefing on respiratory health](#), indicating that more than one third of premature chronic respiratory disease related deaths in Europe are related to environmental risks. This completed a series of reports that also addressed cardiovascular disease and cancer related to environmental risks. The EEA's [Environment and Health Atlas](#) was also further developed and updated in 2024. Analysis to determine the burden of disease in Europe related to lead exposure progressed in 2024 (in collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)) and is expected to be published in 2025.

The EEA worked in close cooperation with the JRC to prepare the [Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook Report](#) (published in March 2025), with a separate online indicator dashboard also being developed by the EEA to provide ongoing assessment on the monitoring of progress towards the zero pollution action plan objectives.

Activity on the topic of One Health increased in 2024, particularly as part of the work of the [One Health Cross-Agency Task Force](#) (with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), EFSA, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA)). In 2024, this task force published a '[framework for action](#)' setting out the main activities over the coming years. The EEA also published a One Health-focused briefing on [veterinary antimicrobials in Europe's environment](#). In addition, the EEA continued to develop its capacity to support the Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health, including taking part in two European simulation exercises.

The EEA's activities on chemicals and health in 2024 included the publication (in collaboration with ECHA) of an [indicator framework](#) to measure progress towards the objectives of the chemicals strategy for sustainability (CSS). The EEA is also a partner in the Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC) research project. The EEA plays a key role as work-package co-leader in WP2 (a common science-to policy-agenda) in ensuring that these activities can respond to identified policy and regulatory needs. Furthermore, the EEA is involved in WP3 (communication) and WP8 (SSbD and EWS).

In collaboration with the ETC on Human Health and Environment (ETC HE), the EEA is calculating the burden of disease from selected toxic chemicals based on human biomonitoring data, to support an improved assessment of the effectiveness of relevant policies. Preliminary results were published for pyrethroids, as well as for cadmium, phthalates and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The EEA also provided additional knowledge on the risks posed by PFAS through two publications: an assessment of the risk posed by [PFAS in textiles](#); and the first analysis of PFAS data reported under the Water Framework Directive, which highlighted the ubiquity

of [PFAS in European waters](#). The EEA supported Eurostat with air quality indicators for its regional yearbook and the SDGs indicators set. Finally, the EEA contributed to an assessment on urban pollution by the European Court of Auditors during 2024, particularly in relation to data and assessment related to noise and air quality.

1.4 Circular economy and resource use

1.4.1 Specific objective

The EEA's specific objectives for 2024 included:

- deliver expected results as set out in the annual work plan (AWP);
- deliver key assessments, indicators updates and process data flows in support of policy information needs.

Figure 1.4 Activity 4: Key performance indicators



Note: ^(a) There is no target agreed at activity level for the Eionet interactions KPI. At organisational level, the target is to improve on performance from 2021 of 66%, whilst acknowledging that approaches to interactions and their monitoring continue to evolve through increased digitalisation.

1.4.2 Achievement of objectives and results

The EEA plays a key role in building knowledge about Europe's transition to a circular economy, directly supporting the implementation and priorities of the Circular Economy Action Plan under the European Green Deal. In 2024, the EEA continued to strengthen the monitoring and assessment of this transition, complementing the work of other EU and national institutions through key initiatives and assessments.

Action 1: Monitoring and assessment of the transition to a circular economy

The [Circularity Metrics Lab](#), an online platform designed to explore alternative and existing circularity metrics, was reinforced further this year with the addition of a new section with metrics on product lifespans.

In addition, specific sections focusing on textiles, material accumulation and waste prevention were nearing completion and are scheduled for publication in early 2025. This initiative supports the European Commission's established circular economy monitoring framework and ensures continuity in the EEA's knowledge production on circularity. In parallel, the traditional seven indicators covering circular economy themes were updated and, where relevant, integrated into the 8th EAP monitoring report.

A major highlight of 2024 was the publication of the EEA's assessment report, *Accelerating Circular Economy in Europe – State and Outlook 2024*. The report was well received and actively discussed across several stakeholder platforms, including the World Circular Economy Forum, the Council of Ministers and multiple working parties. It had a notable impact on policy discussions, being referenced in the June Council conclusions and influencing strategic thinking for the new EU term. The assessment highlights the slow progress of the circular transition and outlines key actions for accelerating implementation and reinforcing existing policies.

Action 2: Supporting implementation of EU waste legislation

Work on the EEA's second biennial report on waste prevention, mandated under the Waste Framework Directive, was also completed and included an Eionet consultation. The report was published in March 2025. This edition places a particular focus on food waste, an issue currently under consideration for amendments within the Waste Framework Directive (co-decision concluded subsequently in February 2025). The EEA has actively participated in relevant stakeholder processes led by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and gathered updated evidence to ensure the report's broad applicability.

A key component of EEA work on supporting implementation of waste legislation involves the production of country profiles on specific matters within the *acquis communautaire* (EU acquis). In 2024, the EEA produced updates of profiles on waste prevention, broader circular economy policies and municipal waste management. An agreement with the EFTA Surveillance Authority led to the inclusion of previously non-participating countries under the EFTA Agreement in the early warning mechanism of the Waste Framework Directive.

The EEA played an important role in coordinating, producing and achieving stakeholder agreement on the *Global Resource Outlook*, published by the International Resource Panel and launched at the 6th UN Environment Assembly. The Agency actively contributed to the outreach and amplification of the report's key messages, while also producing EU-contextualised knowledge in collaboration with the relevant European Topic Centre on circular economy and resource use. Importantly, the EEA agreed on a more structured cooperation with the International Resource Panel, establishing a strategic partnership in principle and pending signature.

Action 3: Interlinkages of circular economy with EU biodiversity, climate neutrality and well-being objectives

A key priority initiated in 2023, with a multiannual perspective, was to provide insights into the links between the circular economy and broader EU policy objectives, particularly in the areas of climate mitigation and biodiversity. Two projects on climate mitigation were completed and published in the first quarter of 2024, contributing to the knowledge base for integrated policy approaches.

The EEA has also prioritised generating solution-oriented knowledge on material-intensive value chains with significant environmental footprints. Following the approach of the 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan, which structured activities around key product value chains, the EEA focused its work on textiles, plastics and buildings.

In the buildings sector, a two-year Eionet process assessing the sustainability of the building system concluded in 2024, with the final report published in September. This assessment provides a comprehensive analysis of material flows, resource efficiency and potential policy interventions to improve sustainability in this key sector.

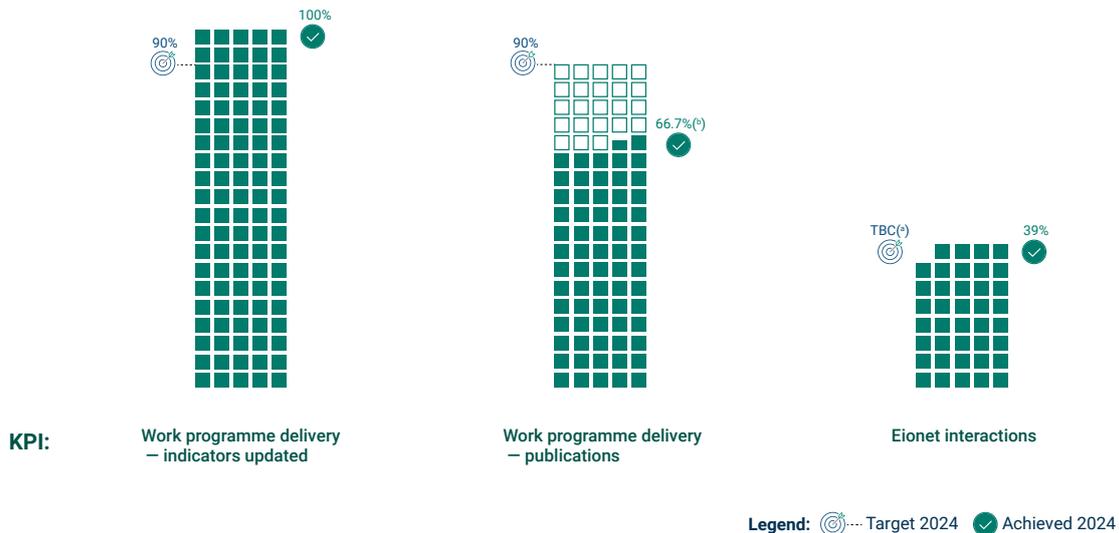
The EEA has continued to support international negotiations on the establishment of a global agreement on plastics. EEA experts are actively participating in the European delegation, focusing on discussions related to monitoring, reporting and verification provisions for the eventual agreement. This engagement remains ongoing through intersessional negotiations and the EEA played a significant role in the negotiation summit in Korea in November, though an agreed text across all parties has yet to be finalised.

1.5 Sustainability trends, prospects and responses

1.5.1 Specific objective

The EEA's specific objectives for 2024 were to deliver key assessments, progress evaluation, outlooks and indicators in support of EU policy needs and EEA assessments, especially in the 8th EAP monitoring report and SOER 2025.

Figure 1.5 Activity 5: Key performance indicators



Notes: (a) There is no target agreed at activity level for the Eionet interactions KPI. At organisational level, the target is to improve on performance from 2021 of 66%, whilst acknowledging that approaches to interactions and their monitoring continue to evolve through increased digitalisation.

(b) Two SPD publications were published out of 3 planned. The Monitoring report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives was cancelled in 2024 but published on 20 February 2025 as a 2025 publication.

1.5.2 Achievement of objectives and results

Action 1: Monitor and assess sustainability in Europe through systemic lenses and across scales

Regarding EEA support to the 8th EAP, the EEA consolidated evidence to produce the monitoring report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives, published in February 2025.

In July 2024, the EEA published the *Europe's Sustainability Transitions Outlook* report at a Friends of Europe event entitled *Navigating the EU's sustainability transitions in a polycrisis world*. A report of the event is available [here](#). Developed using foresight methods, the report highlights the need to 'anchor' sustainability objectives across EU policies and foster approaches to wellbeing that go beyond economic models focused solely on growth.

Additional publications in June included *Transformative resilience: the key to governing Europe's sustainability transitions in the polycrisis* and *Governance in complexity – Sustainability governance under highly uncertain and complex conditions*, with the latter launched at a [webinar hosted by the EEA and the European Centre for Governance in Complexity](#).

Development of knowledge for the EEA's European environment – state and outlook 2025 continued intensely throughout 2024, focused on three products: the report, the country space and the snapshots on environment and climate. The EEA's work in collaboration with the Eionet Group on SOER in 2024 focussed on the co-development of the draft SOER 2025 country spaces, with the Eionet group State of Environment (SoE) (and national focal points (NFPs)) as national coordinators.

The EEA supported Eurostat (the statistical office of the European Union) under a Service Level Agreement, including providing tailored input for Eurostat's report on *Sustainable development in the European Union – monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context* and the interactive publication *Shedding light on energy in Europe*.

The EEA continued to develop knowledge in the area of innovation by launching a framework contract to produce knowledge on empirical examples of innovative solutions for sustainability, with outputs expected in 2025 and 2026.

Action 2: Analyse sustainability transitions enablers: economics, finance, innovation, policies, and governance across scales

The EEA developed a workstream on the socio-economic dimensions of sustainability transitions to support policy makers in their work to ensure that transitions in Europe are just and fair. The EEA briefing *Delivering justice in sustainability transitions*, published in January 2024, produced a deeper understanding of what 'justice' is and how it can be applied to avoid new or worse inequalities for people and nature. Building on this foundation, the EEA published the report *Just sustainability transitions – From concept to practice* in November 2024. The report was launched at the 7th OECD World Forum *Strengthening Well-being Approaches for a Changing World* in Rome and has been disseminated widely across European Commission services and to the stakeholder community.

In collaboration with our sister agencies, Eurofound, Cedefop and the European Training Foundation, the EEA organised a [Tripartite Exchange Seminar](#) focused on the green, just transition. This seminar aimed to improve the capacity of social partners

and governments to engage and act effectively in social dialogue. It included an online introductory session in May, an in person meeting in Brussels, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, on 29-31 May 2024 and a follow-up session in December.

The EEA continued work on economics and sustainability transitions. This included a [compilation of Cost-benefit analysis techniques in the context of system transitions](#) and a macroeconomic reflection around the [financing needs for the transition and its links to industrial policy](#). Finally, the EEA managed knowledge production on [essential services poverty in the EU](#), focusing on the affordability of energy, transport, and water and sanitation services.

Together with the JRC and DG Research and Innovation (RTD), the EEA co-organised a workshop on 'Justice, Wellbeing and Innovation in the Context of a New Economic Model' on 14 June in Brussels, which resulted in a publication titled [Europe's sustainable competitiveness future: justice, wellbeing, and innovation](#).

The EEA participated in the [Sustainable Finance Platform](#) as a member and fed into the ongoing initiatives on sustainable finance and corporate reporting, including providing input to the intermediate report on [Monitoring capital flows to sustainable investments](#). The EEA signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Investment Bank as a basis for joint activities on financing the transition. A similar agreement with the European Securities and Markets Authority is also in progress.

Finally, the EEA produced a number of indicators on enablers of sustainability transitions, including on [green bonds](#), [eco-innovation](#), [fossil fuel subsidies](#), [environmental taxation](#), [employment in](#) and [gross value added of the EU's environmental goods and services sector](#).

Action 3: Develop co-created knowledge for action across scales, including foresight, with stakeholders

The annual meeting of the Eionet foresight group took place on 18 June 2024 online and took stock of the ideas and projects co-developed at the previous meeting. Topics included communicating foresight to policymakers, setting up a foresight library and building a learning community. The EEA continued its collaboration with Eionet Groups on foresight and SoE for the annual Horizon Scanning process focused on the five areas of work listed in the EEA-Eionet strategy, with results summarised in the ETC ST report '[Horizon Scanning 2024: Results of the EEA – Eionet participatory horizon scan to identify emerging issues relevant to the environment and environmental policy](#)'.

Together with Eionet, the EEA fed into the 6th annual cycle of the [EU foresight system for the systematic identification of emerging environmental issues \(FORENV\)](#), on emerging risks and opportunities for biodiversity protection and ecosystem services in the context of economic and societal challenges. An additional capacity building activity included a webinar to explore synergies with the [Futures4Europe Platform](#), which is funded DG RTD.

1.6 Horizontal activities

1.6.1 Communicating for impact

In 2024, the EEA reached close to 100% implementation of all planned publications and indicators, while showing high levels of flexibility and improved planning throughout the year. 2024 saw the introduction of a flagship approach to selected publications aiming to prioritise and put extra effort into communicating those outputs. This approach entails identifying a limited number of EEA publications as communications priorities, based on their relevance to our key stakeholders, the substantive nature of the assessment and their communication potential. The EEA has selected the following key reports as flagships in 2024: *European Climate Risk Assessment*; *Accelerating the circular economy in Europe*; *Europe's state of water 2024 – The need for improved water resilience*; *Europe's sustainability transitions outlook*; *Trends and Projections in Europe*; *Zero pollution monitoring assessment*; and *Monitoring report on progress towards the 8th EAP objectives* (the latter two being published in early 2025 as requested by the European Commission).

In corporate communications, the EEA invested in presenting itself to the new policy actors in the European Commission and the European Parliament (EP) following the EP elections in spring. To mark its 30th anniversary, the EEA developed new corporate materials, such as flyers and a digital 'EEA in brief' product, joined the EU agencies exhibition in the EP and delivered a 'state of the environment' speech at an event in December, which gathered significant coverage for key messages about Europe's climate and environment ambitions. Corporate media activities also took place in conjunction with the EEA's country visits, boosting EEA-Eionet visibility nationally. The EEA hosted a seminar with the Hungarian presidency for the diplomatic corps in Denmark. Mentions of the EEA in EU policy documents grew by 277% to an impressive 3,270 compared to 2023.

Outreach activities remained successful, with wide reaching messages in media and social media. This includes the first *European Climate Risk Assessment* (EUCRA) report, which had the largest press coverage by far, the climate change health impact reports, the *Bathing water quality assessment and the State of water* report. *Trends and projections in Europe 2024* also received widespread coverage. An ETC LinkedIn account was opened and gained momentum, and the web development project continued, the migration of more content and new features added. The EEA Enquiry Service marked another successful year in 2024, receiving a total of 1,829 enquiries. The service received high satisfaction rates from users, indicating the broad reach of our knowledge beyond policymakers. The 2024 edition of the photo competition 'Urban treasures' received nearly 1,300 entries from participants across 32 countries. The EEA participated in several citizen outreach events as the annual democracy festivals in Denmark and Finland, the Copenhagen Light Festival in February and Culture Night in October.

The Stakeholder Engagement Initiative made significant progress in mapping existing stakeholder engagement and determining the needs for a more consistent agency approach. This initiative is closely linked to the SOER 2025 stakeholder process. It includes streamlining consultation of EEA outputs and collecting insights into how the EEA's work with Eionet feeds into broader corporate stakeholder engagement. Good progress was made integrating more communities into the stakeholder engagement tool Hubspot, including the users of Copernicus and Climate Adapt.

1.6.2 Eionet – The European Environment Information and Observation Network

January 2024 marked the rollout of the Eionet collaboration tools 2.0 to NFPs and members of the Eionet groups, thematic groups and working groups. This upgrade consists of a customised workspace in Microsoft Teams combined with two EEA-developed apps: the Eionet dashboard and user management apps. The EEA supported the rollout with e-learning and in-person training for Eionet group leads, e-learning for all Eionet members and webinars with NFPs. User surveys provided valuable feedback, leading to additional features and improvements in a major update. To support the work of the EEA-European Commission interinstitutional group, the EEA introduced two new dashboards, offering live updates on the EEA's communication activities and on planned consultations with European Commission units and other EU agencies.

In 2024, the NFPs held three regular NFP/Eionet meetings: online, in Copenhagen (back-to-back with the Management Board/Scientific Committee/National Focal Points Seminar) and in Rome. These provided a platform for regular EEA, EU and Eionet updates, which are deep dives into specific topics of interest (such as the 'dos and don'ts' of national Eionet events), as well as facilitating peer-to-peer exchange between countries. SOER 2025 – and the dedicated country spaces in particular – has been a regular agenda item of meetings and webinars throughout the year.

The working group on Eionet modernisation implementation concluded its work in June 2024 with a successful delivery of the updated Eionet ABC. The new edition is a living document reflecting the new Eionet structure and working methods. It takes on an innovative online format, being embedded in Eionet tools 2.0. This allows network members to access it easily and the EEA to keep it up to date.

Country visits remain a vital tool for enhancing bilateral cooperation between the EEA and Member States and cooperating countries. The visits underscore the value of Eionet (including the European Topic Centres), support the implementation of the EEA-Eionet strategy and foster a deeper understanding of the unique national contexts within EEA member and cooperating countries. Country visits also provided a valuable opportunity to reach out and engage with organisations/national agencies outside Eionet that play a key role at European and/or global level. In 2024, the EEA conducted country visits in eight member countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. To minimise the environmental footprint of these missions, visits were scheduled alongside other events, such as Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Network meetings, NFP/Eionet meetings or events organised by other EU or international organisations.

To meet the ambition of the strategy, the EEA has continued internal capacity building activities for cooperation and co-creation with Eionet targeting the EEA Eionet group leads (EGL), with a special focus on Eionet tools 2.0 user training, stakeholder engagement training and peer-to-peer learning in the EGL Community of Practice.

1.6.3 Other networks and partnerships

In line with the EEA-Eionet strategy, in 2024, the EEA continued working with other networks and leading organisations to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

In 2024, the Slovak Environment Agency hosted the May meeting of Heads of Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) in Bratislava and the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency meeting in The Hague in October. The strategic discussions and plenary debates focused on the impact of the recent European and national elections on EPAs, green transitions and related dilemmas, social transitions behavioural change, artificial intelligence and green finance.

The EEA participated in four out of 12 EPA Network Interest Groups (climate change and adaptation, noise, plastics, Ukraine) and in addition co-chaired three of them (green and circular economy, green finance, sustainability research). The EEA also took part in an EPA 'ad hoc Working Group on the European Green Deal 2.0'. As 2024 was a pivotal time for the European political landscape, the EPA Network decided to produce an EPA Network document entitled *Beyond the European Green Deal* as a contribution to the debates on future European environment and climate policy. Due to its political nature, the paper *Building an Alliance - For a Sustainable, Resilient and Just Future in Europe* was ultimately published by a group of 10 agencies led by the German Environment Agency. The EEA contributed by providing the knowledge base underpinning some of the paper's recommendations.

1.6.4 Working with European neighbouring regions

In 2024, the EEA conducted and organised the first meeting with representatives from the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community alongside European Commission services, Member States and the Energy Community Secretariat. The meeting will be held annually in support of the Contracting Parties in increasing their reporting obligations.

Within its ongoing capacity-building support to its cooperating countries in the Western Balkans, the EEA continued to implement activities aimed at closer integration of the region into Eionet, as well as strengthening institutional engagement, enhancing data reporting capacities and fostering regional cooperation on key environmental priorities. Efforts focused on expanding participation in Eionet meetings and thematic groups, supporting circular economy and resource use initiatives, improving air quality monitoring through the air quality reporting tool RAVEN3 and advancing soil and water management discussions. High-level engagements, including participation in the Network of Heads of European Environmental Protection Agencies and preparatory meetings for SOER 2025, reinforced strategic collaboration. Western Balkan partners remain committed to strengthening their environmental governance, laying the groundwork in 2024 for further integration and evaluation in the final phase of the project, which will shape the priorities for future cooperation and funding.

The EEA also continued discussions with the European Commission on potential EEA enlargement, in particular in relation to the possibility of granting Moldova and Ukraine the status of cooperating countries.

In support of EEA/Eionet ocean and marine activities and to enhance collaboration with the EU Mission Ocean and Water, the EEA contributed as a member of the technical advisory board to the BlueMissionMed General Assembly, as well as compass workshops. The EEA also maintained regular coordination with the

UNEP-MAP secretariat in line with the Joint Work Plan between the two organisations. Furthermore, the EEA continued close coordination with the European Commission on support to the Barcelona Convention's main processes and events, while contributing to the mid-term 'MEDSTAT V' conference regarding the importance of official statistics and their role in policy development.

1.6.5 EEA international engagement

The EEA supported the European Commission and EU Member States in relevant international events and processes, as part of the strategic objective to contribute to EU international engagement and in the context of the EGD. Major activities included:

- support to EU Member States at the sixth session of the United Nations environment Assembly on relevant environmental resolutions, EU engagement in high-level leadership dialogues and side-events addressing the science-policy interface;
- support to the development of the 7th Global Environmental Outlook through the second and third authors meeting with two contributing authors and engagement in the Multidisciplinary Expert Scientific Advisory Group;
- support to EU Member States at COP29 and engagement in negotiations on adaptation-related items, transparency items and just transition;
- support to EU Member States at the UN Plastic Treaty negotiations on implementation, national action plans, reporting, monitoring and effectiveness evaluation;
- support to EU Member States at the Biodiversity COP16 regarding monitoring, reporting and assessment of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF);
- support to EU Member States at the IPBES 11th session in negotiation of the summary for policy makers of two major assessments and the scoping report of the Second Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services scheduled for 2028;
- attendance of the 7th OECD World Forum 'Strengthening Well-being Approaches for a Changing World' to share experiences and engage in building evidence and knowhow;
- support to EU Member States in Ocean related events, including: (1) the UN Ocean Decade Conference, (2) the 9th Our Ocean Conference and (3) the European Commission Interservice Group on International Ocean Governance, with a focus on the preparation of the UN Ocean Conference in 2025 and implementing the UN Ocean Treaty (BBNJ Agreement);
- bilateral meetings with the Executive Secretary of UNECE, Director of UNEP Regional Office for Europe, Executive Secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers and Executive Secretary of the Nordic Council to discuss collaboration and mutual support;
- continued engagement with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), its Data and Knowledge Working Group and with the European GEO initiative (EuroGEO) to promote the benefits of using free, full and open Earth Observation data and information. Continued discussions with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) within the context of Copernicus;

- participation in UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management – Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe) activities in regard to providing data and methodologies associated with the computation of SDGs.

1.6.6 Delivering on digitalisation

Significant advances were made in 2024 on advancing digitalisation as a key enabler of the EEA's work. This included progress towards a new 'EEA Digital Capability Strategy 2025-2030', spanning people, technology, data, innovation and processes. This will be supported by a revised EEA Data Management Strategy and an IT Strategy, both of which will be finalised in early 2025. These strategies provide a roadmap to 2030 for the EEA to meet the current and foreseen needs of reporting, data, knowledge and networking services.

The EEA also engaged in the European Commission commitment on simplification and reducing the reporting burden, bringing domain expertise for managing over 140 climate and environment dataflows, as well as defining reporting standards and digitalising the information delivery process.

Under the EEA-led Eionet National Data Flows Coordination group (NDFC), the consultation process for the 2023 evaluation of the Eionet core data flows was undertaken, which resulted in [a technical briefing published in June 2024](#).

In 2024, Eionet delivered more than 80 environment and climate data flows. The Eionet core data evaluation process (a subset of 13 dataflows in 2024) preliminary results show an average data flow delivery score (88%) that did not achieve the target (90%) but was on a consistent level with the 2023 evaluation score (88%). Furthermore in 2024, the EEA and Member States cooperated in the preparation of significant dataflows reporting for 2025 for nature and biodiversity, as well as the new nature restoration plans.

In 2024, the EEA achieved significant progress towards its strategic objectives by enhancing digital services, cybersecurity and operational efficiency. A major milestone was the launch of a new data platform. This improved Reportnet 3's reliability, achieving a 97% data processing success rate while enhancing scalability and security. The platform scaled from a peak of 300 data processing tasks per day in 2024 to over 1,100 per day in February 2025. The platform also reduced reporter time for data import and validation by leveraging modern technologies, including a data lakehouse. The reporter interface was developed further to provide a standardised workflow across obligations while allowing countries flexibility in data delivery.

All new dataflows are implemented on Reportnet 3. At the same time, legacy dataflows using the Reportnet 2 are being transitioned over to the new platform. This typically occurs where there are significant updates to the dataflow, for example a revision in legislation, which requires investment and change for the countries. As of May 2025, there are 46 obligations to be transferred from Reportnet 2, and the majority are being actively worked upon. For example, Air Quality Directive reporting (14 obligations) is currently in consultation with countries. It is anticipated that Reportnet 2 will be maintained as a reporting platform to 2028, where EPRT reporting has its last reporting cycle under the current legislation. Reportnet 2 will become a read-only archive.

To improve customer support, the EEA consolidated multiple user support channels into a single service desk platform in December, streamlining operations and enhancing response times.

Further investment was also made in the capabilities of data processing and data dissemination platforms to automate and increase the timeliness of the use of reported data in analysis and EEA products.

1.6.7 Support to the EU space programme – Copernicus

The Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) activities delegated to the EEA are defined in the 2023-2024 Copernicus work programme. The programme focuses on user uptake of the products to guide the evolution of the product portfolio and enable the EEA to support the implementation of the EGD and the 8th EAP. The 2024 milestones are:

- production of the 2023 update of the CORINE Land Cover Plus data in raster format;
- publication of the 2019 to 2023 products for the European Ground Motion Service, a mutualised service providing precision measurements to the nearest centimetre of ground movements based on Sentinel-1 data;
- continued production of the two biophysical parameters included in the portfolio, i.e. high-resolution service on vegetation phenology and productivity, providing information on the status of vegetation in Europe, along with the high-resolution service on snow and ice coverage over Europe that will integrate snow and ice monitoring with that of liquid water extent;
- launch of the production of the CORINE Land Cover 2024 update;
- production of the High-Resolution Layer (HRL) Vegetated Land Cover Characteristics, which will integrate the former HRL Forest and HRL Grassland and provide yearly crop type and agricultural patterns for the first time;
- production of the HRL Non-Vegetated Land Cover Characteristics, which will give continuity to HRL Imperviousness;
- production of HRL Small Woody Features 2021 update;
- launch of the National Collaboration Programme to support user uptake with counties (Phase I with 5 countries);
- development of a joint roadmap for the CLMS strategy for 2028-2035 in collaboration with the JRC, which is in charge of the global component;
- cooperation for thematic hub development continued with other Copernicus services and preparation for the thematic hub on biodiversity.

Regarding cross-cutting access to *in-situ* data, the EEA – within the Copernicus contribution agreement – prepared and published the State of Play 2024 report; completed the C-RAID project (the global reprocessing of 2000 drifting buoys data and metadata for its use by Copernicus services); continued the implementation of the EuroGeographics and EUMETNET licensing agreements; provided support to the Copernicus Entrusted Entities and the European Commission on *in-situ* related activities (such as in the context of the LUCAS survey) and revamped the whole Copernicus *in-situ* website.

1.6.8 Support to the Group on Earth Observation

EEA activities in support of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) have been mostly performed as part of service level agreements (SLAs) between the EEA and DG RTD. These are 'Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment' (EUROGEO), which ended in March 2024 and 'Enhancing the access to *in situ* Earth observation data in support of climate change adaptation policies and activities' (EUROGEO24), which started in April 2024.

Through these projects, the EEA has actively contributed to the work of the GEO Data Working Group. In particular, the data and knowledge sharing working group (where we promoted GEO and FAIR data sharing principles via webinars and success stories), as well as the *in situ* data subgroup (where we contributed to the GEO *in situ* data strategy and developed the Geospatial *in-situ* requirement database G-reqs). The EEA also attended relevant meetings such as the GEO Programme Board and the GEO High Level Working Group as well as key events such as the EuroGEO workshop in 2024. The EEA will also be present at the GEO Global Forum in May 2025 in Rome.

Additionally, relevant data hosted on the [EEA metadata catalogue](#) has been made available through the [GEOSS portal](#) on a continuous basis.

1.6.9 Support to the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

In 2024, the EEA continued providing targeted support to the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) with the implementation of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) 'Regional and urban environmental indicators and analysis' by addressing regional and urban land use and various aspects of air pollution in Europe. This work was extended until May 2025 by amending the SLA, allowing the EEA to finalise the work on two main objectives:

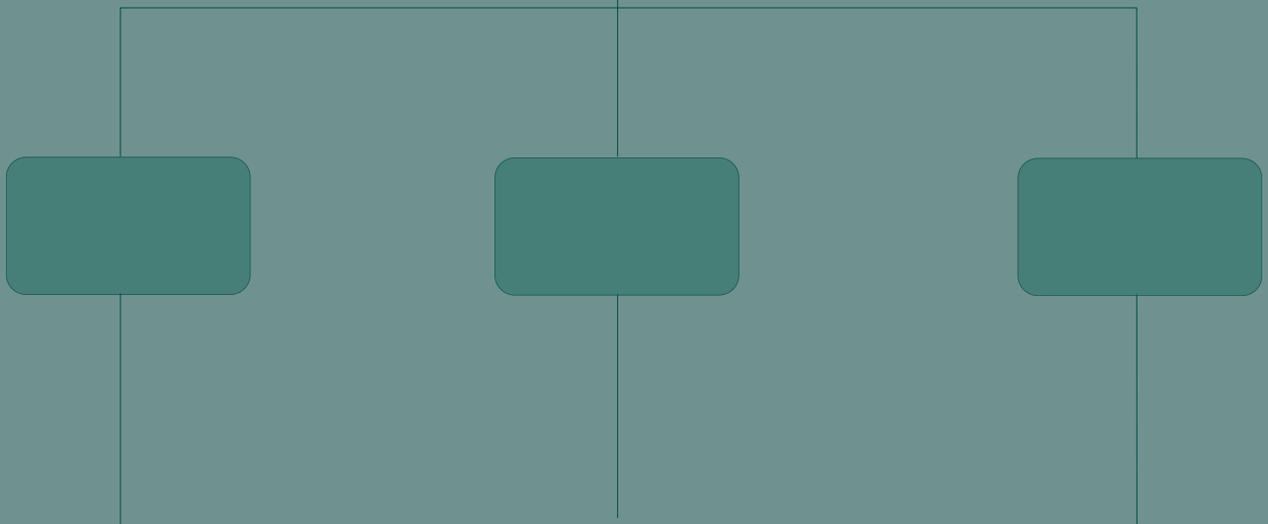
- innovative data production, indicator development and assessments of the impacts of land use on the continental, regional and local scale, including specific assessments of functional urban areas;
- providing tailored information and data on air pollution, industry and environment based on data reported under the EU and international reporting obligations.



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2 Management



2.1 Management Board and Scientific Committee

Management Board key decisions in 2024

The Management Board (MB) made key decisions in leading the EEA throughout the year. In 2024, the MB held three regular meetings, one hosted by the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. The EEA Bureau met six times.

Six implementing rules were adopted during the year (see 2.5.2), while the MB chair approved 40 decisions. As several members of the Scientific Committee were coming to an end of their second term, an open call for expressions of interest was organised. The MB selected nine new members to the Scientific Committee in nine areas defined by the EEA as key for future knowledge development. The expertise of the remaining nine members was deemed relevant and the MB designated them for a second 4-year term. The MB also adopted Eurostat's work programme for 2025 in the field of the environment and took note of the work programme of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change.

The European Commission concluded the evaluation of the EEA-Eionet for the period [2017-2021](#). This evaluation assessed the EEA and Eionet's performance against the objectives of the regulation and work programmes, as well as progress made since the last evaluation, which covered the period 2012-2016. In addition, the evaluation analysed if the EEA Regulation remains fit for purpose in light of current EU policy priorities, the EGD and the 8th EAP. The MB advisory committee, established in 2023 to follow the [EEA/Eionet evaluation for the period 2017-2021](#), assessed outcomes and brought forward recommendations. These formed the basis for a response on EEA/Eionet evaluation 2017-2021, adopted at the MB meeting in November 2024.

Throughout the year, the main Bureau and MB discussions focussed on several topics of strategic importance including the EEA/Eionet evaluation for the period 2017-2021, Eionet modernisation, SOER 2025 preparations, the European Topic Centre design, improved key performance indicators and the future of the EEA-Eionet Strategy. An MB advisory committee on the design of European Topic Centres was established in October. The MB also elected two new Vice-Chairs/Bureau members from Austria and Finland and has hence five Vice-Chairs at the end of 2024.

An EEA stakeholder seminar was held in June, back-to-back with the MB meeting, which initiated the start of the mid-term review of the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2030. This is expected to result in MB decisions on future strategic priorities in the second half of 2025. The seminar involved the MB, Scientific Committee, Eionet National Focal Points, ETC managers and EEA colleagues, providing inputs on potential adjustments to the strategy for 2026-2030. It aimed at leveraging already available knowledge from key EEA stakeholder groups in the context of the latest political developments, with a view to achieving the EEA-Eionet strategy objectives by 2030.

Scientific Committee developments

Discussions in the EEA Scientific Committee were largely directed towards input to the development and drafting of the synthesis report European environment - state and outlook 2025 (SOER 2025), to be published in September 2025. In addition, on two occasions, the committee advised the EEA-Eionet and the EEA MB on knowledge developments for the mid-term review of the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030. The committee also discussed the concept of One Health on several occasions to strengthen transdisciplinary cooperation and knowledge integration. Discussions were directed towards supporting the EEA's participation in the EU cross-agency task force on One Health as well as the development of the European research

programmes of Horizon (2026-2027) and the next EU Framework Programme for Research (FP10). As stipulated in the EEA Regulation (Article 8), the Scientific Committee provided opinions on the draft EEA Single Programming Document 2025-2027 and the recruitment of EEA scientific staff in 2023. As requested by the EEA Management Board, the Committee also gave its opinion on the evaluation of EEA/Eionet between 2017-2021.

2.2 Major developments

2024 was an important year of transition to a new political cycle in the European Union, affecting also the EEA's priorities and work in the coming years. In June, the spotlight was on the newly elected European Parliament, and soon after the elections, the European Council agreed on the EU's direction for the period 2024-2029, summarised in the Strategic Agenda, and nominated Ursula von der Leyen for a second term as European Commission president.

Later in July, the European Parliament confirmed that choice by electing von der Leyen for a second mandate after she had presented her political guidelines, which will give steering to the European Commission's work in the coming mandate. The document confirms the shift in focus by positioning 'prosperity and competitiveness' as the first priority, through what would become the Competitiveness Compass. The EGD is integrated clearly by confirming that Europe would stick to the targets of the EGD 'with pragmatism, technology-neutrality, and innovation'. The 90% emission reduction target for 2040, the design of a Circular Economy Act, a Water Resilience Strategy and the launch of a Climate Adaption Plan are amongst the initiatives announced for the coming years.

The Political Guidelines were translated in the Mission Letters for each of the Commissioners-designate presented in September forming the basis for the annual work programmes of the European Commission. In parallel, crucial policy documents were published that are being used as important source documents for policy initiatives on key political priorities: the Letta report on the future of the Single Market, the Strohschneider report from the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture, the Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness, and the Niinistö report on strengthening Europe's civilian and military preparedness and readiness.

On 27 November, the European Parliament approved the new College and after the formal appointment by the European Council on 28 November, the new team of Commissioners took office on 1 December.

Several legislative acts were adopted in 2024, giving the EEA new tasks and resources to deliver them:

- after some delay, the Nature Restoration Regulation was adopted in June, following approval by the Parliament and then the Council. The EEA has been tasked with key activities including supporting the preparation and assessment of National Restoration Plans, the periodical reporting, and the development of restoration pages and tools on the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE). Despite its later adoption, the EEA was able to initiate the recruitment process quickly ensuring successful recruitment of some posts already before end year. Further information is provided in Section 1.1;
- other important legislative acts which were adopted in April and May, giving the EEA new tasks, were a recast of the European Pollutant Release and Transfer (E-PRTR) Regulation (refer to Section 1.3), the EU Carbon Removals and Carbon

Farming Certification (CRCF) (refer to Section 1.2), and an initiative for expanded monitoring of emissions from heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) (refer to Section 1.2). Despite its later adoption, the EEA was able to initiate the recruitment process quickly ensuring successful recruitment of most posts already before end year.

As part of the revised Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, adopted in 2023, the EEA received posts and resources in 2024 to commence its tasks. All posts have been successfully recruited. In close collaboration with DG CLIMA, the resources have been used to increase the quality control of Member States' agricultural and LULUCF greenhouse gas inventories, supporting Member States in improving their land sector GHG inventory data through geospatial methods such as Copernicus, and performing assessments and outreach activities informing policymakers on climate mitigation in the land sector and providing insights in the broader environmental impacts of land sector strategies (refer to Section 1.2).

Developments in the EEA's tasks funded by grant, contribution and service level agreements include the signing of a service level agreement (SLA) with DG MARE to support the monitoring of the EU mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030', an amendment to the Climate and Health Observatory SLA with DG SANTE, extending its duration and scope, including taking on tasks addressing serious cross border threats to health, and a new SLA with DG RTD to continue tasks for the 'Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment' (EuroGEO).

Following the 5-year evaluation the structure of the annual work programme for 2025 was updated to provide an intuitive link to the major policy areas EEA works to support. As part of this an updated delivery model will be introduced to provide an overview of the types of services that EEA delivers and the resource consumption hereof. The delivery model is a structured framework that shows which core activities and services EEA offers through its operations. It furthermore provides a clear framing of these services and the various stakeholders it serves. The services are Reporting Services, Data Services, Knowledge Services and Networking Services.

In 2024 the EEA commenced an update of its organisational structure, which took effect at the beginning of 2025, and is provided in Annex 1 of the EEA's SPD 2025-27. The reorganisation aims to strengthen the European Environment Agency as it evolves into a larger and more dynamic organisation, ensuring it remains agile and effective in delivering on the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2030. The key objectives are:

1. Optimising Work Programme Structure and Service Delivery
2. Structural Adaptation and Organisational Alignment
3. Enhancing Management and Leadership Structure

These changes, effective from 1 January 2025, will enhance the EEA's capacity to deliver trusted and actionable knowledge, foster internal collaboration, and improve strategic engagement with stakeholders.

2.3 Budgetary and financial management

2.3.1 Budget performance

The EEA's approved budget for 2024 to deliver its work programme was reported in the Single programming document 2024-2026. In its *Consolidated annual activity*

report (CAAR), the EEA is required to report its performance in the management of the budget, specifically:

- any changes to the originally approved budget (amendments and transfers);
- implementation of budget appropriations against target;
- carryover of amounts committed in 2024 but not paid by the year-end.

The following information is also required to be reported:

- a summary of procurement procedures by type;
- any major commitments for actions extending for more than one financial year;
- any interest paid to suppliers for late payments.

2.3.2 Budget amendments and transfers

The EEA made a single amendment to its core budget, comprising the following elements:

- a reduction of EUR 1,187,476 to the EEA's EU subvention because the zero pollution package was not adopted during the year, resulting in the European Commission removing the foreseen funds from their reserve and an adjustment to the EEA's budget accordingly;
- an increase in the EU subvention of EUR 646,569 to cover the unexpectedly high salary indexation announced at the end of the year and backdated to 1 July 2024;
- the final calculation of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Swiss contributions, which resulted in a net decrease of EUR 182,086.

The EEA's budget relating to contribution and SLAs was amended to accommodate the following:

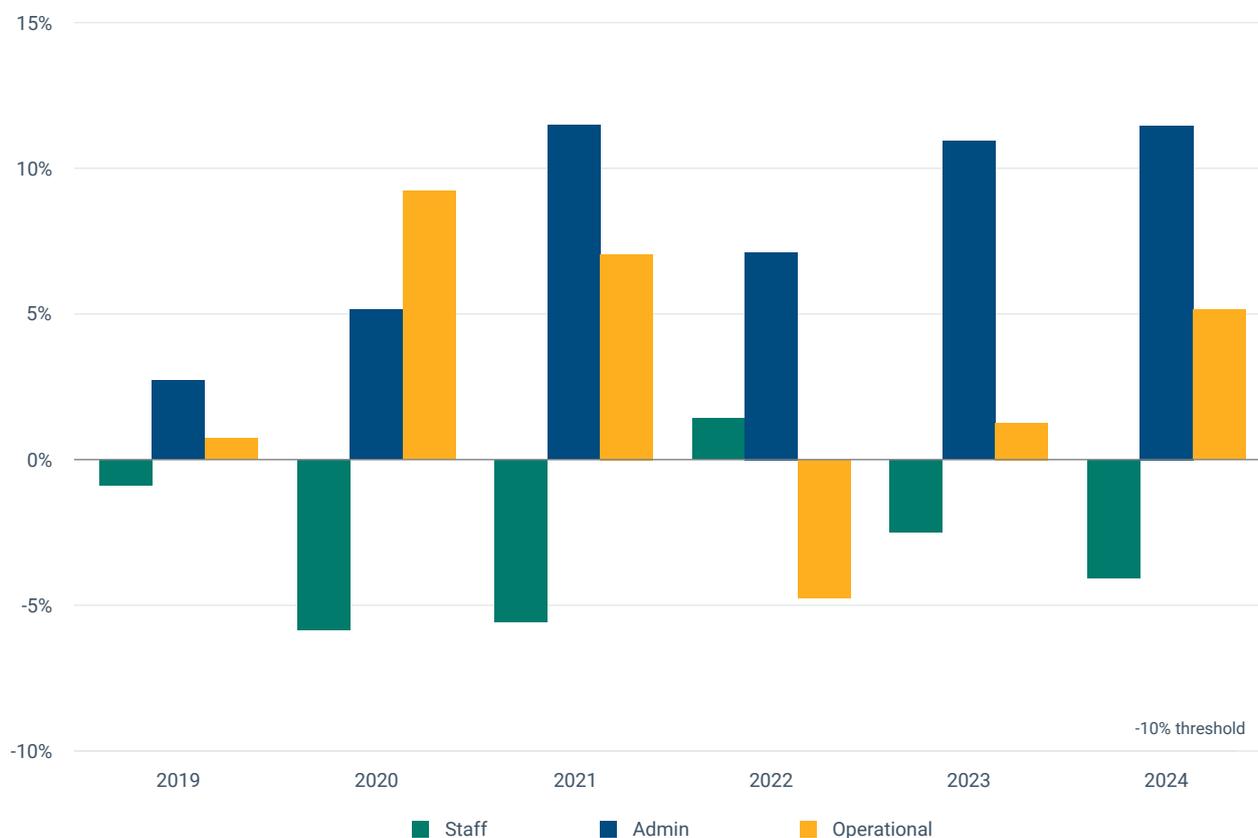
- a new 3-year SLA with DG RTD to deliver tasks for the 'Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment' (EuroGEO), continuing this work from the previous 3-year agreement (EUR 2 million);
- a new service level agreement with DG MARE to support the monitoring of the EU mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030' (EUR 2.5 million);
- an amendment to the Climate and Health Observatory SLA with DG SANTE, extending the agreement to the end of 2027, increasing the tasks to support health content developments, as well as taking on tasks addressing serious cross border threats to health (EUR 2.5 million);
- a reduction of EUR 306,000 in the 2024 budget for the Copernicus Contribution Agreement to match the pre-financing received by the EEA from the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) for the year.

Table 2.1 EEA 2024 revenue budget

Revenue (EUR)	Original 2023 budget	Budget amendments	Final 2023 budget
EU subvention	60,974,417	-540,907	60,433,510
Third countries contribution	7,559,179	-182,086	7,377,093
Core revenue	68,533,596	-722,993	67,810,603
Grant, contribution and service level agreements	27,151,000	6,694,000	33,845,000
Total revenue	95,684,596	5,971,007	101,655,603

The financial regulation allows the executive director to make budget transfers between expenditure titles without needing to consult the MB, providing the cumulative transfers from each title do not exceed 10% of that title's original budget appropriation (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Transfers 2019-2024



Budget transfers in 2024 were from Staff (Title 1) to Administrative (Title 2) and Operational Expenditure (Title 3). The transfer from Title 1 was well within the 10% threshold and was a result of the adoption of the Nature Restoration Regulation in June 2024. This gave the EEA access to budget appropriations for additional posts and resources specified in the legislative financial statement (finance fiche) for the regulation. The fiche included a full year's salary costs for 2024, but given the delay in the adoption, some of the funds were not needed. This allowed their transfer to Title 2 to complete the refurbishment of the EEA's premises to an open plan activity-based workspace, as well as to Title 3 for IT investments in cyber security, development of AI tools and continued development of the EEA's Reportnet platform.

Table 2.2 Development in the core expenditure budget 2024

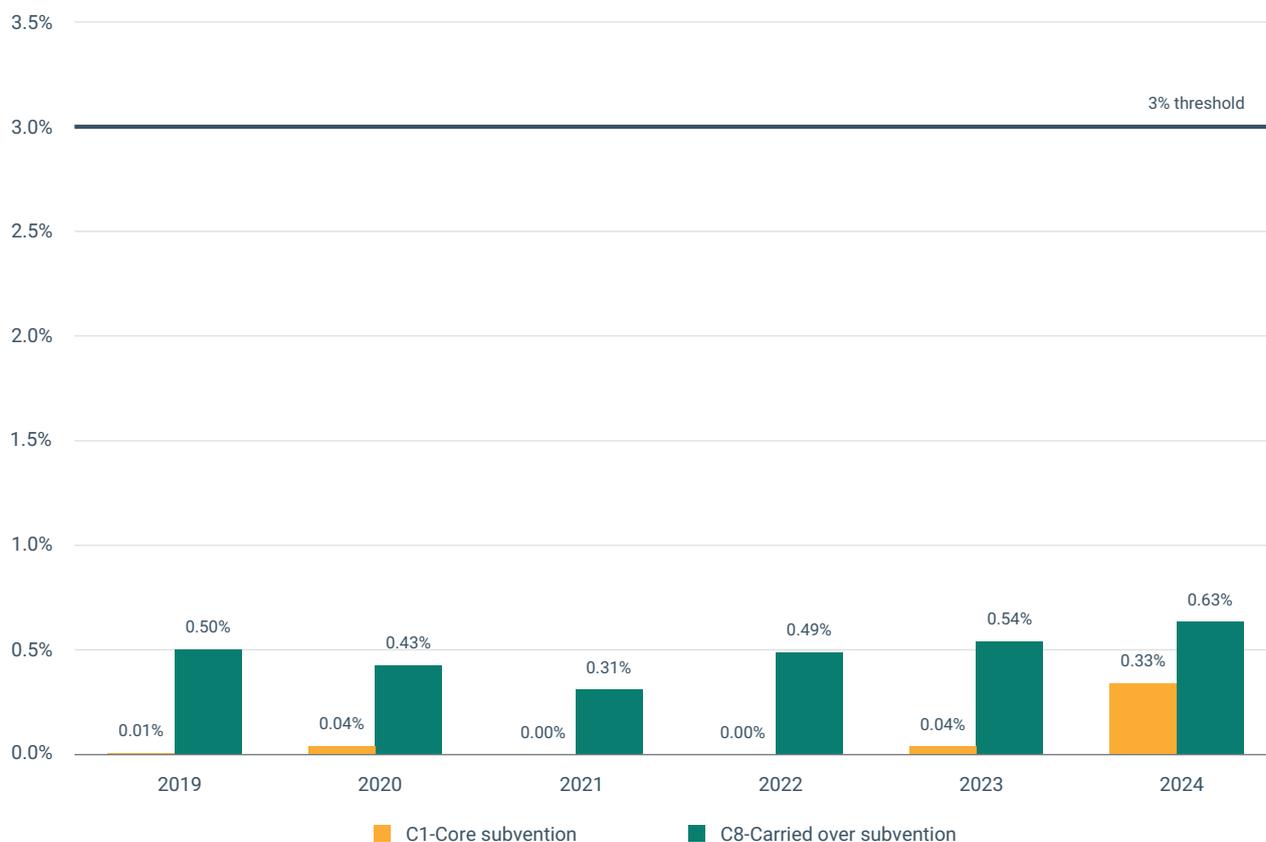
Core expenditure (EUR)	Original 2024 budget	Budget amendments	Budget transfers	Final 2024 budget	Transfers as % of original budget
Title 1	42,748,596	-1,212,993	-1,790,325	39,745,278	-4.2
Title 2	6,396,000	0	758,850	7,154,850	11.9
Title 3	19,389,000	490,000	1,031,475	20,910,475	5.3
Core expenditure	68,533,596	-722,993	0	67,810,603	

Transfers for the EEA's core budget and work programme are primarily managed in resource hearings, which are held each trimester. Outside these hearings, a further 10 smaller transfers were processed under the 2024 core budget. The EEA also made 14 transfers for the budgets of its grant, contribution and service level agreements. These transfers were requested in writing by the finance officer responsible for the agreement.

2.3.3 Budget implementation

Figure 2.2 shows the percentage of budget appropriations for the current year and appropriations carried forward from the previous year that were not implemented. The budget circular issued by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Budget specifies that to avoid penalties, the combined amounts not implemented should not exceed 3%.

Figure 2.2 Budget outturn: loss on core subvention 2019-2024



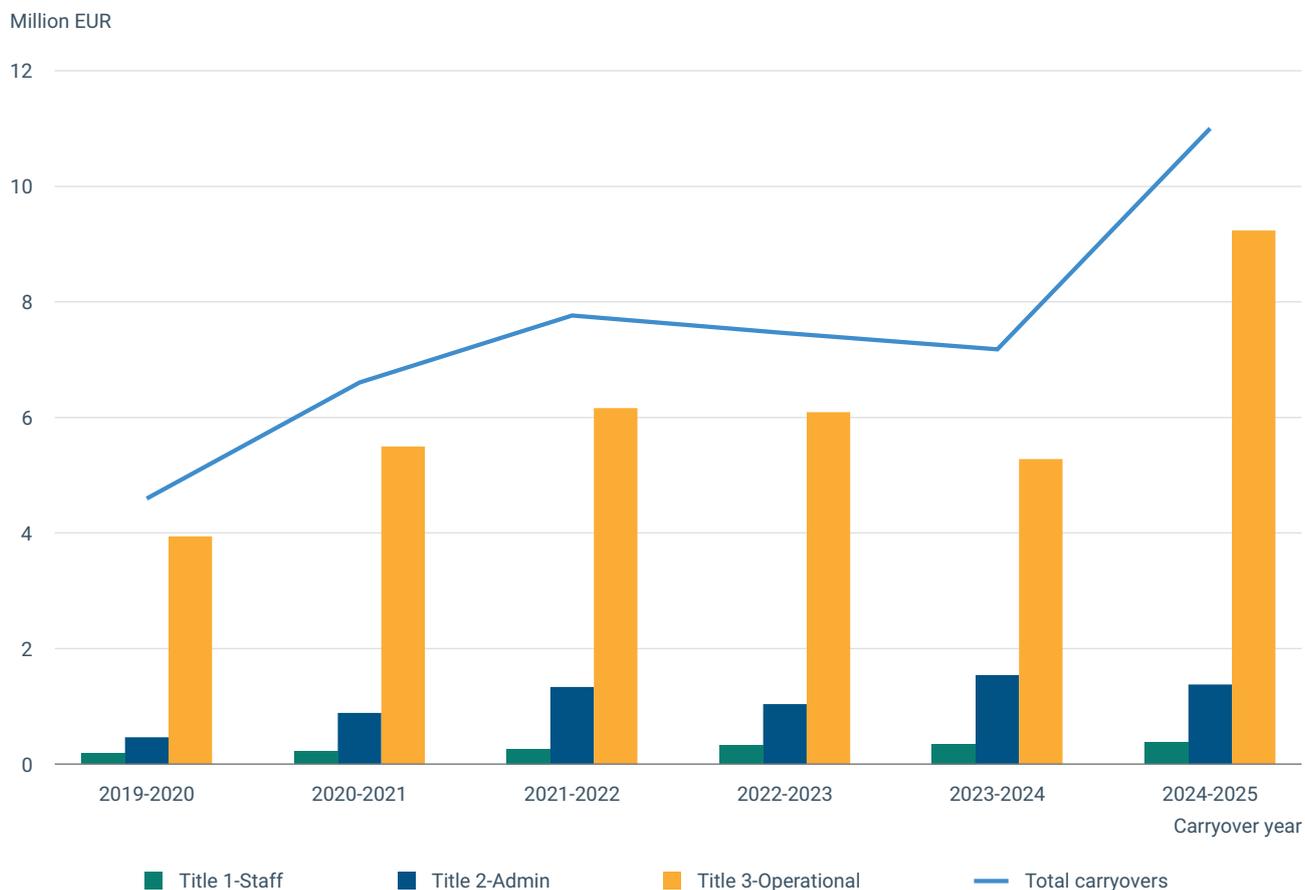
The EEA has non-differentiated appropriations. The commentary for the cancellation of commitment and payment appropriations for the year (C1) are therefore the same.

As mentioned in Section 2.3.2, the additional Title 1 budget appropriations received in June for the Nature Restoration Regulation and not needed for salaries were transferred to Title 2 to complete refurbishments and to Title 3 for IT investments. Therefore, at year-end, all appropriations had been committed except EUR 220,000 (0.3% of the total appropriations). This is higher compared with previous years, in which virtually no appropriations remained uncommitted at year-end.

At year end, unused payment appropriations carried over from the prior year (C8) amounted to EUR 370,000 (0.5% of the total C1 appropriations for the year). As with previous years, the largest amount (EUR 136,000) was for the EEA's seven European Topic Centres (ETCs). The remaining cancellations were small cancellations for a variety of budget items in Title 1 (EUR 50,000), Title 2 (EUR 104,000) and Title 3 (EUR 80,000).

2.3.4 Budget carryovers

Figure 2.3 Development in budget carryovers 2019-2024: core expenditure



As shown in the Figure 2.3, the Title 3 carryovers from 2024 to 2025 have increased significantly compared to previous years. The main reason for this is that in 2024 the EEA for the first time received increases to its budgetary appropriations from legislative financial statements (finance fiches) during the course of the year, as the legislative acts giving the EEA new tasks and resources were adopted. The largest of these is the Nature Restoration Regulation, adopted in June 2024.

The increases in budgetary appropriations allowed the EEA in the second half of the year to allocate significant budget to investments, one investment being the placement of contracts to complete the refurbishment of its offices to open activity-based workspace, which has been ongoing since 2020. This investment comprises the largest portion of the Title 2 carryover (EUR 850k). This refurbishment has delivered substantial benefits to the EEA, which have been outlined in Section 2.6.

The other investments were mainly for IT, in the context of the EEA developing a new IT strategy, responding to developments in AI, an increased need for cyber security, and continued development of its Reportnet platform.

Title 3 carryovers comprise EUR 5.0M for investments and services still to be delivered in 2025, and EUR 4.2 million for goods and services that were already completed and delivered in 2024 budget, but still due for payment at year-end.

The investments and services to be delivered in 2025 include:

- the purchase of IT hardware delivered in 2025 (EUR 300,000) and software purchased in 2024 to avoid disruption to licences in January (EUR 400,000);
- IT investments in disaster recovery, IT service management and network engineering to improve the EEA's cybersecurity (EUR 1.9 million);
- IT services delivered in 2025, covering data management and network systems, which were contracted in Q4 2024 to ensure business continuity (EUR 1.0 million);
- communication expenditure covering an event taking place in early March 2025, audiovisual and multimedia services (EUR 500,000);
- direct contracts for thematic work, with contract periods running from Q4 2024 to Q1 2025 (EUR 600,000);
- contracting for corporate services, primarily the development of a new quality management system (EUR 200,000);
- network meetings taking place in Q1 2025 and therefore booked and with invitations sent in Q4 2024 (EUR 100,000).

Regarding the goods and services already delivered in 2024, but not yet paid at year-end:

- the largest amount (EUR 2.7 million) is for the EEA's European Topic Centres (ETCs), with final payments for their 2024 work programmes being made once their cost statements have been verified;
- IT expenditure covering Reportnet maintenance, web development, Eionet support, cybersecurity, helpdesk and data flow services (EUR 400,000);
- communication expenditure covering events, publications, translations, audiovisual and multimedia services (EUR 400,000);
- direct contracts for thematic work, with contract periods running from Q4 2024 to Q1 2025 (EUR 600,000).

2.3.5 Grant, contribution and service level agreements

The list of the grants, contributions and service level agreements between the EEA and the European Commission that were active in 2024 are listed in Annex 6. Important developments to note include:

- The EEA delivered the first European climate risk assessment in 2024, which was very well received by the EU institutions and Member States. The tasks under the SLA with DG CLIMA were concluded in October.
- The first SLA with DG RTD to deliver tasks for 'Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment' (EuroGEO) was concluded in March. Tasks are ongoing under another 3-year agreement.
- The Nitrates Directive tasks under the SLA with the JRC began in January.
- A new SLA was signed with DG MARE, commencing in May, to support the monitoring of the EU mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030'.

- The Climate and Health Observatory SLA with DG SANTE was amended in November, extending the agreement to the end of 2027, increasing the tasks to support health content developments and taking on tasks addressing serious cross border threats to health.

2.3.6 Procurement procedures

The 2024 procurement plan, attached as Annex 13 to the Single Programming Document 2024-2026, adopted by the EEA's Management Board on 14 December 2023, anticipated the implementation of the following procurement procedures (Figures 2.4 and 2.5).

Figure 2.4 Core revenue: 19 procedures



Figure 2.5 External assigned revenue: 19 procedures



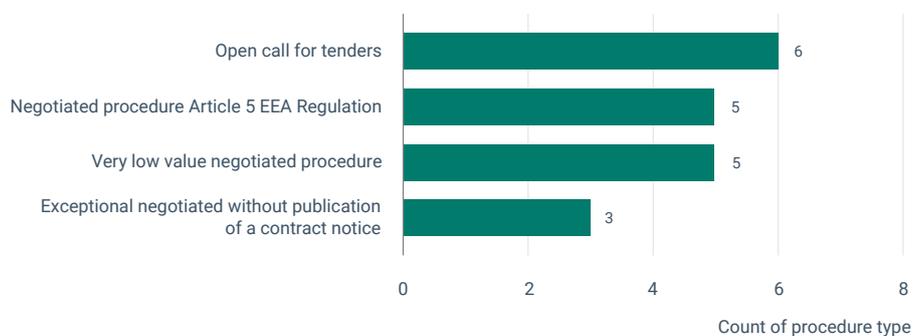
The EEA Bureau approved the amended version of the 2024 procurement plan, which reflects the actual procurement needs, through the decision EEA/BU/2024/032 on 27 November 2024.

By 31 December 2024, actual procurement procedures implemented by the EEA were as shown in Figures 2.6 and 2.7.

Figure 2.6 Core revenue: 29 procedures



Figure 2.7 External assigned revenue: 19 procedures



The increase in procurement procedures for core revenue is driven by the need to address evolving operational demands, unforeseen project requirements, and ad hoc learning and development requests. The dynamic nature of these activities necessitated additional procedures to ensure continuity, flexibility and responsiveness in meeting organisational needs. The complexity of certain projects and the urgency of specific requests required tailored procurement approaches, which also contributed to the overall increase in procedures.

Negotiated procedures carried out in 2024 under point 11.1 of Annex I to the Financial Regulation

Pursuant to Article 74(10) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 ⁽⁸⁾ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 (the 'Financial Regulation'), the authorising officer shall record, for each financial year, contracts concluded by negotiated procedures in accordance with point 11.1(a)-(f) of Annex I to the Financial Regulation. If the proportion of negotiated procedures in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the authorising officer increases significantly in relation to previous years, the authorising officer is to report to the Management Board, setting out any measures taken to reverse the trend. Tables 2.3 and 2.4 show the EEA's negotiated procedures in 2024.

⁽⁸⁾ Repealed by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast).

Table 2.3 Negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the Financial Regulation carried out in 2024

Fund source	Subject of the contract	Budget (EUR)	Type of contract	Legal basis
Core revenue	Supply of coffee machines (including installation, maintenance and rent) and supply of coffee beans to the EEA	165,000	Single framework contract	Point 11.1 ^(e) Annex I to FR ⁽¹⁾
Core revenue	Capacity building in collaboration and facilitation services according to the 'groundwork methodology'	300,000	Single framework contract	Point 11.1 ^(b) Annex I to FR ⁽²⁾
Core revenue	Amendment to the FWC EEA/ADS/22/014 – Provision of travel arrangements and ancillary services for online and hybrid meetings	2,825,000	Amendment to framework contract	Point 11.1 ^(e) Annex I to FR ⁽³⁾
Core revenue	Amendment to FWC EEA/ADS/22/004 – Provision of repair, maintenance and refurbishment services for the EEA premises	1,100,000	Amendment to framework contract	Point 11.1 ^(e) Annex I to FR ⁽³⁾
External assigned revenue	Copernicus Land Monitoring Service High Resolution Layer – Non-vegetated Land Cover Characteristics – Production of reference year 2024	842,500	Amendment to framework contract	Point 11.1 ^(e) Annex I to FR ⁽³⁾
External assigned revenue	Copernicus Land Monitoring Service - Production of 2024 reference year and the UK for High Resolution Layers - Vegetated Land Cover Characteristics	1,588,000	Direct contract	Point 11.1 ^(e) Annex I to FR ⁽³⁾
External assigned revenue	Provision of expert support in carrying data collection and reporting services under the European Union's Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change	80,000	Direct contract	Point 11.1 ^(b) Annex I to FR ⁽²⁾

- Notes:**
- (1) Follow-up of an open/restricted procedure where no (or no suitable) tenders/requests to participate have been submitted.
 - (2) Artistic/technical reasons or exclusive rights or technical monopoly/captive market.
 - (3) New services/works consisting in the repetition of similar services/works.

Table 2.4 Negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the Financial Regulation carried out in the last 5 years

Procurement procedures	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average	2024
Total number of contracts awarded by the EEA authorising officers	57.00	59.00	60.00	56.00	58.00	48.00
Number of contracts resulting from negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the Financial Regulation	4.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	3.75	7.00
Proportion (%)	7.02	8.47	5	5.36	6.47	14.58

The share of negotiated procedures under point 11.1 of Annex I to the Financial Regulation, relative to the total number of contracts awarded by the authorising officers, increased in 2024 compared to the previous years. This rise was influenced by a combination of operational and legal factors. For instance, the amendment to the framework contract on building repair and maintenance became necessary to guarantee the financing of the remaining part of the refurbishment project in the EEA's premises, whereas the amendment to the framework contract for travel arrangements sought to address increased needs expressed from other participating contracting authorities.

From a legal perspective, the increase aligns with the provisions of the Financial Regulation and applicable procurement rules, which permit negotiated procedures under specific circumstances. These include the inability to award contracts through open procedures, the necessity to ensure the continuity of essential services and cases where intellectual property rights or exclusive technical expertise restrict competition. Furthermore, legal obligations related to framework agreements, contract modifications under Article 172 of the Financial Regulation and exemptions outlined in Article 164 also contributed to the necessity of negotiated procedures.

Given these factors, the reliance on negotiated procedures in 2024 was a result of both operational challenges and legal considerations, ensuring that contracts remained compliant with regulatory requirements while addressing the evolving needs of the organisation.

2.4 Delegation and sub-delegation

Article 41 of the EEA's Financial Regulation entitles the director to delegate the powers of budget execution and for these to be sub-delegated. Powers to execute each type of expenditure are delegated to a head of programme, with the head of administration receiving delegation for all types of expenditure. Sub-delegation is given to heads of group in the administration programme and the head of group for the secretariat of the European Scientific Advisory Board for Climate Change.

Delegations are valid for the calendar year and they are renewed at the beginning of each year before the EEA's budget and finance system (ABAC) opens for that year. The delegations and access rights are annually audited by the EEA's internal audit capability. In 2024, all accesses have been properly authorised and the rights attributed to the relevant users, following the actions implemented to respond to the auditor's recommendations.

2.5 Human resource management

2.5.1 Brief description of the major human resource developments

Following the increase in the establishment table for operational staff since 2020, the EEA grew further in 2024, reaching a total of 171 approved posts. Despite increasing constraints due to the scarcity in available posts for support staff, the EEA was able to fill 96% of the approved posts (this is complemented by 98 contract agents and 20 seconded national experts; see Annex 4 for more detail).

2.5.2 Implementing rules adopted in 2024

The following six implementing rules were adopted in 2024:

- Decision of the EEA Management Board (MB) on the application by analogy (*mutatis mutandis*) of the European Commission Decision C (2022) 1715 of 24 March 2022 on home leave for officials, temporary staff and contract staff serving in a third country and repealing the European Commission Decision C (2013) 9035 final of 16 December 2013 (Decision EEA/MB/2024/025);
- Decision of the EEA MB on the European Commission Decision C (2024) 1038 of 21 February 2024 amending Decision C (2011) 1278 final on the General Implementing Provisions for articles 11 and 12 of Annex VIII to the Staff Regulations on the transfer of pension rights (Decision EEA/MB/2024/026);
- Decision of the EEA MB on laying down General Implementing Provisions on the conduct of administrative inquiries and disciplinary proceedings (Decision EEA/MB/2024/024);
- Decision of the EEA MB on working time and hybrid working (Decision EEA/MB/2024/028);
- Decision of the EEA MB on Empowering the Executive Director to request the European Commission's agreement for derogation from Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulations ⁽⁹⁾, regarding the European Commission decision on the prevention of and fight against psychological and sexual harassment;
- Decision of the EEA MB on types of post and post titles in the European Environment Agency ⁽¹⁰⁾.

2.5.3 Brief description of the results of the screening/benchmarking exercise

The EEA has been carrying out an annual screening/benchmarking exercise since 2015, in accordance with the guidelines that were agreed by the EU agencies in their working group on a joint agency approach.

2.6 Strategy for efficiency gains

During 2024, the EEA's senior management team initiated an internal process of updating the delivery model that sets out to articulate how the EEA provides its services. A clear signal from the European Commission's evaluation of the EEA and Eionet pointed towards documenting and improving the efficiency of EEA operations where needed, as well as providing an overview and presentation of EEA activities. The updated delivery model has been designed to create greater transparency and to enable management to set priorities in line with the demands of EEA stakeholders, while also enabling an easy and direct understanding of resource allocation and production. The increased focus on services channelled via the updated delivery model requires that the EEA devotes attention to output types (products and services), quality assurance and resource management and impact. These will be gradually introduced as the EEA rolls out the updated delivery model.

⁽⁹⁾ Decision EEA/MB/2024/027.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Decision EEA/MB/2024/023.

The EEA participates in cross-agency networks, including the EU Agencies Network ICT Advisory Committee (ICTAC) and the EUAN Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. By cooperating closely with other agencies, the EEA seeks efficiencies and the development of shared approaches.

Digitalisation is a key enabler of efficiency for the EEA. The new Digital Capability Strategy, expected to be finalised in early 2025, will drive efficiencies further.

Plans commenced in 2024 to move a number of air pollution/air quality related dataflows from Reportnet 2 to Reportnet 3. As part of this work, the EEA is identifying potential efficiency gains and simplifications within these dataflows, while maintaining the reliability and completeness of the datasets. This includes the dataflows on ambient air quality and on the NECD.

The EEA has been investing in the refurbishment of its offices to open activity-based workspaces, from 2020 to 2025. This refurbishment has delivered substantial benefits to the EEA. It has modernised and repurposed space and facilities to improve collaboration for staff working in the office and at home, as well as engaging virtually with EEA stakeholders. This is a much more efficient use of office space; since the renovations commenced, the EEA's staff complement has increased by 40%. A significant further increase can be accommodated without any increase in office space.

2.7 Assessment of audit and ex-post evaluation results during the reporting year

2.7.1 Assessment of audit results

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) report on the EEA's annual accounts for the financial year 2023 was published in October 2024 and expressed an unqualified opinion of the accounts and an unqualified opinion on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts. All recommendations from previous years are closed. The next audit of the EEA's annual accounts will examine the 2024 financial year. It started with a preliminary desk review in September 2024 and the fieldwork took place in February 2025.

The audit on HR management and ethics that started in 2023 was finalised in 2024. Its objective was to assess the adequacy of the design and the effectiveness and efficiency of processes related to the management of human resources and ethics. It also aimed to ensure that the EEA's HR-related decisions and procedures comply with the regulatory framework and guidelines for EU bodies. The audit resulted in ten recommendations, including two very important ones.

For the first very important recommendation, Internal Audit Service (IAS) auditors recommended that the EEA management works on specific aspects of the regulatory framework, including adoption by EEA Management Board of some implementing rules and the technical adaptation of adopted implementing rules and of its own rules on seconded national experts and trainees. This approach will ensure that EEA staff can access up-to-date overviews of all applicable rules.

The second very important recommendation relates to ethics. There were several requests. First, the EEA management was requested to strengthen the procedure on the authorisation of post-employment activities and to implement compulsory training on ethics, fraud detection and prevention for all staff, and to make the anti-fraud strategy available to all staff. Second, the guidelines on sensitive posts should be implemented with a list of sensitive posts and adequate mitigating measures

in the light of the upcoming organisational changes. Finally, the policy on prevention and management of conflicts of interest should be revised to provide updated guidance on how to perform and document checks on conflicts of interest, as well as a procedure to monitor risk indicators that help alert the EEA to the risk of conflicts of interests. The publication of declarations of interests and CVs of Management Board members and alternates should be compliant with the policy.

Additionally, in line with the strategic internal audit plan for the EEA for 2022-2024, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) began to audit the ETCs in 2024. The audit report will be finalised in April 2025.

2.7.2 Ex-post evaluation

As foreseen in the EEA financial regulation (Article 29(3)), the EEA is subject to periodic retrospective evaluation, carried out by the European Commission.

Between 2022 and 2024, the European Commission evaluated the EEA and its Eionet network, including the Agency's founding regulation. The evaluation covered the period from 2017 to 2021. This period included two multiannual programmes: the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 and the EEA-Eionet Strategy for 2021-2030. Similar to its predecessor, the evaluation followed the better regulation guidelines and included analyses of five main themes: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and European added value. It also considered recommendations from the previous evaluations of the EEA and Eionet. The support study by the contractors was finalised in November 2023. The new staff working document (SWD), including recommendations, was published by the European Commission in July 2024.

The conclusions of the evaluation and the subsequent Management Board response to the evaluation, including recommendations and the Scientific Committee opinion are available on the [EEA website](#). The EEA is following up on the recommendations through its ongoing planning and in the implementation of the EEA-Eionet strategy covering the period 2021-2030.

The next evaluation of the EEA and Eionet by the European Commission will cover the period 2022-2026.

2.8 Follow-up of recommendations and action plans for audits and evaluations

There were no European Court of Auditors (ECA) recommendations to be addressed during 2024.

To address the recommendations of the IAS report on HR management and ethics, EEA management agreed to several actions that will be followed up by the IAS.

Regarding the latest open recommendation stemming from the IAS report on IT governance and IT-related project management concluded in 2023, the EEA submitted a comprehensive IT strategy in 2024, which should be reviewed by the IAS in 2025.

2.9 Follow-up of observations from the discharge authority

The discharge process involves (interchangeably) the European Parliament and the European Council. Concerning the discharge process with respect to the implementation of the EEA's budget for the financial year 2023, the European Parliament and the following committees were involved:

- On 18 February 2025, the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety adopted its opinion and provided it to the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control. The latter committee adopted its opinion on 11 April 2025.
- The final opinion was adopted by the European Parliament in its plenary session on 8 May 2025.
- The EEA will prepare a response to the discharge: *Report of the executive director to the discharge authority on measures taken in the light of the discharge authority's recommendations of 2023 in accordance with Article 107(2) of the Framework Financial Regulation.*

2.10 Environmental management

An accredited Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) environmental verifier verified and validated the EEA's full compliance ⁽¹¹⁾ with the EMAS Regulation. On 23 September 2024, the EEA declared that the data and information of the EEA environmental statement 2023 ⁽¹²⁾ reflects a reliable, credible and correct image of its activities and environmental improvements. Subsequently, in October 2024, the EMAS registration for the EEA was successfully extended by a competent body under EMAS for another year.

The 2024 verification certificate ⁽¹³⁾ (Bureau Veritas) and the registration certificate ⁽¹⁴⁾ are both available on the EEA website on the '[Becoming a climate-neutral agency](#)' page.

The compilation of the *Environment Statement Report 2024* is currently underway. In parallel, the development of an environmental management programme is in progress. This defines operational objectives and performance indicators to assess the EEA's performance. Both documents are expected to be submitted for approval by the Executive Director in Q2 2025. For further details of the EEA's environmental management, see Annex 7.

2.11 Assessment by management

The CAAR 2024 describes the delivery of a work programme (*Single Programming Document 2024-2026*).

It is the EEA management's assessment that the underlying factors ensuring the organisation's long-term performance are sound and functioning well. Following the logic of the constituent elements of this report (achievements, management and internal control systems), the EEA has delivered a satisfactory result in 2024, given the risks and challenges the organisation has had to manage. The EEA will continue to strive for continuous improvement to bring added value to all its stakeholders.

⁽¹¹⁾ [Becoming a climate neutral agency.](#)

⁽¹²⁾ [Environmental Statement report 2023.](#)

⁽¹³⁾ [Verification certificate 2024.](#)

⁽¹⁴⁾ [EMAS registration certificate 2024.](#)



Det Europæiske Miljøagentur



3

Assesment of the effectiveness of the internal control systems



3.1 Effectiveness of internal control systems

The assessment of the effectiveness of EEA internal control systems covers all 17 principles of the EEA internal control framework. All principles adopted by the Management Board in 2017 are annually reviewed taking into account all changes occurring during the year under review – 2024 in this document – to check if the controls are effective and if not, where improvements are required to ensure compliance.

In addition to the assessment of EEA internal control systems, an analysis of the costs and benefits of control has been performed to ensure a fair balance between the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of controls.

During 2024, EEA management worked on improving weaknesses identified in 2023, in particular those related to risk management, control over technology and the security of IT systems.

Cybersecurity received focused attention through the creation of a comprehensive security approach, supported by more robust identity and access controls and clear guidelines for cloud governance. Several legacy tools were updated to ensure user friendly solutions with modern features and stronger safeguards, while service management processes were refined to provide quicker resolutions for service requests. Alongside this, network upgrades improved performance and reliability through targeted hardware replacements and better network segregation, thus reducing potential risks and further accelerating efficiency gains.

IT governance advanced significantly, with the finalisation of the IT strategy, formalisation of governance roles and adoption of the PM² project management approach, which entails a risk management approach. In parallel, the EEA launched an artificial intelligence environment, integrating emerging AI functionalities into existing digital services and initiating a proof of concept for Microsoft 365 Copilot. These achievements were underpinned by prudent budget management, reinforcing cost-effectiveness.

Finally, the EEA has initiated work towards improving and reinforcing disaster recovery and business continuity measures for its digital infrastructure, for long-term business resilience. Together, these initiatives have strengthened the EEA's information and communication technology capabilities, safeguarded critical assets and ensured continued alignment with its broader objectives.

However, new weaknesses in HR management and ethics were identified during the IAS audit. An action plan to address these will be implemented in 2025.

The principles that are only partially present and functioning and require major improvements to be fully effective are identified in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 EEA internal control framework assessment

Component of internal control	Description	Assessment and follow up
Risk assessment 	<p>Principle 8 – The EEA considers the potential for fraud in assessing risks to the achievement of objectives.</p> <p>Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of fraud: the risk identification and assessment procedures (see principle 7) consider possible incentives, pressures, opportunities and attitudes that may lead to any type of fraud, notably fraudulent reporting, loss of assets, disclosure of sensitive information and corruption. • Anti-fraud strategy: the EEA has an anti-fraud strategy in place to improve the prevention and detection of fraud in line with EEA financial regulation and the staff regulations. 	<p>Partially compliant – the existing anti-fraud strategy included an action plan that has not been implemented.</p> <p>Most of the actions are part of the action plan to respond to the IAS audit recommendations agreed in the context of the HR management and ethics audit concluded in 2024.</p> <p>The actions initially planned will be reviewed in 2025 in the context of the regular update of the strategy.</p>
Risk assessment 	<p>Principle 10 – the EEA selects and develops control activities that contribute to the mitigation of risks to the achievement of objectives to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control activities are performed to mitigate the identified risks and are cost-effective: they are tailored to the specific activities and risks of each department and their intensity is proportional to the underlying risks. • Control activities are integrated in EEA control systems: the EEA control system includes a variety of checks, such as supervision arrangements. Where appropriate it should include a balance of approaches to mitigate risks, considering manual and automated controls and preventive and detective controls. • Segregation of duties: when putting in place control measures, management considers whether duties are correctly divided between staff members to reduce risks of error and inappropriate or fraudulent actions. • Business continuity plans are up-to-date to ensure that the EEA is able to continue working to the extent possible in case of a major disruption congruent to the nature of EEA activities. Where necessary, business continuity plans must include coordinated and agreed disaster recovery plans for time-sensitive supporting infrastructure (e.g. IT systems). 	<p>Partially compliant – the EEA Business continuity plan is outdated and does not take into account the new ways of working, e.g. with tasks digitalised, current organisational structure.</p> <p>Business continuity measures are documented but scattered by activity. Comprehensive and fully tested IT disaster recovery procedures are missing.</p> <p>Actions are planned for 2025, in particular a clear description of the IT disaster recovery process and a test of the process is foreseen.</p>

3.1.1 Costs and benefits of controls

A requirement in the CAAR guidelines is that agencies report on the balance between the effectiveness (including benefits), efficiency and economy of controls.

The EEA's controls are essential to ensure its legal compliance, application of sound financial management and protection of its reputation in the performance of its work programme and other activities. The benefits of its controls have been demonstrated through:

- the ECA consistently expressing an unqualified opinion on the reliability of the accounts and an unqualified opinion on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts;
- the relatively few observations made by the ECA, the IAS and other auditors, as well as the prompt action the EEA has taken in addressing the recommendations accompanying these observations, thereby reducing the risks;
- the relatively few exceptions registered, which are reported to the Management Board in a timely manner;
- the EEA's accurate payment of its suppliers;
- the EEA's very high budget execution in recent years.

The ex-post evaluations of the EEA (see Section 2.7) found that the EEA's support activities, which include control activities, are performed efficiently and effectively.

To calculate and report the costs of controls, the EEA uses an informal guideline developed by the Internal Control Working Group of the Performance Development Network, a sub-network of the EU Agencies Network. This guideline is inspired by the approach used by the European Commission. The guidance focuses on the cost of controls regarding budget implementation, especially on the control objective for the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. Non-spending activities such as IT security are not addressed. The cost of controls is split by the main control systems.

Table 3.2 Estimated costs of control for 2024

Relevant control system	Ex-ante controls			Ex-post controls		Total	
	Title	Funds managed	Estimated cost of controls	Ratio (%)	Estimated cost of controls	Ratio (%)	Estimated cost of controls
Salaries and allowances	37,684,000	80,000	0.2	256,000	0.7	336,000	0.9
Travel and meetings	1,975,000	197,000	10.0	13,000	0.7	210,000	10.6
Procurement	19,194,000	918,000	4.8	131,000	0.7	1,049,000	5.5
Grants (ETCs)	8,957,000	133,000	1.5	61,000	0.7	194,000	2.2
Total (EUR)	67,810,000	1,328,000	2.0	461,000	0.7	1,789,000	2.6

3.1.2 Conclusions of assessment of internal control systems

In 2024, the EEA continued to work on the implementation of principles related to risk management and control activities. Major improvements are still needed for the EEA to be fully compliant with its internal control framework. These are limited to two processes for which clear action plans are developed. This does not, however, affect the robustness nor the effectiveness and the efficiency of the existing controls, as demonstrated in the section 'Costs and benefits of controls'.

3.2 Statement of the manager in charge of risk management and internal control

I, the undersigned,

Head of Resources within the European Environment Agency,

In my capacity as Head of Resources, I declare that, in accordance with the European Environment Agency's internal control framework, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the European Environment Agency to the Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the present consolidated annual activity report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, reliable and complete.

Signed in Copenhagen, 6 June 2025

Søren Brostrup Nielsen

4 Management assurance

4.1 Review of elements supporting assurance

4.1.1 Brief description of the building blocks of assurance

The information reported in chapters 2 and 3 stems from the results of the work undertaken by management and audits. Audit reports result from a systematic analysis of the evidence available and cover only a part of the EEA's many core activities. Furthermore, different audit capacities (the EEA internal audit capability, the IAS and the ECA) cover different areas. Together, their work and the internal controls in the EEA ensure a comprehensive basis for assurance.

This approach provides sufficient guarantees of the completeness and reliability of the information reported and results in exhaustive scrutiny of the budget delegated to the executive director.

In conclusion:

- there were no reservations listed in the previous years' annual activity reports;
- the only open recommendation of the IAS issued in relation to the audit finalised in 2023 has been implemented and will be reviewed in 2025 by the IAS; there are no other open recommendations from previous years;
- the EEA had not received 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 Chapters 2 and 3 and an assessment of their combined impact on the declaration of assurance

Taking the above into consideration, no weaknesses were identified regarding the financial management of appropriations within the EEA, so no reservations are made in this context in the declaration.

4.2 Reservations

No significant weaknesses have been identified and there are no formal reservations.

5 Declaration of assurance

I, the undersigned, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency,

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 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 Service, the work of the internal audit capability and the lessons learnt from the reports of the European Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here that could harm the interests of the European Environment Agency.

Signed in Copenhagen, 6 June 2025

Leena Ylä-Mononen



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Annex 1 Core business statistics

For details and analysis of the KPIs for 2024, please refer to Chapter 1.

Annex 2 Statistics on financial management

Annex 2 provides additional financial statistics requiring disclosure, which have not already been provided in Section 2.3.

Indication of commitments for actions that will extend for more than 1 financial year; major items (greater than EUR 500,000) only

Nothing to report.

Information on interest charged by suppliers through late payments (>30 days late)

We received no late interest charges from suppliers.

Budgetary outturn for 2024

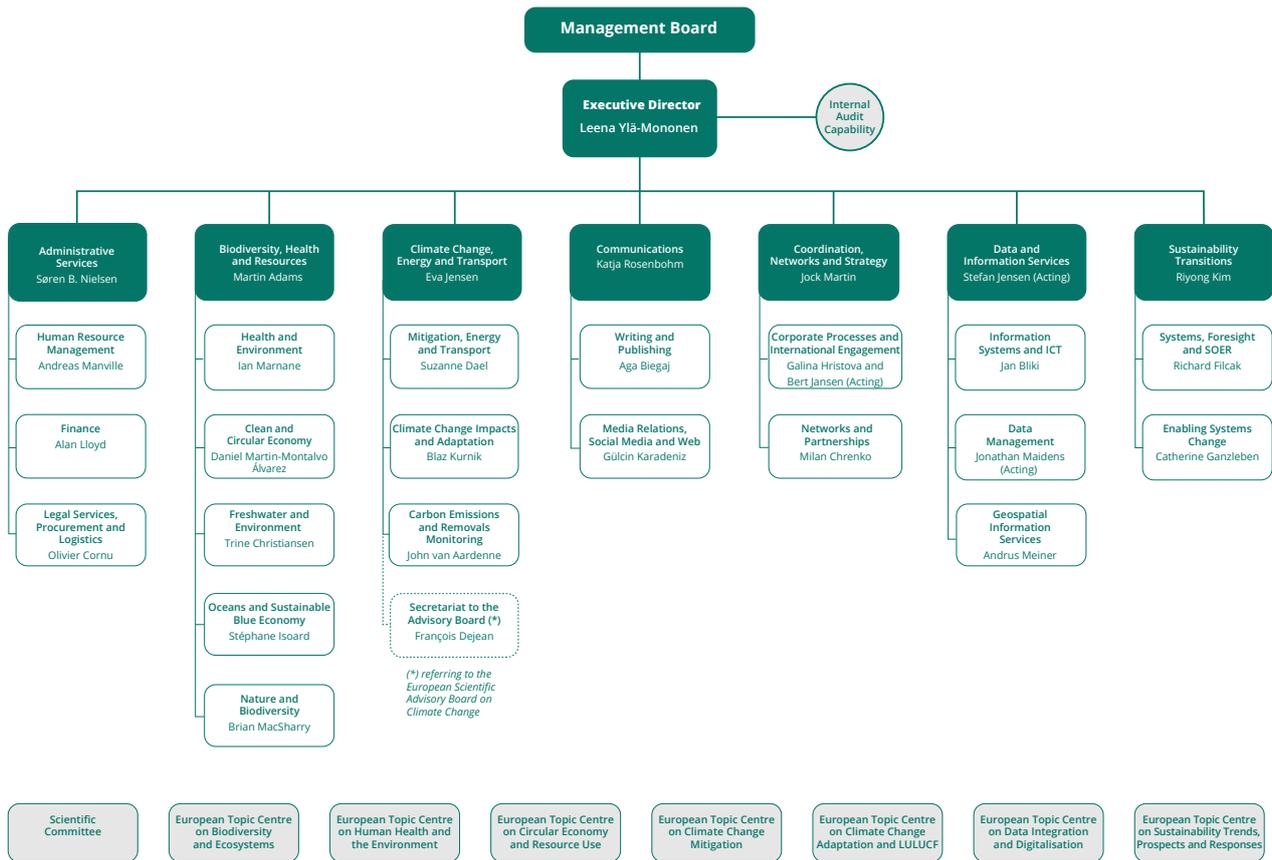
Table A2.1 Budgetary outturn for 2022-2024

Budget outturn (EUR)	2022	2023	2024
Reserve from the previous years' surplus (+)			
Revenue actually received (+)	85,374,306	76,461,298	97,613,810
Payments made (-)	-64,607,077	-68,363,709	-79,279,112
Carryover of appropriations (-)	-36,737,126	-34,296,083	-52,964,230
Cancellation of appropriations carried over (+)	250,600	301,357	369,730
Adjustment for carryover of assigned revenue appropriation from previous year (+)	15,986,712	26,260,590	34,871,934
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-15,543	-31,400	-5,620
Adjustment for negative balance from previous year			
Total	251,873	332,053	606,511

The analysis and commentary on the budget outturn have been provided in Section 2.3.

Annex 3 EEA organisational chart

Figure A3.1 EEA organisational chart



Notes: The chart presents the EEA's organisation on 31 December 2024.
 Coordination, Networks and Strategy includes a Brussels Liaison Office, located in Brussels.

Annex 4 Establishment plan and additional information on human resource management

Table A4.1 EEA statutory staff and seconded national experts: 2024

Human Resources	2024	
	Amended Budget	Actually filled 31/12/2024
Administrators (AD)	115	111
Assistants (AST)	58	54
Assistants/Secretaries (AST/SC)	0	0
Establishment plan posts	171	165
Contract Agents (CA)	98	93
Seconded National Experts (SNE)	20	16
Total staff	289	274

Table A4.2 EEA establishment table: 2024

Function group and grade	2024			
	Amended budget		Actually filled as of 31/12/2024	
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts
AD 16				
AD 15		1		
AD 14		3		1
AD 13	1	5		2
AD 12		8	1	4
AD 11		14		9
AD 10		14		9
AD 9		10		11
AD 8		12		11
AD 7		22		22
AD 6		25		42
AD 5				
AD Total	1	114	0	111
AST 11		1		
AST 10	1	3		1
AST 9	2	7	2	6
AST 8		9		8
AST 7		9		8
AST 6		11		9
AST 5		7		12
AST 4		4		2
AST 3		2	1	4
AST 2				1
AST 1				
AST total	3	53	3	51
AST/SC 6				
AST/SC 5				
AST/SC 4				
AST/SC 3				
AST/SC 2				
AST/SC 1				
AST/SC total				
Total	4	167	3	162
Grand total		171		165

Table A4.3 EEA contract agents and seconded national experts: 2024

Contract agents	2024 amended	Recruited as of 31/12/2024
Function Group IV	80	74
Function Group III	16	17
Function Group II	2	2
Function Group I	0	0
Total	98	93

Seconded national experts	2024 amended	Recruited as of 31/12/24
Total	20	16

Table A4.4 Additional staff financed from grants, contributions or service level agreements

Contract agents (CA) per agreement	Partner DG	2024 authorised
PARC	RTD	2
Copernicus Contribution Agreement	DEFIS	12
IPA III-Green Agenda and Energy Community	NEAR	7
NDICI-Governance of the Energy Community	NEAR	
EuroGEO	RTD	2
EuroGEO 24	RTD	1
Climate and Health Observatory	SANTE	2
Regional and Urban Environmental Indicators	REGIO	2
Mission on Adaption to Climate Change	CLIMA	4
European Climate Risk Assessment	CLIMA	2
EEA-Eurostat Cooperation	ESTAT	3
Nitrates Directive	JRC	2
Mission Ocean Monitoring	MARE	3
Total		42

Notes: The table lists the posts for the agreements that are currently in force. Details of the agreements in force and future anticipated agreements are provided in Annex 11 Plan for grant, contribution and service-level agreements.

DG, Directorate-General; **DG CLIMA**, DG for Climate Action; **DG DEFIS**, DG for Defence Industry and Space; **DG ESTAT**, Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat); **DG JRC**, Joint Research Centre; **DG MARE**, DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; **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; **PARC**, Partnership for the Assessment of the Risks of Chemicals; **IPA**, Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance; **NDICI**, Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Table A4.5 Entry level per key function for establishment plan posts

Key function – general ^(a)	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
Head of Programme (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
Head of Group (level 3) ^(b)	Official/TA From AD6/AST6
Expert	Official/TA/CA From AD6/FGIV
Officer	Official/TA/CA From AST3/FGIII
Assistant	Official/TA/CA From AST1/FGII
Key function – example	Type of contract (official, TA or CA) Function group; grade of recruitment (or bottom of the brackets if published in brackets)
Head of Programme 'Administrative Services' (level 2)	Official/TA AD11
Head of Group 'Human Resource Management' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD7
Head of Group 'Finance' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD7
Head of Group 'Legal Services, Procurement and Logistics' (level 3)	Official/TA From AD7
Head of Programme 'Communications' (level 2)	TA AD11
Head of Programme 'Data and Information Services' (level 2)	TA AD11
Head of Group 'Information Systems and ICT' (level 3)	TA From AD7
Expert – Data Protection	Official/TA From AD6
Expert – Accountant	Official/TA From AD8
Expert – Internal Audit Capability	Official/TA From AD8

Notes: AD, administrator; AST, assistant; CA, contract agent; TA, temporary agent.

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

^(b) Excluded from management allowance.

Annex 5 Human and financial resources by activity

The EEA has defined new activities under its strategy for 2021-2030.

Staff time and operational costs reported in Figures A5.1 and A5.2 are to deliver the EEA's annual work programme. These exclude staff time and budget to deliver project-financed actions funded by grants, contributions and service-level agreements.

The allocation includes a proportional allocation of support, management, governance and administration activities and resources.

Figure A5.1 Staff time in 2024 by strategic activity

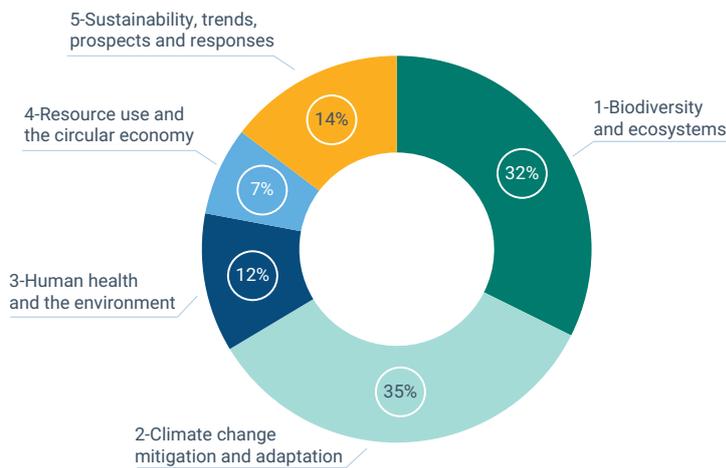
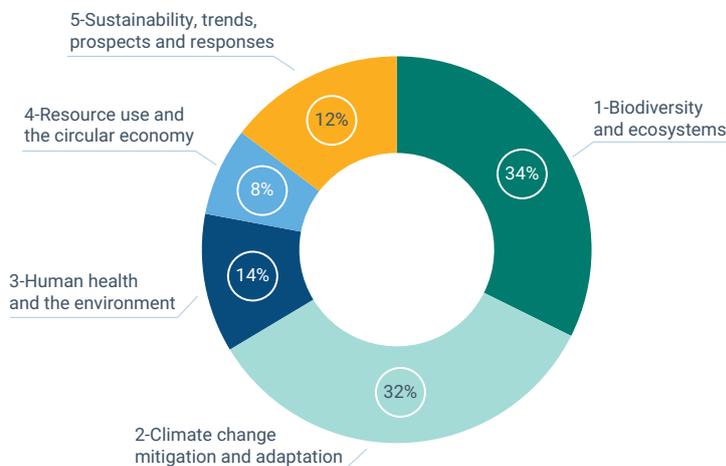


Figure A5.2 Operational costs 2024 execution by strategic activity



Annex 6 Contribution, grant and service-level agreements, and financial framework partnership agreements

Agreements	Start date	General information			Short description	Financial and HR information		
		Total amount (EUR)	Duration (months)	Counterpart		2023	2024	
Grant agreements								
PARC	May 2022	2,890,000	84	DG RTD	Continuation of human biomonitoring after the expiry of the HBM4EU agreement	Amount (EUR)		
						No. of CAs	2	2
						No. of SNEs		
Contribution agreements								
Copernicus Contribution Agreement	Nov 2021	142,500,000	86	DG DEFIS	Continuation of Copernicus activities, replacing the current agreement	Amount (EUR)	13,744,000	26,845,000
						No. of CAs	12	12
						No. of SNEs		
IPA III – Green Agenda and Energy Community	Jan 2023	3,912,000	36	DG NEAR	Continuation of Green Agenda tasks from IPA 2020 agreement and 2/3 of Energy Community budget	Amount (EUR)		
						No. of CAs	4	5
						No. of SNEs		
NDICI – Governance of the Energy Community	Jan 2023	1,000,000	36	DG NEAR	1/3 of budget supporting the implementation of the Governance Regulation in the Energy Community	Amount (EUR)		
						No. of CAs	1	2
						No. of SNEs		

General information						Financial and HR information	
Agreements	Start date	Total amount (EUR)	Duration (months)	Counterpart	Short description	2023	2024
Service level agreements							
EuroGEO 24	Apr 2024	2,000,000	36	DG RTD	Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment	Amount (EUR)	2,000,000
						No. of CAs	3
						No. of SNEs	
European Climate and Health Observatory	Aug 2021	4,800,000	77	DG SANTE	Supporting the content developments of the European Climate and Health Observatory	Amount (EUR)	2,500,000
						No. of CAs	1 2
						No. of SNEs	
Regional and urban environmental indicators	Dec 2021	1,324,000	42	DG REGIO	Supporting the implementation of regional and urban environmental indicators and analysis	Amount (EUR)	
						No. of CAs	2 2
						No. of SNEs	
Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change	May 2022	2,880,000	41	DG CLIMA	Developing a support system tailored to the needs of the Mission in the Climate-ADAPT platform	Amount (EUR)	880,000
						No. of CAs	4 4
						No. of SNEs	
European climate risk assessment	May 2022	1,800,000	30	DG CLIMA	Support the development of the first EU-wide climate risk assessment	Amount (EUR)	
						No. of CAs	2 2
						No. of SNEs	
EEA - Eurostat Cooperation	Jan 2023	2,000,000	48	DG ESTAT	Cooperation to enrich and make increased use of ESTAT data and accounts	Amount (EUR)	2,000,000
						No. of CAs	3
						No. of SNEs	
Nitrates Directive	Dec 2023	871,000	25	JRC	Technical and scientific assistance in the implementation of the Nitrates Directive	Amount (EUR)	871,000
						No. of CAs	2 2
						No. of SNEs	
Mission Ocean Monitoring	May 2024	2,500,000	48	DG MARE	Supporting the monitoring of the EU Mission 'Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030'	Amount (EUR)	2,500,000
						No. of CAs	3
						No. of SNEs	

Notes: The financial amount reported each year for the Copernicus Contribution Agreement is the pre-financing forecasted to be received in that year. For all other agreements, the EEA Management Board approves the full budget for the agreement on commencement. The EEA has non-differentiated appropriations, so the budget appropriations for commitments and payments are identical.

CAs, contract agents; **SNEs**, seconded national experts; **DG**, Directorate-General; **DG CLIMA**, DG for Climate Action; **DG DEFIS**, DG for Defence Industry and Space; **DG ESTAT**, Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat); **DG NEAR**, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations; **DG MARE**, DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; **DG REGIO**, DG for Regional and Urban Policy; **DG RTD**, DG for Research and Innovation; **DG SANTE**, DG for Health and Food Safety; **HBM4EU**, Human Biomonitoring for Europe; **PARC**, European Partnership for the Assessment of the Risks of Chemicals; **IPA**, Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance; **NDICI**, Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Annex 7 Environmental management

Context of the EEA and its environmental management strategy

The EEA commits to its environmental policy to minimise its environmental impacts and continually improve its environmental performance. In February 2023, the EEA established a steering committee to strengthen the governance needed to implement its environmental management system. This key decision-making and issue-resolution body consists of the EMAS environmental coordinator and three members of the senior management team – the EMAS top management representative and the heads of the two programmes; 'Administrative Services' and 'Coordination, Network and Strategy'.

Under the EMAS steering committee, the EMAS team was replaced by the EMAS working group. The EMAS working group is chaired by the EMAS environmental coordinator. Trained staff members perform internal environmental audits and support the EMAS environmental coordinator in implementing environmental improvement actions and communication activities. Several other steering committees and working groups under the EEA's new governance system help ensure the coherent and efficient implementation of the environmental management programme in different areas, such as building management, staff travel, new ways of working, visitor travel and the purchase of goods and services.

Overview of the EEA's environmental management system

The EEA uses an environmental management system that was registered under EMAS in 2005. EMAS is part of the EEA's quality management system. In 2024, the EEA's EMAS registration ⁽¹⁵⁾ was successfully extended by a competent body under EMAS for another year.

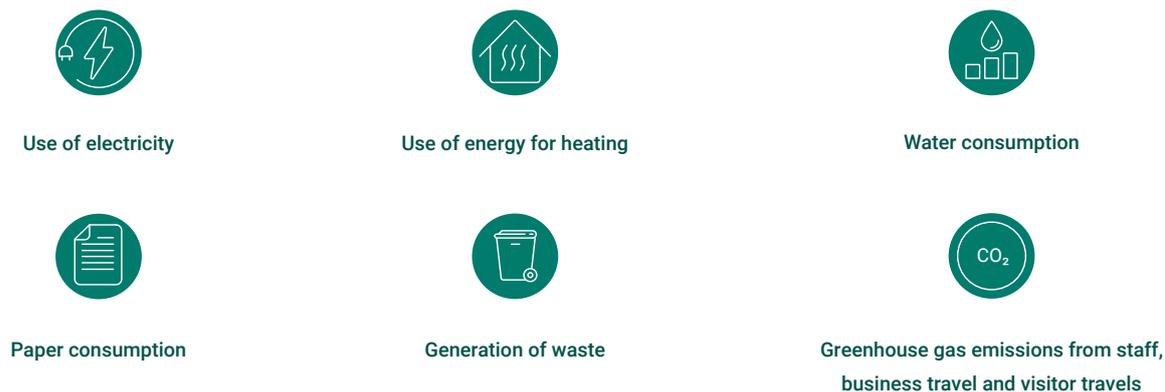
Environmental management, procedures, responsibilities and annual activities are documented in the EEA environmental management handbook (EEA internal document).

⁽¹⁵⁾ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/who-we-are/becoming-a-climate-neutral-agency/emas-registration-certifikat-eea-2024>

Environmental aspects, indicators and targets

EEA activities have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. Under EMAS, the EEA routinely monitors the following environmental aspects in its environmental statement.

Figure A7.1 Areas routinely monitored



For each of the environmental aspects, the annual environmental statement report outlines details of objectives, monitoring and progress. It includes a summary table outlining the sources of the environmental impact, action plans, including responsibilities, performance indicators, the performance of the previous year and the percentage change compared with data from the previous 5 years.

The *EEA environmental statement 2023* ⁽¹⁶⁾ was published in 2024 after the competent body had confirmed the extension of its EMAS registration.

The compilation of the 2024 Environment statement report is currently underway. This report will provide insights into the EEA's environmental performance in 2024 and outline updated targets and the action plan for 2025. The final document will be available in Q3 2025.

⁽¹⁶⁾ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/environmental-statement-2023>

Annex 8 Provisional accounts

The EEA's provisional annual accounts for the year 2024 are available [here](#).

Annex 9 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name
8th EAP	Eighth Environment Action Programme
BISE	Biodiversity information system for Europe
CAAR	Consolidated annual activity report
CLMS	Copernicus Land Monitoring Service
DG CLIMA	Directorate-General for Climate Action
DG DEFIS	DG for Defence Industry and Space
DG ENV	Directorate-General for Environment
DG NEAR	Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG REGIO	DG for Regional and Urban Policy
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
DG SANTE	Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EGD	European Green Deal
Eionet	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EMA	European Medical Agency
EMAS	Eco-Management and Audit Scheme
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
EPA	Environmental protection agencies
ETC	European Topic Centre
EU	European Union
FISE	Forest information system for Europe
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HBM4EU	Human Biomonitoring for Europe
HRL	High-resolution layer
IAS	Internal Audit Service
IT	Information technology
JRC	Joint Research Centre

Abbreviation	Name
KPI	Key performance indicator
LULUCF	Land use, land use change and forestry
MB	Management Board
MBAC	Management Board Advisory Committee
NDFC	National data flows coordination group
NFP	National focal points
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PARC	Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SoE	State of the Environment
SOER 2025	The European environment – state and outlook 2025 report
SPD	Single programming document
SSbD	Safe and sustainable by design
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	Water Information System for Europe

European Environment Agency

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