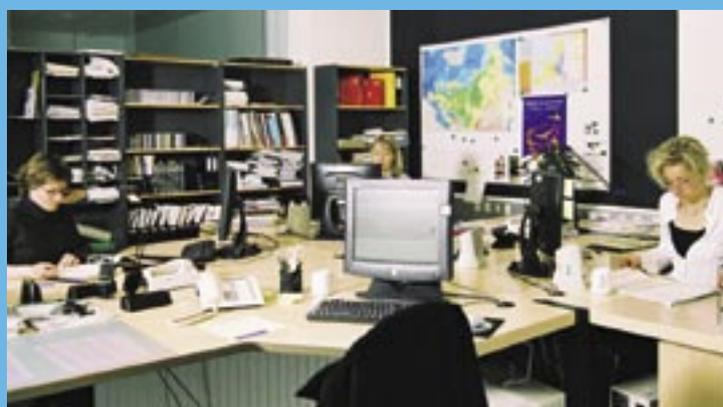


The European Environment Agency

Who we are, what we do and how we do it



The European Environment Agency

Mission

The European Environment Agency is the EU body dedicated to providing sound, independent information on the environment.

We are a main information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public.

Members

Membership is open to countries that are not Member States of the European Union. We now have 31 member countries: 25 EU Member States together with Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania and Turkey.

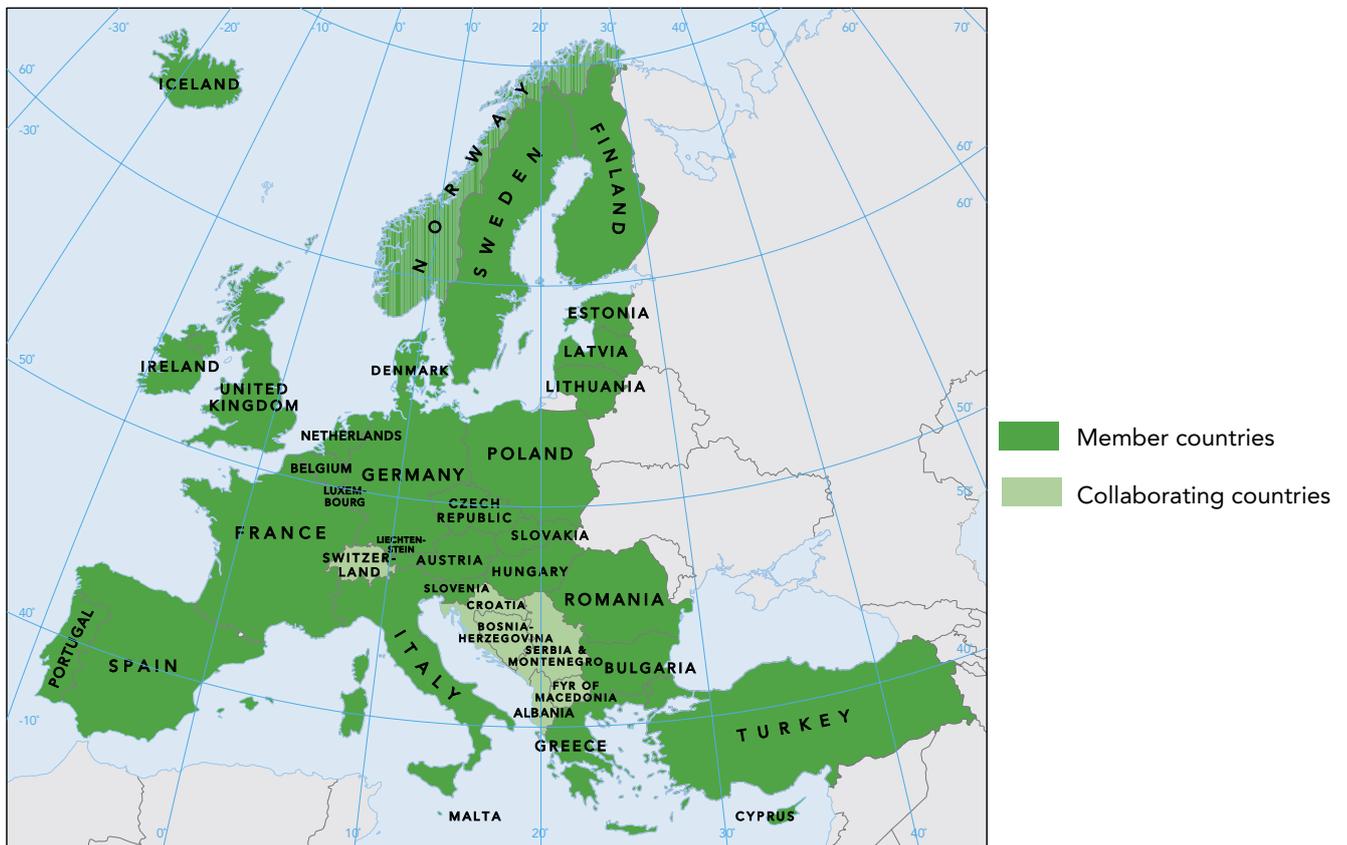
Switzerland is set to be the next to join, and five west Balkan countries have also applied for membership.

Clients

Main clients are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council — especially through the changing presidencies — and the member countries.

In addition to this central group of European policy actors, we also serve other EU institutions such as the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank. Outside the EU framework, the business community, academia, non-governmental organisations and other parts of civil society are also important users of our information.

We try to achieve two-way communication with our clients in order to correctly identify their information needs, and make sure that the information provided is understood and taken up by them.



The European Environment Agency



EEA website

Our website at www.eea.eu.int is one of the most comprehensive public environmental information services on the internet and our busiest information channel with up to 100 000 user sessions in peak months.

The full texts of all reports, summaries and briefings are posted on the website for downloading free of charge. Data and information supporting the reports are also available.

EEA outputs

Our aim is to help the EU and member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability.

To do this, we provide a wide range of information and assessments. This covers the state of the environment and trends in it, together with pressures on the environment and the economic and social driving forces behind them. It also covers policies and their effectiveness. We try to identify possible future trends and problems using scenarios and other techniques.

We publish a number of reports every year and — increasingly — short briefings on particular issues. Briefings and major reports are usually translated into the official languages of EEA member countries.

EEA information centre

The information centre gives individual responses to external requests for information. It receives about 500 requests monthly.

Ordering EEA products

EEA sales publications can be ordered from bookshops or from the national sales agents of the EU Publications Office (<http://publications.eu.int>). For an up-to-date overview of available publications, please consult our website.

You may subscribe to our notification service to get an e-mail when we upload new reports to the website.

For personal copies of free-of-charge material, please use the online ordering service also found on the site. There is also a request form to be used for inquiries to the EEA information centre.

The European Environment Agency

The Eionet and other partners

The information provided by the EEA comes from a wide range of sources.

One major source is the European environment information and observation network (Eionet). The EEA is responsible for developing the network and coordinating its activities. To do this, we work closely together with the national focal points, typically national environment agencies or environment ministries in the member countries. They are responsible for coordinating national networks involving many institutions (about 300 in all).

Main tasks for national focal points are to help identify information

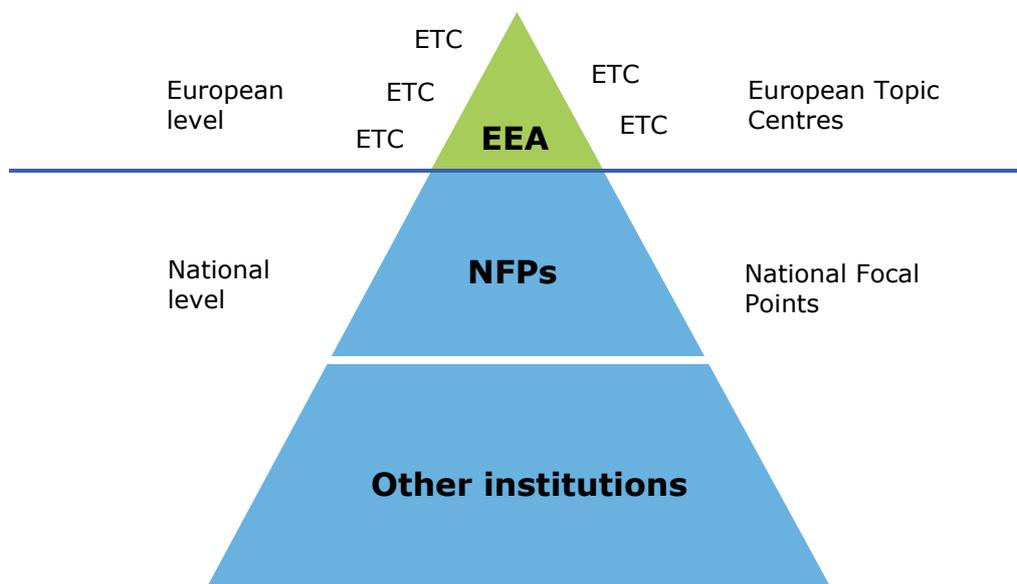
needs, to capture and channel data and information from monitoring and other activities in the member countries to the EEA, to support the EEA in the analysis and use of the information, and to assist in communicating the EEA information to end users in the member countries.

To support data collection, management and analysis we have established and work closely with five European topic centres covering water, air and climate change, nature protection and biodiversity, waste and material flows, and terrestrial environment.

Another important source of information is other European and international organisations, such as the Statistical Office (Eurostat) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

As well as using their information, we also cooperate with these and other organisations in producing information for clients and other users.

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)



The European Environment Agency

Background

History

The regulation establishing the EEA was adopted by the European Union in 1990. It came into force in late 1993 immediately after the decision was taken to locate the EEA in Copenhagen. Work started in earnest in 1994.

The regulation also established the European environment information and observation network (Eionet).

Organisation

The EEA has a management board consisting of one representative of each of the member countries, two representatives of the Commission and two scientific personalities designated by the European Parliament. Among its tasks, the management board adopts the multiannual work programme,

the annual work programmes and the annual report, appoints the Executive Director and designates the members of the scientific committee.

The present multiannual work programme is the EEA Strategy 2004–2008.

The Executive Director is responsible to the management board for the implementation of the programmes and for the day-to-day running of the EEA.

The scientific committee advises the management board and the Executive Director.

Names

Chairman of the management board: Lars-Erik Liljelund, Sweden

Chairman of the scientific committee: Bedrich Moldan

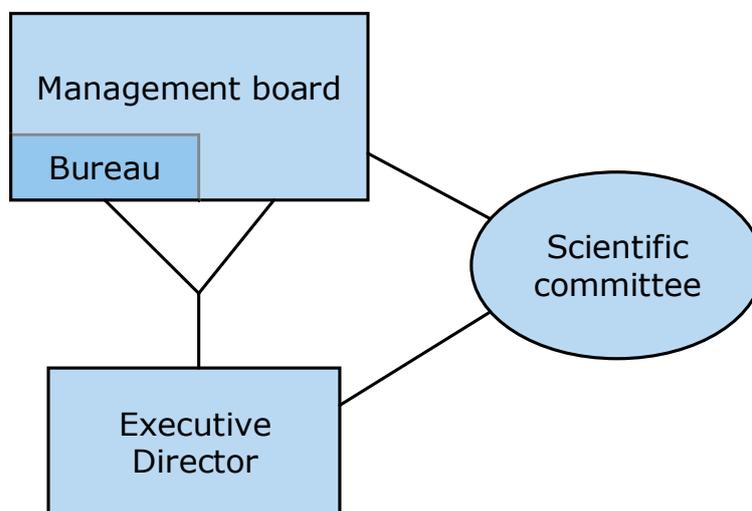
Executive Director: Jacqueline McGlade

Deputy Director: Gordon McInnes

Resources

The 2004 budget is circa EUR 31 million. There were 111 staff at the beginning of the year, including national experts.

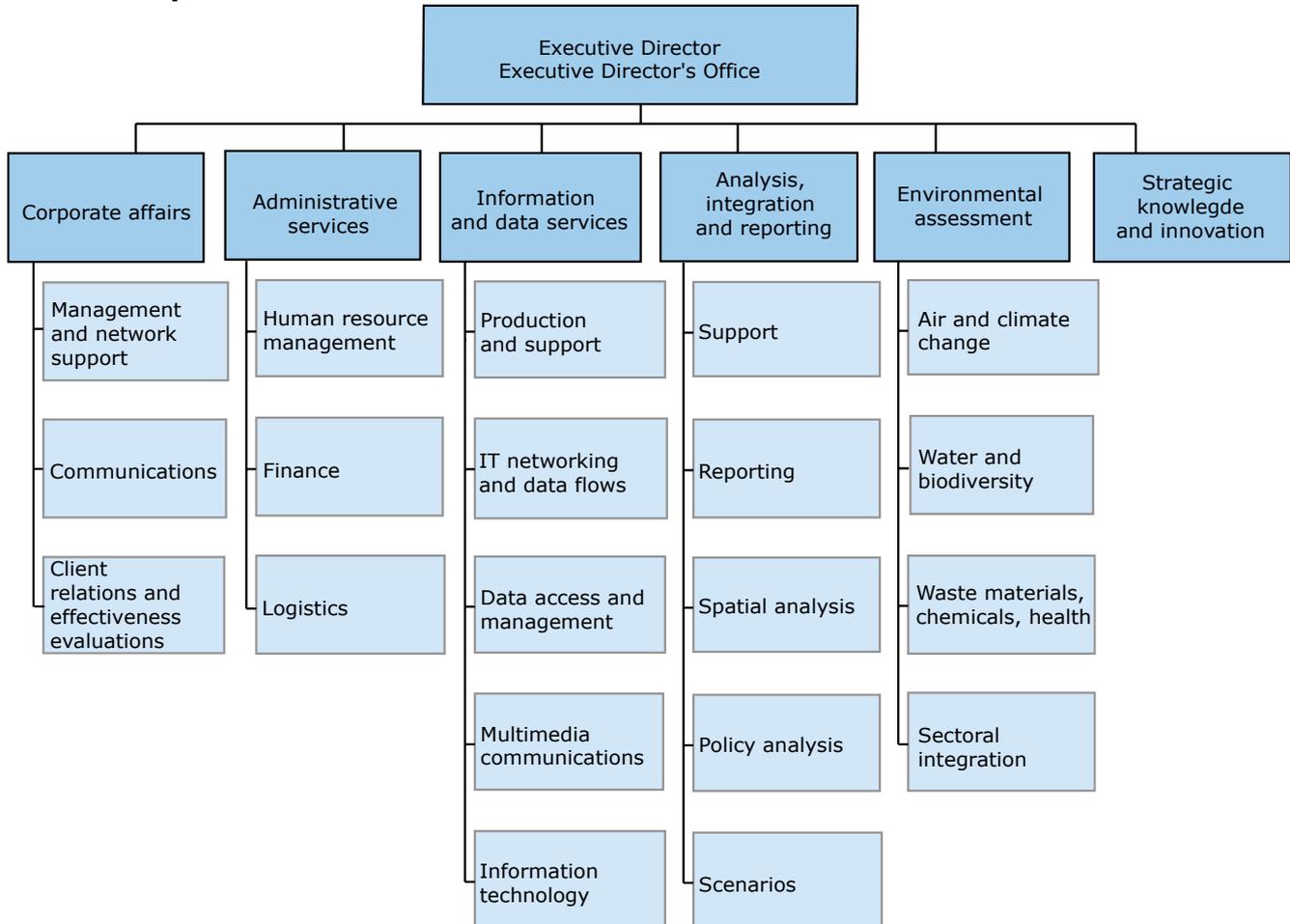
EEA governance



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EEA organisational chart 1 January 2004



Contact information

European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050 Copenhagen K
Tel. (45) 33 36 71 00
Fax (45) 33 36 71 99
Enquiries: <http://www.eea.eu.int/enquiries>
Website: <http://www.eea.eu.int>



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