

The Role of the European Environment Agency and EU Environmental Policies

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Content

- European Environment Agency (EEA) – who we are, what we do, ...
- European environment information and observation network (EIONET)
- EEA and EU policies
- The European environment - state and outlook 2015 (SOER 2015) and the 7th Environment Action Programme of the European Union (EU 7th EAP)

The EEA mission

“The EEA aims 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 policy makers and the public.”

Established by EC Regulation in 1990 and since 1994 operational, located in



The EEA is...

- An independent EU agency
- Analysing, assessing and providing information
- An interface between science and policy
- Dependent upon strong networks to carry out its work

The EEA is not ...

- Formulating or proposing new legislation
- An executive body implementing environmental measures
- A funding body

What is our mandate and target groups?

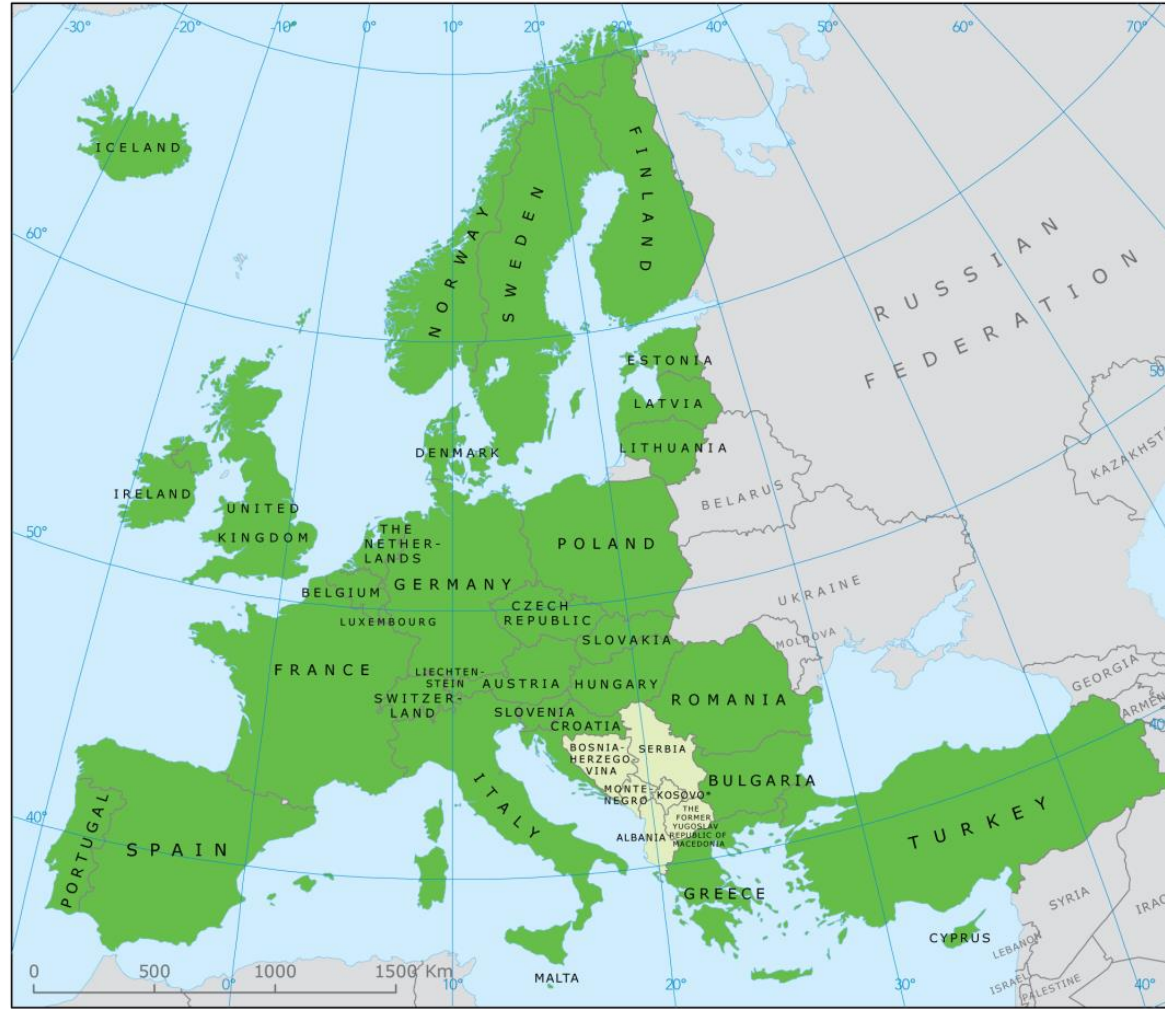
To provide a sound decision basis for the EU and member countries' environmental policies, by producing...

- European, regional and global environment-related data and indicator sets
- Integrated environmental assessments
- Thematic environmental analyses (water, air, waste, transport, etc.)

Target Groups

- Stakeholders: Institutions and governments
 - European Commission, Parliament, Council, EEA member countries
- Policy influencers: Civil society
 - NGOs, business, media, advisory groups, scientists

Which are the EEA member and cooperating countries?



EEA coverage



Member countries



Cooperating countries

*Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99

- 33 EEA member countries
- 6 cooperating countries

European Environment Agency



A collage of EEA report covers. The top row includes 'Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016', 'Environmental tax: EU environmental', and 'Towards a green economy in Europe'. The middle row features 'Renewable energy in Europe' and a large image of hands holding a plant growing from coins. The bottom row shows a wind farm, a tree next to a glass building, and small images of wind turbines and solar panels. The EEA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Indicator – waste and resource efficiency

Resource efficiency - municipal waste management across European countries

Figure 1: Material resource efficiency (2012)

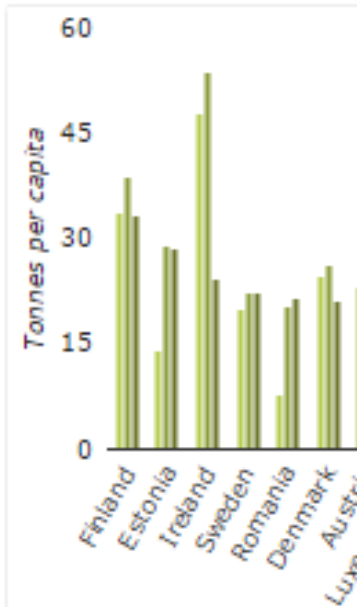
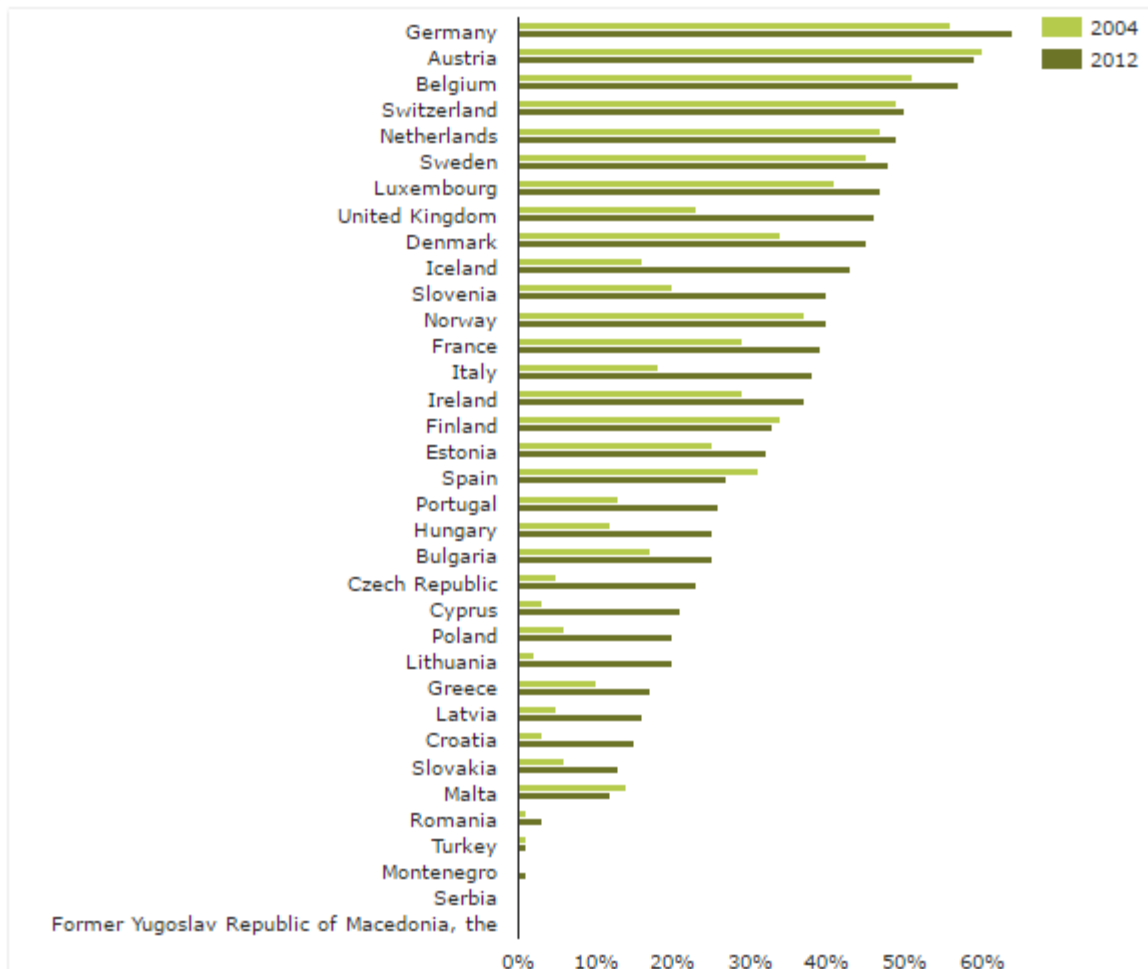
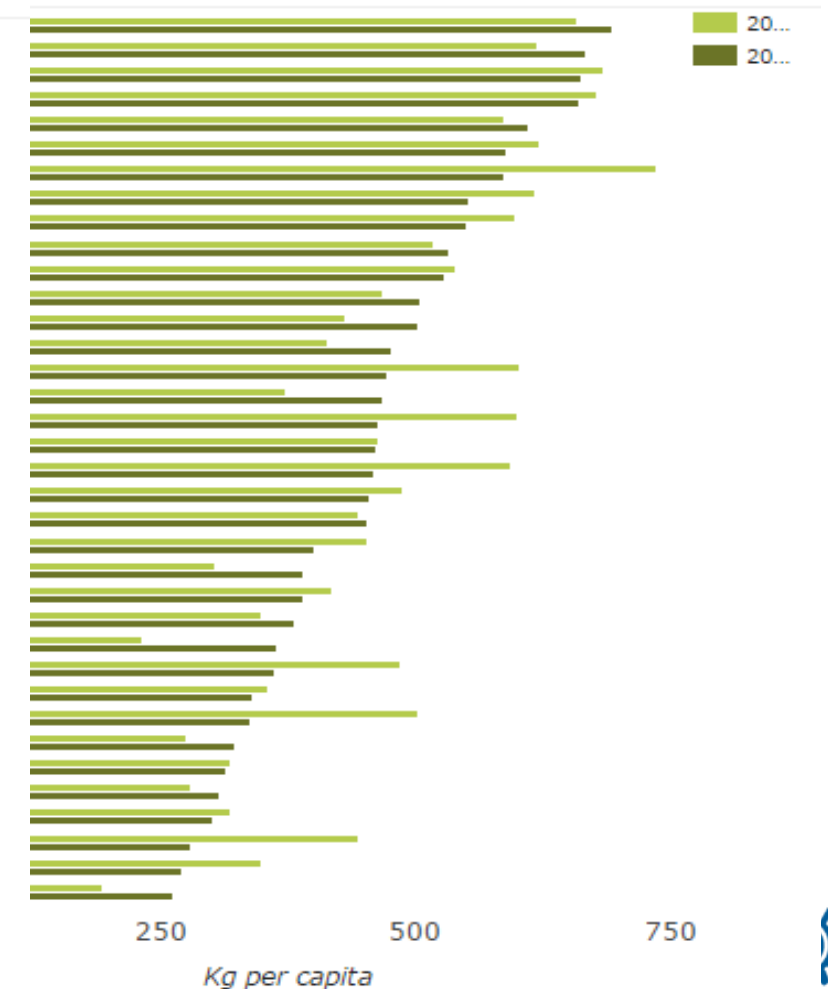


Figure 2: Municipal waste recycling in 35 European countries (2004 and 2012)



per capita in 36 European countries (2004 and 2012) [↗](#)



European environment information and observation network (Eionet)

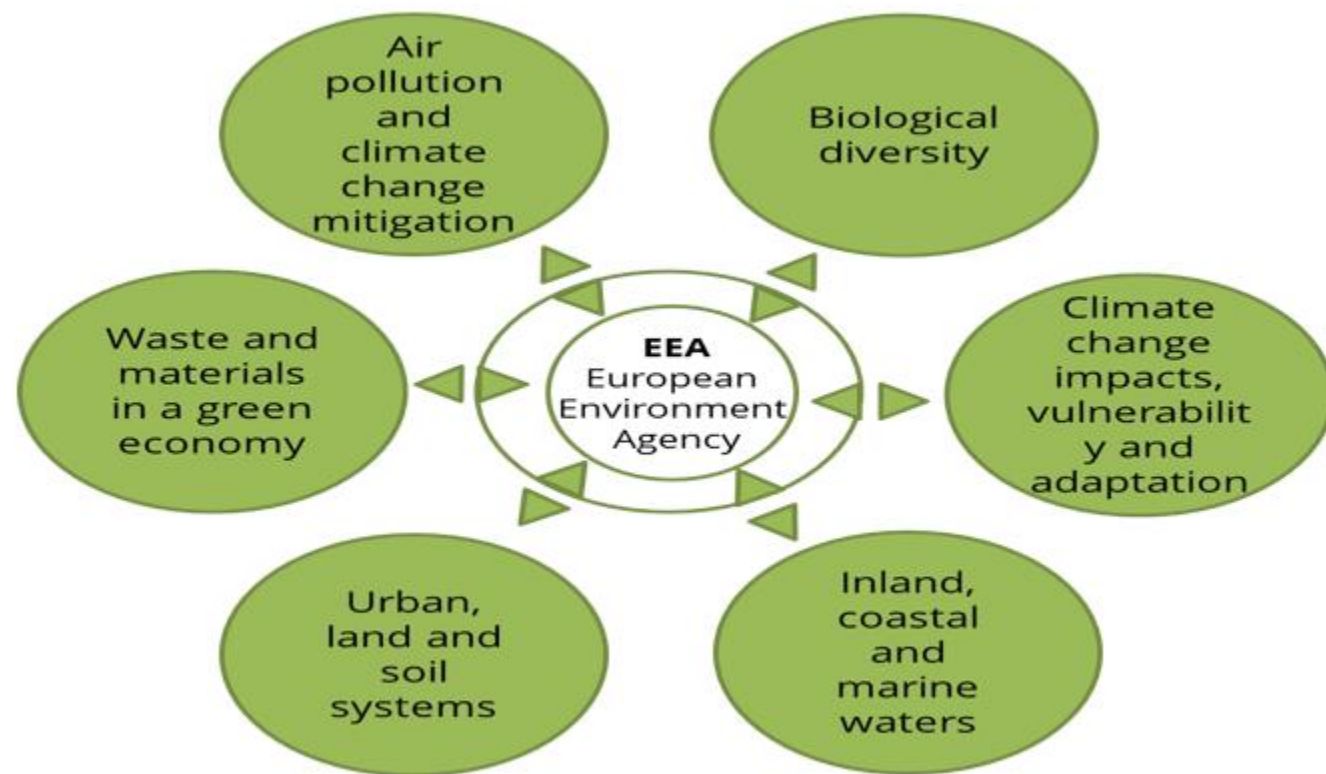
- Eionet mission:

The European environment information and observation network (Eionet) aims to provide timely and quality-assured data, information and expertise for assessing both the state of the environment in Europe and the pressures and driving forces acting upon it.

- Eionet is a partnership network of the EEA and its member and cooperating countries involving about 300 national institutions (more than 1000 experts)
 - National focal points (NFPs – one per country)
 - National reference centres (24 NRCs – per area; for example, waste; resource efficiency; industrial pollution, noise, chemicals, health, ····, but nothing on economics and finance/fiscal)
 - European topic centres (ETCs)

The Six European Topic Centres (ETCs)

- Consortia (academia, consultancy, environmental protection agencies, etc.) working under contract (type of partnership agreement) with the EEA
- Deal with specific environmental topics in support with the EEA



EEA activities and EU policies

- By providing information on environmental issues including climate change in Europe, the EEA supports the implementation of legislation in Europe, the evaluation of EU policies and the development of long-term strategies.
- EEA provides information — data, indicators, assessments and projections — including the focus on greenhouse gas emissions trends, projections, and policies and measures in Europe.
- For example, the EEA is the European data centre on greenhouse gas emissions → reporting to UNFCCC on EU data

The policy context – climate policy

The European Union (and its Member States)

- Annex I Party to the Convention and Annex B Party to the Kyoto Protocol
- Must submit annual GHG inventories, national communications, biennial reports

The European Commission

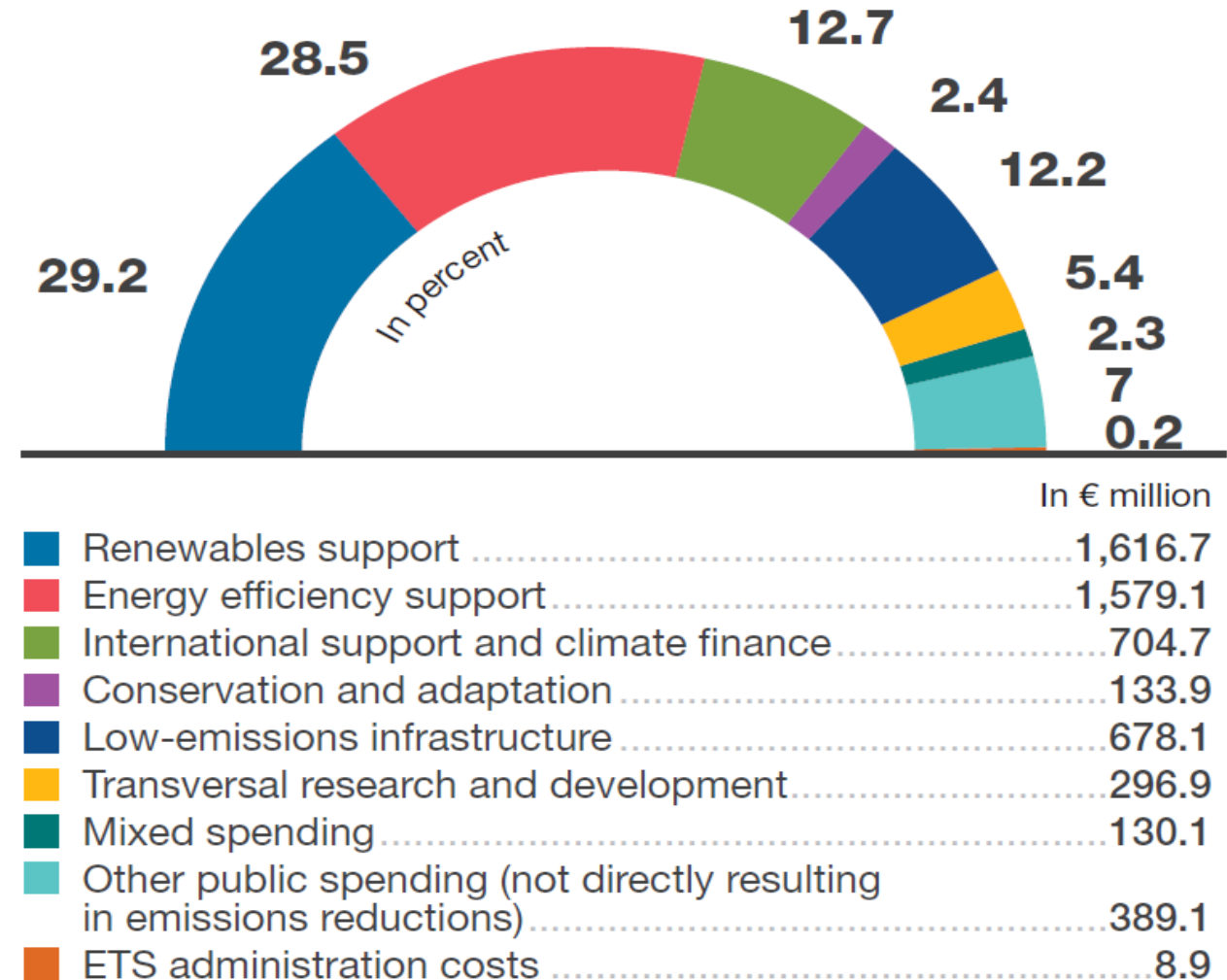
- responsibility for official EU submissions
- ensures regular and consistent reporting by EU Member States

The European Environment Agency

- supports the Commission and Member States
- produces own assessments on trends, projections, policies

EEA – Reporting Obligations Database (ROD)

- ROD is the EEA's reporting obligations database. It contains records describing environmental reporting obligations that countries have towards international organisations. ROD is developed by the EEA to support international environmental reporting.
- An example – what can be done with the data: EU ETS revenue spending by EU Member States (2013-2015)



Source: Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE)

7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP)

The 7th EAP will be guiding European environment policy until 2020.

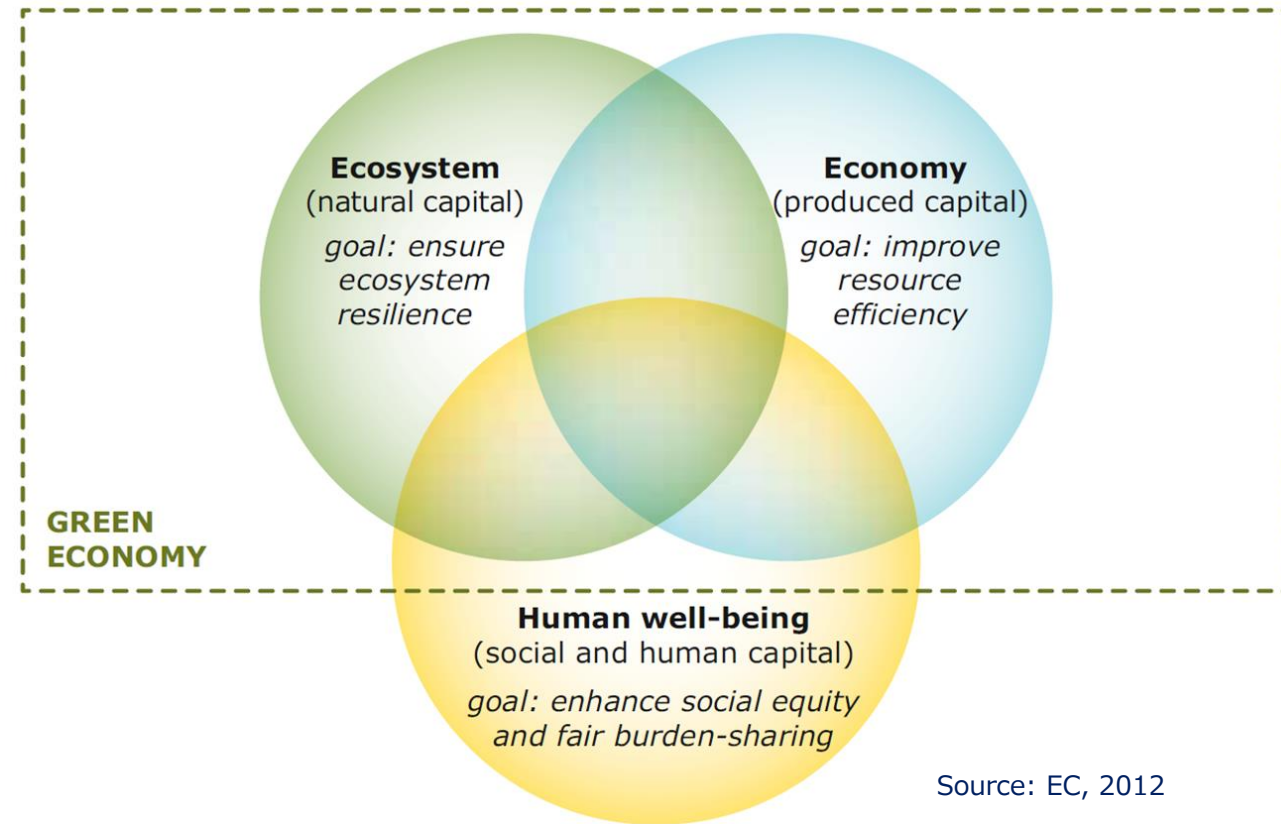
In order to give more long-term direction it sets out a **vision** beyond that, of where it wants the Union to be by 2050:

In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and



SOER 2010: influence on the 7th EAP of the EU

SOER 2010's emphasis on natural capital, resource efficiency and human well-being was subsequently taken up in the 7th EAP's **priority objectives 1-3**.



Other key messages on topics such as policy integration, implementation and knowledge development were reflected in the other 7th EAP priority objectives.

The 2050 vision in the EU 7th EAP

Three thematic priorities:

1. Protecting, conserving and enhancing biodiversity and **natural capital**;
2. By transitioning towards a **resource efficient, circular, low-carbon economy**;
3. By safeguarding people from environmental risks to their **health and well-being**;

... through actions in Europe and globally



See for more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/7eap/en.pdf>

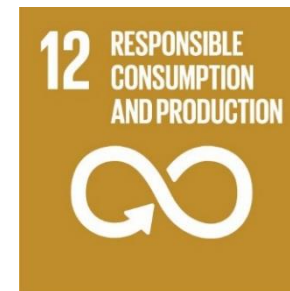
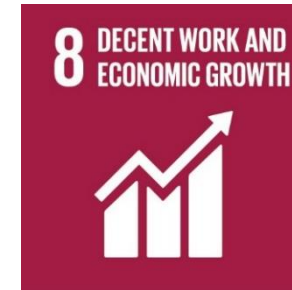
The 7th EAP priority objectives and the

SDGs

Priority objective 1: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital (SDGs 6, 14, 15)

Priority objective 2: to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13)

Priority objective 3: to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing (SDGs 2, 3)



The European environment — state and outlook 2015

- Based on a thorough review of Europe's environmental trends and outlook, the State and outlook report 2015 (SOER 2015) reflects on how to bring policies, knowledge, investments and innovations into line with Europe's 2050 sustainability vision.
- The structure builds up from data and indicators to provide a thorough assessment of past trends and future outlooks.

SOER 2015 Synthesis report

SOER 2015 Assessment of global megatrends

Global
megatrends

11 briefings

European
briefings

25 briefings

Cross-country
comparisons

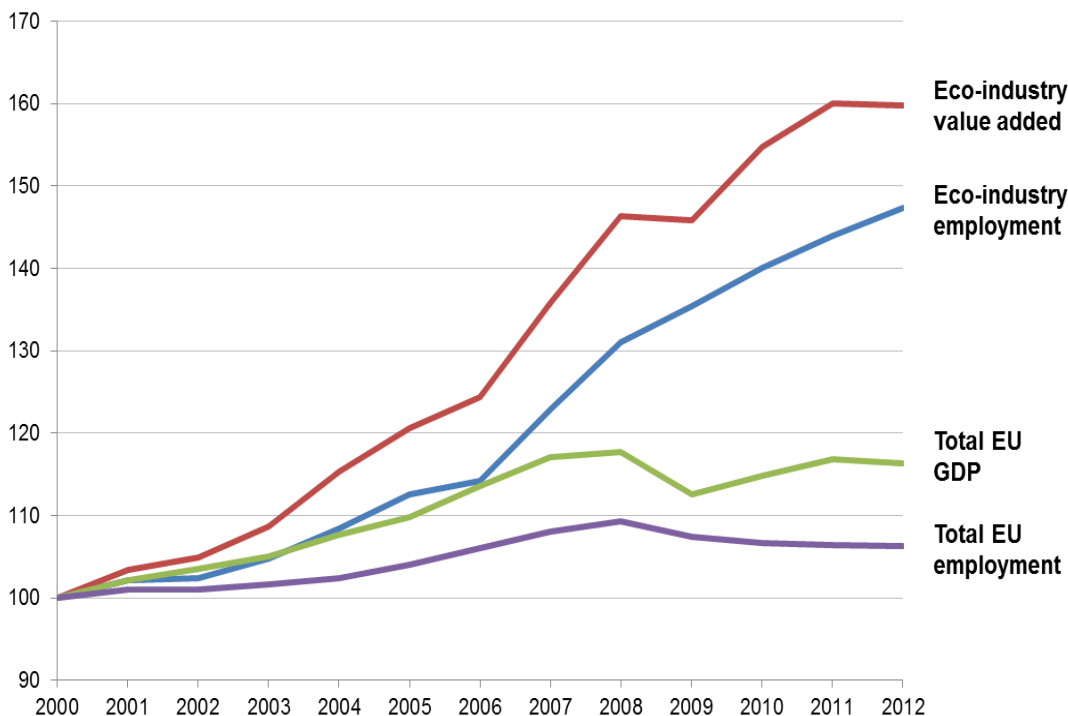
9 briefings

Countries and
regions

39+3 briefings



Key messages from SOER 2015



Source: Eurostat, 2014.

- **Policies** have delivered substantial benefits for the environment, economy and people's well-being but major challenges remain
- Europe faces persistent and emerging challenges linked to **production and consumption systems**, and the rapidly changing **global context**
- Achieving the 2050 vision requires **system transitions**, driven by more ambitious actions on policy, knowledge, investments and innovation
- Environmental policies are also creating economic opportunities and thereby contributing to the **Europe 2020 Strategy** (*EU's agenda for growth and jobs for the current decade*), aimed at making the EU into

Resource efficiency and the low-carbon economy

	Past (5–10 year) trends	20+ years outlook	Progress to policy targets
➡ Material resource efficiency and material use			No target
➡ Waste management			
➡ Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation			✓ / ✗
➡ Energy consumption and fossil fuel use			✓
➡ Transport demand and related environmental impacts			
➡ Industrial pollution to air, soil and water			
➡ Water use and water quantity stress			✗

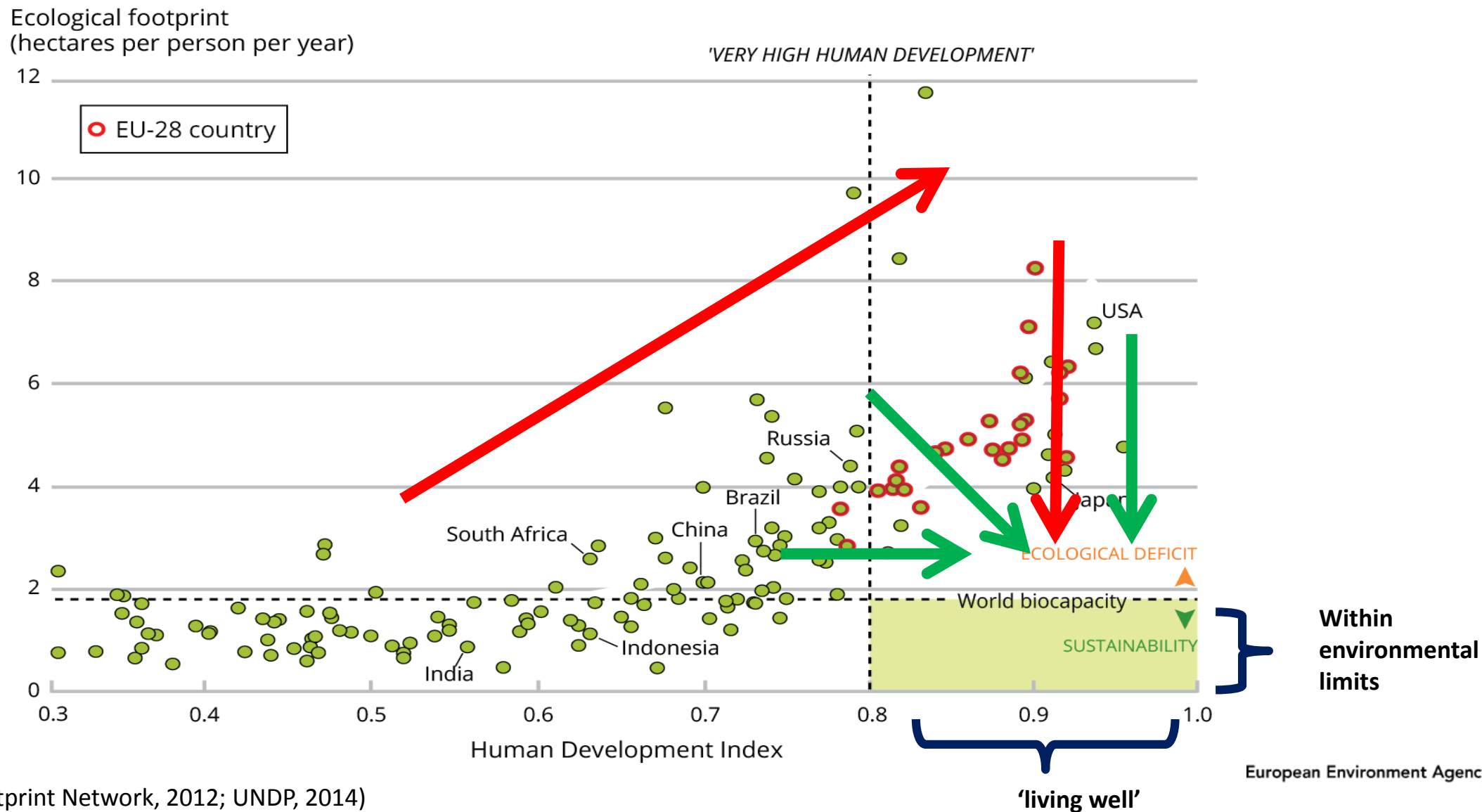
Improving trends dominate
 Largely on track
 Trends show mixed picture
 Partially on track
 Deteriorating trends dominate
 Largely not on track



Resource efficiency and the low-carbon economy

- The prevailing model of economic development – based on steadily growing resource use and harmful emissions – cannot be sustained in the long term.
- Increasing resource efficiency is essential to sustain socio-economic progress in a world of finite resources and ecosystem capacity.
- However, resource efficiency is not sufficient on its own as it does not guarantee a reduction in environmental pressures in absolute terms.

'Business as usual' is no longer a viable development path



Thank you for your attention

ご清聴ありがとうございました

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