

# Europe's environment Assessment of Assessments

- **The challenges we faced**
- **What an AoA is**
- **How we worked on it**
- **First results and way ahead**

12th meeting of the Working Group on  
Monitoring and Assessment  
(2./3. May 2011)



# EEA history of European-level environmental assessments

Pan European

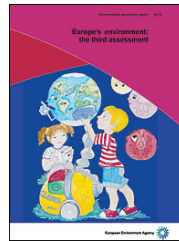
*Dobris*



*Aarhus*



*Kiev*



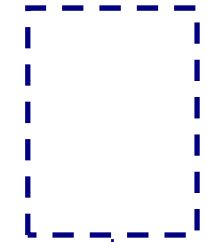
*Belgrade*



*Astana*



*Dobris +25*



1998

2003

2007

2011

2016

1990

1995

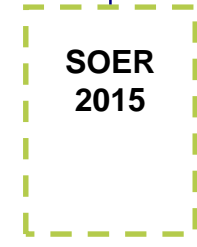
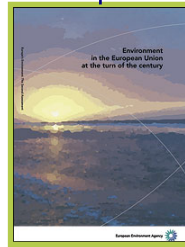
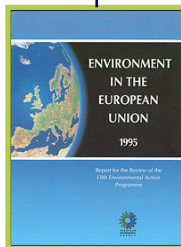
2000

2005

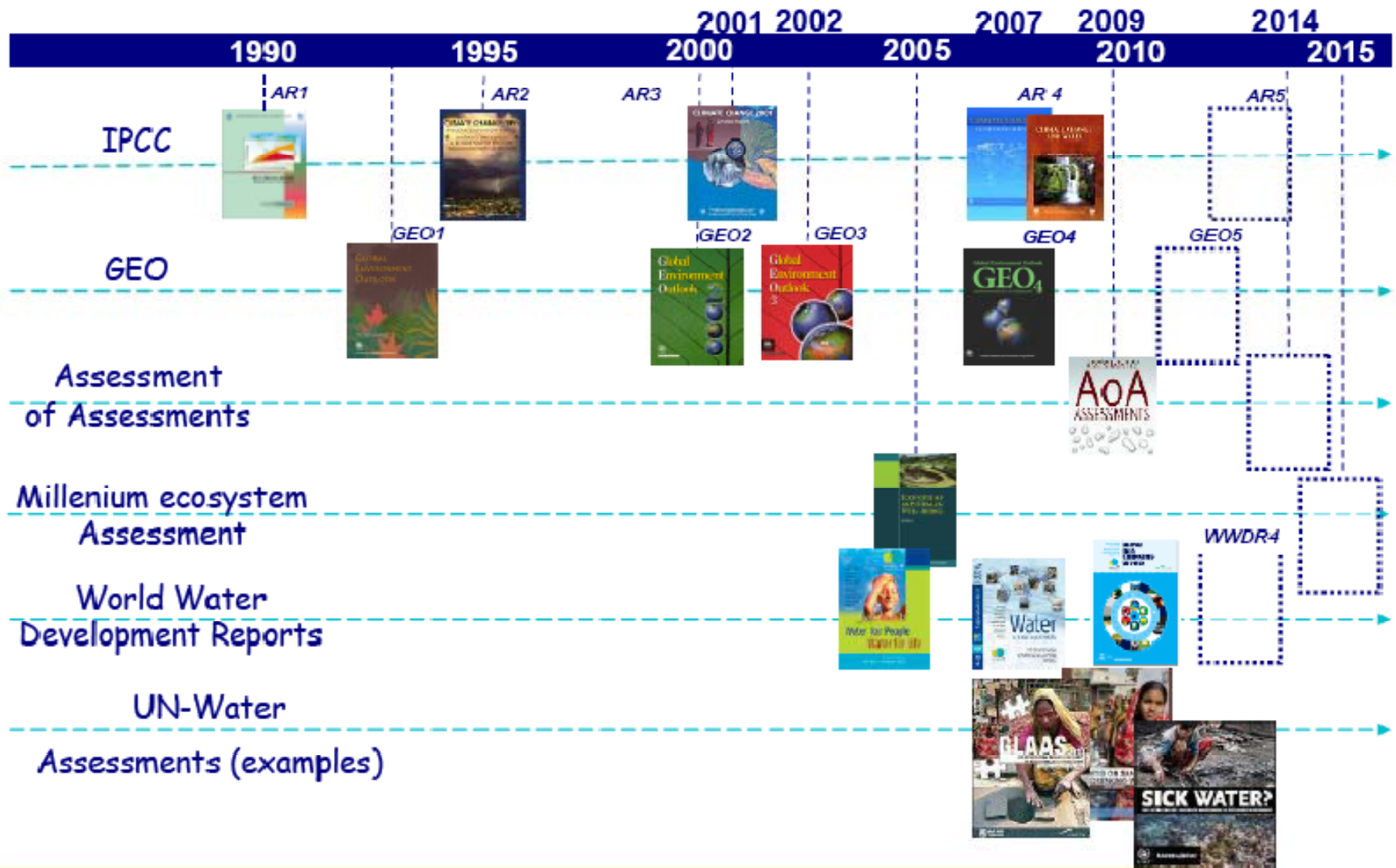
2010

2015

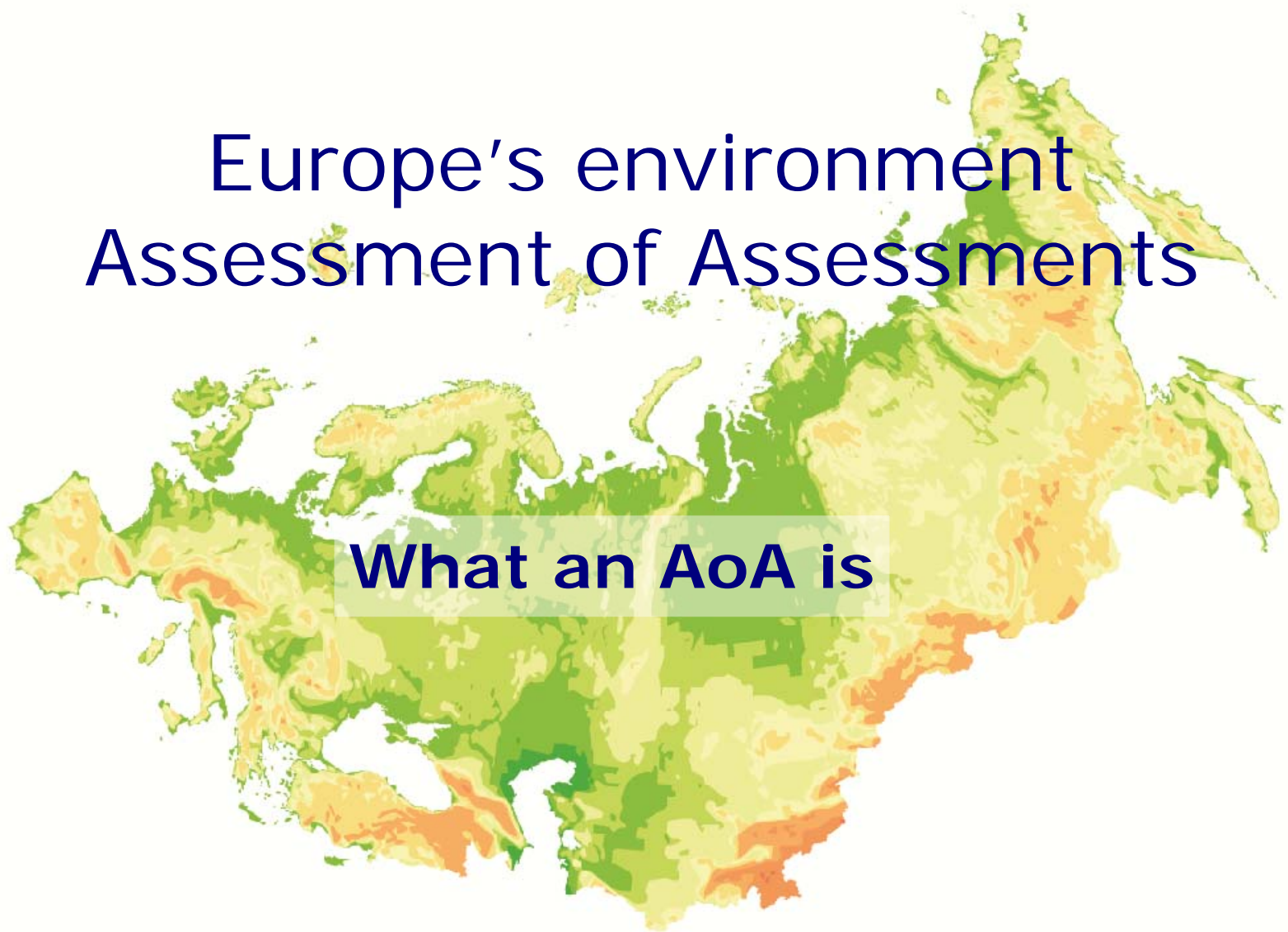
SOER



# Historical development of global assessments



# Europe's environment Assessment of Assessments



**What an AoA is**



# Objectives of “Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments”

## **Critical review and analysis of the existing material in order to:**

- Make a gap analysis of the regional needs and priorities for conducting assessments;
- Evaluate progress on targets and conventions and agreed actions;
- Develop proposals for a framework and options to build a Regular Process for regional environmental assessments, including potential costs;



# Novelties of EE-AoA

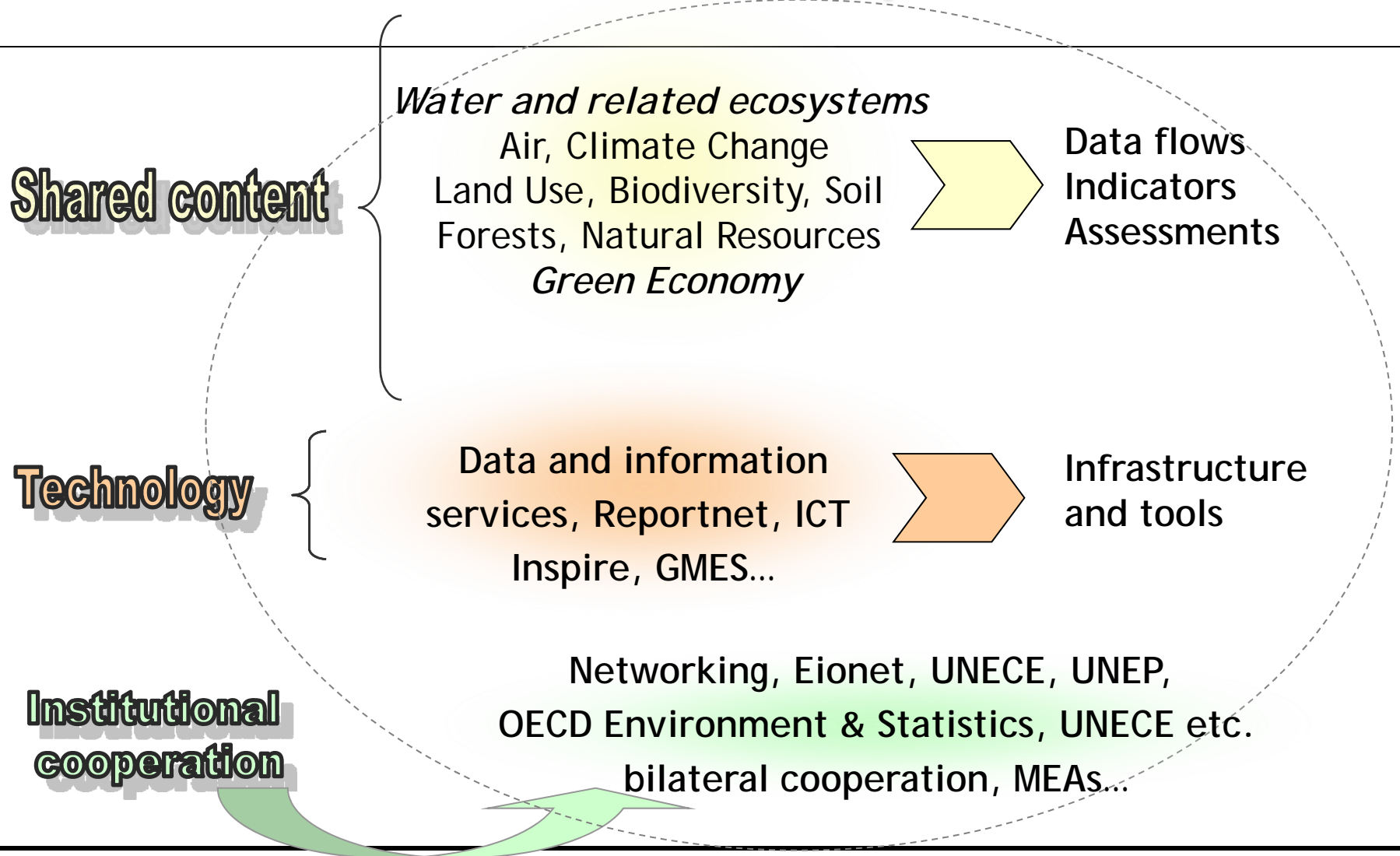
*Compared with the first AoA done for the Marine Environment AoA under UNGA*

- **Ownership**
- **Scale**
- **Content**
- **Guidance**
- **IT infrastructure**
- **Networking**
- **Tools for implementation**
- **Reference frameworks**



# SEIS Conceptual Framework

## *The three SEIS pillars*



# Europe's environment Assessment of Assessments

**How we worked on it**





# Organisation of work for EE-AoA

- **Lead** : EEA and Kazakhstan
- **Ad hoc Steering Group**: country and international/regional organisations' representatives:  
<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/SGEA.html>
- **Group of Experts**: appointed from a pool of experts nominated by the countries, international organisations and bodies based on their thematic and geographical expertise
- **National Contact Points**: for each country to be responsible for the country contributions to the assessment.



# *Europe's Environment: An Assessment of Assessments*

## Package of Outcomes

- Pan European Region: EE-AoA
- Regional Components:
  - Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan)
  - East Europe (Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine)
  - Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)
  - Russian Federation
- Knowledge base comprising: Virtual library, Review Template, Country Fiches.

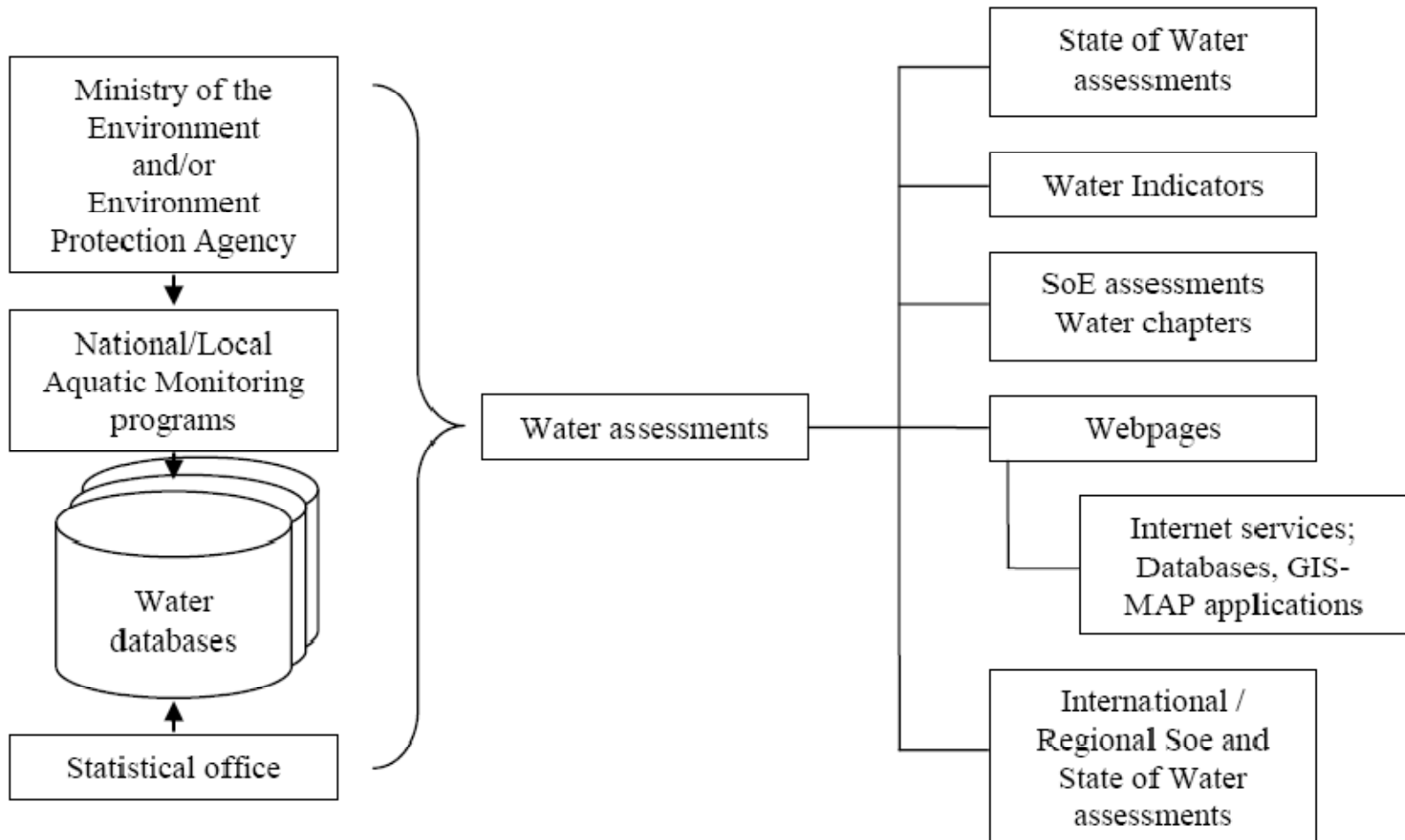


# Country Inputs supported the assessment

- Identified relevant literature/assessments in the two thematic areas and support building the AoA virtual library
- Screened relevant available reports/projects according to the given template and using the AoA guide
- Appointed supporting experts according to the thematic focus to be involved in the screening process
- Steering and coordinating the process through the nominated NFPs/National Contact points



# National Water assessments



# Water assessments as part of wider SoE reports - Belarus

## SoE reports

- 2002: State of Environment In the Republic of Belarus [www](#) & [pdf](#) Chapter 4: Water resources
- Ecological Bulletin for 2008 (RU) [www](#) Chapter 4. Natural waters [pdf](#) & Chapter 2. Climatic and hydrological characteristics [pdf](#)

## Environmental statistics

- Belstat [www](#) Statistical data book "Environmental protection in the Republic of Belarus" [www](#) Chapter 3. Protection and use of water resources Main indicators [www](#)

## Environmental indicators

## Environmental performance reviews

- 2005: UNECE Environmental Performance Review – Second Review [pdf](#) Introduction: Water section

## Water homepages

- 2003: State of water resources in the Republic of Belarus [www](#)



# Europe's environment Assessment of Assessments

**Some results and way ahead  
- the consultation**



# Current and ongoing water problems

- Concerns range from technical to institutional problems
- Several countries face water shortages
- 120 mio people in the pan-European region lacking access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Climate Change will aggravate it
- Water management is more complex; effectiveness of management has to increase



# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Multitude of products + assessments is available; data accessibility improved over the past years (SEIS principles)
- Assessments stay focused on status, policy relevance is weak, integration and the respective information missing
- Green economy assessments only beginning, integration with water aspects needed
- Improve data and information production process in regions
- Promote + enhance exchange of data and information in regions; enable + improve assessments on river basin level
- Improve the integrated character of the assessments by providing standards, approaches and methodologies to combine data and information from different sources
- Improve ecological assessments by supporting indicator development and production of ecological information





# AoA portal

<http://aoa.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

## Portal provides services & infrastructure for AoA:

Glossary; Virtual library; Electronic versions of template;

Links to the data sources; 'Helpdesk'

## The 1<sup>st</sup> draft for consultation

→ Builds on published + available reports

→ Participate in consultation until 31.May (MS and secretariat)

→ Check consistency chapter 2 with 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment

→ Check consistency chapter 4 with UN ECE recommendations

towards "Astana"; (in process towards 23-27.May CEP meeting)

