

Roberta Pignatelli | 18 October 2021

UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators – 18th session



Revision of the EEA indicators & related activities

Summary

I. Early developments of EEA indicators

1. First steps
2. Prioritising areas of play
3. Arising issues

II. EEA indicators: the current situation

4. Prioritising quality over quantity
5. EU and international cooperation
6. New features

III. The future: adaptation and evolution

But first of all...

Some feedback on the review of the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators:

** We consider this a very good exercise!*

** We strongly appreciate the improved alignment with the UNSD Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), especially the clear definitions of environmental data/statistics/indicators - fundamental to any statistical work*

** Detailed comments provided for some issues (e.g. climate change adaptation)*

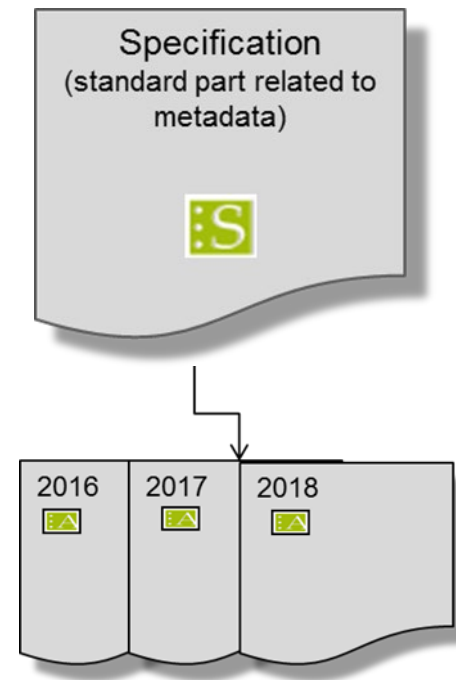
Structured cooperation between statisticians and thematic experts is needed

I - Early developments of EEA indicators

*The EEA aims to support sustainable development by helping to 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*

Significant part of EEA activities based on production, use and dissemination of **environmental indicators** that

- illustrate and communicate complex phenomena simply, including trends and progress over time
- answer key policy questions & support all phases of environmental policy making
- are composed of a standard part (specification) and a narrative part, variable as data changes (assessments)



1. First steps

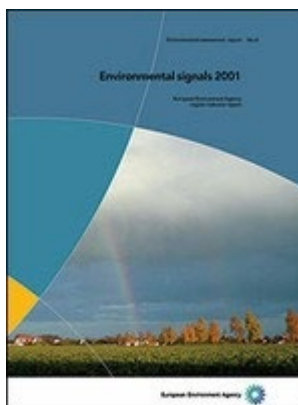
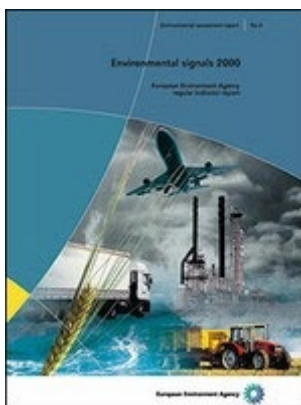


1999 - Environmental indicators: Typology and overview

Introducing the EEA 'Typology of indicators' and the DPSIR framework

2000-2004 - Environmental Signals reports

Beginning of a new period in environmental reporting, through regular indicator-based reports on progress in a number of policy areas at the European level, incl. countries' performance (together with existing sectoral indicator exercises)



2. Prioritising areas of play



2004: **Core Set of Indicators** approved by the EEA Management Board

Purposes:

- provide a manageable and stable basis for indicator-based reporting by the EEA
- prioritise improvements in the quality of data flows (esp. Eionet priority data flows)
- streamline EEA/Eionet's contributions to other European & global indicator initiatives (EU structural ind., EU sustainable development ind., OECD environment ind.)

37 indicators - 6 environmental themes - 4 sectors

2005 - EEA core set of indicators – Guide



3. Arising issues



2009 - Analysis of EEA indicators in the website

24 themes, almost 800 indicators - Unbalanced distribution across themes –

Multiple versions and themes for the same indicators - Lack of metadata

-> First **set of recommendations** to provide a mechanism for regular production

2013 – CSI review

Align with policy priorities and EEA's work programme

42 indicators - 6 thematic areas

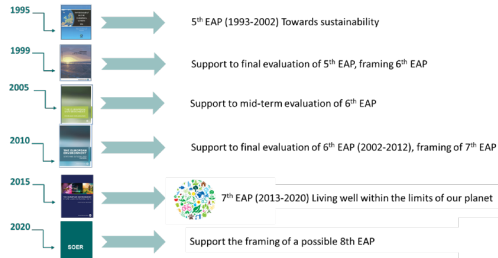
Air pollution, transport & noise
Climate change & energy
Freshwater resources
Marine & maritime
Biodiversity & ecosystems
Waste & resources



2014 - Digest of EEA indicators

2014-2018: Implementation of the revised CSI

II - EEA indicators: the current situation



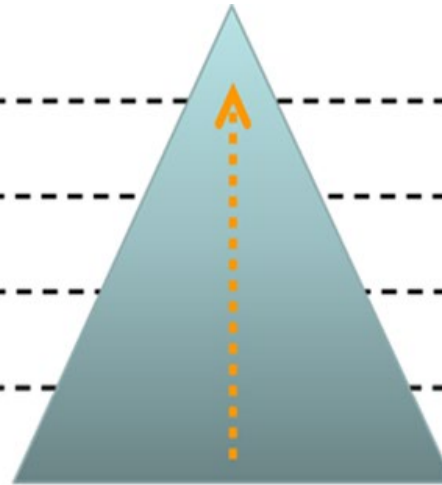
K - Knowledge

A - Assessment

I - Indicators

D - Data

M - Monitoring



Indicators are a **bridge between data and wider assessments**
From monitoring to knowledge... **to action!**

4. Prioritising quality over quantity



Main topic	Indicators
Water and marine environment	16
Biodiversity - Ecosystems	12
Climate change adaptation	8
Climate change mitigation	7
Air pollution	6
Transport	5
Land use	4
Resource efficiency and waste	3
Energy	3
Soil	2
Agriculture	1
Environment and health	1

68 indicators

- [EEA indicators](#)
- [Environmental Indicator Catalogue](#)

Main topic: Water and marine environment (23%)

EU-28 coverage: 76% (EEA 35%)

Yearly frequency: 54%

5. EU and international cooperation



European Commission

- Environmental Indicator Catalogue
- ISSG Working Group on SDG reporting
- Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators
- DIMESA
- Green Resilience Dashboard

OECD

- Working Party on Environmental Information (+ WISE)
- Expert Group on a new generation of information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy

UNECE

- Joint Task Force on Environment Indicators
- Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change statistics
- Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

UNSD Expert Group on Environment Statistics

6. New features



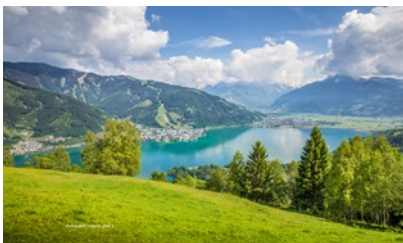
- New **governance** for indicators
 - Indicator Steering Committee, Indicator Management Group, Indicator Quality Team
- New **template**
 - More readable, precise and standardized (ESMS, as applicable)
- New version of the **Indicator Management System (IMS v. 4)**
 - Better interconnection with the other EEA products
- New **workflow for indicator production**
 - Stronger focus on indicator quality
- Main **methodological references**:
 - [OECD environmental indicators: development, measurement and use \(2003\)](#)
 - [European Statistics Code of Practice \(2017\)](#)
 - [UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics \(2017\)](#)

*The Core Set of Indicators is not needed anymore,
as all EEA indicators are policy relevant*

III - The future: adaptation and evolution



10-year perspective: indicators are here to stay



8th Environment Action Programme

Countries' perspective is fundamental (Eionet)



***Thanks for your
attention!***

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Integrated Assessments for Sustainability

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