

THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT STATE AND OUTLOOK 2015

An integrated assessment of the European environment



The European environment — state and outlook 2015 report (SOER 2015) provides a comprehensive assessment of the European environment's state, trends and prospects, and places it in a global context. It will inform European environmental policy implementation between 2015 and 2020, and analyses the opportunities to modify existing policies (and the knowledge used to inform those policies) in order to achieve the European Union's 2050 vision of living well within the limits of the planet.

SOER 2015 is based on objective, reliable and comparable environmental information, and draws upon the evidence and knowledge base available to the EEA and the European environment information and observation network (Eionet), a network of 39 European countries.

With its broad range of global, European, regional and country-level briefings, complemented by an overarching synthesis report and a global megatrends report, SOER 2015 is an invaluable source of knowledge for all those interested and involved in improving Europe's environment.

SOER 2015 will be published on 3 March 2015.

SOER 2015 Synthesis report

This report will inform future European environmental policy in general and its implementation between 2015 and 2020 in particular. It includes a reflection on the European environment in a global context, as well as chapters summarising the state of, trends in, and prospects for the environment in Europe.

SOER 2015 Assessment of global megatrends

The global megatrends report assesses 11 global megatrends of importance for Europe's environment over the long term. In assessing key drivers, trends and implications for Europe, it aims to provide an improved basis for strategic European environmental policymaking.

Global megatrends	European briefings	Cross-country comparisons	Countries and regions
<p>A set of 11 briefings, which address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverging global population trends • Towards a more urban world • Changing disease burdens and risks of pandemics • Accelerating technological change • Continued economic growth? • An increasingly multipolar world • Intensified global competition for resources • Growing pressures on ecosystems • Increasingly severe consequences of climate change • Increasing environmental pollution • Diversifying approaches to governance. 	<p>A set of 25 thematic briefings, which address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Air pollution • Biodiversity • Climate change impacts and adaptation • Consumption • Energy • Forests • Freshwater quality • Green economy • Health and environment • Hydrological systems and sustainable water management • Industry • Land systems • Marine environment • Maritime activities • Mitigating climate change • Natural capital and ecosystem services • Noise • Resource efficiency • Soil • The air and climate system • Tourism • Transport • Urban systems • Waste. 	<p>A set of 9 briefings, which address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture — organic farming • Air pollution — emissions of selected pollutants • Biodiversity — protected areas • Energy — energy consumption and share of renewable energy • Freshwater quality — nutrients in rivers • Mitigating climate change — greenhouse gas emissions • Resource efficiency — material resource efficiency and productivity • Transport — passenger transport demand and modal split • Waste — municipal solid waste generation and management. <p>These comparisons are based on environmental indicators common for most European countries and are linked to country-level information and indicators.</p>	<p>A set of 39 briefings, which summarise reports on the state of the environment in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 EEA member countries • 6 cooperating countries in the Western Balkans. <p>In addition, 3 briefings give an overview of the main environmental challenges in selected regions that extend beyond Europe, identified in the 7th Environment Action Programme of the European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic region • Black Sea region • Mediterranean Sea region.

All of the above will be available online from 3 March 2015 at: eea.europa.eu/soer.

Hard copies can be ordered through the EEA subscription service: eea-subscriptions.eu/subscribe.

The European environment — state and outlook 2015 has been prepared as a joint undertaking in close collaboration with the 33 member and 6 cooperating countries of the EEA, as well as European Commission services. In addition, several international organisations have been involved in the peer review of the assessment.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union. 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 policymaking agents and the public. For more information, visit: eea.europa.eu.