State of the environment in Europe and the connection with enforcement and compliance

European Environment Agency

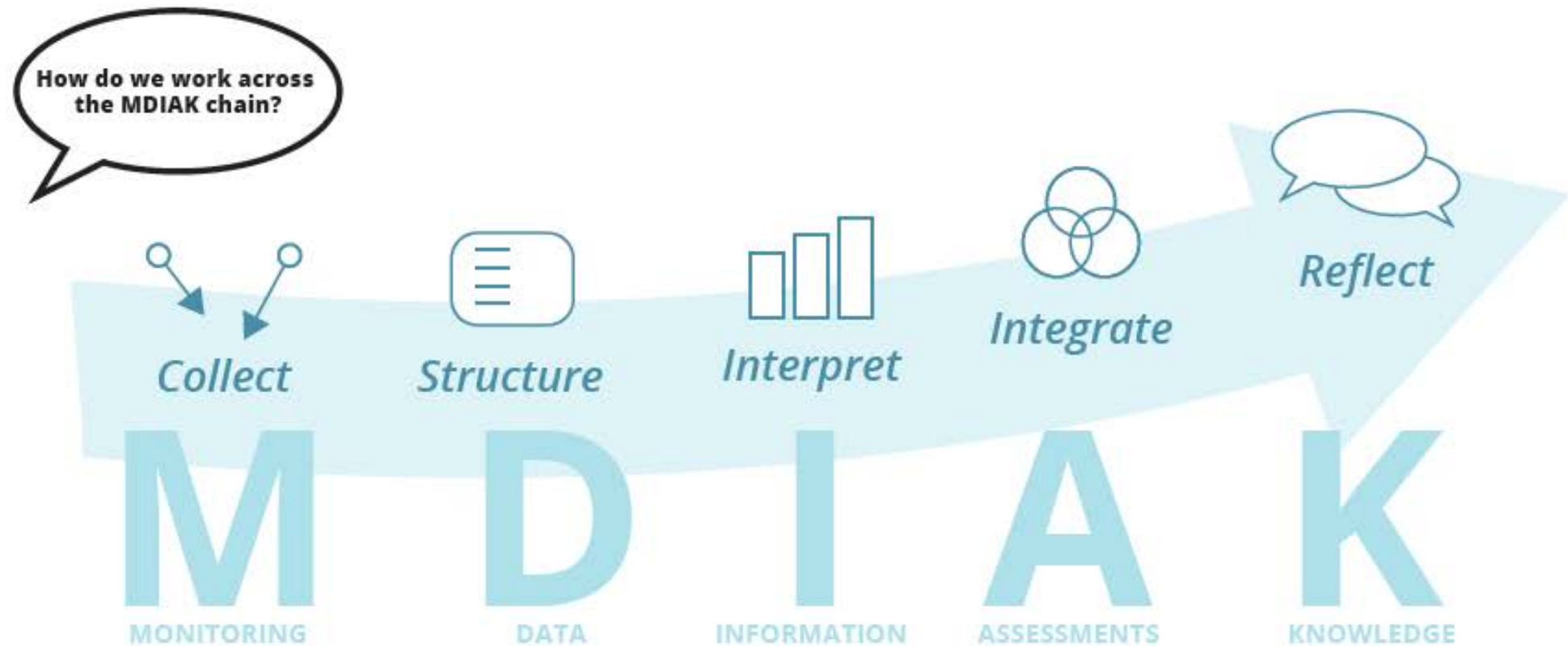# The European Environment Agency (EEA)

The EEA's mission

To provide relevant, reliable, targeted and timely information to policy-makers and the public.

To help achieve significant and measurable improvements in Europe's environment and to support sustainable development.

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
Article 4.1 of the decision establishing the 7ᵗʰ Environmental Action Programme requires the European Commission to monitor the EAP and provides a specific role for the EEA:

*'This process shall be **informed by the European Environment Agency's indicators on the state of the environment** as well as **indicators used to monitor progress** in achieving existing environment and climate-change legislation and targets such as the climate and energy targets, biodiversity targets and resource efficiency milestones.'*

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Scoreboard results – how to read them

EU indicator past trend		Indicative outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020	
🔺	Improving trend	🟢	It is likely that the objective will be met by 2020
🔺	Stable or uncertain trend	🟡	It is uncertain whether or not the objective will be met by 2020
🔺	Deteriorating trend	🔴	It is unlikely that the objective will be met by 2020

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Priority objective 1: 'to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital', 2017 results

	EU indicator past trend	Outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Exposure of terrestrial ecosystems to eutrophication due to air pollution	▲ (green-yellow)	● (red)
Gross nutrient balance in agricultural land: nitrogen	▲ (green-yellow)	● (red)
Land take	▲ (green-yellow)	● (red)
Forest: growing stock, increment and fellings	▲ (yellow)	● (green-yellow)
Status of marine fish stocks	▲ (green-yellow)	● (red)
Abundance and distribution of selected species (common birds and grassland butterflies)	▲ (red)	● (red)
Species of European interest	▲ (red)	● (red)
Habitats of European interest	▲ (red)	● (red)
Status of surface waters	N.A.	● (red)

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Priority objective 2: 'to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy', 2017 results

Indicator	Trend	Status
Resource productivity	🔺 (green)	● (green)
Waste generation in Europe	🔺 (yellow)	● (yellow)
Recycling of municipal waste	🔺 (green)	● (yellow)
Use of freshwater resources	🔺 (green)	● (yellow)
Total greenhouse gas emission trends and projections	🔺 (green)	● (green)
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption	🔺 (green)	● (green)
Progress on energy efficiency in Europe	🔺 (green)	● (green)
Energy consumption by households	🔺 (green)	● (green)
Greenhouse gas emissions from transport	🔺 (red)	● (yellow)
Animal product consumption (animal protein)	🔺 (yellow)	● (red)
Share of environmental and labour taxes in total tax revenues	🔺 (yellow)	● (red)
Employment and value added in the environmental goods and services sector	🔺 (green)	● (yellow)
Environmental protection expenditure in Europe	🔺 (green)	● (green)

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Priority objective 3: 'to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being'

	EU indicator past trend	Outlook of the EU meeting the selected objective by 2020
Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas (nitrogen dioxide: NO_2; dust particles: PM_{10}; ozone: O_3; fine particulate matter: $PM_{2.5}$)	🔺 NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ 🔺 O_3	🔴
Emissions of the main air pollutants in Europe (sulphur oxides: SO_2; nitrogen oxides: NO_X; ammonia: NH_3; non-methane volatile organic compounds: NMVOCs; fine particulate matter: $PM_{2.5}$)	🔺 SO_2, NO_X, NMVOCs, $PM_{2.5}$ 🔺 NH_3 🔺	🟢 SO_2, NO_X, NMVOCs, $PM_{2.5}$ 🟡 NH_3 🟢
Bathing water quality		🟡
Number of countries that have adopted a climate change adaptation strategy and/or plan	N.A. 🔺	🔴
Exposure to environmental noise	🔺	🟡
Consumption of chemicals, by hazard class	🔺	🟡
Total sales of pesticides		

- Achieving a better understanding of the costs of non-implementation (*money*)
- Copernicus as a "game changer" (*technology*)
- The challenge of "systemic" environmental problems (*policy*)
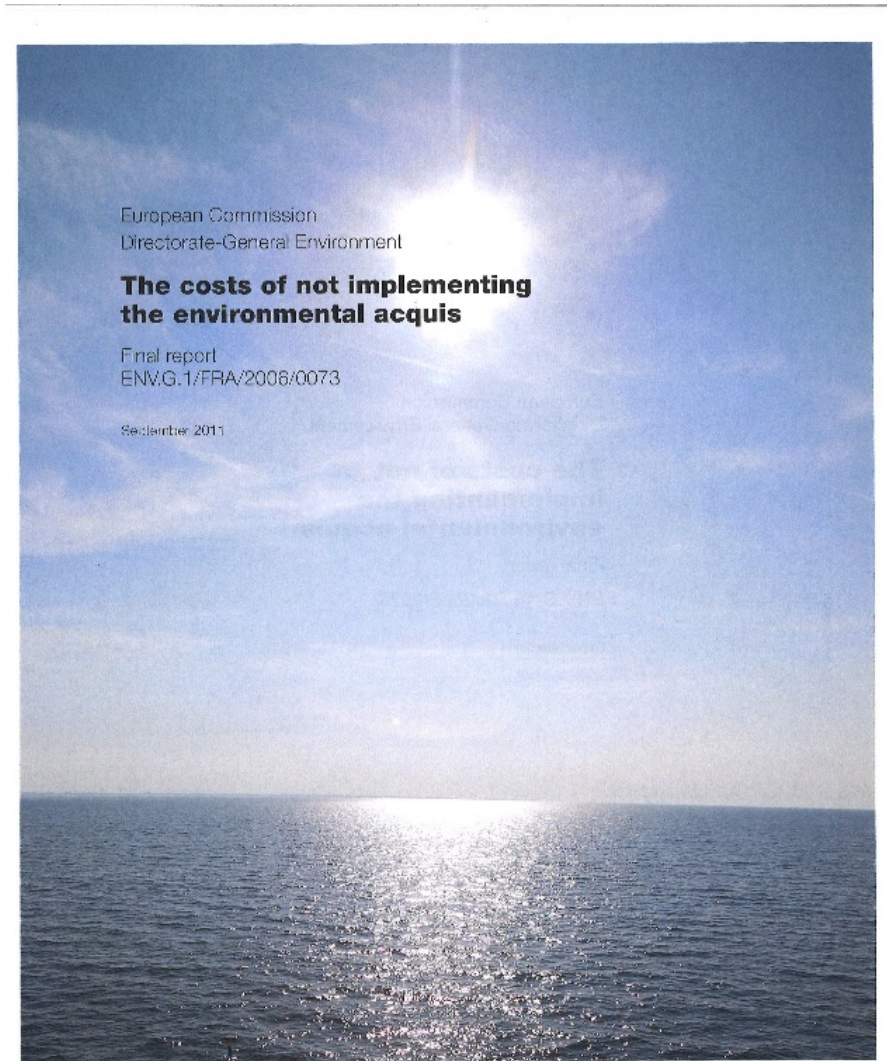
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Copernicus

Use of Copernicus in the EEA MDIAK framework

In-situ monitoring, surveys, satellite observations — **(M) Monitoring**

Structure

Local, National, European, Global, statistics — **(D) Data**

Interpret

Indicators, environmental accounting — **(I) Indicators**

Integrate

Integrated assessments across scales — **(A) Assessments**

Reflect & act

Communities and academies — **(K) Knowledge, understanding, action**

Copernicus — Europe's eyes on Earth

Satellite data

Services

Applications
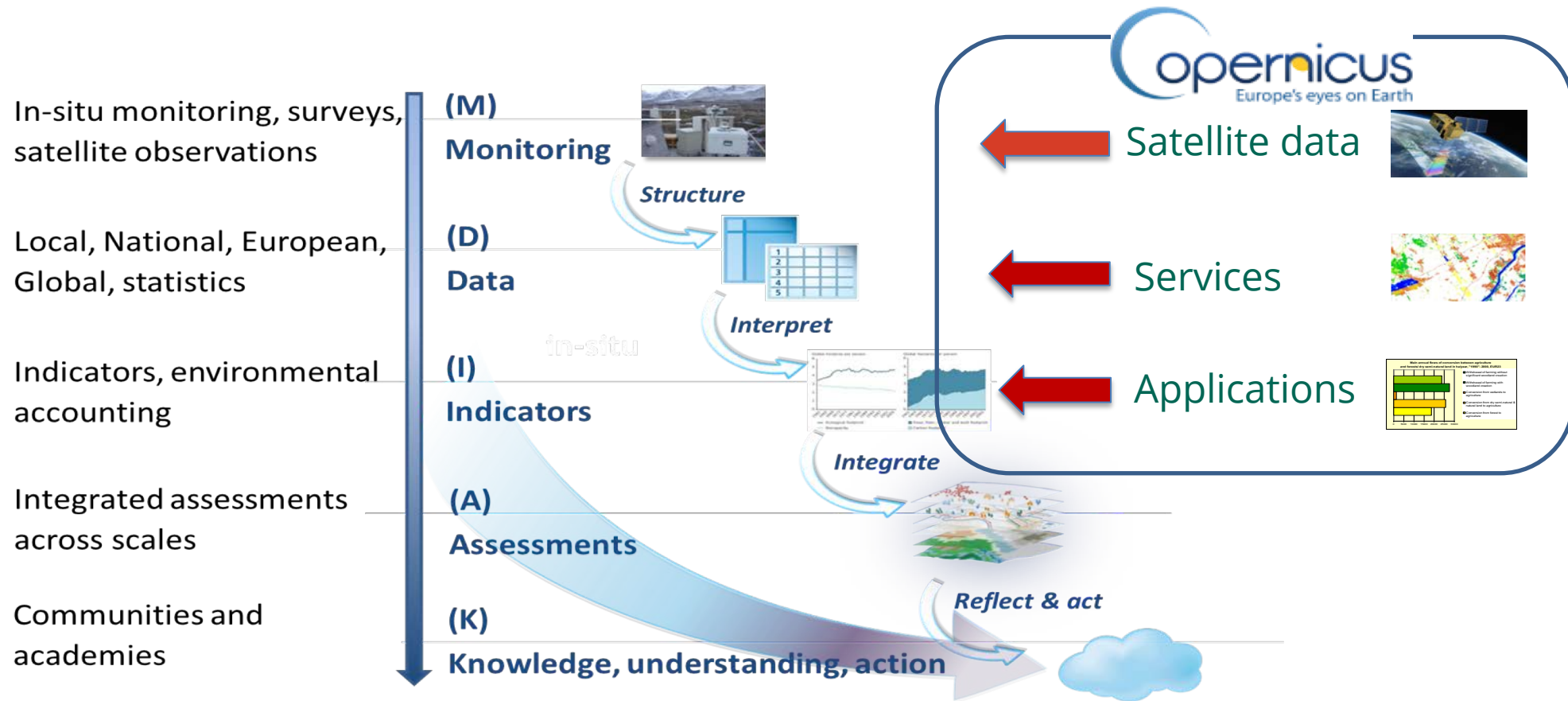
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Characterisation of key challenges		Key features	In the spotlight in	Policy approaches (examples)	Assessment approaches and tools (examples)
Specific		Linear cause-effect, large (point) sources often local	1970s/1980s (continuing today)	Targeted policies and single-use instruments	Data sets, indicators
Diffuse		Cumulative causes	1980s/1990s (continuing today)	Policy integration and raising public awareness	DPSIR, Data sets, indicators, environmental accounts, outlooks
Systemic		Systemic causes	1990s/2000s (continuing today)	Policy coherence and systematic approaches (e.g. green economy)	DPSIR, STEEP Indicators and accounts, systems analysis, foresight, stakeholder participation

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Thank you

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