



	Proposed profiles for National Experts
1.	National Expert for Urban Sustainability
2.	National Expert for Chemicals -Towards a toxic free environment
3.	National Expert for Air Quality
4.	National Expert for Freshwater data and information
5.	National Expert for Marine and maritime data and information
6.	National Expert for Cooperation with the Regional Sea Conventions

1. National Expert for Urban Sustainability

Context

Around 75% of EU citizens live in cities which generate about 85% of the GDP. As a result, in recent years there is an increasing policy focus on urban sustainability and the roles cities can play in achieving Europe's sustainability objectives.

The present pandemic context reinforced the role of cities, as they are the first port of call for citizens on social, economic and environmental matters. Part of the rationale for the focus on urban sustainability, alongside increasing urbanisation, is the prominent role of cities globally, the emergence of new governance approaches and an international agenda which is increasingly urban. Several different lenses on urban environmental sustainability can be taken such as low carbon, circularity, human health and well-being, resilience and Inclusiveness. These perspectives are comprised of various components and processes, and the delivery of urban environmental sustainability outcomes is expected to be supported by several underlying factors, such as governance, finance, culture, data and information, knowledge and technology. Cities also do not operate in isolation.

As complex adaptive systems they are embedded within even more complex adaptive ecosystems. Urban areas and their hinterland are hubs for people, infrastructure and commerce, and require extensive resources and ecosystem services and put intense pressure on these through waste and emissions. Urban, peri-urban and rural areas are strongly interlinked as cities are generally open systems that depend on their hinterland for both resource supply and disposal. Urban environmental sustainability work at EEA also focuses on four production and consumption systems: food, energy, mobility and construction.

Transitions in these systems will be fundamental to achieving sustainability outcomes, as the characteristics of these systems will dictate the ways in which a city will relate to and interact with its hinterland, ecosystems and its global reach. The New Leipzig Charter, adopted December 2020, paves the way for the future EU urban agenda. The European Urban Initiative– post 2020 aims to strengthen integrated and participatory approaches to sustainable urban development. It will also make the link to other EU policies – including Environment and Climate – in support of cooperation and capacity building of urban actors, innovative actions, knowledge, policy development and communication in the area of sustainable urban development. These elements are the back drop for this national expert call which will focus on knowledge management.

Main tasks

Suitable candidates should understand the overarching aspects of urban development and planning alongside environment aspects, as well as their economic, social and governance underpinnings. An excellent understanding of the EU urban agenda and correlated initiatives is essential. Knowledge of the underlying data, indicators and knowledge is also desirable. The ability to work in a cross-cutting way to respond to multiple demands across a vast array of disciplines in an integrated way is key. Proven technical skills to prepare concise evidence based briefings is required.

The main tasks to be performed will include:

- support the EEA in its further use and communication of existing EEA urban knowledge;
- promote its broad deployment in policy and stakeholder processes, via the preparation of concise documents and briefings;
- harvest needs for new data and indicators dissemination in line with the EU policy priorities for environment, climate and urban sustainability;
- support the involvement of a broad range of urban stakeholders in EEA work, including EIONET, in the context of the forthcoming EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021- 2030;
- propose ways to achieve cross-thematic content curation and communication via EEA web site;
- balance information needs across stakeholders, institutions and multiple scales.

2. National Expert for Chemicals -Towards a toxic free environment

Context

The European Green Deal aims to protect the health and well-being of citizens from the risks of chemical pollution, by delivering a toxic-free environment. It includes a zero-pollution ambition that recognising the needs to “better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil and consumer products” in the European Union (EU). As part of this ambition, the European Commission has put forward a chemicals strategy for sustainability to better protect citizens and the environment, through actions to ban hazardous chemicals in consumer products, account for the effects of mixtures of chemicals in risk assessment, and phase-out non-essential uses of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the EU. At the same time, the strategy aims to boost innovation for chemicals that are safe and sustainable by design and support the chemicals industry in this transition with targeted investments.

Other recent initiatives foresee complementary actions on chemical safety. The Circular Economy Action Plan foresees new measures to restrict the use of microplastics and foster the substitutions of hazardous chemicals in products. Under the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission will address the risks to health and the ecosystems from hazardous pesticides and tackle antimicrobial resistance. The Pharmaceutical Strategy aims to reduce the environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals, focusing on waste reduction and innovation for environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral pharmaceuticals.

The EEA’s SOER2020 report highlighted the pervasive and systemic nature of chemicals in modern society, drawing attention to the need for integrated management approaches essential to achieve a change to a non-toxic and circular economy. The EEA is therefore looking for further expertise to work on such issues from a systemic perspective, including building an understanding of how flows of chemicals through socio-economic systems lead to exposure and impact on health and the environment. Additional work will focus on addressing gaps in current monitoring frameworks for chemicals to support the assessment of progress towards zero pollution, as well as supporting EEA’s member countries in exchanging knowledge and good practice related to the risk governance of chemicals. The position will offer the successful applicant the opportunity to work at the European level and develop expertise through working with countries and other key stakeholders.

Main tasks

- Working with the EEA member countries in the Eionet ad-hoc expert group on chemicals to strengthen the knowledge on chemicals across the network. This includes supporting the sharing of knowledge and best practice around policies and measures to minimise human and ecosystem exposure to chemicals.
- Leading EEA assessment activities to better understand exposure pathways for chemicals for both ecosystems and humans, including from a systemic perspective. Support EEA’s activities on the EU chemicals strategy for sustainability, and zero pollution ambition.
- Supporting solutions orientated work to identify upstream options to mitigate chemical risks, including work on approaches that are safe and sustainable by design.
- Contributing to cross-cutting EEA activities relating to chemicals, including developing indicators to track progress towards the zero pollution ambition, and contributing to integrated assessments on environment and health, waste management, circular economy and industrial pollution.
- Contributing to networking activities with the European Commission, WHO, Eurostat, OECD and other international organisations to secure relevant information, data and indicators. Organising meetings and workshops and contributing to capacity building activities to assist EEA Member and cooperating countries.

3. National Expert for Air Quality

Context

Air pollution is the number one environmental risk to health in the EU. Under the European Green Deal, the European Commission aims to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and has set a zero pollution ambition to better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution of air, water, soil. The EU sets standards for key air pollutants under the Air Quality Directive to help reduce air pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health and the environment across the EU. The accompanying Implementing Provisions on Reporting establish formal requirements for Member States to report on the assessment and management of ambient air quality. As part of the European Green Deal, the EU will revise these standards, to align them more closely with the recommendations of the World Health Organization. It also aims to improve overall EU legislation for clean air, building on the lessons learnt from the recent Fitness check of the Ambient Air Quality Directives. This includes action to strengthen provisions on monitoring, modelling and air quality plans to help local authorities achieve cleaner air. The recently published second Clean Air Outlook makes a strong case for Member States to continue, intensify and broaden their efforts, and to implement measures to cut air pollution and greenhouse gases in a mutually supportive way.

EEA wishes to strengthen its capabilities to use AQ information to inform targeted communication products (indicators, reports etc) addressing impacts of air pollution on human health and/or the environment. This includes evaluating information on national air quality plans and programmes, assessing the effectiveness of past air pollution reduction policies, as well as exploring the social and/or economic dimensions of air quality issues in Europe.

This position offers the successful applicant the opportunity to work at European level and to support EEA member countries and the Commission in the delivery of these ambitions on air quality, as well as to strengthen their own expertise by delivering and communicating assessments of air quality. This includes managing and developing innovative tools to communicate and disseminate air quality information. The successful candidate will also lead work to assess plans and measure to improve air quality, in collaboration with the EEA's network of National Reference Centres on air quality. They will also contribute to cross-cutting EEA activities on environment, health and well-being.

Main tasks

- Steering the development and production of EEA reports and associated products based on air quality information reported to EEA by countries. This includes developing European air quality indicators and country fact sheets, as well as assessing trends in air quality and progress towards air quality targets.
- Assessing information reported to the EEA by countries on plans and programmes to improve air quality to understand key directions at European level, as well as working with EEA member countries in Eionet to co-create knowledge on local and national initiatives to improve air quality and their potential to improve future air quality.
- Leading projects to assess the impacts of air pollution on human health and ecosystems, and to manage and develop effective tools to communicate on these impacts to different audiences.
- Contributing to integrated assessments of environmental risks to health, including mapping combined exposure to multiple stressors, such as air pollution, noise, climate change impacts and chemicals, and assessing the combined health impacts of exposure to air pollution and noise.
- Liaising with key EEA partners in the air quality area, including the European Commission, EEA member and cooperating countries, the European Topic Centre on Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation (ETC/ACM), relevant NGOs and industry organisations.

4. National Expert for Freshwater data and information

Context

Freshwater data stem from a diversity of information sources, including prominently the reporting under the water legislation (e.g. WFD/FD, UWWTD, BWD, DWD, water re-use Regulation) and the nature directives and EEA voluntary annual WISE-SoE data call. This post is dedicated to supporting these data flows, including data on biology, contaminants, pollution and eutrophication. It is of prime importance for the EEA to ensure the use of the latest and most relevant data in its products (e.g. data flows, indicators, assessments, networking) to fulfil the objectives of the EU water, marine and nature policies, the European Green Deal and in particular the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Farm-to-Farm Strategy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.

Main tasks

- Support EEA project manager in charge of the freshwater reporting processes (primarily the WFD/FD, UWWTD, BWD, DWD, water re-use Regulation, EEA voluntary annual WISE-SoE data call), the access to data, and the development of WISE-Freshwater.
- Support the provision of timely and relevant data and an effective and an efficient coordination and use of key sources of data and information (including data reported under the various freshwater directives as well the marine and nature legislation and the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS)).
- Support the preparation and publication of freshwater data (e.g. QA/QC of data) through data and map viewers, dashboards, search engine, story maps, country profiles.
- Support the provision of sufficient, coherent and comparable data for EEA freshwater, marine and nature indicators and integrated assessments.
- Support a coherent development and use of WISE-Freshwater for providing and accessing data in a user-friendly manner, in synergies with the other EEA information systems such as WISE-Marine, BISE and Climate-ADAPT.
- Assist colleagues in the Water and Marine group and elsewhere in NCE and the EEA to achieve their objectives.
- Assist in liaising with main stakeholders (e.g. Commission, Parliament, member countries, RSCs, UN).

5. National Expert for Marine and maritime data and information

Context

Marine data stem from a diversity of information sources, including prominently the reporting under the MSFD, the Regional Sea Conventions and the nature directives, the data available through ICES and EMODnet and products of the Copernicus Marine Service. It is of prime importance for the EEA to ensure the use of the latest and most relevant data in its products (e.g. data flows, indicators, assessments, networking) to fulfil the objectives of the EU water, marine and nature policies, the European Green Deal and in particular the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Farm-to-Farm Strategy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan. Key areas include biology, contaminants, pollution and eutrophication, marine litter, underwater noise and seafloor integrity and other human pressures and activities at sea.

Main tasks

- Support EEA project manager in charge of the MSFD CIS-reporting processes, the access to data, and the development of WISE-Marine.
- Support the provision of timely and relevant data and an effective and an efficient coordination and use of key sources of data and information (including data reported under the marine, freshwater and nature directives; ICES; EMODnet; STECF and DCF; Copernicus CMEMS, CLMS and C3S).
- Support the preparation and publication of marine data (e.g. QA/QC of data) through data and map viewers, dashboards, search engine, story maps, country profiles.
- Support the provision of sufficient, coherent and comparable data for EEA marine, freshwater and nature indicators and integrated assessments.
- Support a coherent development and use of WISE-Marine for providing and accessing data in a user-friendly manner, in synergies with the other EEA information systems such as WISE-Freshwater, BISE and Climate-ADAPT.
- Assist colleagues in the Water and Marine group and elsewhere in NCE and the EEA to achieve their objectives.
- Assist in liaising with main stakeholders (e.g. Commission, Parliament, member countries, RSCs, UN).

6. National Expert for Cooperation with the Regional Sea Conventions

Context

Mainstreaming and integrating into EEA products regional data and information, particularly when it comes to the marine environment, freshwater, biodiversity and ecosystems, is critical for EEA to better inform regional specificities of Europe's environment and sustainability processes. Lack of data and/or data limitation need to be further addressed and this post is dedicated to strengthen the flow of data, indicators and knowledge with regard to the marine, freshwater and biodiversity domains, as well ecosystems at large. Key areas will include contaminants, water pollution, eutrophication and marine litter, as well as the implementation of the environmental acquis for marine and maritime activities, freshwater and biodiversity in climate change context. Of prime importance is to develop and maintain technical contacts and cooperation with the Regional Sea Conventions and the related secretariats and environmental organizations and programs. In this context, the partnership with the OSPAR Convention, the Helsinki Convention (HELCOM), the Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP) and the Bucharest Convention (Black Sea Commission) is critical, as well as with the European Commission services supporting and implementing activities in the region (e.g. ENV, NEAR, MARE).

Main tasks

- Support the technical mainstreaming of the Regional Sea Conventions activities and products into EEA data and knowledge development (e.g. harvesting and pre-filling of country reporting, streamlining of reporting, synchronisation of information systems, data handling/processing, assessment tools) in order to support the objectives of the EU water, marine, maritime and nature policies, the European Green Deal and in particular the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, the Farm-to-Fork Strategy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.
- Ensure that data, information and knowledge covering the regional seas are effectively and timely accessible to be integrated in EEA's products (e.g. data and map viewers, indicators, thematic assessments, WISE-Marine, WISE-Freshwater and BISE).
- Support a higher usability of RSCs data and information, i.e. an increased harmonization and coherence in time and space across Europe's seas to foster assessments at European level.
- Support the further use of Earth Observation / Copernicus products and services at national, regional and European levels.
- Participate in meetings, conferences and seminars with regard to the regional seas in view of strengthening the data, information and knowledge available on the region. Participate in meetings of the Regional Sea Conventions and regional programmes (e.g. West Balkans, ENI) as and when relevant.
- Liaise and coordinate activities with DG ENV, DG MARE and DG NEAR, the Regional Sea secretariats and environmental organizations and programs. Communicate successfully the regional sea context and EEA needs in terms of data, information and knowledge. Ensure technical partnerships and cooperation at national/Eionet and regional levels.
- Assist colleagues in the Water and Marine group and elsewhere in NCE and the EEA to achieve their objectives.
- Assist in liaising with main stakeholders (e.g. Commission, Parliament, member countries, UN).
- A direct experience working with a RSC at national level would be advantageous.