

PROFILES OF THE EIONET GROUPS

(NOVEMBER 2021)

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These profiles are designed to be a guide and the descriptions are therefore not exhaustive. They are developed to provide Eionet NFPs with information on:

- the rationale for each of the proposed Eionet groups;
- the general responsibilities foreseen for Eionet group members;
- the expertise areas foreseen in each of the Eionet groups, to support NFPs with the nomination of experts at national level (November/December 2021)

The groups are operational from January 2022.

General responsibilities of Eionet groups

Eionet groups contribute to EEA-Eionet activities by working as facilitators between the European and national scale. The groups help ensure the two-way sharing of knowledge and information via regular interaction between each other and the EEA. All the Eionet groups are considered an important mechanism to support the implementation of the EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030.

There are a number of general tasks that are valid for most Eionet groups. These are listed below and are not repeated in the individual profiles unless they constitute a key task of a certain group:

- ☒ Provide a forum for common work between EEA and Eionet countries to develop and share knowledge on i. the topic of the group and ii. on integrated cross-cutting activities.
- ☒ Actively participate in Eionet workshops, webinars, co-creation projects and where appropriate expert meetings for example by sharing examples of good practices, country viewpoints, expert inputs and knowledge.
- ☒ Support by bringing concrete technical input to specific projects and co-creation activities. This includes contributing to outputs such as the development of new indicators assessment methodologies, Eionet reports, innovative uses of data and digitalization technologies, providing comments on selected EEA products etc. Contribute to cross-cutting processes such as the implementation of 8EAP and the European Green Deal monitoring and outlook frameworks, INSPIRE and Copernicus;
- ☒ Help shape the priorities for the Eionet group's work. Contribute to development of a light 'activity plan' jointly by Eionet countries and EEA listing prioritised activities to be worked upon by the group.
- ☒ Contribute with knowledge of national environmental information systems, and where relevant national monitoring and observational systems.
- ☒ Connect to relevant national organisations and networks, EPAs and/or ministries, climate advisory bodies and research bodies.

Eionet member countries are expected to nominate representatives(s) to every Eionet group. Where an Eionet group contains identified Thematic groups (e.g. air pollution, noise... within the Eionet group

Human Health and the Environment), nominations should also be provided for each Thematic group role.

The Eionet group member(s) is an official representative of a country and institution.

In line with the new 'knowledge' focus of Eionet groups it is expected that separate Working Groups for data flow reporters will be established to support the reporting of the remaining data flows reported through Eionet e.g. WISE, CDDA.

Terminology guide

Eionet groups: The main Eionet groups comprise nominated national experts from institutions in EEA member and cooperating countries. These groups work together with the EEA and European Topic Centres to assess Europe's environment and climate, and related impacts on health and ecosystems. Group members share knowledge and expertise to develop actionable knowledge across specific work areas to deliver added value for countries and Europe. e.g. Eionet *Land systems* group.

Eionet countries should nominate at least one representative to each Eionet group.

Eionet thematic groups: A **permanent** specific area/community of topic expertise that contributes to the integrated work of the Eionet group. e.g. *Environmental Noise* within the Eionet group on Human health and the Environment.

Eionet countries should nominate at least one representative to each Eionet thematic group.

Eionet Working Group - a Working Group can be constructed to work on specific activities/outputs such as 'co-creation activities' (such as developing joint notes, indicator proposals, guidance, new methods etc) for a time-limited basis. Membership of Working Groups is flexible. ***Eionet countries can choose to participate in just those working groups that are a priority to them.*** Representatives of Eionet countries should be officially nominated, but the Working Group membership might also include experts from external networks (depending on the group). Working Groups can:

- be a thematic group of the main Eionet Group,
- link across two or more Eionet groups,
- not link to any specific core Eionet group but address a new topic (e.g. to address a new priority emerging issue).

Eionet group lead: e.g. 'Eionet *Spain Land systems* lead'. Countries may nominate a national Eionet group 'lead' i.e. a main representative for each country in each Eionet group. This function would support the NFP by assisting to link with other experts internally and/or across different thematic groups in the Eionet group. In some countries, NFPs themselves may consider acting as the lead function should that suit national circumstances. The lead function will:

- bring the country thematic perspective and knowledge relevant to the overall topic area and the Eionet group. Be familiar with relevant policy settings and priorities, integrated knowledge perspective/expertise;
- participate in thematic discussions within the Eionet group and contribute to joint work-planning and prioritisation for the Eionet group activities,
- work with the NFP (if countries choose) to facilitate participation by other national experts in the network;
- participate in related Eionet working groups where considered of relevance.

Eionet member: e.g. Eionet *Spain land systems* member. The individual nominated participants to an Eionet Group or Working Group.

Eionet institution: an institution identified as part of a national Eionet network.

PROPOSED LIST OF EIONET GROUPS

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Eionet group	Biodiversity and Ecosystems 1 - Integration of knowledge for policies¹
Rationale	EEA and Eionet will monitor Europe's transition to achieving healthy, diverse, resilient and productive ecosystems and support the implementation of actions in this area. Improved monitoring, assessments and reporting are key to support the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems at EU, EEA, regional and global levels. This new Eionet group will focus on <i>integration</i> through enhanced data assessment, digitalisation, information systems and indicators covering biodiversity, land, marine and freshwater ecosystem states and impacts. The group will support Eionet countries and EEA with targeted inputs, key data and indicators and knowledge to better address policy integration over nature, water, marine directives, and sectoral policies (e.g. Common Agriculture Policy, Common Fishery Policy, Forest Strategy, Land Use, Land-Use change and Forestry (LULUCF), Renewal Energy Directive, Sustainable Blue Economy) and Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Zero Pollution Action Plan .
Expertise	The group will facilitate coordinated inputs across the following topics: Forest, Freshwater (Water quality and ecological status, Water quantity, Water emission), Agriculture & environment, Marine, coastal and maritime, Biodiversity and ecosystems). Activities will reflect the increased focus on systemic and integrated approach of the EU, EEA, regional and global biodiversity strategy and sectors (forests, agriculture, fisheries) on balancing protection, restoration and maintenance of biodiversity and nature. The group will more specifically look at data acquisition beyond the environmental acquis, and development of alternative analytics, processing, and assessments. The following expertise will be needed: • Experience on indicator development in relation to the EU and Global biodiversity 2030 and 2050 targets • Involvement on the national implementation of legislation at EU, EEA and global levels related to biodiversity, ecosystems, their protection and restoration • Involvement in monitoring of progress towards the 2030 and 2050 targets at national, European level (across all types of ecosystems) • Experience in State of the Environment assessment and/or sector assessments • Involvement in sub-global and regional ecosystems assessments (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services -IPBES, Millennium Assessment sub-global assessments, Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity -TEEB, EU Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services in the European Union -MAES working group, regional conventions, pan-European reporting processes) strengthening coherence and complementarity of data sources and information systems • Understanding of data acquisition and use of information sources to inform assessments (e.g. remote observation, Copernicus 2.0), and use of innovative digital analytics and processing, use of foresight techniques) • Experience in data integration, e.g. environmental accounting

¹ Reflecting the outcomes of the NFP/Eionet meeting 12-14 October 2021.

	Thematic group 1: Biodiversity monitoring • indicators systems, innovation in monitoring, data integration Thematic group 2: Water • Freshwater emissions, Freshwater water quantity, Freshwater quality, Data acquisition beyond the environmental acquis (Eionet core data flows) Thematic group 3: Marine/oceans • Marine and transitional waters, oceans protection Thematic group 4: Forest ecosystems • Forest information and monitoring (FISE)
Policy processes to be supported	• 8EAP • European Green Deal and its strategies (e.g. EU Biodiversity Strategy, Farm2Fork, EU Forest Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan etc) • CAP and other legislation under the environmental acquis (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive etc)
Links to other Eionet groups	• Biodiversity & Ecosystems 2 - Cumulative pressures, and solutions • Human health and the environment (for Zero Pollution Action Plan) • Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation • State of the Environment • Food systems • Land systems • Foresight • Data, technologies and digitalisation • ETC on biodiversity and ecosystems, and other ETCs where relevant.
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (ENV, MARE, AGRI, ESTAT, CLIMA, REGIO, JRC) • European Commission Working Groups, EU Agencies (EMSA, EFSA) • Copernicus, CMEMS, Emodnet, Emerald network, Eurogeographics, EuropaBON, ESPON • Regional conventions (RSC, Alpine, Danube, Carpathian) • UNSD, UNEP regional offices, UNESCO

Eionet group	Biodiversity and Ecosystems 2 – Cumulative pressures and solutions²
Rationale	EEA and Eionet will assess Europe's transition to achieving healthy, diverse, resilient and productive ecosystems and support the implementation and evaluation of actions in this area. This Eionet group will focus on the <i>drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem changes</i>, supporting the implementation of <i>actions</i>, management <i>measures</i> and their evaluation i.e. <i>'Responses'</i>. Eionet countries and EEA will co-create knowledge about the drivers of environmental change and enablers for solutions for healthy ecosystems. This will support the transition to sustainable use and management of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and relate it to climate change, socio-economic drivers and pollution. Activities will support development and production of systemic and integrated assessments, while mainstreaming socioeconomics, sustainable financing and natural capital accounting. The group will also focus on scoping and gathering sectoral and ecosystems related management options, best practices and solutions.
Expertise	This Eionet group will facilitate coordinated inputs across topics i.e Forest, Freshwater (Water quality and ecological status, Water quantity, Water emission), Agriculture & environment, Marine, coastal and maritime, Biodiversity and ecosystems while taking into account inputs and outcomes from group B&E 1. The group will comprise experts with knowledge across these topic areas, to support i) integrated and systemic ecosystem level assessments that are action relevant and ii) discussions on policy design and effectiveness to help discussions around 'solutions' in line with the EEA Eionet Strategy. The following expertise will be needed: • Experience with evaluation of drivers, cumulative pressures within and across ecosystems (e.g. pollution, land use, climate change, energy transition, invasive species) and cumulative impacts • Experience with the use of nature-based solutions to mitigate environmental risks and to protect and promote nature-based well-being • Experience with developing and use of ecological/environmental status to evaluate use and management of ecosystems • Knowledge on conservation, protection and restoration • Knowledge and experience with systemic and integrated assessments relating socio-economic drivers and pressures to impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem condition • Understanding and involvement in sustainable finance • Experience with natural capital accounting • Experience with partnerships to help develop tools for integrating "value for nature" into corporate sector decisions
Policy processes to be supported	The driving policy for this area follows the 8EAP together with the European Green Deal and its strategies (e.g. (e.g. EU Biodiversity Strategy, Farm2Fork, EU Forest Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan, new CAP, sustainable finance taxonomy regulation, Renewable energy strategy and Bioeconomy strategy).

² Reflecting the outcomes of the NFP/Eionet meeting 12-14 October 2021.

Links to other Eionet groups	• Biodiversity & Ecosystems 1 • Climate change mitigation and energy systems • Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation • Human health and the environment • Circular economy and resource use • Food systems • Land systems • Foresight • State of the Environment • ETC on Biodiversity and Ecosystems and other ETCs where relevant
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (ENV, MARE, AGRI, ESTAT, CLIMA, REGIO) • EU Working Groups under thematic legislation. • EU Agencies (EMSA, EFSA, ESA) • Sustainable Finance platform • OECD, UNSD, ESPON • Financial organisations (EIB, EBRD)

Eionet group	Climate change mitigation and energy systems
Rationale	EEA will work with Eionet to monitor Europe's transition to climate neutrality by 2050. The Eionet group will support the development, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies and measures, including those addressing the energy system. The Eionet group will actively support Eionet countries and EEA by providing targeted inputs and knowledge on climate change mitigation and energy systems, to inform policy and public discussions, support policy implementation, and identify challenges and solutions.
Expertise	• Evaluation of policies and measures (effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance, EU added value); • Understanding of trends in emissions and causal links to energy sources, energy use, sectoral trends and economic development; • Good practices in implementing GHG emission abatement actions and technologies, their costs and their effectiveness, in particular for energy production and use across all sectors, including in buildings; • Assessment of environmental, socio-economic and technical benefits and trade-offs of decarbonisation and energy system transformation, including considerations on consumer behaviour and lifestyles; • Broader environmental impacts of energy production and use (water, land-use, ecosystems and ecosystems services).
Policy processes to be supported	• Governance Regulation of the Energy Union and Climate Action and Implementing Regulation; • 2030 Climate and Energy policy framework • Relevant frameworks concerning emission trading (EU ETS) and effort sharing, renewable energy, and energy efficiency • Global initiatives related to climate change mitigation and energy systems transition e.g. SDGs
Links to other Eionet groups	• Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation • Human health and the environment; • Circular economy and resource use; • Food systems; • Mobility systems; ETC on Climate Change Mitigation and other ETCs where relevant.
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (DGs CLIMA, ENER, ENV, ESTAT, JRC and RTD, in particular); • EU Climate Change Committee and associated expert and working groups (especially WG I, II and III); • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); • Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); • International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); • International Energy Agency (IEA);

Eionet group	Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
Rationale	EEA and Eionet countries will work with a range of partners including the Copernicus climate change service, research projects and other information providers to assess climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in Europe (including disaster risk reduction). The group's activities will support development of policy relevant indicators and assessments on climate change and its impacts (on economic sectors, ecosystems, and human health) and support preparation and implementation of adaptation actions at various geographical and governance levels.
Expertise	• Observed and projected data and indicators on climate change impacts on ecosystems, society and human health and vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks at different geographical scales; • Policies, strategies and tools (including adaptation platforms) on adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and mainstreaming of adaptation in other policies at different governance levels • Implementing adaptation actions at national and subnational level including in sectors, such as transport, energy and agriculture and in other domains such as management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, green infrastructure and landscape. • Social inequalities in context of just resilience related to climate change impacts and adaptation;
Policy processes to be supported	• EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change; • EU Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation and Implementing Regulation; • EU civil protection and disaster risk reduction policies; • EU environmental, sectoral and other policies that require mainstreaming of climate change adaptation; • EU programmes such as Copernicus, Horizon Europe including its mission on adaptation; • Global policies related climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (e.g. SDGs, UNFCCC Paris agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,).
Links to other Eionet groups	• Biodiversity and ecosystems 1 & 2; • Climate change mitigation and energy systems; • Human health and the environment; • Food systems, • Land systems, • Data, technologies and digitalisation. • ETC on Climate Change Adaptation and LULUCF and others where relevant
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (DGs CLIMA, JRC ECHO, ENV, RTD, ESTAT); • EU Climate Change Committee, including its Working group on adaptation • Copernicus Climate Change service (managed by ECMWF); • EPA Network interest group on adaptation; • UNFCCC Secretariat; • OECD Task Force on Adaptation; • EU research and other (LIFE, Interreg) projects/networks; • Horizon Europe including Horizon Europe mission on adaptation; • Transnational organisations and conventions (Alpine, ICPDR, Carpathian, etc.); • City networks (ICLEI Europe, Eurocities, Covenant of Mayors)

Eionet group	Human health and the environment
Rationale	The work of this Eionet group will focus on how exposure to air pollution, noise, hazardous chemicals, and the health impacts of climate change contribute to the burden of disease in Europe. This includes working together to better understand how combined exposure to multiple environmental stressors, as well as socio-economic factors influence the environment, health and wellbeing nexus. Work will also identify the upstream drivers of pollution and explore integrated policy solutions to mitigate emissions. Furthermore, the scope of the group's work activities will include the positive benefits brought by high-quality nature to support health and well-being.
Expertise	• Methodological approaches and tools for undertaking integrated assessments of environment, health and wellbeing. • Evaluating exposure to environmental risks and estimating the associated health impacts, including estimates of the fraction attributable to different disease outcomes. • Understanding combined exposure to environmental and social risks, including the spatial coincidence of multiple risks and the associated burden of disease. Assessing multiple exposures along the human life span (exposome approach). • Assessing the benefits that high quality environments offer to health, including metrics and measurement of wellbeing in relation to green spaces, nature and biodiversity. • The use of nature-based solutions to mitigate environmental risks and to protect and promote nature-based well-being. • Socio-economic status and other social aspects as a mediator in human exposure to environmental risks, as well as access to the benefits that high quality environments offer. • Approaches to identifying and managing emerging environmental risks and social and economic trends that impact on environmental health, including through environmental health warning systems. • Health impacts and prevention of climate-aggravated exposures, including extreme weather events and vector-, water- and food-borne infectious disease. Thematic group 1: Air pollution: air quality and emissions • Air quality assessments, including knowledge of methods to estimate human exposure, health impacts assessments and the associated economic costs. • Policies and good practices to improve air quality. • Use of innovative digital methods (big data etc) to inform air quality assessments including approaches to present air quality related information to the public • Understanding of emissions of air pollutants from different sectors (energy, transport, industry, agriculture, residential, waste) and measures to mitigate these, including synergies with efforts to mitigate climate change. Thematic group 2: Noise • Assessing exposure to and the health impacts of environmental noise. • Good practice in managing and mitigating exposure to noise, including measures to address both noise and air pollution.

	- Assessing suitability of noise policies and assessing methods for noise indicators, noise maps and harmful effects. Thematic group 3: Chemicals - Assessing how chemicals are produced, used and emitted into the environment in European society from different sectors. - Assessing human exposure and the impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment at population level and ecosystem level. - Developing upstream approaches to mitigating chemical risks, including approaches that are safe and sustainable by design and identifying non-essential uses of hazardous chemicals.
Policy processes to be supported	- Zero Pollution Action Plan - Biodiversity Strategy - Farm to Fork Strategy - Chemical Strategy for Sustainability - Air Quality Directives - National Emission Commitments Directive and UNECE Air Convention - Environmental Noise Directive - European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register - COPERNICUS and EU research projects (Horizon, LIFE etc). - WHO European Environment and Health Process
Links to other Eionet groups	- Climate change mitigation and energy - Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation - Biodiversity and ecosystems 2 - Foresight - Mobility systems - Food systems - Land systems (soil contamination) - Circular Economy and resource Use <u>ETC on Human Health and Environment and other ETCs where relevant</u>
Relevant organisations and networks	- World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - European Commission and EU Agencies (DGs DG SANTE, DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG JRC, and agencies EFSA, ECHA) - Eurocities, ICELEI and other similar networks

Eionet group	Circular economy and resource use
Rationale	The circular economy and sustainable and efficient resource use are key means to reduce environmental and climate impacts from production and consumption systems in Europe. This Eionet group will work with the EEA and Eionet countries to improve the knowledge base for and the monitoring of the transition towards a circular and resource-efficient economy, using a systems perspective and different methodological and analytical approaches.
Expertise	• Monitoring progress of the transition towards circular economy, resource efficiency and waste objectives and targets. • Implementation of the EU waste acquis (waste prevention and management) and waste policies more generally as part of the circular economy. • Assessing environmental, climate, social and economic impacts and resource use of key product value chains/production and consumption systems and opportunities for improvements. • Incorporate systems thinking in the analysis of circular economy transition. • Understanding the interlinkages across different thematic areas addressed by the European Green Deal/8EAP including between the circular economy, resource use and waste areas with climate change, zero-pollution, biodiversity and industrial transformation agendas. • Assessment of economic drivers and business opportunities in circularity, presented through cost-savings, resource security and new business models. Thematic group 1: Circular economy monitoring • Circular economy indicators and indicator systems • Assessing related environmental, social and economic impacts • Innovation in circular economy monitoring such as the use of new data sets and metrics, data collection methods etc • Insights on awareness and engagement of business and public stakeholders Thematic group 2: Waste prevention and management • Drafting, implementing and evaluating waste prevention programmes • Implementation of waste policies, analysis of barriers and opportunities • Environmental, economic and social benefits from waste prevention and improved waste management • Developing case studies and good practices Thematic group 3: Sustainable production and consumption / key product value chains • Assessing environmental, economic and social benefits of reducing societal consumption of 'key product value chains' such as plastics, textiles, construction, electronics. • Sustainable product policy • Barriers and opportunities, including technological and social innovation, circular business models, behavioural and consumption change, industrial transformation • Opportunities for improvements, development and implementation of circular economy policies, such as sustainable product policy, enabling circular business models, life-cycle thinking, innovation, enabling

	behavioural and consumption change and implementing strategies for key value chains. Thematic group 4: Material flows and resource use/efficiency • Assessing environmental and climate impacts of resource use/materials • Opportunities and barriers for reducing resource use and its adverse impacts • Developing a circular bioeconomy, • Resource efficiency policies • Material footprints and consumption-based accounts
Policy processes to be supported	• EU Circular economy action plan and its initiatives and strategies, including for the key value chains • Implementation of the EU Waste acquis • Sustainable product policy and EU and international law on key product value chains (e.g. plastics, textiles, construction, electronics) • International processes in the area, e.g. Basel convention; Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency; UN Environment Assembly; process towards a Global Agreement on Plastics
Links to other Eionet groups	• Climate change mitigation and energy systems • Human health and the environment (e.g. chemicals) • Biodiversity and ecosystems 1&2 • Foresight • <u>ETC on Circular Economy and Resource Use and other ETCs where relevant</u>
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (incl. DG ENV, DG GROW, JRC, Eurostat) • OECD • UNEP, UNECE • International Resource Panel • EPA Network Interest Groups on Plastics in the environment and on Green and Circular Economy • Relevant business groups and NGOs.

Eionet group	Foresight
Rationale	This Eionet group will support EEA and Eionet countries with knowledge, information, skills and methodological expertise on futures analysis and foresight studies to support policymaking and governance of sustainability transitions both at the national and European level. It promotes the use of forward-looking information in environmental integrated assessments and will help build foresight literacy within the Eionet through knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking.
Expertise	• Horizon scanning • Systems analysis • Scenario building and visioning • Sustainability transitions and environmental integrated assessments • Stakeholder engagement and co-creation processes
Policy processes to be supported	• European Green Deal in general and related initiatives • 8th Environmental Action Plan • UN Agenda 2030 (global to national) • EU strategic foresight process • EU better regulation toolbox and guidelines • Related national processes
Links to other Eionet groups	• Eionet group on State of the Environment • Other 'systems' and 'thematic' Eionet groups (due to its cross-cutting nature) • ETC for sustainability trends, prospects and responses and other ETCs where relevant
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission, relevant committees and EU working groups • EU Strategic Foresight Network • DG JRC and Competence Centres on Foresight and Modelling • Environment Knowledge Community (EKC: DGs ENV, CLIMA, JRC, EEA, R&I, AGRI and ESTAT) • OECD and OECD Government Foresight Community • UN Environment Programme • National and regional institutions and networks

Eionet group	State of the Environment
Rationale	This Eionet group will help improve State of the Environment reporting and related sustainability assessments, both at national and European level. It links to strategic objectives 1-3 of the EEA-Eionet strategy and to all its work areas, in particular work area 5 'Sustainability trends, prospects and responses'. The Eionet group should also play an active role in country contributions towards the EEA SOER and act as community of practice for national SoE reporting.
Expertise	• Responsibility for state of the environment reporting at national level (note: preferably the Eionet group member is an editor or lead author of national SOE reports). • Experience with Integrated Environmental Assessments and / or integrated sustainability assessments, including outlooks. • Expertise in development and communication of environmental indicators. • Understanding of the science-policy interface, including policy analysis. • Expertise in global environmental change and driving forces.
Policy processes to be supported	• State of the environment reporting at national and European level. • 8th Environmental Action Programme – and its evaluation (monitoring framework). • UN Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. • Integrated sustainability assessments.
Links to other Eionet groups	• Foresight. • Most other Eionet groups (due to its cross-cutting nature). • ETC for sustainability trends, prospects and responses and other ETCs where relevant
Relevant organisations and networks	• DG ENV, Eurostat (e.g. EU-SDG indicators). • OECD (e.g. Environmental Performance Reviews). • UNECE (e.g. Pan-European Assessments on Europe's environment). • UNEP (e.g. Global Environment Outlook). • UN (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals).

Eionet group	Food systems
Rationale	This group will support Eionet countries and EEA by supporting activities addressing the sustainability of the food systems in Europe, including the policies and drivers that shape them. Addressing the production and consumption patterns associated with the food production system is essential to achieve Europe's long-term environmental and climate objectives. A framework for the group will be to develop integrative knowledge around the sustainability-related dimensions of the food systems with a focus on biodiversity (where habitat loss from land conversion of natural ecosystems has driven biodiversity loss together with production intensification, chemical use etc), and climate change (where production systems are responsible for GHG emissions, land use for carbon sequestration etc). Several policies are relevant, and their improved coherence is key to enable the systemic change that is needed in our food systems. New technologies and nature-based solutions, a wide range of local and/or innovative approaches (including e.g. social innovation, consumer behaviour) can contribute to the transition towards sustainability. The implementation of relevant policies and the diversity, scalability of regional, local solutions along the food value chain and their role in a sustainable food system would be discussed in the group.
Expertise	• Broad knowledge of the development and environmental performance of food systems covering food production, processing, distribution, retail, services and consumption, • Knowledge on the related policies (environmental, agricultural, health, climate) and their implementation at national level • Broad knowledge on national assessments related to the environmental and socio-economic performance of the related sectors (agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, food processing, distribution, retail and consumption) • Knowledge on role of biodiversity and climate change dimensions in sustainable food systems • Knowledge of consumer consumption behaviour (to support sustainable eating patterns) • Food system modelling
Policy processes to be supported	• 8EAP • Farm2Fork • Biodiversity Strategy • Zero Pollution Action Plan • Climate and energy union governance
Links to other Eionet groups	• Biodiversity 1 and 2 • Climate mitigation and energy • Human Health and the Environment • Foresight • ETCs
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (DGs ENV, CLIMA, SANTE, JRC), • EU research initiatives including Horizon Europe, LIFE projects • International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems

Eionet group	Land systems
Rationale	Land and soil are recognised as essential, limited, natural resources, particularly for food production, biodiversity and human health. The Eionet Land Systems supports Eionet countries and EEA with land monitoring information, data sets development, indicators and assessments about the condition of land and soil, including urban areas, and how it is impacted by climate change, land use change, pollution and other pressures.
Expertise	• Experience surveying and monitoring national and regional data/indicators to determine the state of land and soil quality, its functions, and pressures that make the land system change and adapt. • Knowledge of key parameters of the land systems, such as bio-physical land cover, land use (management practices), and understanding of • Disturbances which affect land properties and functions (fires, drought, flooding). • Familiarity with national soil protection policies and nature based solutions. • Awareness of socio-economic (e.g. population and economic patterns) and political drivers and responses that are relevant to land systems, including concepts of spatial planning, nature protection, waste disposal etc. • Knowledge of relevant data sources (e.g. Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS), Sentinel missions, soil mapping), methods and models to process and integrate this data to inform stakeholders. Thematic group 1: Soil • Understanding of chemical, physical and biological parameters of soil quality and their monitoring, methods (incl. models) to derive indicators and to assess soil quality in the context of pressures to the land system (e.g. soil carbon decline, erosion, soil pollution); • Evaluation of soil quality, incl. thresholds, nomenclature, methods; • Knowledge of soil contamination risk assessment procedures including thresholds. Thematic group 2: Land system accounting/analysis data and methods • Knowledge of methods for geospatial ecosystem extent and condition accounting; • Experience with geographically explicit climate applications, such as LULUCF land use change matrix and stratification. • Experience monitoring progress towards land degradation neutrality using CLMS and other datasets. Thematic group 3: Support to Copernicus land monitoring • Experience working with remote observation information and data in the context of land cover/land use assessments. Provision of comments on CLMS products and reports on LC/LU use cases • Methodological support to statistical validation concepts of CLMS products • Support to the development of CLC+.
Policy processes to be supported	• EU Soil Thematic Strategy (2021) and soil/land targets under the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 • 8th EAP monitoring framework • Zero Pollution Action plan

	• Directives related to soil contamination and ecosystem impacts (IED, NEC, ELD) • EU Biodiversity 2030 Strategy and UNCBD • LULUCF Regulation, EU Adaptation Strategy (2021), and UNFCCC • UN Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. SDG 15.3.1) and UNCCD • EU Agriculture and Forestry policies (new CAP and EU Forest Strategy (2021)) • EU Space regulation (2021) • Contributions to UN Group of Earth Observations (e.g. GEO BON , GEO LDN)
Links to other Eionet groups	• Biodiversity and ecosystems 1 & 2 • Food systems • Climate change mitigation (LULUCF part) • Climate change adaptation • Human health and the environment (soil) • Data, technologies and digitalisation (EO and big data, Copernicus) • ETC Data integration and digitalisation (ETC/DI)
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (ENV, JRC, ESTAT, DEFIS, CLIMA, REGIO, AGRI) and EU Agencies (EFSA). • European Soil Partnership (within the Global Soil Partnership) • Common Forum on Contaminated Land, WHO Europe, European Space Agency • Activities in European research and Life projects and regional activities, incl. the Mission Board for Soil Health and Food.

Eionet group	Mobility systems
Rationale	The Eionet group on mobility systems will support countries and the EEA taking a systemic perspective to identify challenges and solutions to address the environment and climate-related impacts from Europe's mobility systems. This includes furthering the development of transport and environment/climate knowledge and indicators.
Expertise	• A background in transport policy (e.g. implementation, assessment) and understanding of the mobility system and its interlinkages across environment, climate, transport and societal systems • Understanding of mobility-related policies and measures, including methods for assessing their effectiveness and evaluation • Transport economics and transport subsidies • Environment and climate pressures from mobility systems (emissions) including drivers behind mobility demand and related health and ecosystems impacts; (externalities) • Interplay across different transport modes including non-motorised transport • New transport technologies and scenario development • Understanding of indicators (including data collection/surveillance/monitoring systems) and their use to assess progress towards transport-related targets
Policy processes to be supported	• 8EAP • European Green Deal relevant strategies including climate and energy governance • Clean mobility initiatives of the EU including urban sustainability • Aviation and Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) • Targets on renewable energy • European and global dimensions of EU biofuel policies • Legislation on emissions for road vehicles, ships, planes • SDGs
Links to other Eionet groups	• Climate mitigation and energy systems • Human health and environment • State of the environment • Foresight • ETC on Climate Change Mitigation and other ETCs where relevant
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission: DG MOVE, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG Eurostat, DG JRC • OECD including the International Transport Forum • UNECE Transport and Environment Divisions • WHO

Eionet group	Data, technologies and digitalisation
Rationale	The Eionet group will advise and support EEA and Eionet on cross-thematic work related to data management and data analysis applying both well-established and new methods and IT tools.
Expertise	- A background in environmental information systems and in standards and projects supporting data and system interoperability is needed, experience addressing cross-thematic environmental data dimensions. - Knowledge of environmental data management ideally not limited to a thematic area - Awareness of digitalisation activities, their potential and limitations - Experience in the application of data intelligence (data science approaches) to environment and climate data Thematic group 1: Data and data analysis - Familiarity with national environmental and climate data acquisition, management and reporting - Experience with data management, integrating different types of data to complement 'traditional' environment and climate datasets (e.g. citizen science, sensors, social-economic information,) - Experience in applying new methods and analytics on environment and climate data Thematic group 2: Data technologies - Knowledge of modern digitalisation methods and technologies e.g. GIS, remote sensing including Copernicus, big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning and digital twins and their application to systemic environmental and climate topics - Insight in information technology aspects of building and maintaining environmental information systems - Experience in applying above approaches in data intelligence projects in national environmental and climate government or research institutions - Open data and standardization
Policy processes to be supported	- European Green Deal 8th EAP - EU digital package - EU data strategy - EU space regulation - INSPIRE and Open Data Directive
Links to other Eionet groups	- Data Flow Coordination function - Data Flow Reporter groups and any Thematic Groups dealing with reporting established under other Eionet groups - ETC Data Integration and Digitalisation and other ETCs as appropriate
Relevant organisations and networks	<i>Indicate other main European/international institutions, research networks etc that work on the topic</i> - European Commission (ENV, CLIMA, CONNECT, REGIO, DEFIS, MARE, AGRI, JRC, ESTAT) - UNEP, UNECE - Research initiatives related to the application of data intelligence

Eionet group	Communications
Rationale	Innovative and impactful communications across the Eionet are required to help realise the EEA-Eionet vision of being “the leading network for policy-relevant environment and climate knowledge at European Union and country levels”. Essential for sharing communication practices, exploring synergies and linking communication efforts at European, national, regional and local level for greater impact.
Expertise	• Communication practitioner involved with (but not limited to) the management of media and social media relations, online content, digital tools and channels, audiovisuals, writing, editing, layout, publishing, stakeholder communications and impact analysis, events, internal communication. Ideally a member of the corporate communication team of the institution to enable the necessary links to others • Knowledge of EU and national environmental and climate policies • Knowledge of communication processes and activities at the European and country level • Familiarity with environment and climate policy processes and policy cycle nationally and EU • Familiarity with national governance structures, all levels
Policy processes to be supported	• 8EAP • European Green Deal policy packages • EEA and Eionet country priorities
Links to other Eionet groups	• ETC Data Integration and Digitalisation • Collaboration around specific themes or projects could be envisaged with any of the Eionet groups
Relevant organisations and networks	• European Commission (DG ENV, DG CLIMA, Green Spiders Network) • Communication parts/ European umbrella organisations of NGOs and international bodies working in the field.