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2015 Freshwater Eionet Workshop

Background document for Session 4

Plans for assessment of

European waters for the next

State of European waters report

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### EEA water assessments

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has the mandate to produce objective, reliable and comparable information to allow the Commission, member countries and the general public to judge the effectiveness of policy and the needs for policy development. This comprises straight forward State of Environment assessments using indicators such like the EEA Core Set Indicators (CSI) and other more specific indicators to assess the state of, and trends in, the water environment.

Such an assessment should:

1. provide the basis for identification and assessment of environmental problems and the dominant threats at regional and European levels;
2. provide information necessary to enable actions/policies to be taken to improve the environmental state of the water bodies and to ensure sustainable development.
3. be based at the most relevant time and space scales to meet the two objectives stated above

### EEA 2017/18 State of water assessments

In 2018 the Commission will publish its 5th WFD implementation report including a review of 2nd River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) to be available by December 2015; and the data to be reported to WISE by 22 March 2016. The information in the 2nd RBMPs and the 1st Flood Risk Managements plans, and other water data reporting will also be important building blocks in relation to the water aspects of the EU 7th Environmental Action Program (7EAP) and the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

To accompany and inform these policy processes EEA plans for 2017/178a milestone report “State of European waters” assessment. The report will be based on information reported in 2016 via RBMPs and supplemented with assessments of information from other sources (e.g. WISE-SoE data collection; EU water policies; and scientific literature). It will be developed in close cooperation and coordination with the DG Environment’s assessment of the RBMPs and with regular consultations with the WFD Common Implementation Strategy (CIS)) process and the Eionet freshwater NRC network.

The format of the EEA 2017 State of Europe’s water assessment is still being discussed but it may consist of

* an overarching synthesis/integrated report (50-75 pages) plus
* a number of thematic briefings (e.g. on ecological status or chemical status) and
* a web-portal with all data visualisation products (maps, diagrams, tables etc.) including “mini” assessments available.

### The 2017 State of Water Assessment (report/portal) should cover

* Overview of status, pressures and impacts (update of baseline – state 2012-2015)
* Change in status and pressures from 1st to 2nd RBMPs periods
* Relationship between pressure and status (what is causing less than good status) –pressures-driving force relationship.
* Effect of measures (focused on measures implemented during the first RBMP planning period).

## Methodology and planning

During 2015 EEA) is producing a WFD assessment framework. The WFD Assessment Framework will provide a common understanding and planning of the State of Water assessment.

During 2016 and 2017 the main activity on the 2017 State of Water assessment is happening:

* A draft outline of the 2017 State of Water assessment will be available as outcome of the above WFD assessment framework.
* This activity will also result in some preparatory activities, for example, testing different methods for presenting change between 1st and 2nd RBMP period, inventories of additional information, and analytic methods.
* The main activity on analysing, producing results and assessments are concentrated in a three month period in the autumn 2016.
* Thereafter there are a CIS and Eionet consultation period (first half of 2017).
* During the summer 2017 the draft results and assessment are updated including late data deliveries and taking into account comments received on the draft.
* The final 2017 State of Water assessment report and portal will be ready ultimo 2017.

The Eionet Freshwater NRCs and the relevant Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) Working Groups will during the process be consulted on structure of the assessment, on draft results and on the draft assessment. It is important that the next State of Water report also include results from the EEA member countries and collaborating countries not implementing the WFD. EEA will together with the relevant NRCs explore the different options.

Table 1: Tentative planning and time table

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| Activities | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
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| **WFD assessment framework**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Internal & external consultation | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **State of water assessment activities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Preparatory assessments  |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Main assessment activities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ▲ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CIS and Eionet consultation of draft report  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final update of report and related products |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ▼ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final EEA 2017 state of water assessment |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ► |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

▲ Draft EEA assessment report;

▼ Update of task 1 assessment results based on data update and comments received.

►EEA report/portal ready for publication and dissemination.