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HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Conference

October 18th 2023

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epa
Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Welcome

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

**Update by
Cristina de Avila, DG Environment,
European Commission
Dublin, 18 October 2023**

#ChemicalsStrategy

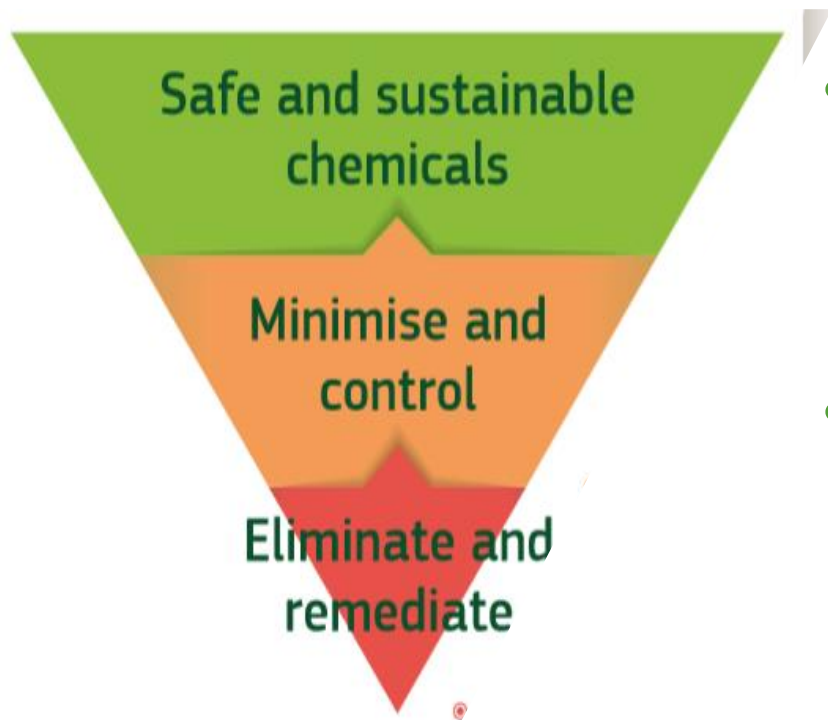
#EUGreenDeal



European
Commission

European Green Deal

Vision – towards a toxic-free environment



- Chemicals are produced/used in a way that **maximises their benefits to society** while **avoiding harm to planet & people**
- **Production and use of safe and sustainable chemicals** becomes the EU market norm and a global standard

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Boosting innovation

- Strategic R&I plan for chemicals and materials (Oct 22)
- Commission recommendation on safe and sustainable by design criteria (Dec 22)
- Research funding
- Taxonomy delegated acts (June 23)

Strengthening legislation for better protection

- Water Package (Oct 22)
- Eco-design regulation (Mar 22)
- Industrial Emissions (Apr 22)
- REACH restriction roadmap (Apr 22)
- CLP regulation (Dec 22)
- Maximum levels for food contaminants (Lead, Cadmium, Aug 22); PFAS (Dec 22)
- Toy safety regulation (July 23)
- REACH
- Essential use
- Cosmetics product

Simplification & coherence

- Horizontal proposal on (re-)attribution of technical work on chemicals to EU Agencies
- Horizontal proposal on improving access, sharing and re-use of chemical data
- Proposal for a basic regulation of the European Chemicals Agency

Knowledge and science

- Strategic research and innovation plan for chemicals – Oct 22
- European partnership for the assessment of risks from chemicals (PARC) – May 22
- Indicator framework

Global

- Proposal of new hazard classes to UN Global Harmonised System for Classification – Jan 23
- International Framework on Chemicals – Sep 23
- Funding for developing countries
- Export ban on chemicals banned in the EU

REACH revision

1. Unaddressed risks

- New testing requirements for some polymers
- New testing requirements to assess endocrine disruption
- Request more granular information on use and exposure
- Increase information requirements (use and exposure, low tonnage substances, and modify for requirements higher tonnage substances)
- Include additional hazard classes in the Substances of Very High Concern
- Lower a safe level of a chemical by certain factor to address risks of unintentional co-exposures
- Set maximum tolerable level of risks for chemicals for which it is not possible to calculate a safe level
- Extend the requirements to conduct a Chemical Safety Assessment for low tonnage substances

2. Low efficiency of regulatory processes

- Extending the generic restrictions to additional hazard classes and to professional uses
- Simplification of the authorisation regime
- Introducing essential use concept and using it as a criterion for granting authorisation or derogation from restriction

3. Insufficient compliance

- Establish a **European Audit Capacity**
- Provide a **mandate to OLAF** on illicit chemicals
- Mandate ECHA to **revoke registration numbers** for persistently non-compliant registration dossiers
- Provide for the possibility for **access to justice, collective redress** and to **claim compensation** for damages related to non-compliance

Essential use

Linked to generic risk approach

The use of a most harmful chemical will only be allowed if:

- It is necessary for health, safety or it is critical for the functioning of society, and
- There are no alternatives that are acceptable from the standpoint of environment and health

In other words:

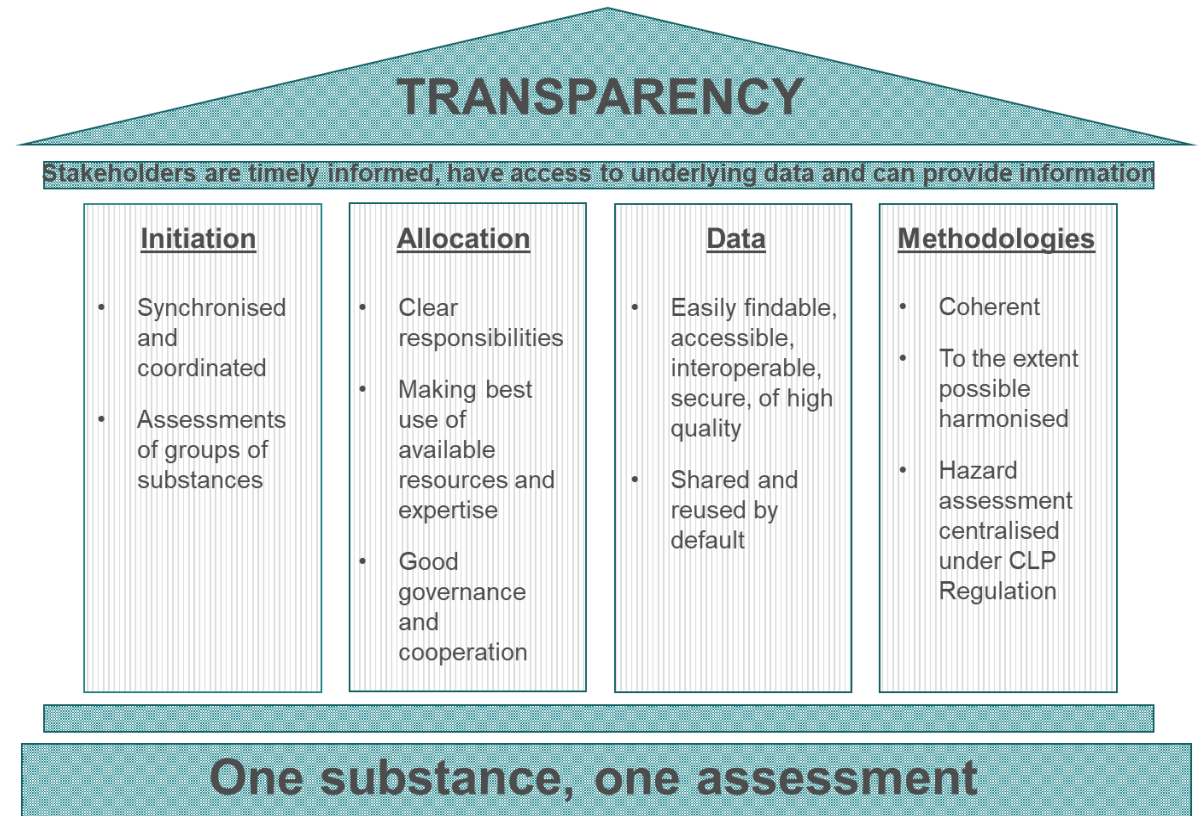
- Decide whether the use of a chemical in a specific application (including the specific feature it provides) is essential or not
- Allows the use of substances with important societal value (protective equipment, climate neutrality..)
- Incentive to make use of safer alternatives where they exist

Commission guidance document

One substance one assessment

Make safety assessment processes

- simpler and more transparent
- faster as well as more consistent and predictable



One substance, one assessment

Horizontal proposal on attribution of tasks to EU Agencies

- More than 50 tasks identified for attribution primarily to ECHA but also to EEA and EFSA
- Efficiency gains from the attributions to Agencies,
- Resources required for Agencies will increase compared to today

Proposal for a basic regulation of the European Chemicals Agency

- Ensuring financing stability of ECHA
- Restructuring ECHA's committees to deal with increased workload

Horizontal proposal on improving access, sharing and re-use of chemical data

- Making data on chemicals held by EU institutions available at one place
- Allowing for re-use of chemical data across legislation and institutions
- Mechanism for notification of studies
- Mechanism to allow authorities to generate data in particular situations
- Increase use of academic data in regulatory decision making
- Indicator framework

No Impact Assessments for 3 proposals; Adoption planned Q4 2023

Export ban

- Chemicals strategy for sustainability: « *ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in EU are not produced for export, including by amending legislation as needed* »
- Objectives: increase protection human health and environment globally and apply uniform measures in all EU countries
- Regulation 649/2012 concerning export and import of hazardous chemicals (Rotterdam Convention on Prior informed consent) (PIC)
- Commission launched a study collecting information for impact assessment
- Public consultation went from 8 May to end of July 2023
- Proposal planned in 2024

Thank you

EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

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epa
Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

October 18th 2023

An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a lush, green forest. The river is dark and flows from the top left towards the bottom right, forming several loops. The surrounding land is covered in dense trees with varying shades of green and yellow, suggesting a transition in seasons. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

Chemicals and the Environment

The European Environment Agency's perspective

Jeanne Vuaille / EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Conference / 18-10-2023

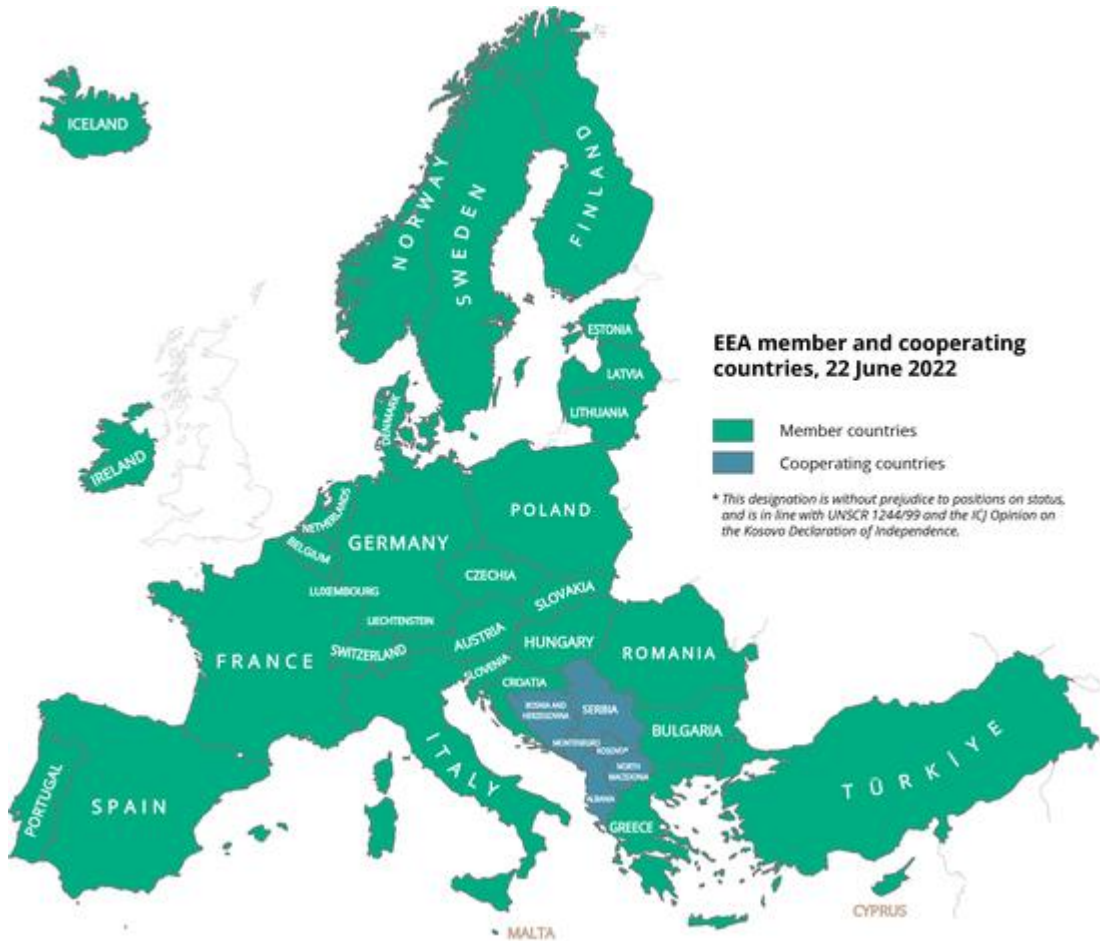
The European Environment Agency



Copenhagen, DK

- 7 programmes
- 2 where chemicals are work area:
 - Biodiversity, Health and Resources
 - Climate change, Energy and Transport

The European Environment Agency and Eionet network



- Data and information collection
- Assessments
- Knowledge generation
- Science-policy interface: support policy-making processes

Chemicals and the Environment



European Environment Agency | Datahub



Indicators



European Environment Agency



European environment and health atlas



European environment and health atlas

European Environment Agency



Chemicals Data - Emissions



- Industrial emissions to air
- Industrial emissions to water
- National emissions of persistent organic pollutants
- Environmental pollutants placed on the market (HFCs, ODS)



**European
Environment
Agency** | **Datahub**

Chemicals Data - Occurrence



- Occurrence in water, sediment and biota

- Human Biomonitoring from EU research partnerships



European
Environment Agency | Datahub

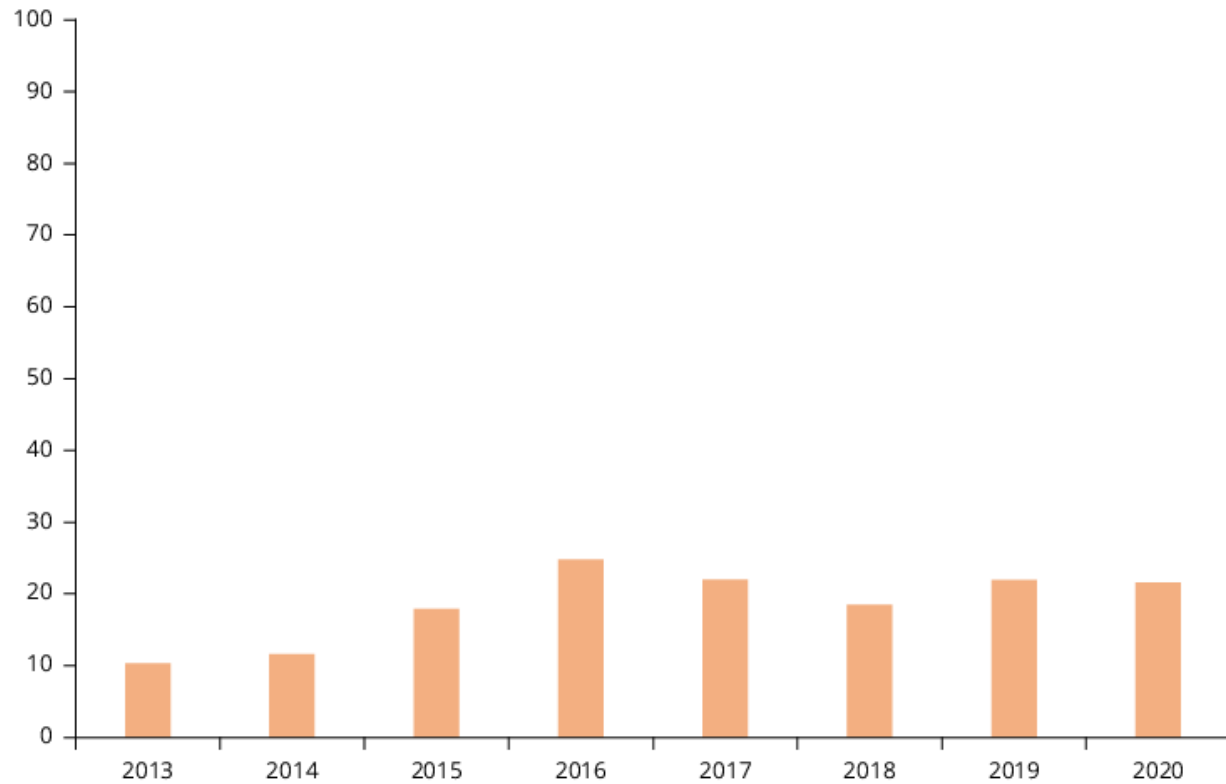
European Environment Agency



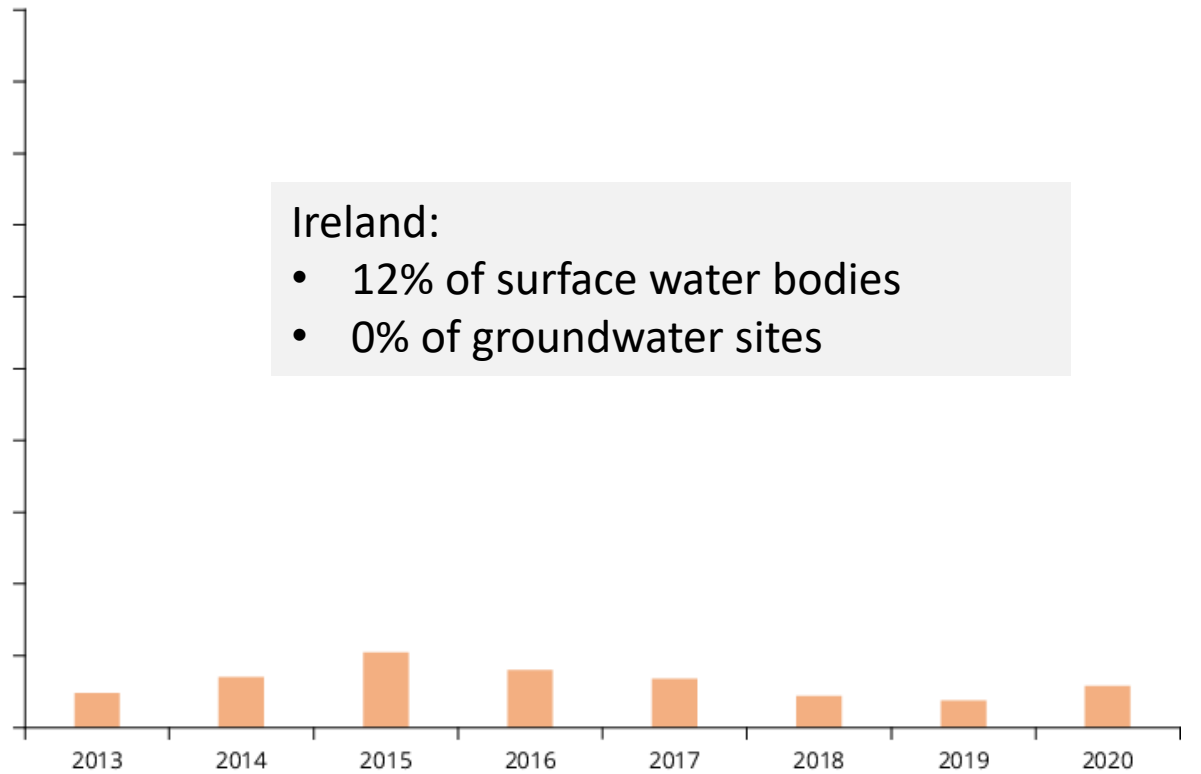
Pesticides in rivers, lakes and groundwater in Europe

Surface water

Percentage



Groundwater



Ireland:

- 12% of surface water bodies
- 0% of groundwater sites





BRIEFING

Managing the systemic use of chemicals in Europe

Chemicals are embedded in practically every single manufactured good in the EU. On the one hand, chemicals play a key role in ensuring quality of life and offer new solutions to deliver the green and the digital transitions. On the other, our increasing reliance on chemicals leads to serious problems. From creating adverse health effects to contributing to the climate crisis, chemicals come with a cost — so much so that we have now exceeded the planetary boundary for chemical pollution. Where do we go from here? This briefing describes the systemic use of chemicals across Europe's current systems of production and consumption. Moreover, it discusses key policy measures foreseen in the European Green Deal's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability that offer significant potential to ensure consumer safety, cut pollution and clean up material flows.

Published 08 Mar 2023 — Last modified 25 Apr 2023 — 30 min read — Photo: © MarcinJozwiak on pixabay PDF

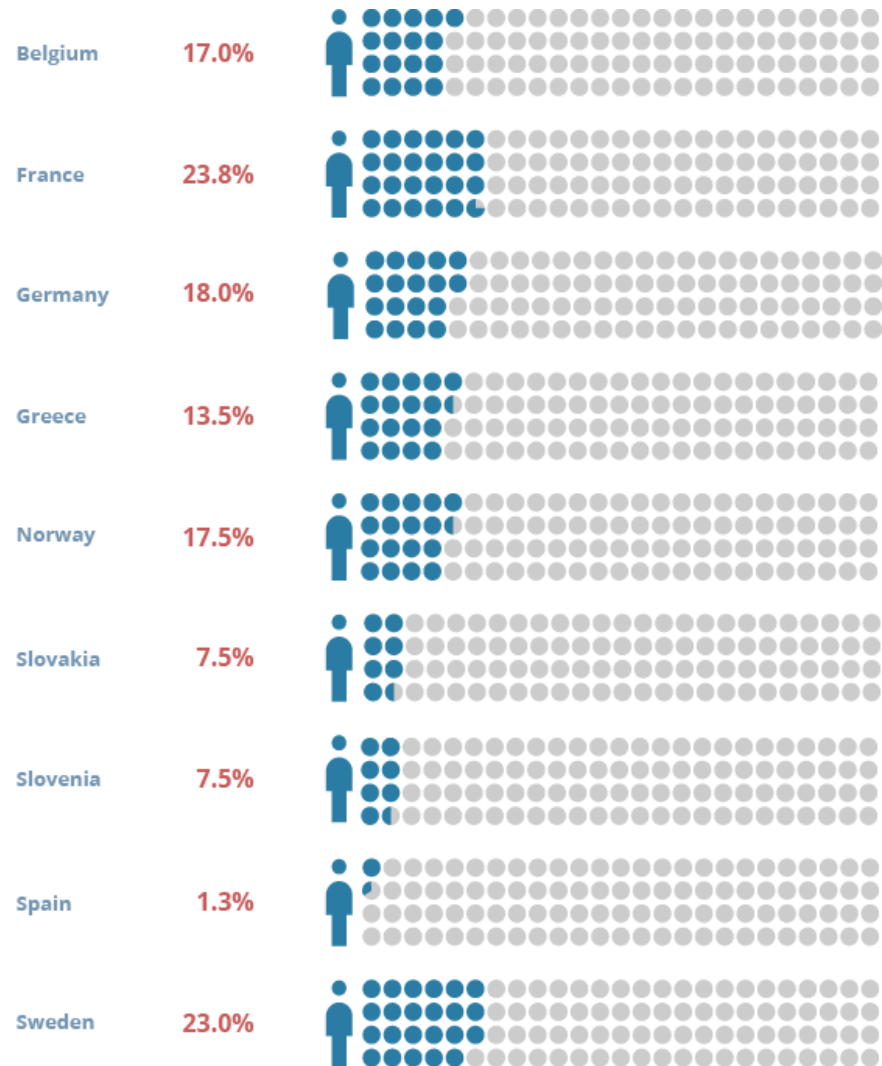
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/managing-the-systemic-use-of-chemicals>



Coordinating and advancing human biomonitoring in Europe

- Co-funded under Horizon 2020
- 30 countries, EEA and European Commission
- Bridging research and policy worlds

HBM4EU – Risk of PFAS in humans



- Overall exceedance of health-based guidance values: 14.3 %
- Immunotoxicity
- Developmental toxicity
- Effects on reproduction and fertility
- Liver damage
- Decreasing trend for PFOS and PFOA concentrations



HBM4EU results and EEA products - Risk of BPA in humans



BRIEFING

Human exposure to Bisphenol A in Europe

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a synthetic chemical that has been used in high volumes for decades and is known to harm human health. People are exposed to BPA mainly through diet due to BPA being present in a range of materials commonly used in packaging for food and beverages. This briefing presents the latest information on human exposure to BPA in Europe. It also highlights potential health risks resulting from people being exposed to unsafe levels of BPA.

Published 14 Sep 2023 — Last modified 28 Sep 2023 — 20 min read — Photo: © Tai's Captures on Unsplash

PDF

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/people-exposure-to-bisphenol-a/>



European Environment Agency



Source: Based on human biomonitoring data from the HBM4EU Dashboard (HBM4EU, 2022d)

PARC - Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals



- Publicly funded: from countries and the EU
- Duration of 7 years from 2022
- 29 countries including Ireland
- 3 European agencies: EEA, EFSA, ECHA

- **Next-generation chemical risk assessment**

New data, knowledge, methods and tools, expertise and networks

- **Research to support identified gaps**

Impacts of chemicals on health and wellbeing

Impacts of chemicals in ecosystems

- Long-term objective: **mainstream HBM across Europe**

EU representativity

Regular reporting



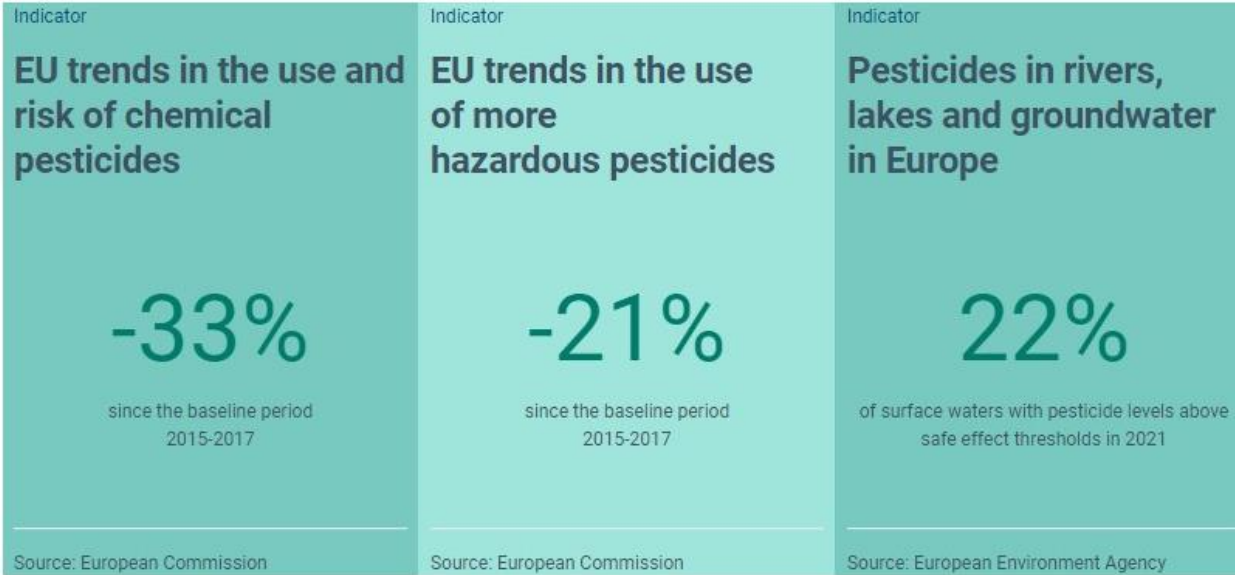
Chemical Indicator Framework under the CSS



*‘Develop a framework of indicators to monitor the drivers and impacts of chemical pollution and to measure the effectiveness of chemicals legislation’
(by 2024).*

- Development led by DG ENV
- Technical development: ECHA-EEA as co-lead
- Collaboration across DGs and Agencies
- Indicators: progress towards policy objectives

Chemical Indicator Framework



Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment

Web report: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/zero-pollution>



WEB REPORT

Zero pollution monitoring assessment

The zero pollution action plan is a cornerstone of the EU's ambitions to improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations under the European Green Deal. It sets out the vision that by 2050, the EU should have reduced pollution to the extent that it no longer harms human health and natural ecosystems. This is translated into key 2030 targets to speed up reducing pollution at source. The European Environment Agency has produced this zero pollution monitoring assessment to assess progress towards these targets and to support the Commission in the delivery of the long-term vision of a non-toxic environment.

Last modified 28 Nov 2022 — 4 min read

PDF

- Health and ecosystems impacts
- Contribution of production and consumption to environmental pollution



Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment

<p>Indicator</p> <p>Pesticides in rivers, lakes and groundwater in Europe</p> <p>22%</p> <p>of surface waters with pesticide levels exceeding safe effect thresholds in 2021</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>	<p>Indicator</p> <p>Oxygen consuming substances in European rivers</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>	<p>Indicator</p> <p>Nutrients in freshwater in Europe</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>	<p>Indicator</p> <p>Percent of sewage meeting treatment requirements in EU</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>
<p>Indicator</p> <p>Nitrates in groundwater in Europe</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <p>Ecological and chemical status of water bodies</p> <p>Source: EEA</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <p>Groundwater Chemical Status</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <p>State of Water</p>



European Environment and Health Atlas

European environment and health atlas

Healthy environments support healthy lives. EEA's European Environment and Health Atlas presents information on how pollution and other environmental risks affect the health and well-being of Europeans. You can view inequalities in the distribution of environmental risks to health across Europe and check the quality of the environment where you live, work and play.

- Deliverable under the Zero Pollution Action Plan
- Environmental pressures on health and benefits of nature
- Public tool building on EEA data and other verified sources
- First step to be further developed

97%

of the urban population in Europe is exposed to unsafe levels of **air pollution**



Air pollution

20%

of the EU population lives in areas where **noise** levels are harmful to health



Noise

100%

increase in **heatwave** days in Europe predicted for the period 2030 to 2060



Climate

85%

of European **bathing waters** are of excellent quality



Bathing water

42%

the average city area covered by **green space** in EEA member countries

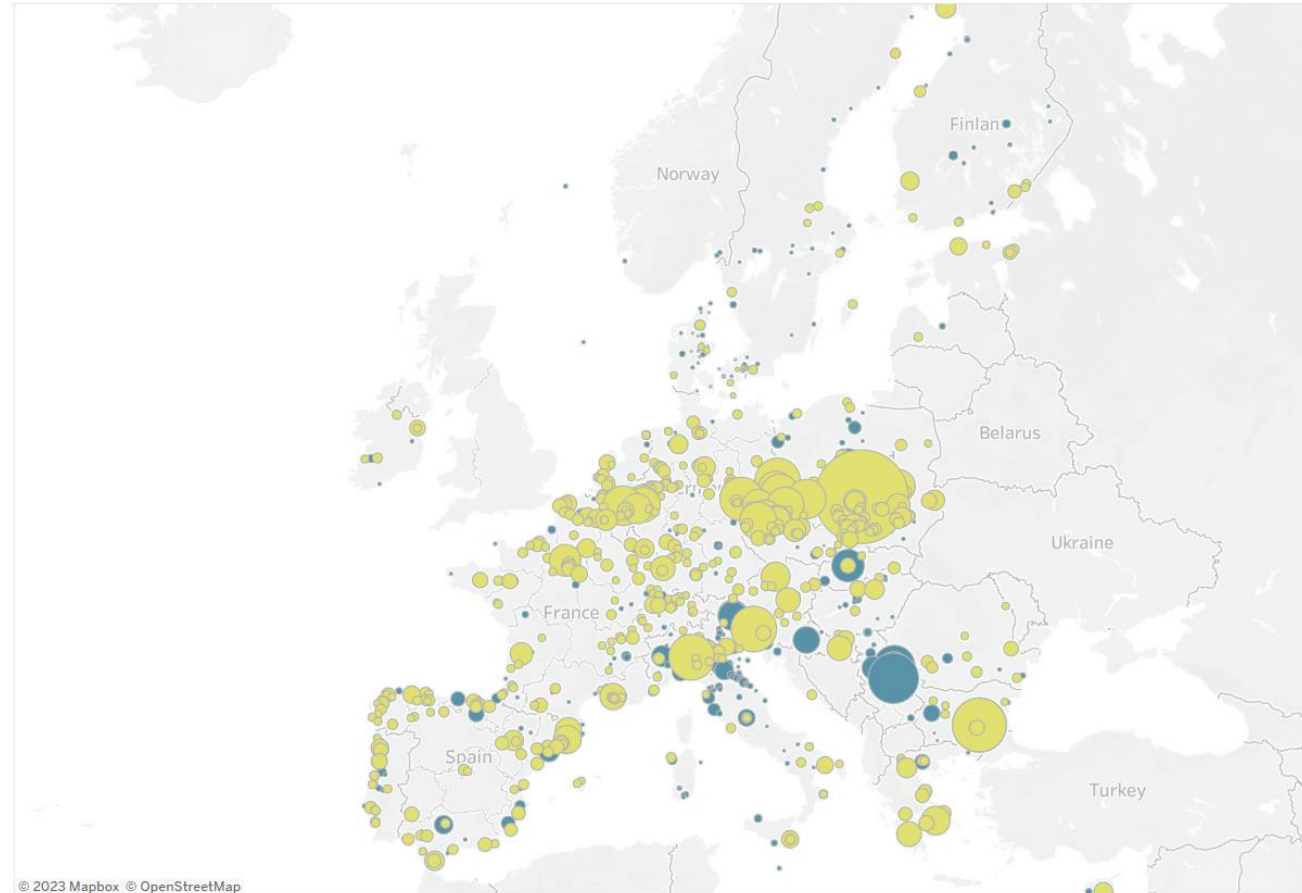


Green spaces

Chemicals

Emissions from facilities

Mercury and compounds (as Hg) released to air & released to water
latest available year 2017-2021



Released into
■ Air

Country

(All)

Pollutant on map

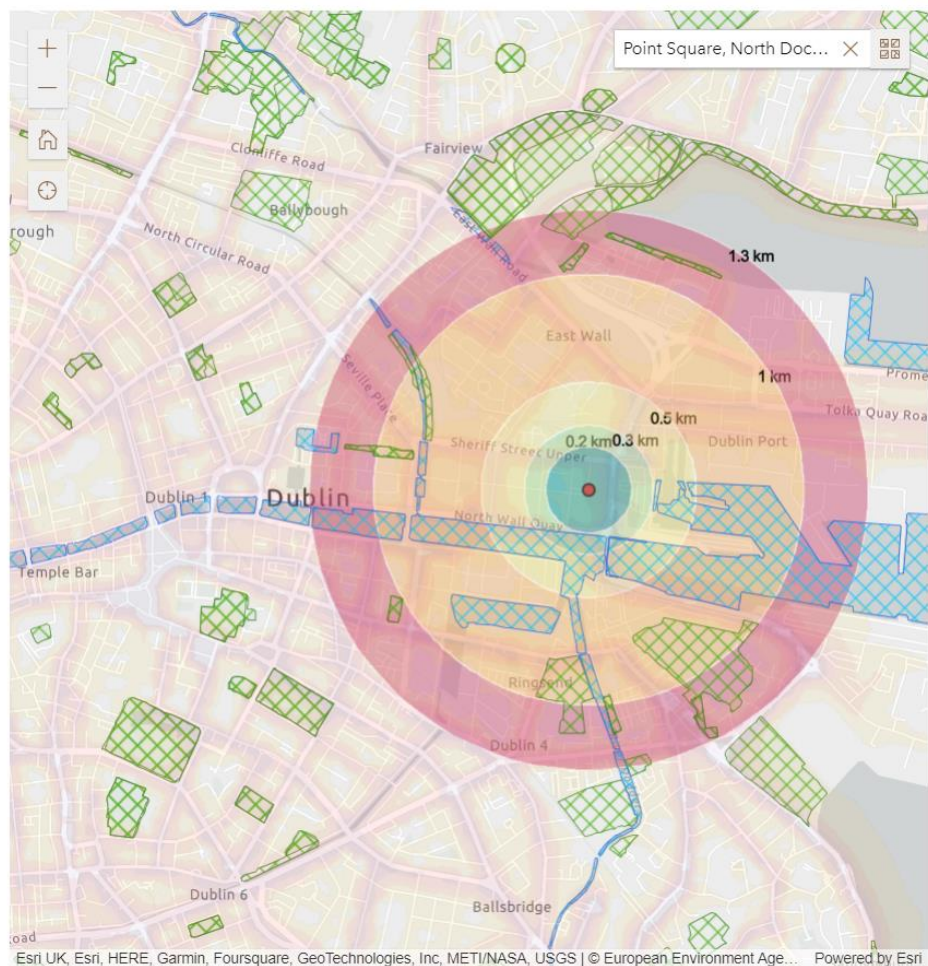
- Arsenic and compounds (as As)
- Cadmium and compounds (as Cd)
- Chromium and compounds (as Cr)
- Lead and compounds (as Pb)
- Mercury and compounds (as Hg)
- Nitrogen oxides (NOX)
- Particulate matter (PM10)
- Sulphur oxides (SOX)



European Environment and Health Atlas

Check your place

Get an overview of the quality of the environment where you live, work, study, commute or play. Click on the map or enter an address and the results will be shown in the right-hand panel. You can show/hide layers by clicking on the eye icons and use the slider to manage the layer transparency. For additional details about the variables and thresholds used, check out the section Additional information below the map.



Location Information

Address **Point Square, Dublin 1, Dublin**
City **Dublin**
Country **Ireland ()**

Environmental Quality

- Average concentration of PM_{2.5} in air 😊 8.9 **µg/m³**
- Average concentration of NO₂ in air 😊 17.3 **µg/m³**
- O₃ concentrations in air (SOMO35) 😊 1512.5 **µg/m³-days**
- Road traffic noise: night 👎 No Data
- Road traffic noise: day-evening-night 👎 60-65 **dB**
- Bathing water quality within 10 km 😊 Excellent
- Nearest green space or water body is within 😊 0.3 **km**

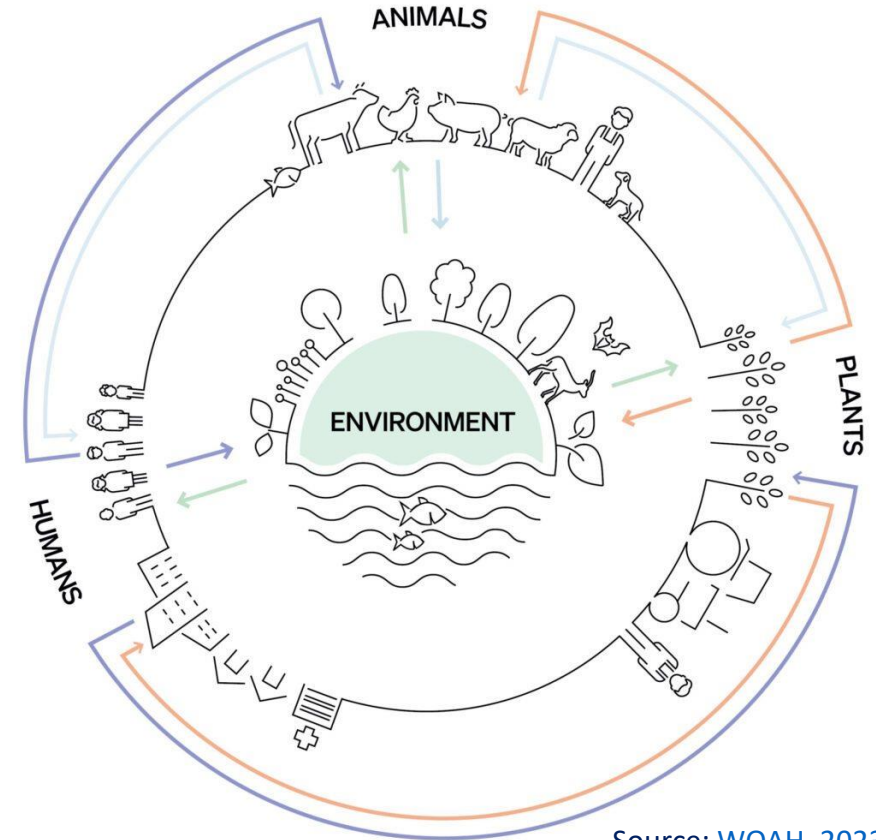
Neighbourhood information

- Nearest public transport stop within 😊 0.2 **km**
- Hospitals within 3 km 13 **Hospitals**
- Sports and leisure facilities within 3 km 43 **Facilities**



One Health

- **Collaboration** across disciplines
- **Interagency task force** on One Health: EFSA, ECDC, EEA, ECHA, EMA
- **Knowledge base** for more **integrated** assessments
- Greater attention to **the role of the environment** e.g. antimicrobials and AMR genes; chemicals in waters and soils
- **Environmental monitoring:** occurrence and transfer
- Focus on **both communicable** and **non-communicable diseases**



Source: [WOAH, 2023](#)

Upcoming Products and Outlook

- Health risk assessments for **vulnerable groups**
 - **Chemicals and climate change** impacts on health
 - **Burden of Disease** for chemicals: HBM4EU prioritized chemicals
 - First EU-wide data on health effects of chemicals
 - **PFAS** in textiles
-
- TBC:
 - Collecting all EU HBM data in a central database
 - Early Warning System
 - Chemicals indicator framework to be maintained and further developed



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Questions and Answers