

The EEA as a user of the soil data centre for integrated assessments

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EEA core set indicator “Progress in management of contaminated sites” – CSI15

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Progress in management of contaminated sites (CSI 015) - Assessment published Aug 2007

Key policy question

How is the problem of contaminated sites being addressed (clean-up of historical contamination and prevention of new contamination)?

Key message

Soil contamination requiring clean up is present at approximately 250000 sites in the EEA member countries, according to recent estimates. And this number is expected to grow. Potentially polluting activities are estimated to have occurred at nearly 3 million sites (including the 250000 sites already mentioned) and investigation is needed to establish whether remediation is required. If current investigation trends continue, the number of sites needing remediation will increase by 50% by 2025.

By contrast, more than 80000 sites have been cleaned up in the last 30 years in the countries where data on remediation is available. Although the range of polluting activities (and their relative importance as localised sources of soil contamination) may vary considerably across Europe, industrial and commercial activities as well as the treatment and disposal of waste are reported to be the most important sources. National reports indicate that heavy metals and mineral oil are the most frequent soil contaminants at investigated sites, while mineral oil and chlorinated hydrocarbons are the most frequent contaminants found in groundwater. A considerable share of remediation expenditure, about 35% on average, comes from public budgets. Although considerable efforts have been made already, it will take decades to clean up a legacy of contamination.

Fig. 1: Overview of progress in the management of contaminated sites in Europe (Ver. 1.00)

Note: The graphs shows the status in investigation and clean-up of contaminated sites in Europe.

Belgium refer to Flanders and the Brussels region only.

Time coverage: 2006
 Croatia, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain: 2004;
 Iceland: 2002;
 Slovenia: 2001;
 Liechtenstein: 2000;
 Other contries: 2005.

Data source: EIONET priority data flows on contaminated sites
 Turkey: NATO/CCMS-Turkey, 2006;
 United Kingdom: Environment Agency of England & Wales, 2005.
[Downloads and more info](#)

Category	Number of sites in 2006 (x 1 000)
Remediated sites	80.7
Contaminated sites (estimate)	245.9
Potentially contaminated sites (identified)	1823.6
Potentially polluting activity sites (estimate)	2965.5



Handover of data collection task to ESDAC

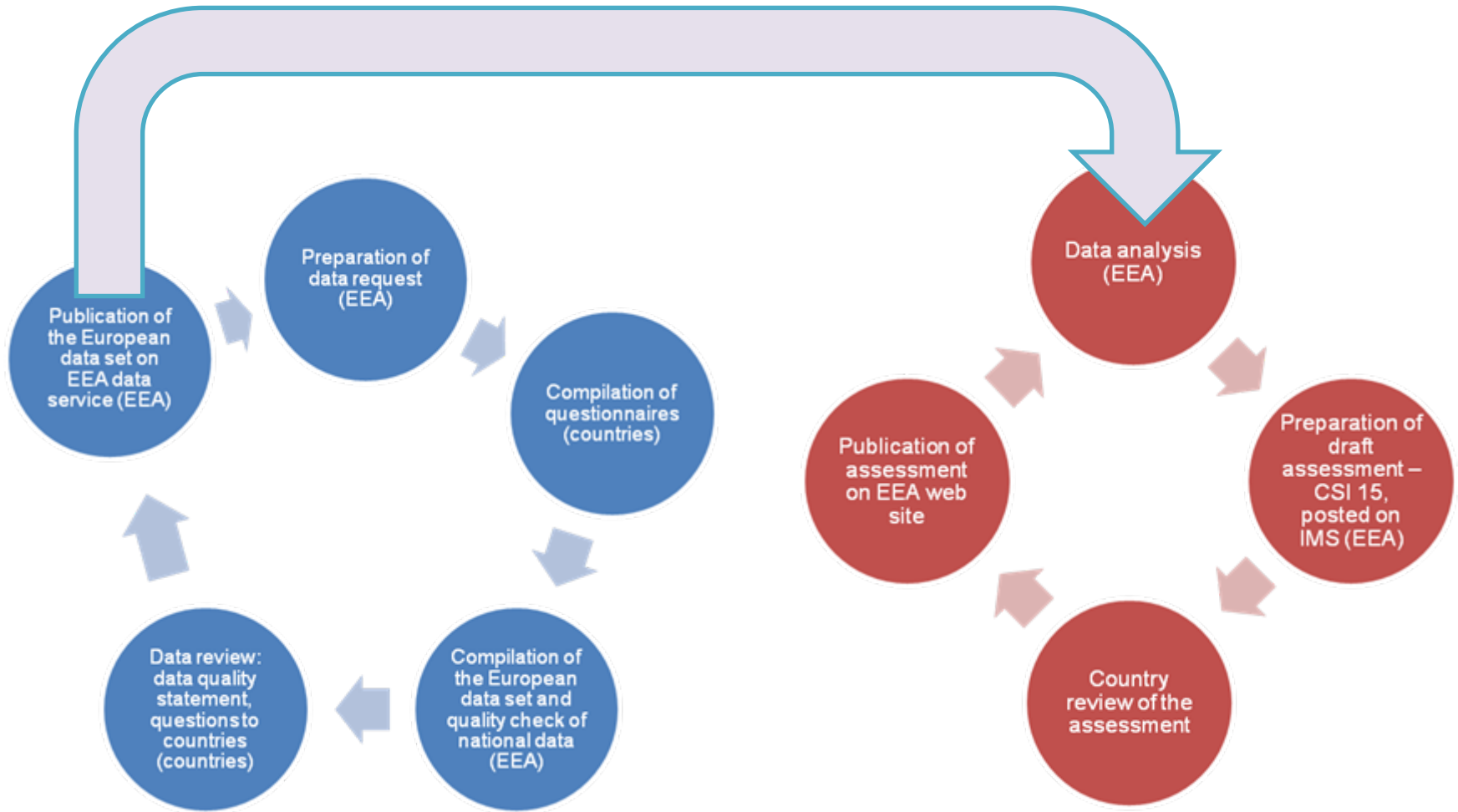
Elements passed by EEA to JRC

- A) Documents prepared for the 2006 data collection:** guidelines, questionnaire template (on EIONET Circa)
 - B) Original country data** (on the Reportnet Central Data Repository/CDR; Belgium and Italy do not use CDR but post data on National Circa)
 - C) EEA datasets on contaminated sites:** Compilation of the country data 2001-2006 and previous versions; Data description and metadata (on the EEA data service - 2007)
 - D) 2007 Eionet review of the datasets:** Background information and country replies (available on the EEA Indicator management system/IMS web site); data quality report listing country specific quality issues (on EIONET Circa)
- The **Reporting Obligation Database/ROD** provides links to: next reporting deadline, guidelines, delivery format, national contacts.



Eionet Data Flow - How it works now

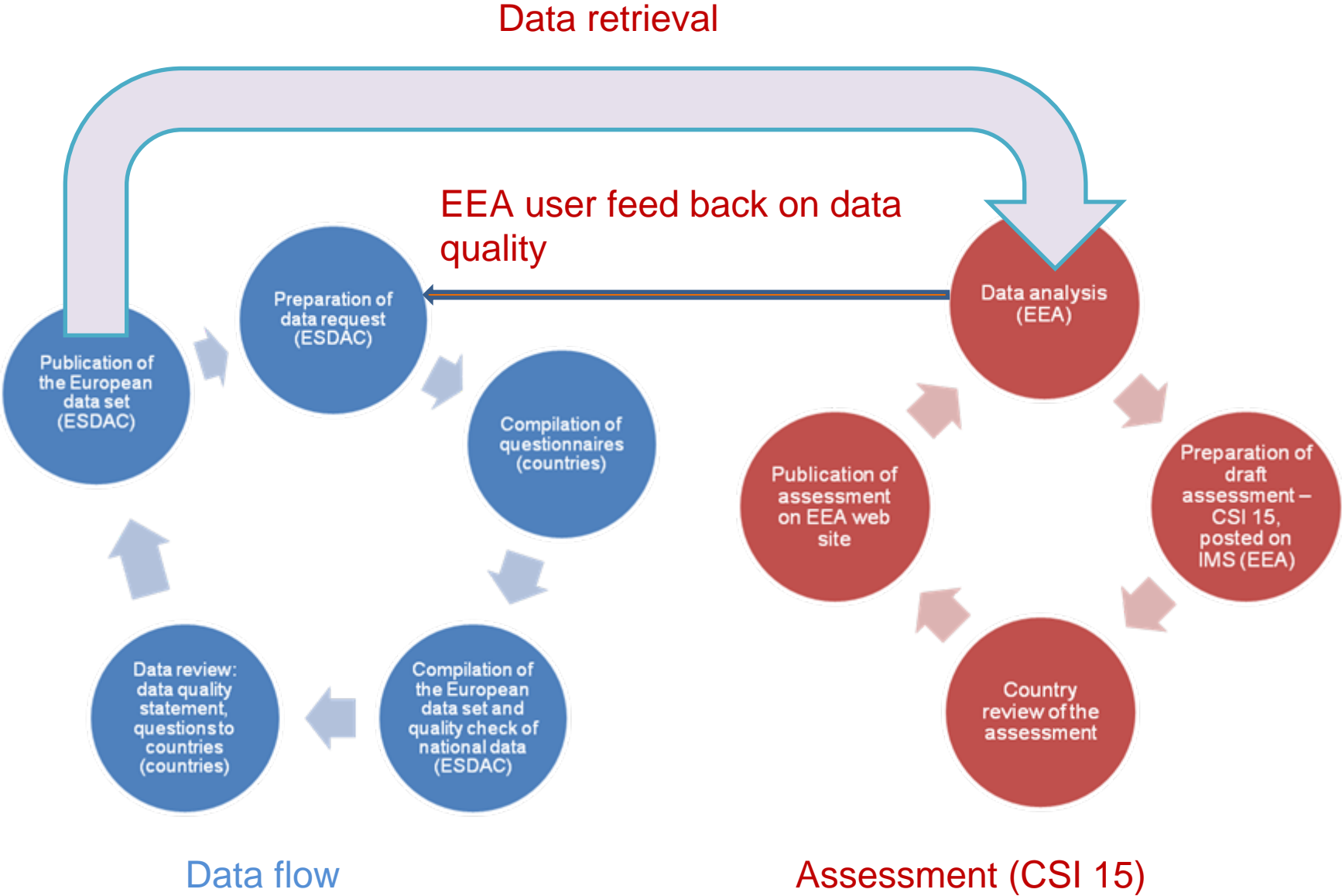
Data retrieval



Data flow

Assessment (CSI 15)

Eionet Data Flow - How it will work in the future



Data flow: outstanding questions

- Regular cycle: frequency?
- EIONET NRC role?
- Use of Reportnet?
 - Deadline in ROD
 - Country deliveries in CDR
 - Future use of Data Dictionary
- European data set publication: where?



EEA soil integrated assessments

Content and data needs

- **the status of soil resources**
 - the threats to soil (contamination, erosion, salinisation, soil organic matter, sealing, hydro-geological risks, compaction, soil biodiversity)
 - soil functions and services
 - hot spots and sensitive areas
- **cross-cutting issues** (e.g. desertification, soil and climate change, soil and land planning)
- **the socio-economic dimension of soil degradation** (e.g. market-based instruments for soil protection)
- **soil policy, management and information**



EEA soil integrated assessments

Data availability

- **Good coverage** (Eionet data flow on contaminated sites; UNCCD reporting; basic data: European soil map)
- **Data from research** (soil erosion risk: Pesera)
- **Data gaps** (Europe-wide assessments on soil threats; socio-economic dimension)



Soil country analysis

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1 THE GENERAL CONTEXT

2 THE STATUS OF SOIL RESOURCES

3 SOIL POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

4 SOIL MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

5 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

6 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

7. ECONOMY

8. LAND DEVELOPMENT AND LANDUSE CHANGES

9 SOCIETY

10 REFERENCES



Soil country analysis

Revised time schedule

Country group	Countries	Questionnaire to be sent out on:	Completed questionnaire to be returned on:
1	Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Sweden	Mon 24/ 09/ 07	Mon 26/ 11/ 07
2	Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland	Mon 01/ 10/ 07	Mon 03/ 12/ 07
3	Cyprus, France, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal	Mon 08/ 10/ 07	Mon 10/ 12/ 07
4	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom	Mon 15/ 10/ 07	Mon 17/ 12/ 07

