

ENEA – THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES FOR COHESION POLICY

The *European Network of Environmental Authorities for the Cohesion Policy* was set up in September 2004, following the seminars on environment and Structural Funds held at Santander (Spanish Network, March 2003), Brussels (DG-Env, December 2003) and Szentendre (REC, May 2004).

The Network was set up in order to contribute to the integration of the environmental and sustainable development policies within the regional policy programmes of EU Member Countries and Candidates for accession to the EU.

A. Members

It brings together the representatives from the 27 environmental authorities for structural and cohesion funds of the EU; in addition to the Candidate countries, international organisations like the EEA, REC, European initiatives such as EPRO and ENCORE, the Environmental NGOs' Coalition (represented by World Wildlife Fund, Birdlife International and Bankwatch) participate as observers; the other relevant Commission DGs (REGIO, EMPL, TREN, AGRI) participate as well. At the Plenary in November 2008, it was decided to enlarge the Member State membership also to Managing Authorities. It is chaired by DG ENV.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the ENEA is to create and foster connections and exchange of knowledge and practices among all the Authorities dealing with the integration of the environmental dimension within the Community Cohesion policy. The opportunity for national EA networks to be part of an EU-wide network is a crucial step to foster the environmental sustainability goals of Cohesion policy. ENEA is trying to help efforts to set up National Environmental Authorities Networks for Cohesion Policy in the Member States, where this is feasible.

C. Tasks

- to allow DG-ENV to bring the Environmental Authorities up to date on the evolution of the Community Framework, and to allow the Environmental Authorities to inform the Commission on progress and issues at national and regional level;
- to allow the Environmental Authorities to share good practices;
- to promote, wherever possible, National Networks of Environmental Authorities dealing with structural and cohesion funds.

D. Meetings

The Network meets twice a year for plenary sessions, indicatively one in Brussels and one in a Member Country.

Plenary sessions allows the European Commission to share with Member Countries:

- updates about European legislation, approved and in preparation;
- guidelines and check-lists;
- policy options for the future.

Member Countries:

- share with the Commission issues and concerns;
- exchange best practices with other Environmental Authorities.

Many activities are carried out in working groups.

E. Working groups

In the first period 2005-6, ENEA has concentrated on five working groups with participation by Member States on a voluntary basis:

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Cohesion Policy**
- **Water Framework Directive and the Cohesion Policy**
- **ISFE – Impact of Structural and Cohesion Funds on Environment**
- **Environmental Capacity building**
- **The Third Pillar of the forthcoming Cohesion Fund**

DG ENV organised a series of [seminars](#) in order to help the Environmental Authorities of the New Member States deal more effectively with the administrative procedures and environmental information required for the approval of projects submitted either under the Cohesion Fund or ERDF (large projects). These seminars took place in all new Member States between end of February 2005 and May 2005.

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/integration/seminar_cohesion.htm

In the second period, 2006-8, eighteen themes have been proposed to Environmental Authorities at the plenary in Rome (26-27 October 2006). The following five Working Groups were selected for the period 2006-8.

- **Territorial cohesion & effectiveness of SFs measures**
- **SEA for Cohesion Policy**
- **Natura 2000 and Cohesion Policy**
- **Lisbon Agenda** and the Environment in relation to Cohesion Policy
- **Climate change** and how to mainstream climate considerations in the different stages of the programming period 2007-13.

In the third period, 2008-10, three Working Groups will be active:

- **Climate change** (continuation)
- **SEA** (continuation)
- **Biodiversity** (building on the Natura 2000 Working Group)

F. Publications, working documents

ENEA Anthology: It is a collection of case studies, guidance materials, training materials, best practices, and other materials produced by ENEA members. It can assist Environmental Authorities, Managing Authorities, regional authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders to build capacity for integration of environment into Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund programmes, by harnessing the experience of other members. In this sense, the Anthology is truly the output of a network, and the content of the Anthology is completely dependent on the voluntary inputs of ENEA members.

Making the Structural and Cohesion Funds Water-Positive: The document aims to help integrate sustainable water management into regional development programmes. It gives an overview of future funding needs and opportunities relating to water for the period 2007-2013, as described in the Cohesion Policy.

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/integration/pdf/final_handbook.pdf

The ISFE Report - The contribution of Structural and Cohesion Funds to a better environment: A preliminary stocktaking based on the analysis of the financial allocations for 2000-2006 and on a selection of best practices.

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/integration/pdf/preliminary_stocktaking.pdf

Stimulating innovation through the cohesion and environmental policies – ideas paper. The focus is on how environmental investment and sustainable development across all sectors can contribute to the Lisbon Strategy by promoting innovation, helping the European economy, creating jobs, ensuring environmental protection and enhancement and improving quality of life for citizens. This must be done while achieving economic and social cohesion.

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/integration/pdf/ideas_paper_dgenv.pdf

Lisbon Agenda: a report has been produced with the title, "Investing in the Environment as a Way to stimulate economic growth and employment", and placed on the ENEA homepage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/pdf/LisbonReport.pdf>

Territorial cohesion & effectiveness of SFs measures: a report has been completed in 2008 which has been placed on the ENEA homepage:

<http://eea.eionet.europa.eu/Public/irc/eionet-circle/regionalpolicyevaluation/library>

Natura 2000: documents have been recently loaded up on the ENEA homepage:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion_policy_en.htm

01.12.08