



'Europe's Environment – An Assessment of Assessments'

UNECE/WGEMA
20 October 2011

EE-AoA: Package of Outcomes

➤ Pan European Region: EE-AoA

➤ Regional Components:

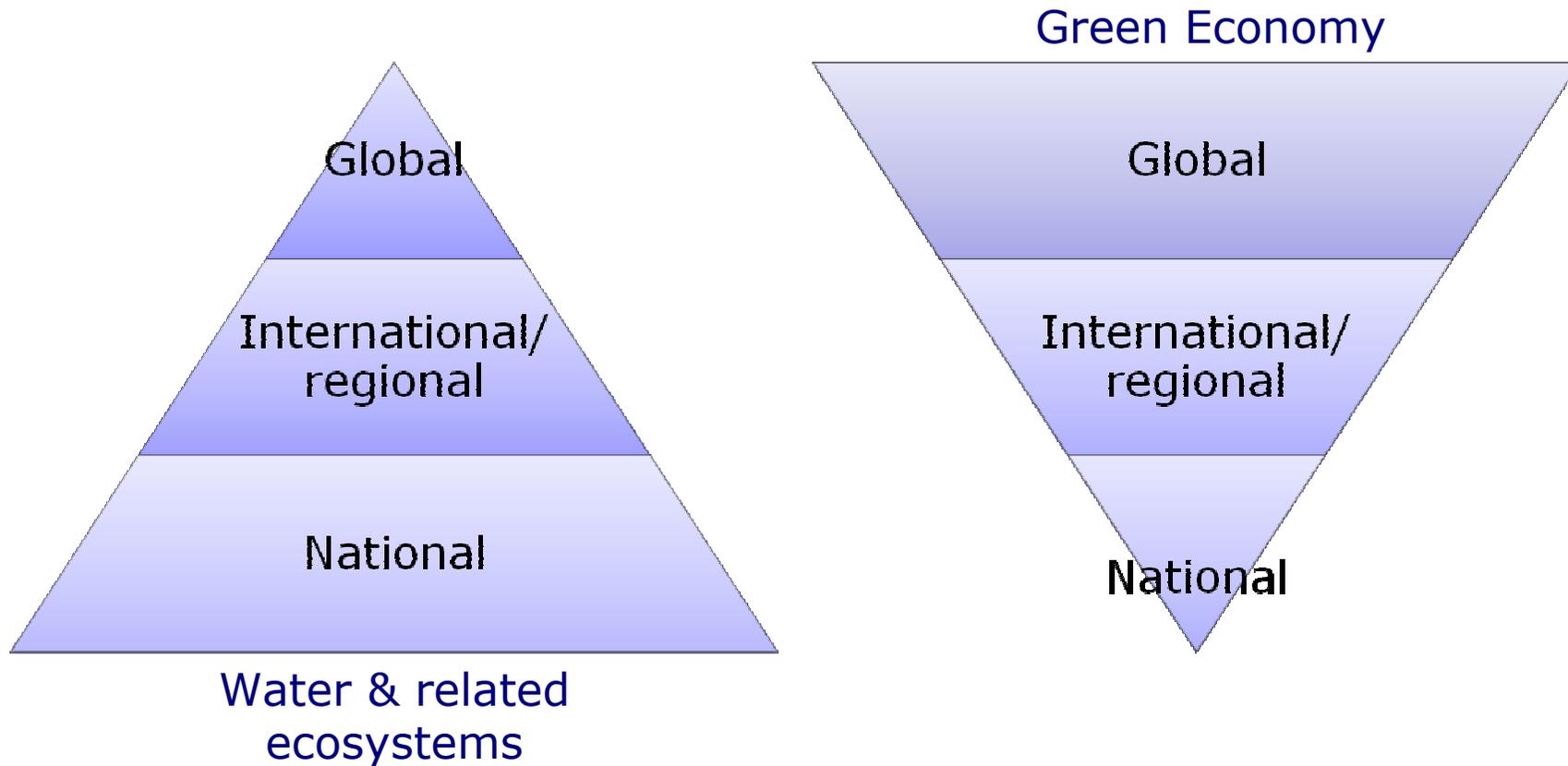
- Central Asia
- East Europe
- Caucasus
- Russian Federation



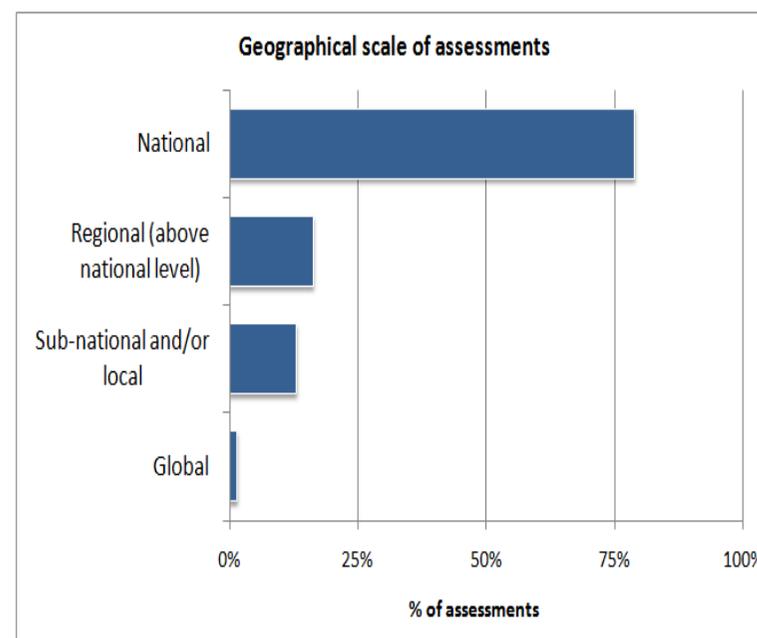
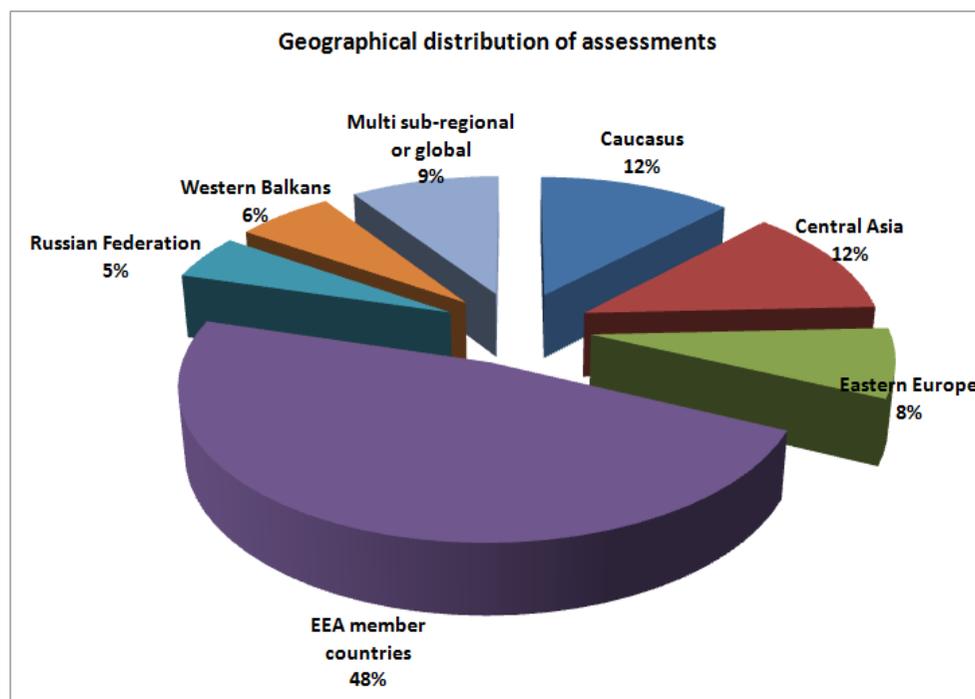
➤ Knowledge base comprising: Virtual library, Review Template, Country Fiches.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/regions/pan-european/virtual-library>

EE-AoA, Green Economy & Resource efficiency: **Methodological approach**



A balanced geographical coverage and scale was achieved during the review process of individual assessments



The review of individual assessments involved more than 50 experts across the pan-European region

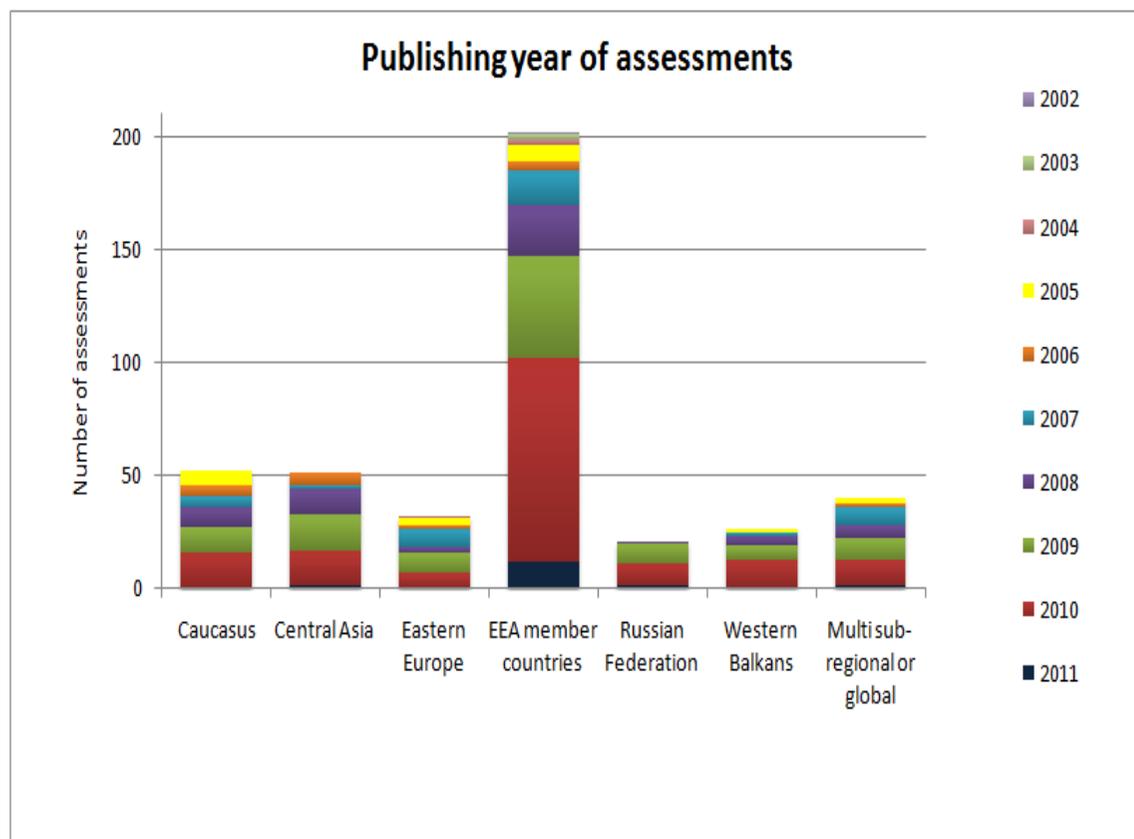
A total of 424 assessments reports were screened



Information should be managed as close as possible to its source



The review process of individual assessments focussed on recently released reports



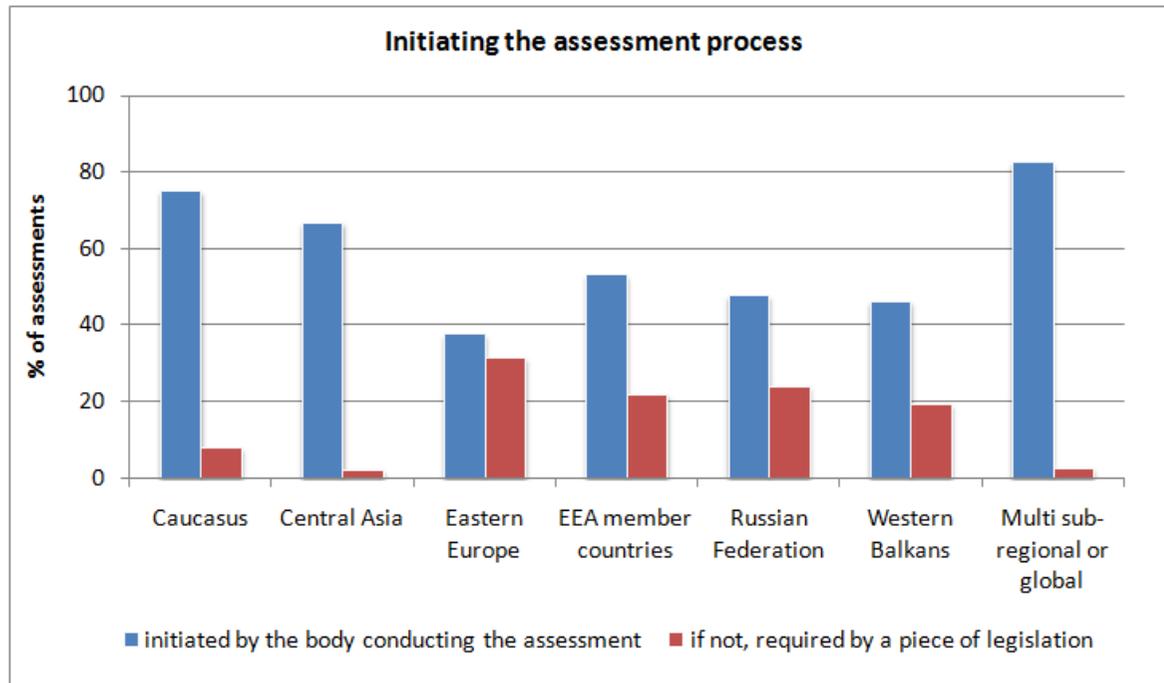
Some 67% of the reviewed reports were published over the period 2009-2011

Less than 2% of the reviewed reports were published before 2005



Information should be readily available to public authorities... and enable them to assess in a timely fashion the state of the environment and the effectiveness of their policies

The assessment process is weakly driven by reporting obligations



R

R1: Improve the linkage and use of assessments in the policy process

R4: Promote national 'state of the environment' reports

Providing for the right of the public to get access to environmental information

Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation have the highest share of assessments required by a piece of legislation (31% and 24%, respectively)

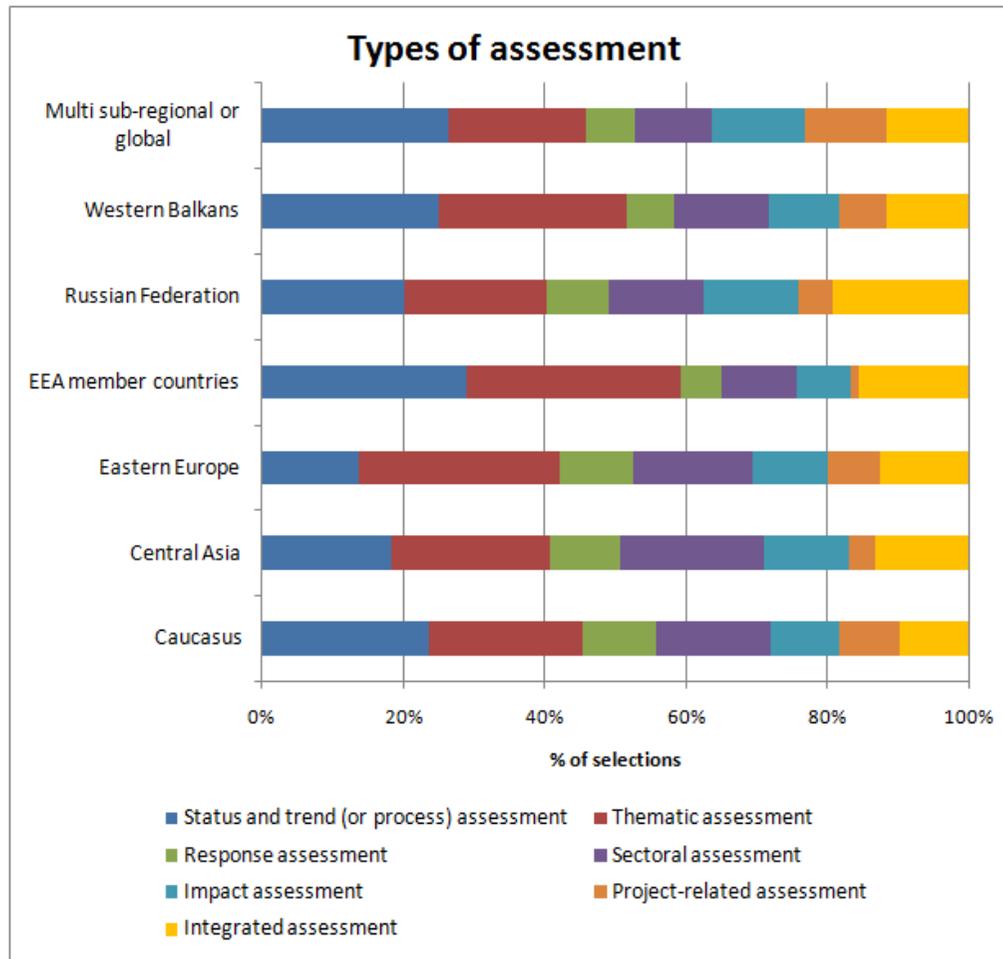
Information should enable public authorities to easily fulfil their legal reporting obligations

S

A



The share of integrated assessments is limited (40%) across the pan-European region



The most common assessments are thematic (75%) or status and trends (71%)

In the Russian Federation, 95% of the reviewed reports were classified as 'integrated'

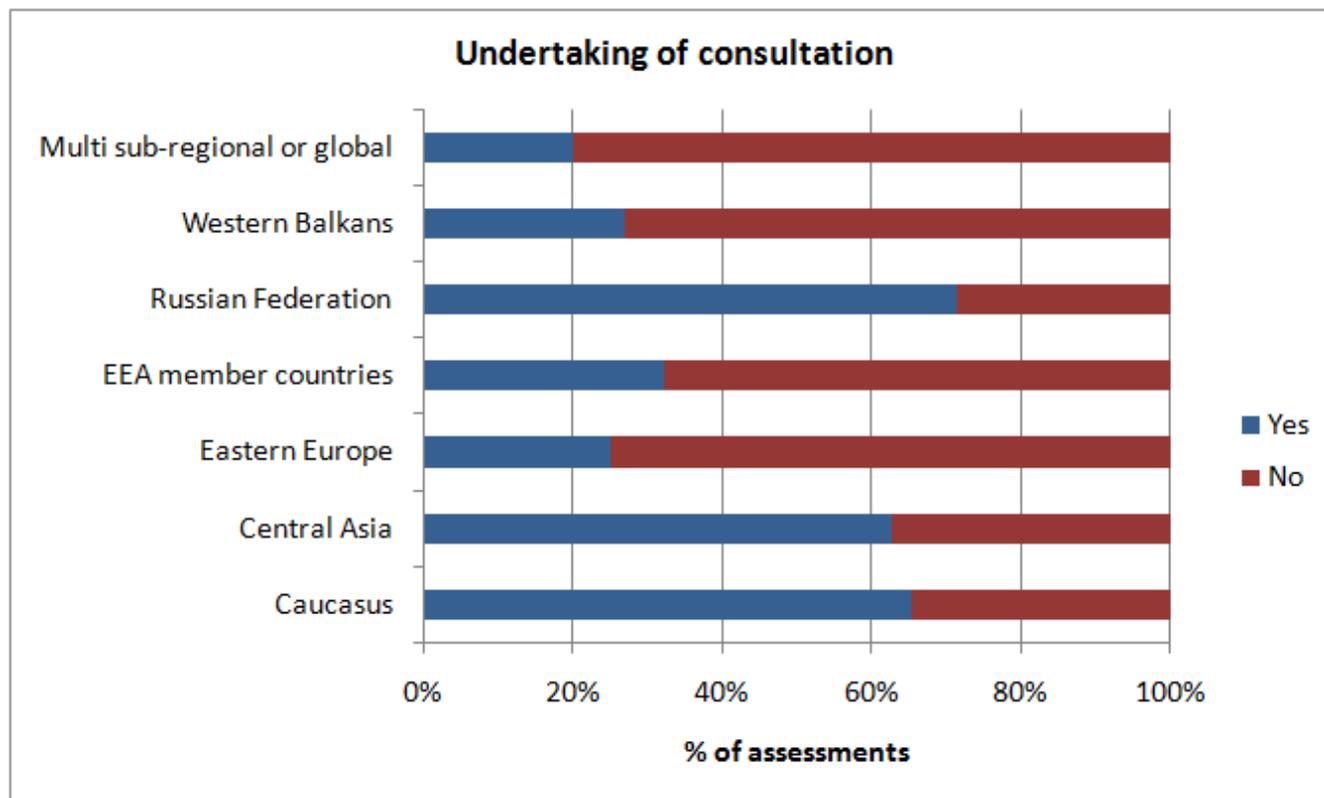
EEA member countries follow with 40% of integrated assessments



R6: Strengthen integrated assessment

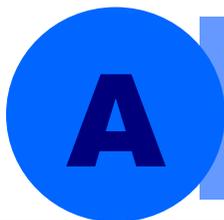


Consultation during the preparation of the assessments is not regularly carried out (or acknowledged) across the pan-European region



Only 40% of the assessments implied a consultation process

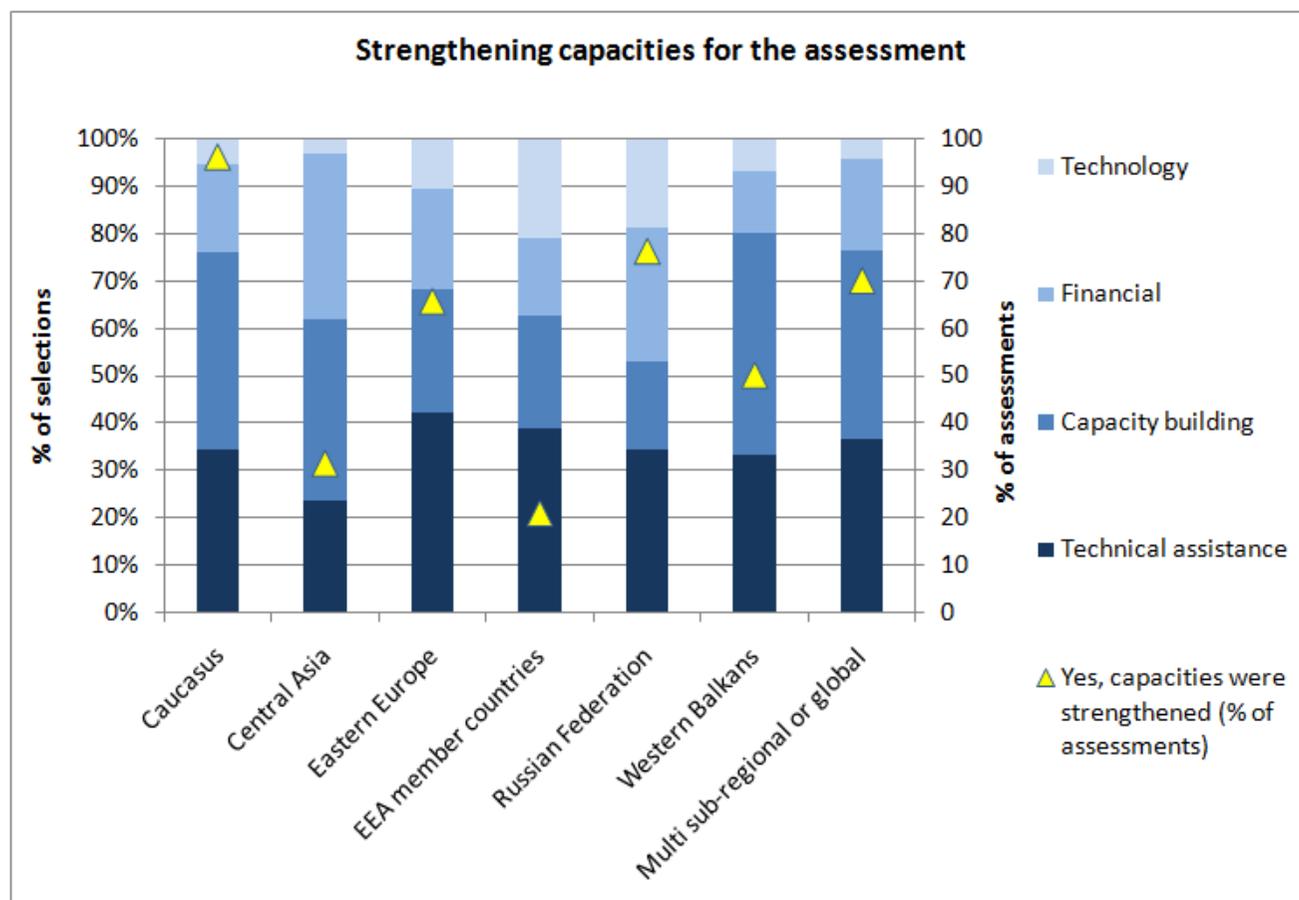
Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and EEA member countries have very low consultation rates (25%, 27% and 32%, respectively)



Providing for the right of public to participate in environmental decision-making



Substantial support for undertaking the assessments is received by some countries in the pan-European sub-regions



Caucasus received support for almost all (96%) reviewed assessments

76% of the assessments of the Russian Federation and 66% of those of Eastern Europe envisaged the strengthening of capacities

Technical assistance and capacity building are the most common forms of support



EE-AoA table of contents

Chapter 1: Setting the scene

- context and needs
- assumptions
- assessment framework
- methodology

Chapter 2: Water and Related Ecosystems

Chapter 3: Green Economy

Chapter 4: Cross-thematic analysis

Chapter 5: Recommendations

Chapter 2 Water : **Main Findings**

- a multitude of national water assessments is available
- increased use of indicators led to targeted and compact information
- data and information are only few years old
- improved timeliness of the relevant water info
- thematic policy and legal issue are included
- transboundary issue and hot spots are least discussed
- assessments include traditional issue (i.e. water quality), yet lack NEW issues: vulnerability, hazardous substances, extreme events.
- no or lack of link between socio-economic activities, status and trends, and measures - most informative for the decision makers

Chapter 3 Green Economy: **Main Findings**

- lack of agreed “Green economy” definition
- no Green Economy national assessments
- institutional arrangements are unclear
- lack of defined objectives for assessments
- lack of focus assessments

Chapter 3 Green Economy: **Recommendations**

- Extend the use of economic instruments as means of supporting progress towards a green economy and resource efficiency
- Improve consistency in data and information availability
- Develop indicators in the context of green economy
- Produce focused assessments addressing policy questions in broad areas

EE-AoA: EEA reflections and the way forward

- Improve the linkage and use of the assessments in the policy cycle - starting from the commissioning of new reports
- A new generation of state of environment reports and integrated assessments are needed as part of a sustainable Regular Process for keeping the pan-European environment under ongoing review
- a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) needs to be gradually extended across the region developed around three building blocks

EE-AoA: Main output from Astana conference

Extract from the draft Ministerial Declaration to be endorsed by the Ministers of Environment in Astana on 23 September during closing session

*“14. We welcome the “Europe’s Environment: An Assessment of Assessments” report, coordinated and produced by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in cooperation with the countries, the Regional Environmental Centers (RECs), MEA secretariats, UNECE and international organizations. This assessment clearly demonstrates the linkages and gaps between the challenges that exist and the means to evaluate and address them. To keep the pan-European environment under review, **we decide to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop the SEIS across the region.** These will serve multiple policy processes, including MEAs, and include capacity-building of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to monitor and assess their environment. We invite EEA and its partners to develop an outline for how these actions could be performed and to present it to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.”*



Thank you !

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>