

Migration EPA Network Directory information meeting – Virtual

2 December 2024, 9.50-10.50

Draft minutes

Participants:

- EPA Network Troika: Verena Ehold (Environment Agency Austria)
- EPA Network Coordinators: Liene Ābele (Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center), Marie D'Adesky (French ADEME), Ivana Gudelj (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition Croatia), Janka Guzmová (Slovak Environment Agency), Alexis Kurth (Swiss Federal Office for the Environment), Indrek Laas (Environment Agency Estonia), Stefania Ministrini (ISPRA Italy), Luis Morbey (Portuguese Environmental Protection Agency), Andrea Moser (Environment Agency Austria), Eszter Nyári (Hungarian Meteorological Service), Anna Nylander (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency), Agnese Pujate (Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center), Christina Pykonen (German Environment Agency), Paloma Ramos Fernandez (Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain), Mette Thillerup Rasmussen (Danish Environmental Protection Agency), Ivana Turčanová (Slovak Environment Agency), Steven Vinckier (Flanders Environment Agency), Tanya Vladimirova (Executive Environment Agency Bulgaria), Allard Warrink (Dutch PBL), Katarzyna Anna Wiech (Polish GIOŚ)
- EPA Network Interest Group Chairs and Co-Chairs: Francesco Astorri (IG CCS), Stephan Bartke & Pierre Prum (IG EPAS), Bettina Hitzfeld & Andreas Heissenberger (IG GMO), Pedrol De Freitas Giovana (IG Green and Circular Economy), Sabine Fritz (IG Green Finance), Sari Kauppi (IG Plastics), Nina Mahler (IG Noise), Sandra Moscone (IG Citizen Science), Jelle van Minnen (IG CCA)
- EEA: Milan Chrenko, Ana Cardoso, Nils Hettich, Amalie Bundgaard
- EPA Network Secretariat: Nicolas Perritaz
- Kevin Mercieca (ERA Malta), Peder Jensen (IG GCE), Giovanni Finocchiaro (IG Environment & Tourism), Vivien Kargoll (IG CCA) and Aisling OConnor (IG Citizen Science) sent their apologies.

The following points were discussed according to the agenda:

Welcome and objectives of the meeting

- Milan Chrenko welcomed the participants. He informed them that the Eionet Forum platform, used for communication between EPA network members and for storing documents or files related to meetings, has become obsolete. Therefore, the EPA Network needs to migrate to a new platform. The EEA has decided to use Microsoft Teams to communicate with its external networks, in line with developments in the Commission and European institutions.
- The overall objectives were to inform the EPA Network Coordinators and EPA Network Interest Group Chairs/Co-Chairs about the migration of the EPA Network Directory from the Eionet platform to the MS Teams platform and how this will affect the work of the EPA Network.
- Nicolas Perritaz reminded the composition of the EPA Network and the number of members concerned by the migration (around 300 people, including EPA heads, EPA network coordinators, Interest groups chairs/co-chairs and experts).

What the migration is about

- The EPA network currently has a [website](#), [internal web pages](#) accessible to network members with a user name and password, and a [directory](#) in which members are listed. By 'members', it means Heads of EPAs, coordinators, chairs/co/chairs and interest group experts.
- The migration from the Eionet Forum platform to the MS Teams platform is not about the content of the EPA Network's public website. It's about the internal workspace where the network stores documents and information.

Timeline

- For the timeline of the migration, please see slide 13 of the ppt presentation.
- From the Secretariat's point of view, it will be important to inform the Troika about the progress of the migration at its meeting on 15 January. The new platform will also need to be operational in January to allow registrations for the next EPA Plenary meeting in Vienna.

Support available

- If you have any questions about the migration, please contact epasecretariat@eea.europa.eu. From 13 January, please contact helpdesk@eea.europa.eu for any IT problems.

Q/A

- **Consultation during migration:** if consultation with the EPA network is planned during this transition period, please arrange consultation by written procedure via e-mail (contact the Secretariat).
- **Confirmation of Member lists:** Please check the Excel files of the member lists sent to you by the Secretariat. It is not necessary to organise a consultation with your members (e.g. with interest groups).
- **Information on the migration:** In January, the EPA network will receive a reference document on migration and general information will be published in the next edition of the EPA Network newsletter in December.
- **Access to EPA Network folders in MS Teams:** EPA network members will only have access to their folder in MS Teams. They will not have access to Eionet folders and vice versa.
- **MS Teams account:** members involved in different roles will have a single account with the same password.
- **Channels in MS Teams:** Will the MS Teams channels be available to all network members? Is it possible to have a 'private' IG channel that is not accessible to everyone? As part of the EPA network, it is sometimes necessary to create "a closed space for a limited period" to prepare documents to be presented to the Plenary for information or approval. While this is technically possible, MS Teams has a number of disadvantages. This needs to be discussed with the EEA. One solution would be to assign a password for temporary access to the document (tbc by the EEA).

Next steps/action points

- For EPA Network Secretariat: Send excel files with current membership (Heads of EPAs, Coordinators, and IG members) by 3 December
- For Coordinators of EPA Network: Confirm the Heads of EPAs and country's coordinators to the secretariat by 10 December
- For Chairs and Co-chairs of Interest Groups: Confirm the IG members to the secretariat by 10 December