

# Information for EU agri-environment policy

Projects and goals of the  
European Environment Agency



# Structure of presentation

- Background on the EEA and relevant projects
- What are the needs for AE reporting in Europe?
- Can we evaluate EU AE policy?
- Obstacles and bottlenecks
- Some final thoughts and challenges



# Introduction to the EEA

The EEA is an EU agency established in 1994 to:

- collect data and information on the environment in Europe
- report on main environmental trends and underlying (economic) driving forces
- by these means lay the basis for environmental decisions by policy makers
- The EEA has 31 member countries+160 staff, see: [www.eea.eu.int](http://www.eea.eu.int)



# EEA reporting in the agri-env. field

## **State of environment reporting:**

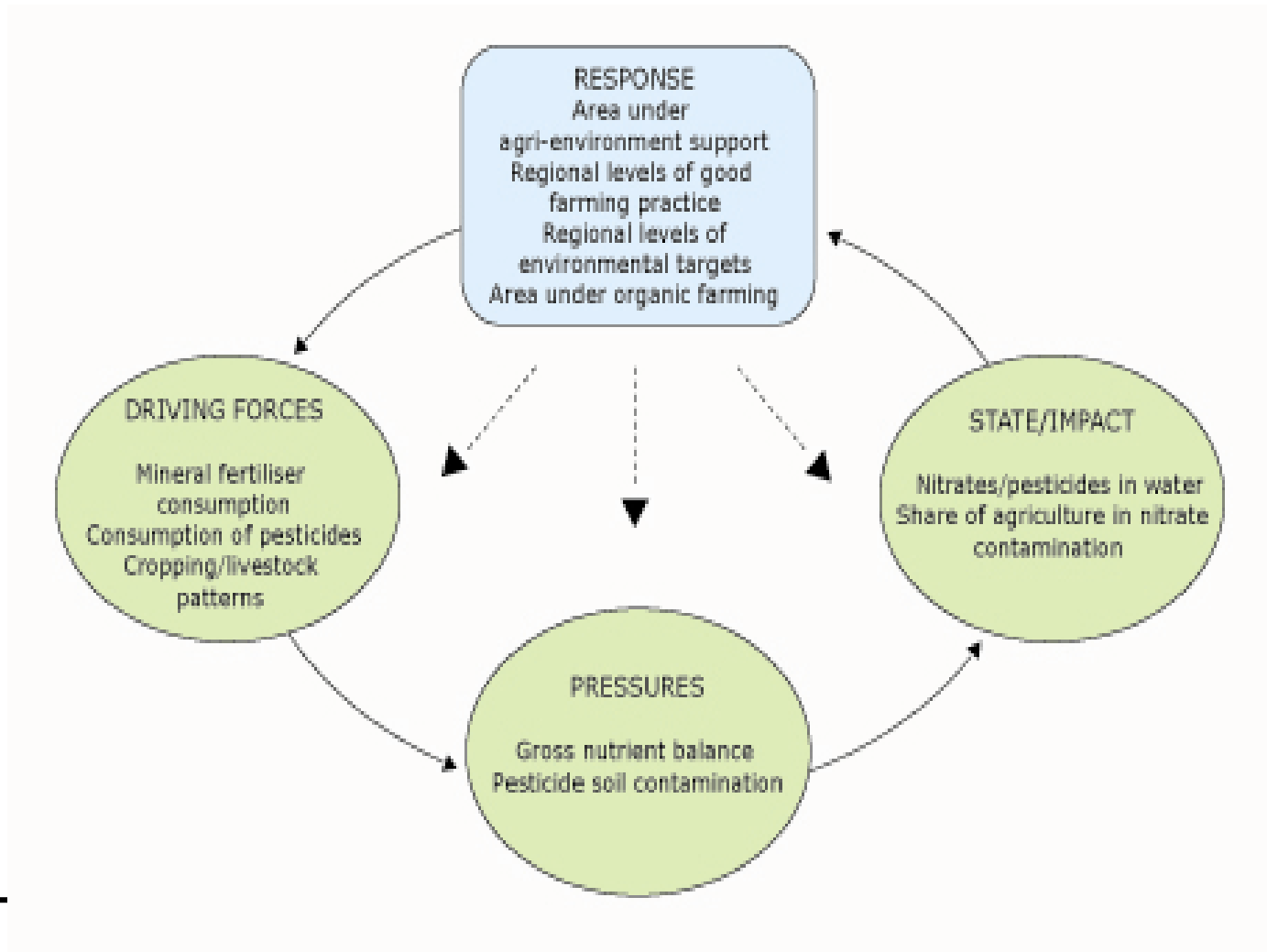
- Soils: erosion, contamination, urbanisation
- Water: quality and quantity
- Biodiversity: distribution, state + trends
- Climate change: impacts and adaptation

## **Policy analysis and policy support:**

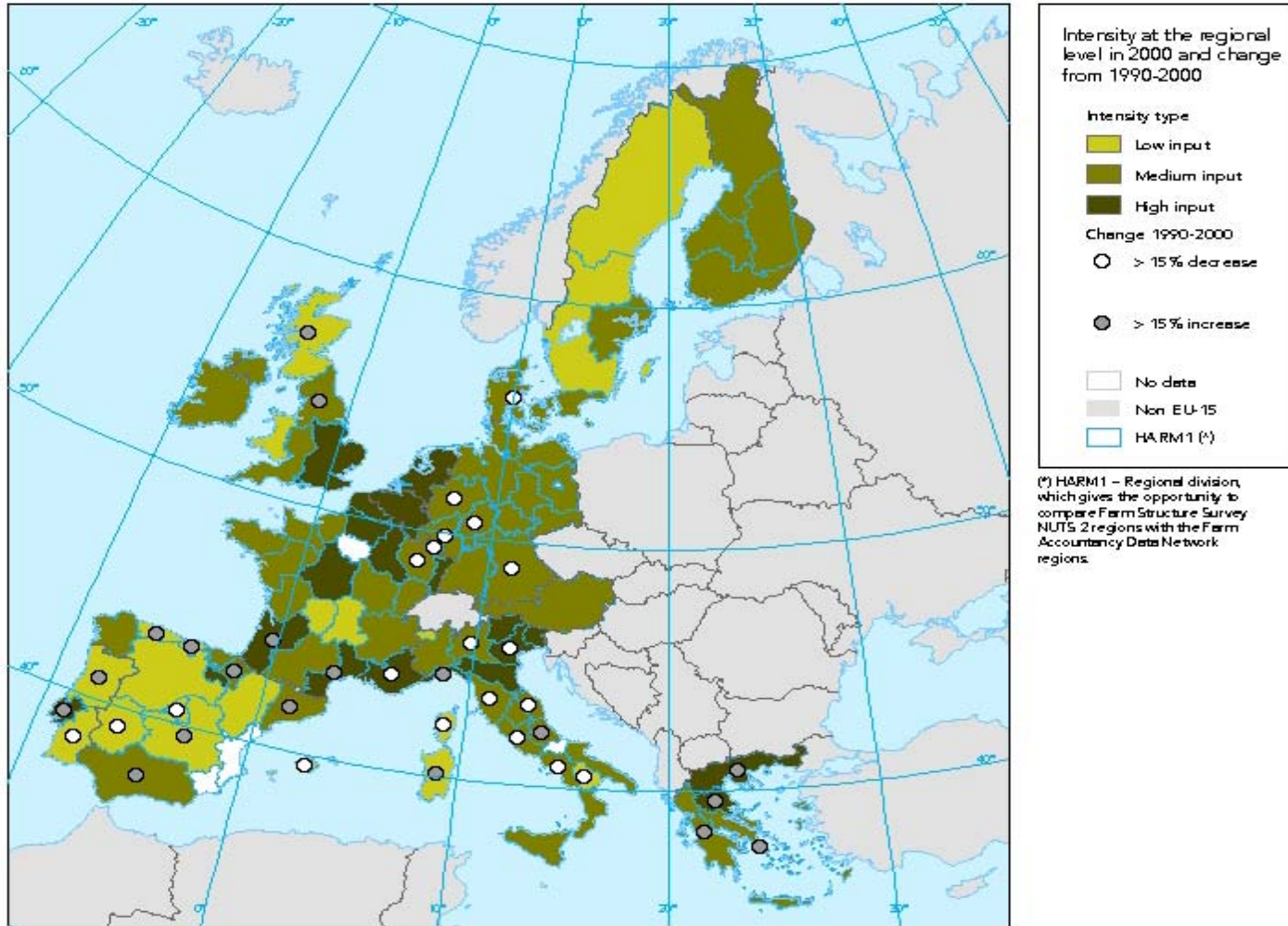
- IRENA agri-environment indicators + reports
- Building environmental farm advice systems
- Report on CAP impacts + EU enlargement
- Farm sector trends; rural area scenarios
- Analysing agri-water links, WFD support



# DPSIR water quality storyline (IRENA)



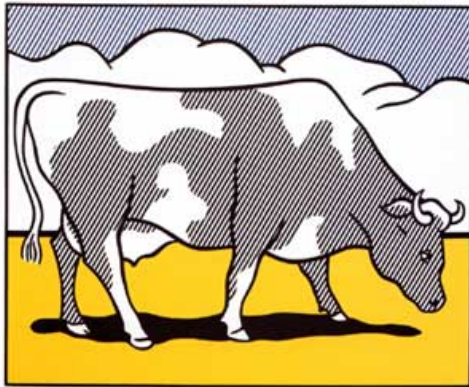
# Spatial reporting (?): farming intensity



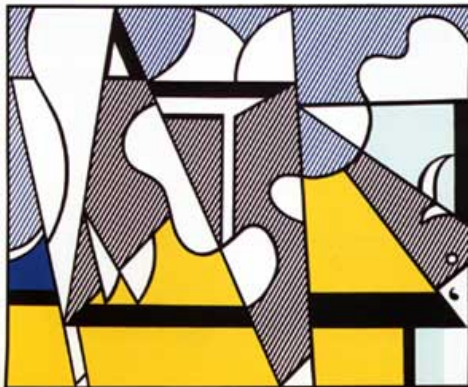
## EEA agri-env. reporting should:

- Document AE trends in Europe
- Be spatially explicit (at country level, NUTS regions, grid/local level)
- Link to major policy processes (CAP reform, WFD directive, Natura 2000..)
- Support environmental policy integration
- Advance the development of integrated environmental analysis (?)

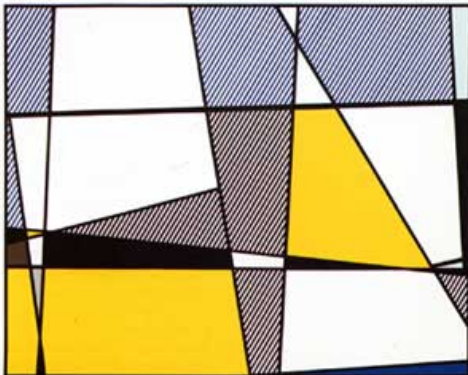




A picture of reality(?)  
- Member State level



Cubism/patterns of  
reality – EU level



Abstract painting –  
data on policy outcome &  
effectiveness studies(?)





# Supporting the art of policy evaluation

- We need further resource investment in collecting data relevant to the monitoring and evaluation of AE policy
- How to spatialise statistical and administrative data ?
- The evaluation of EU directives and policies needs to be part of the policy planning process
- Favour the robust + relevant over the intellectually challenging



# The slide Philip Lowe has been waiting for..

- Philip, you are a nice guy, but ..
- Why do I have to speak about the results of evaluating EU agri-environment policy ??!!



## Is EU agri-environment policy effective?

- EU policy framework is often not bad
- Implementation at national level is the key to success
- Situation differs very much between Member States
- Is policy always the major driver?
- EU directives can work, after some time..
- EU initiatives have most effect at the end of the convoy, not for the fastest ships..



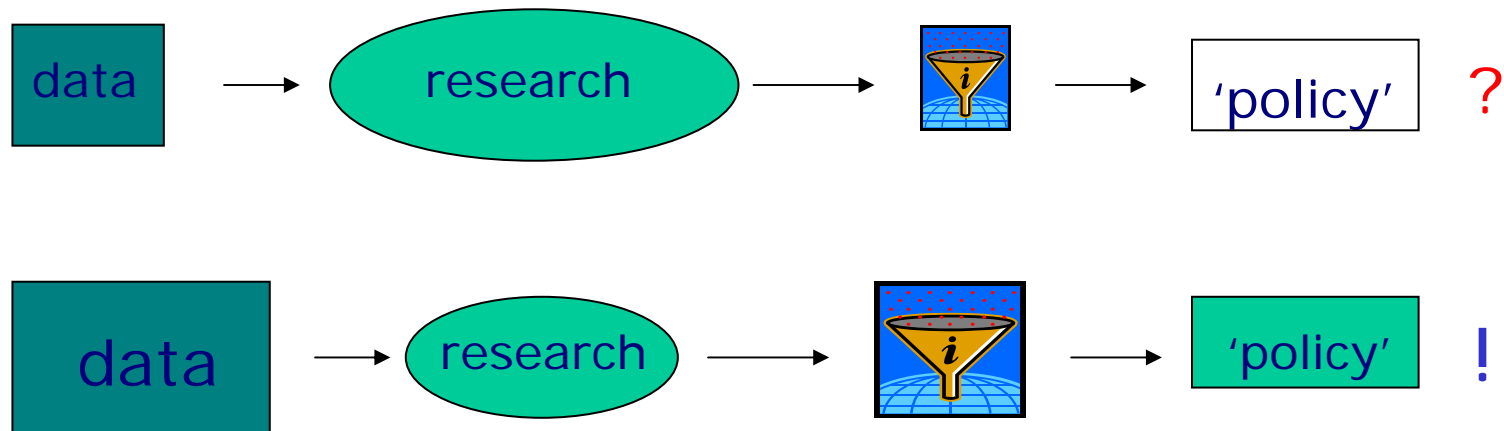
# Key policy issues and challenges:

- Bio-energy policy + its impact on land use
- Water framework directive implementation and cross-compliance
- Identifying HNV farmland + farming systems
- How to improve the geographic targeting of AE policy instruments + funds (LFA reform)
- The increasing national differentiation of RD policies (on the basis of modulation etc.)



# Knowledge transfer – a comment on Sir Howard Newby remarks..

- For EEA and the academic world: results need to be digestible for busy policy makers (robust + relevant..)
- A question of balance + bottlenecks:



Thank you for your attention!

(and for inviting me, Philip)

