

Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments

Findings from the Review Templates



By following the visual guidance below, look for the contribution of each of the findings to..

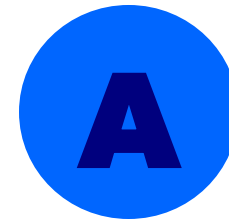
..the implementation of **SEIS** principles



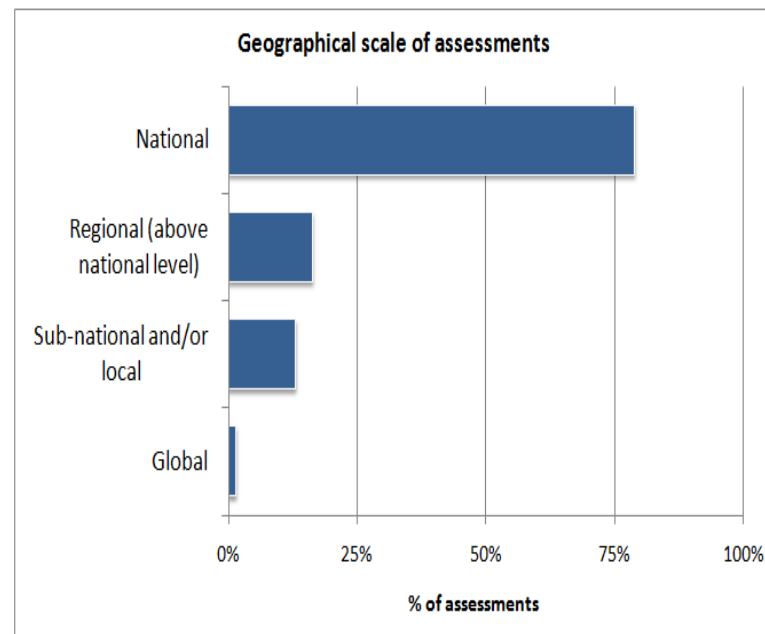
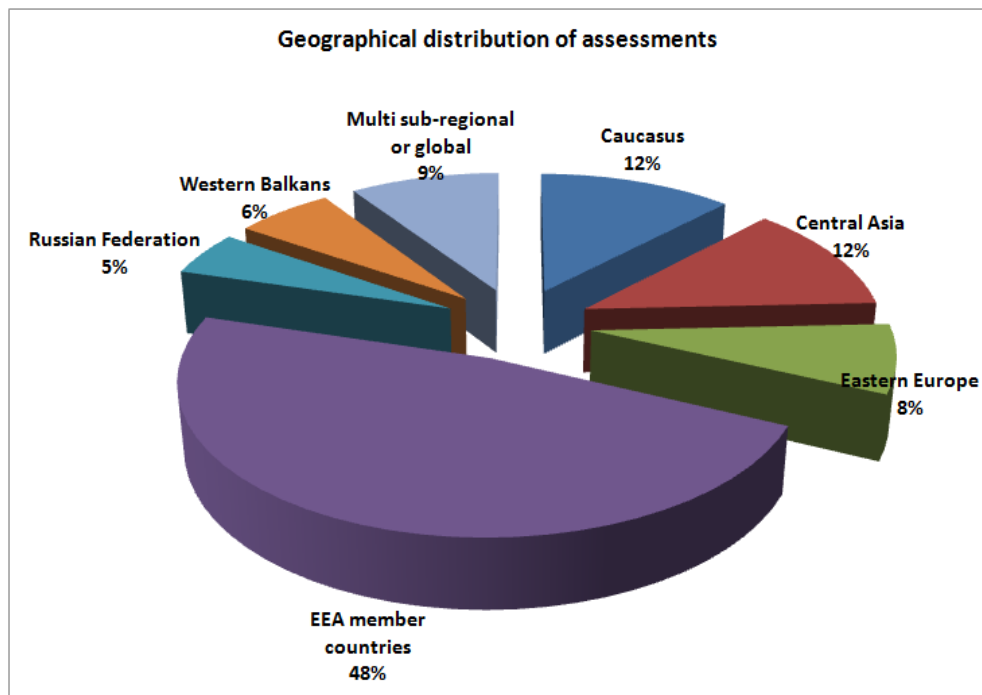
..the **Recommendations** of the Europe's environment Assessment of Assessments



..the provisions of the **Aarhus Convention**



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

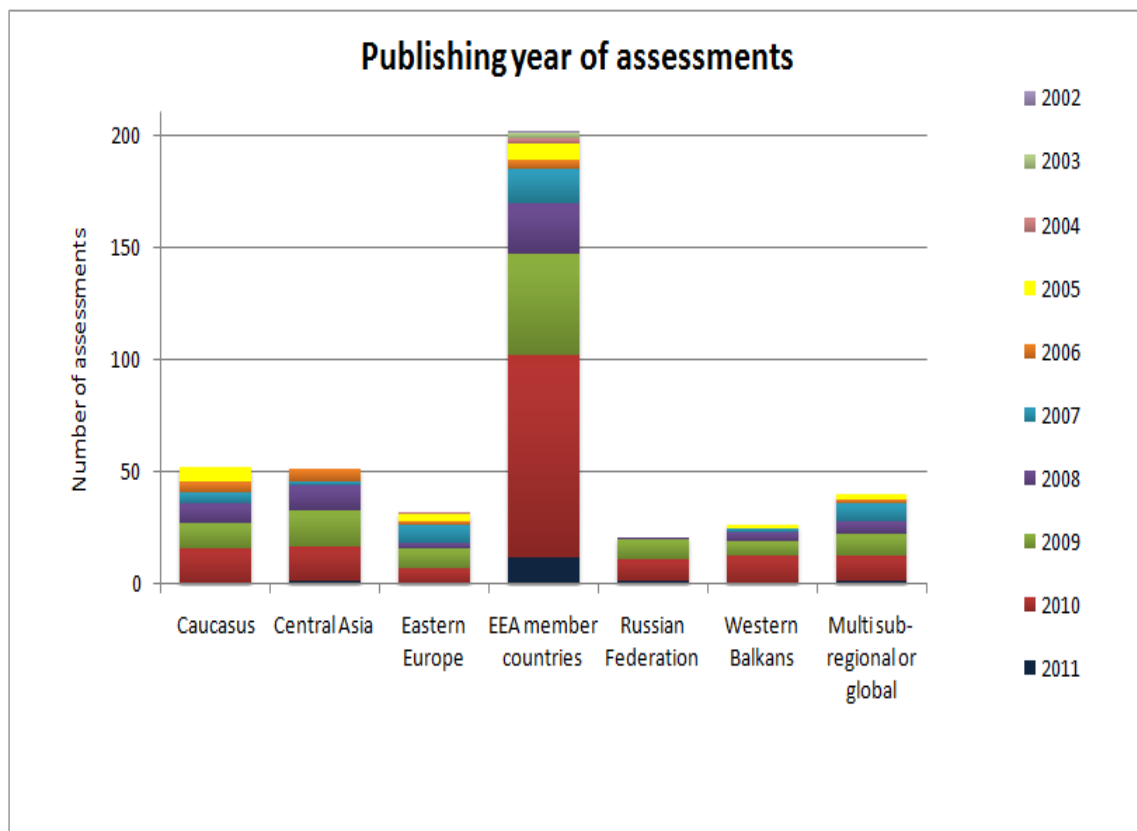
A total of 424 assessments reports were screened



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

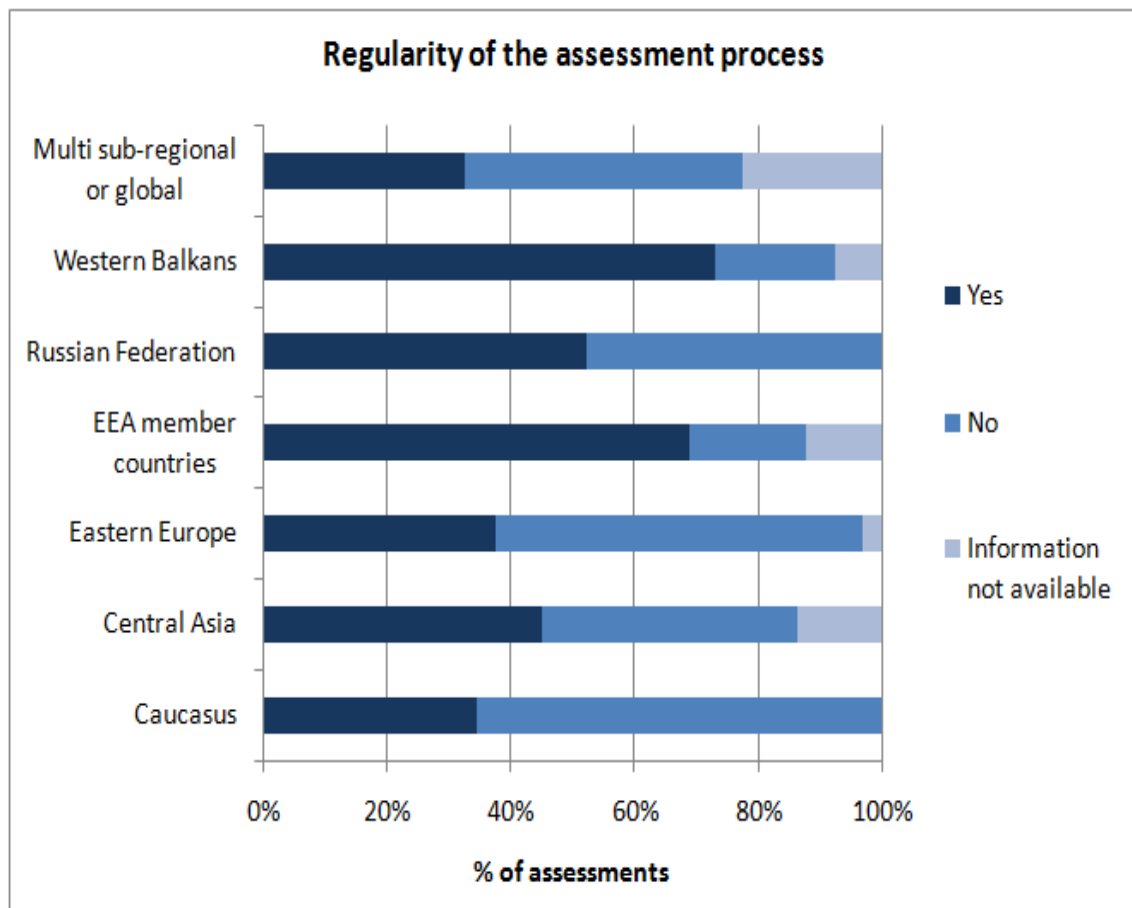
Less than 2% of the reviewed reports were published before 2005



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



A fair number of assessments (55%) are part of regular reporting processes but regularity is uneven across the pan-European region



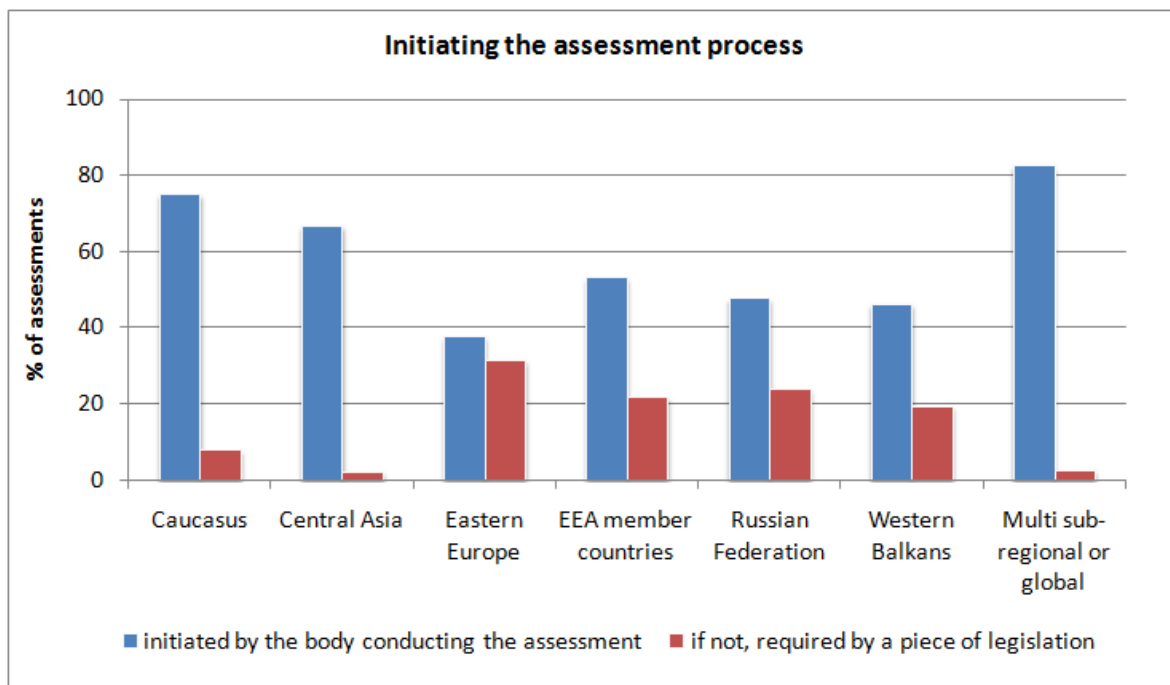
Western Balkans and EEA member countries have the highest number of reports based on regular reporting cycles (73% and 69%, respectively)

R

R2: Develop a regular process of environmental assessment and a shared environmental information system across the pan-European region



The assessment process is weakly driven by reporting obligations



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

R

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

R4: Promote national 'state of the environment' reports

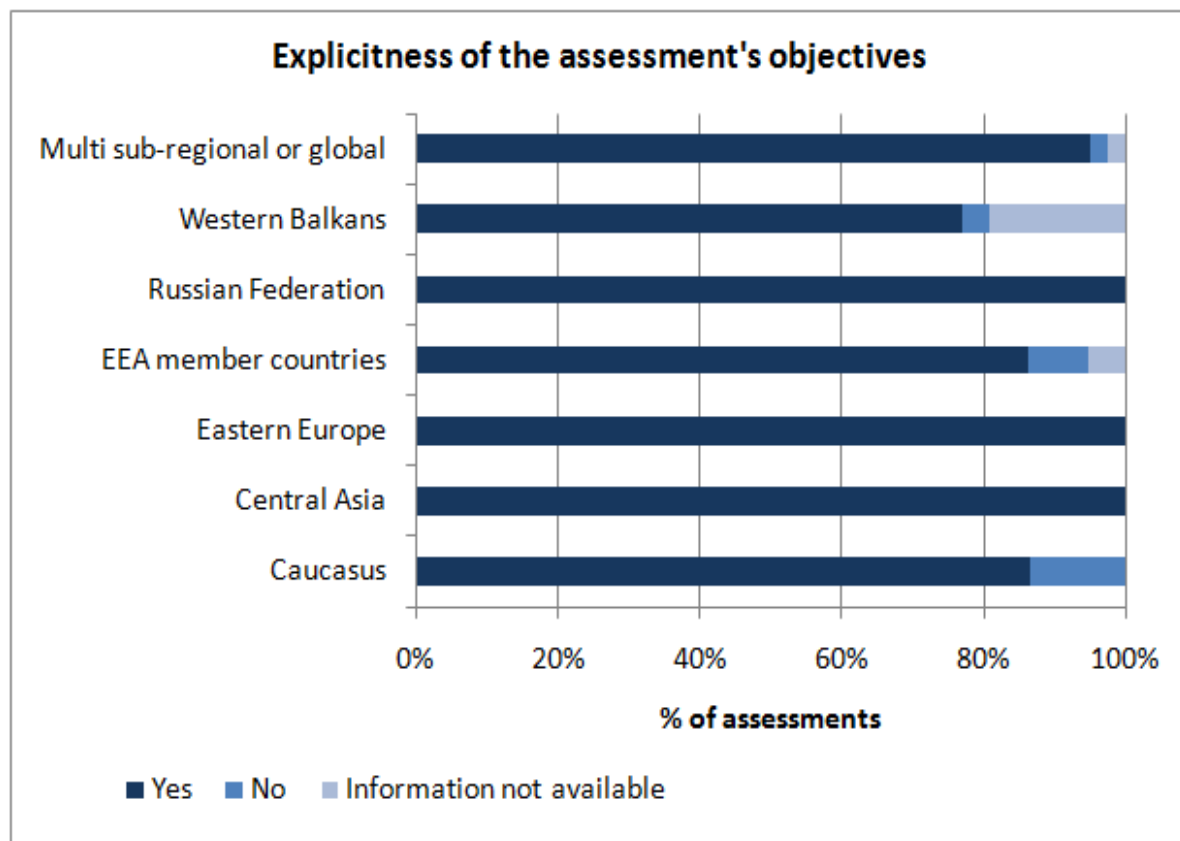
Providing for the right of the public to get access to environmental information

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A



Most of the assessment reports make their objectives explicit



In Caucasus, EEA member countries and the Western Balkans there is room for improving the clarity of assessments about their scope

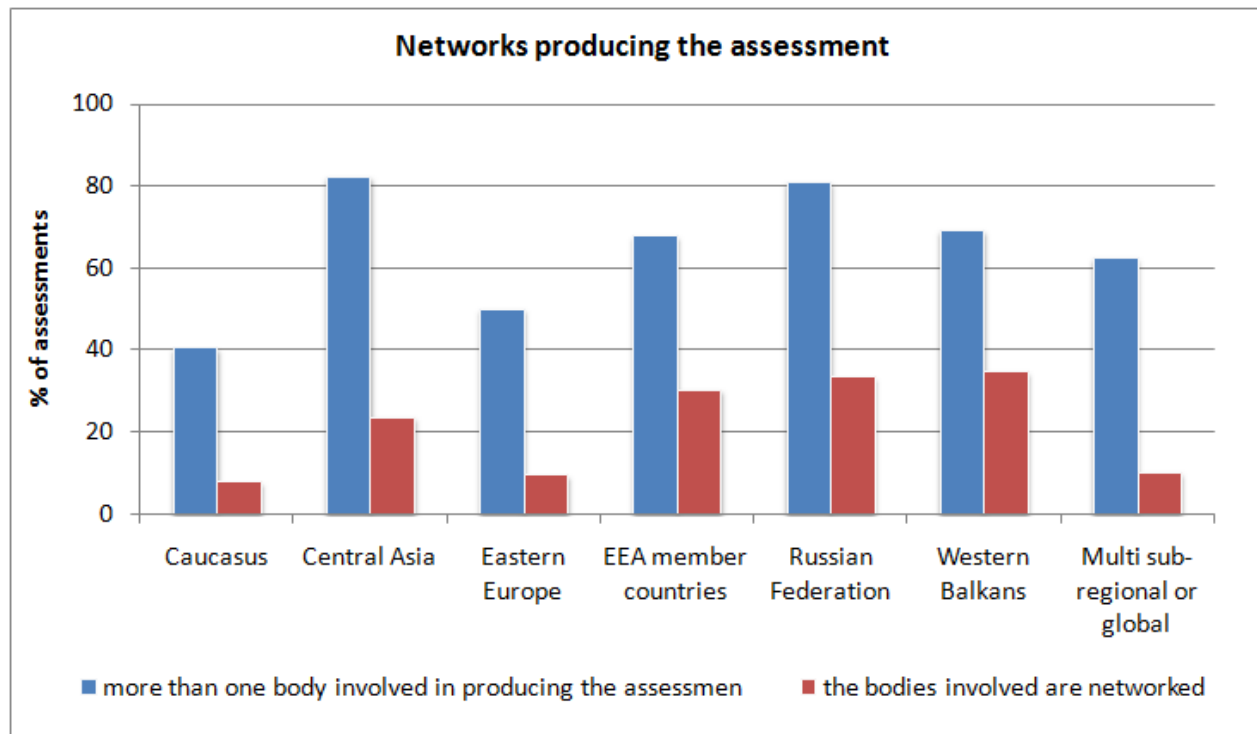
R

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

R8: Improve understanding of underlying concepts



A limited share of the assessment reports is produced by networking organisations

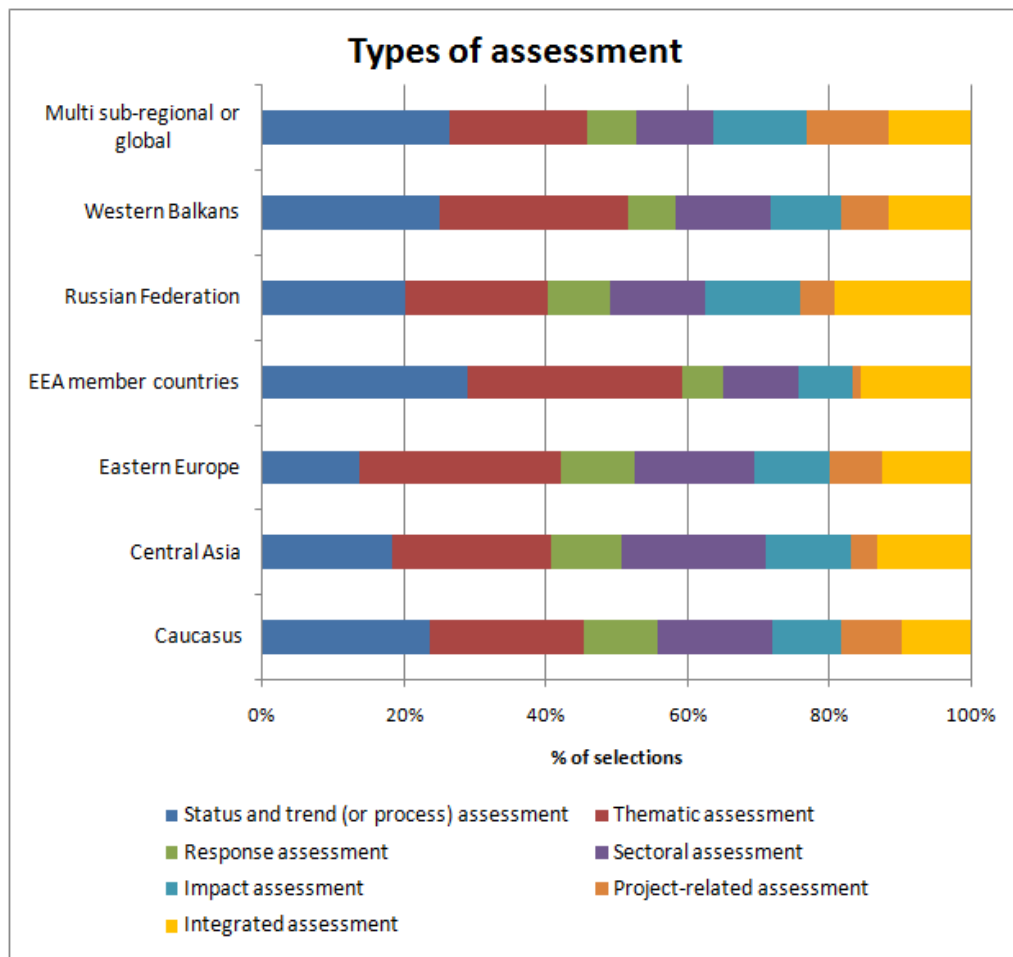


Information should be collected once, and shared with others for many purposes

Networking for the production of assessments in the Western Balkans, the Russian Federation and EEA member countries is fairly common (about one out of three reports)



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'

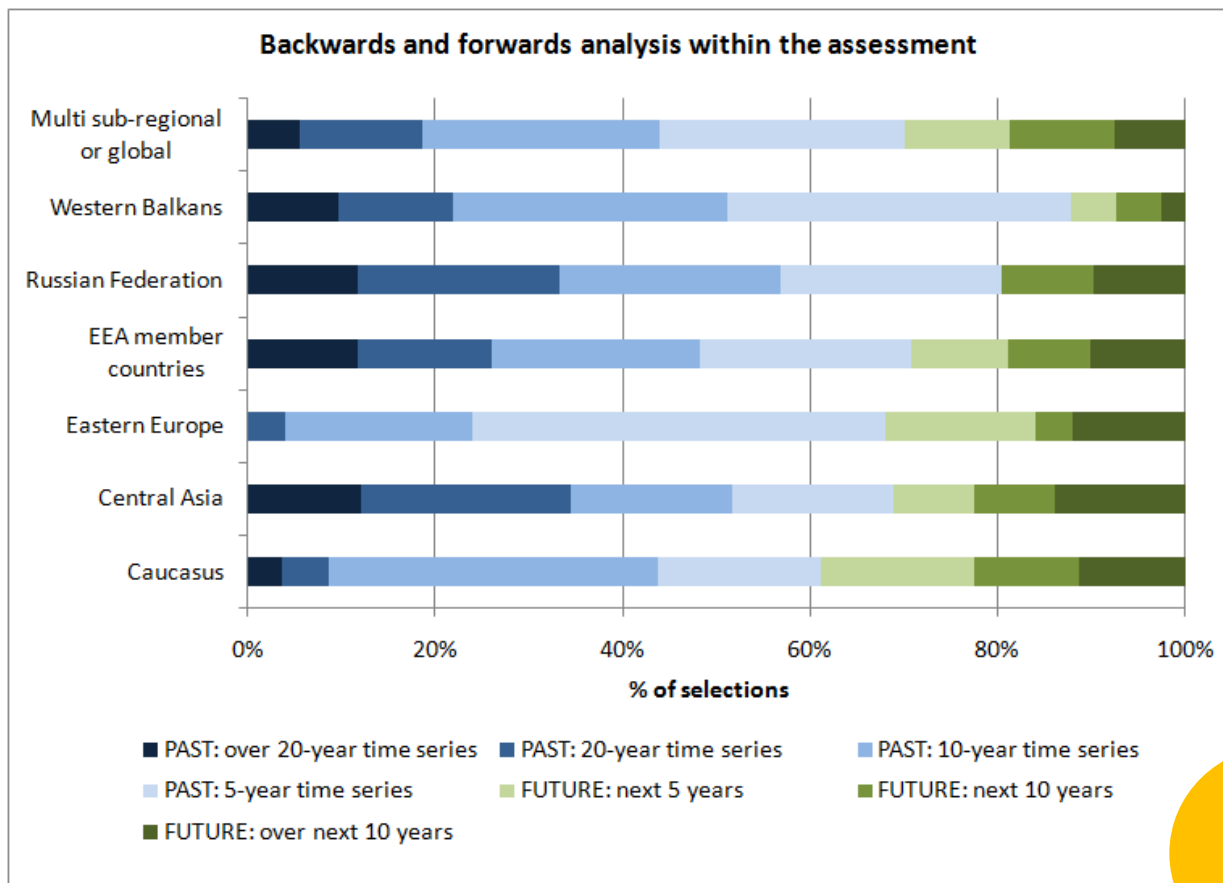
EEA member countries follow with 40% of integrated assessments



R6: Strengthen integrated assessment



Backwards analysis is preferred to forwards analysis, limiting the forward-looking component of reporting



Reliance on long time-series is limited

Forwards analysis over next 5, 10 years and over is included each in approx. 20% of the assessments reports

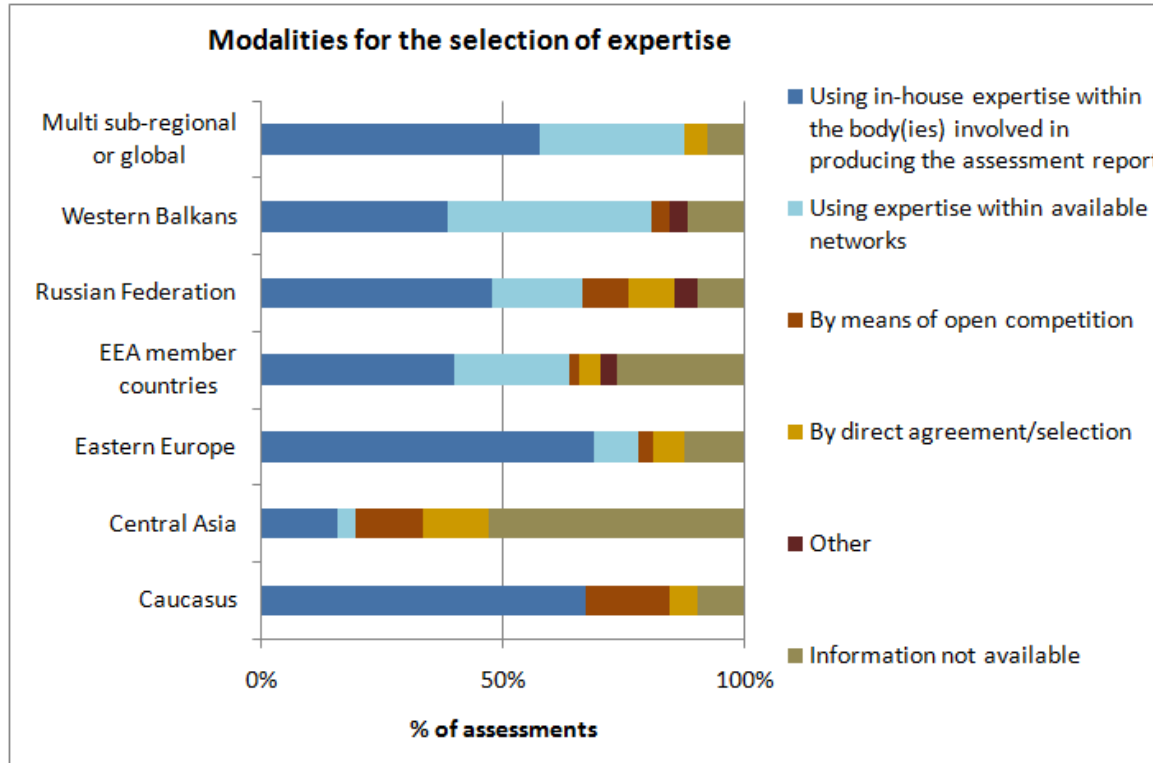
The lowest share of forward looking assessments is in the Western Balkans

R

R7: Promote and strengthen forward-looking activities



A good share (63%) of reports are developed using expertise available within the bodies or networks involved in the assessment



Central Asia, the Russian Federation and Caucasus significantly rely on external expertise (for 27%, 24% and 23% of the assessments, respectively)

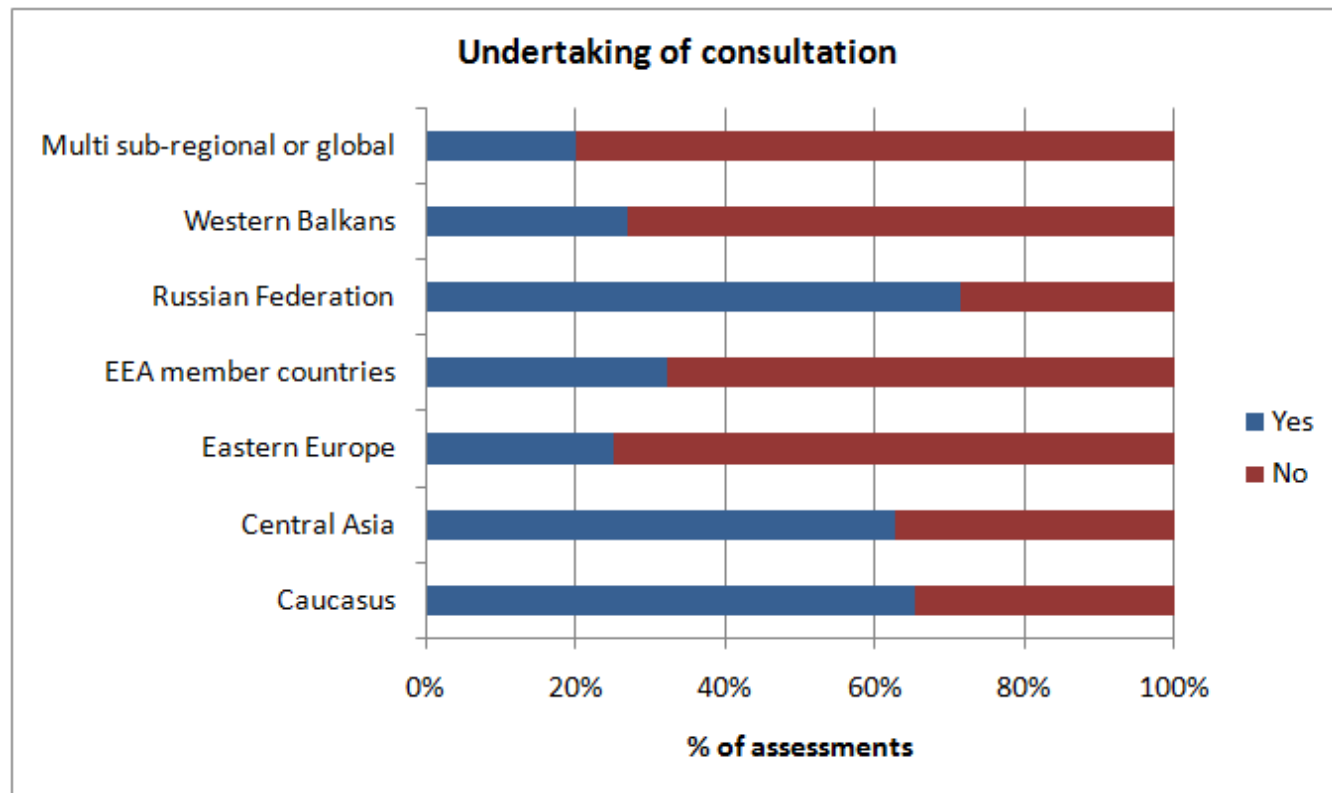
Several assessments (23%) do not make explicit how the expertise was selected



Necessary capacity building should be supported to facilitate the establishment of a 'Regular Process' of environmental assessments (R2), to conduct SoE reports (R4) and integrated assessments (R6), to promote and strengthen forward-looking activities (R7), and to improve the understanding of underlying concepts (R8)



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

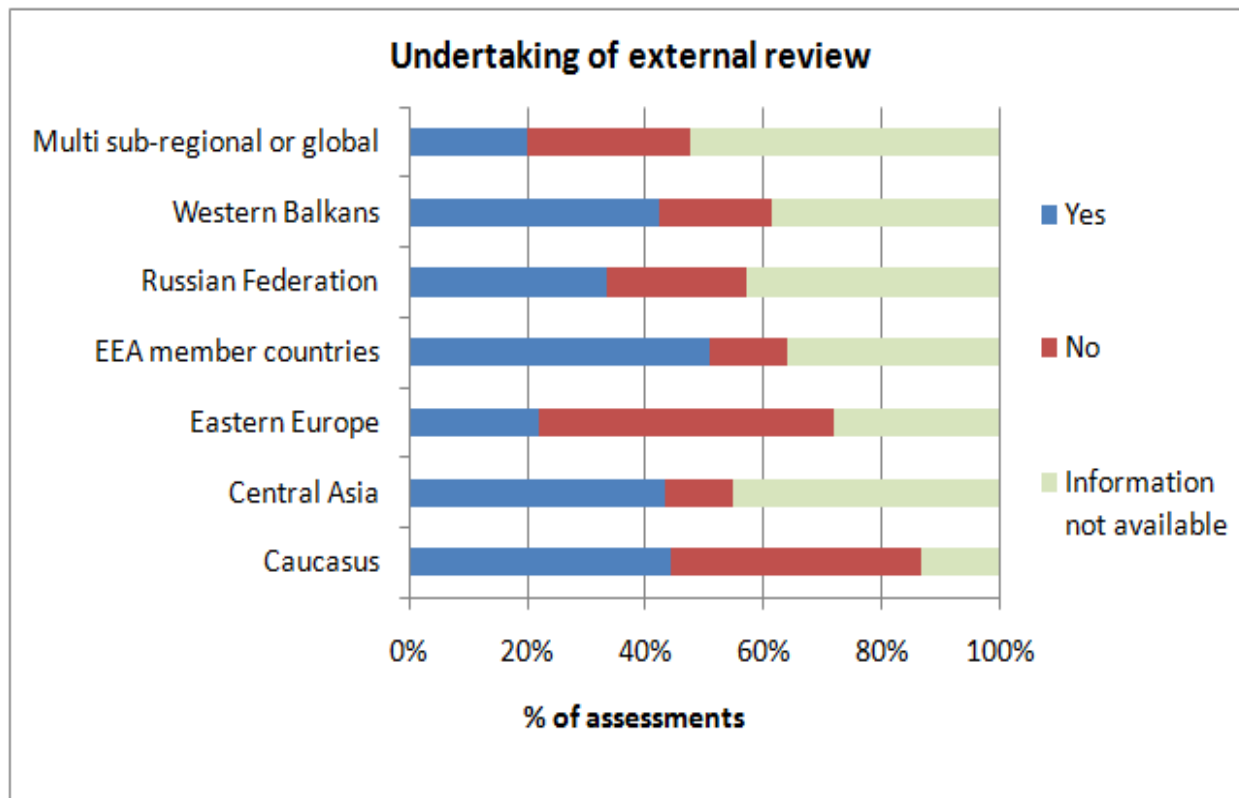
Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and EEA member countries have very low consultation rates (25%, 27% and 32%, respectively)

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



An external review of assessment reports is not regularly undertaken, weakening the credibility of the process



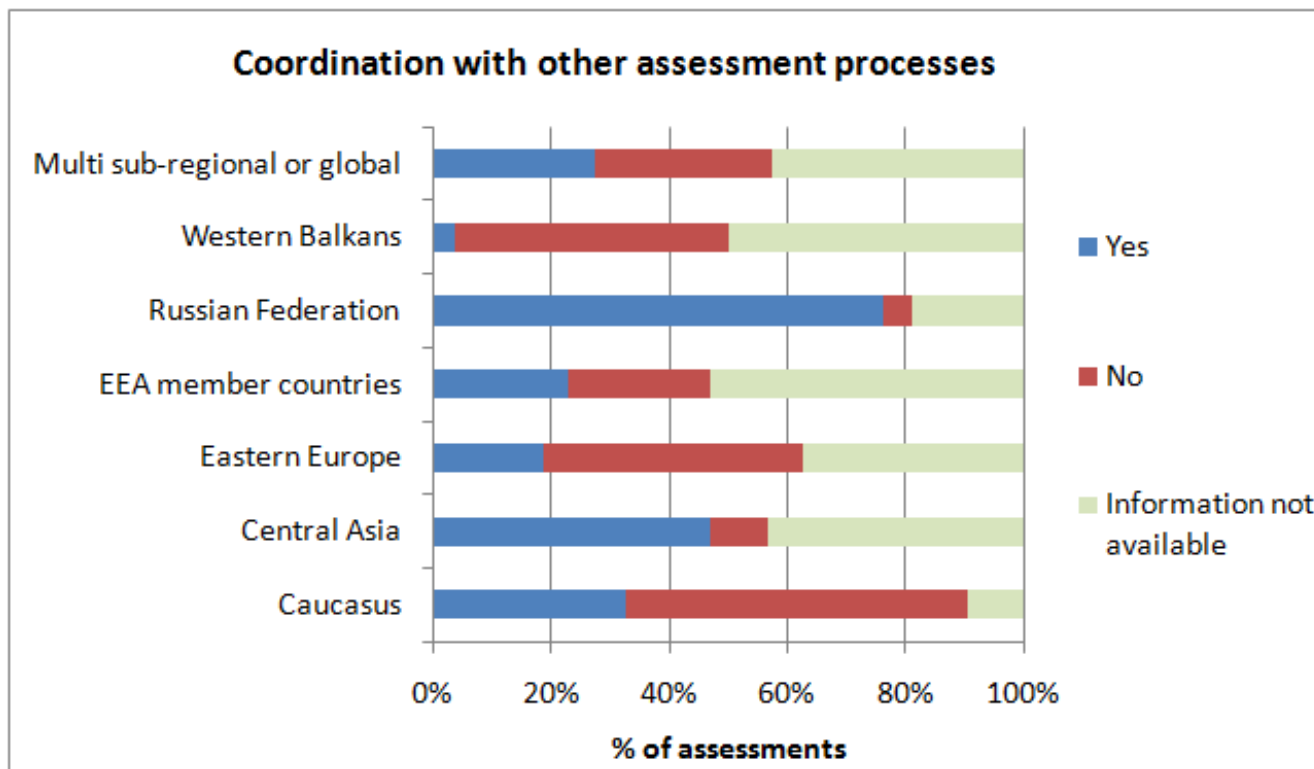
An external review was undertaken for 43% of the assessments

EEA member countries lead the way in relying on external reviews, undertaken for 51% of their assessments

More than one third of the assessments (36%) did not include information on review processes



Coordination across different assessment processes is, overall, low (28% of the assessments)



With the exception of the Russian Federation and, to a lesser extent, of Central Asia, not even one third of the assessments produced in the other sub-regions are coordinated with other processes

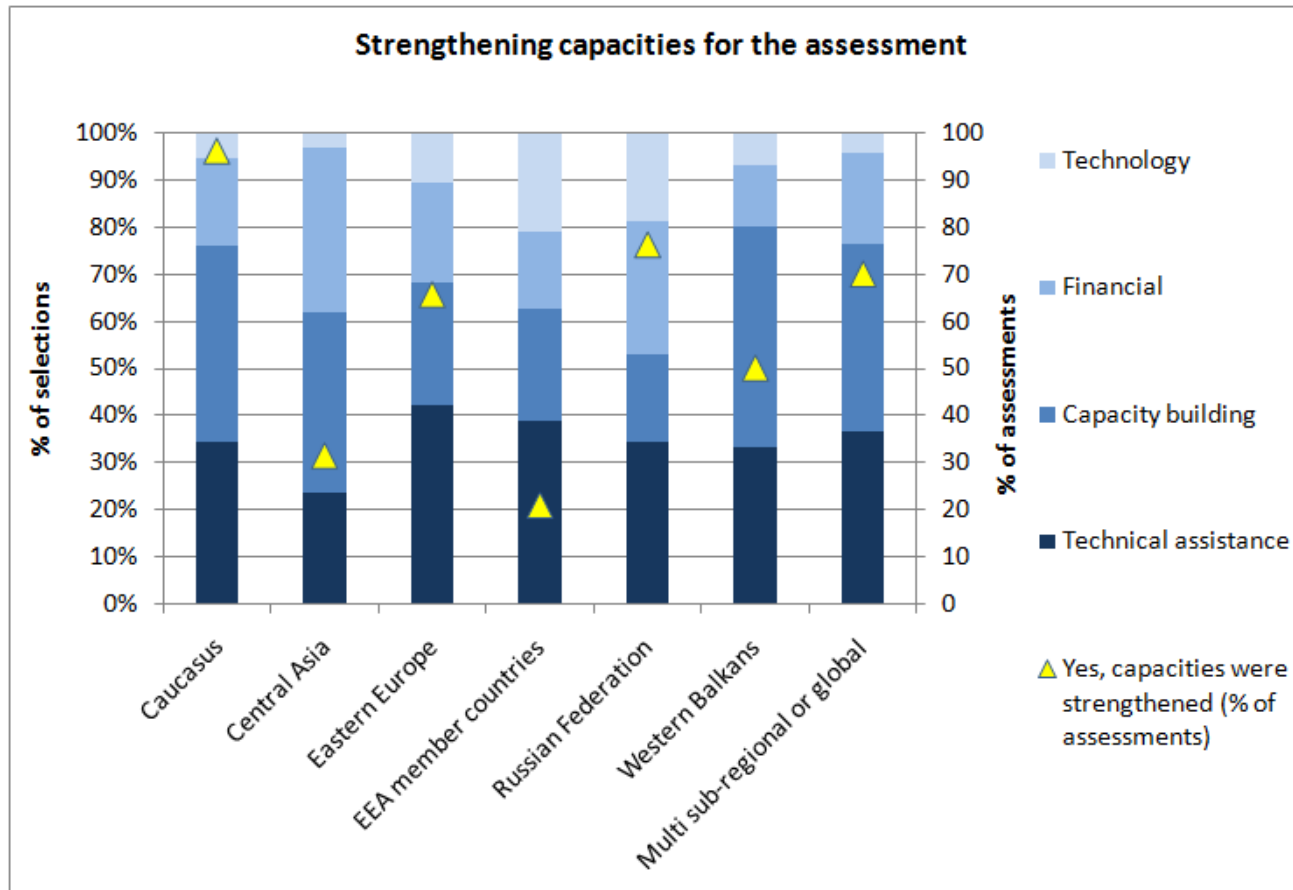
R

R3: Commission new assessments as part of a new 'Regular Process'

R10: Close gaps in knowledge, reduce duplication of effort and increase the use of the rich diversity of environmental assessments in Europe



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



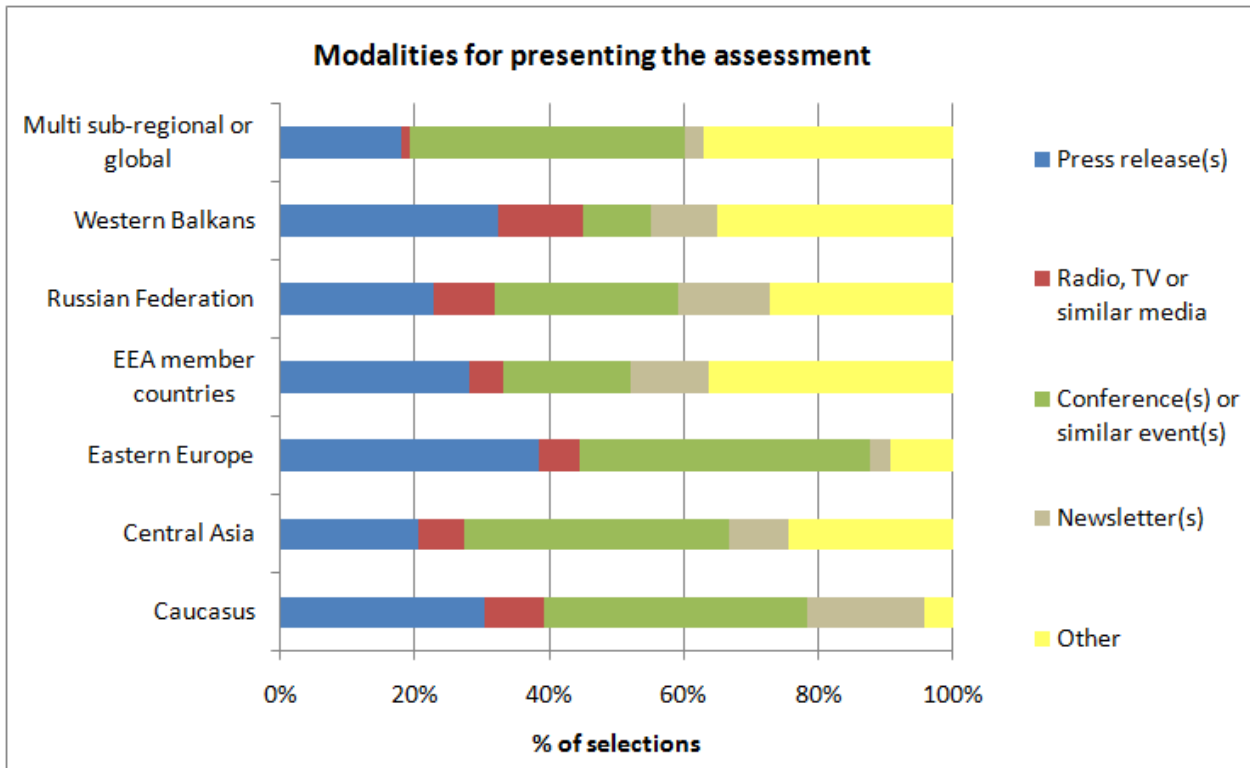
Caucasus received support for almost all (96%) reviewed assessments

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



Mass media such as radio and TV are rarely used to publicise the assessments across the pan-European region



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

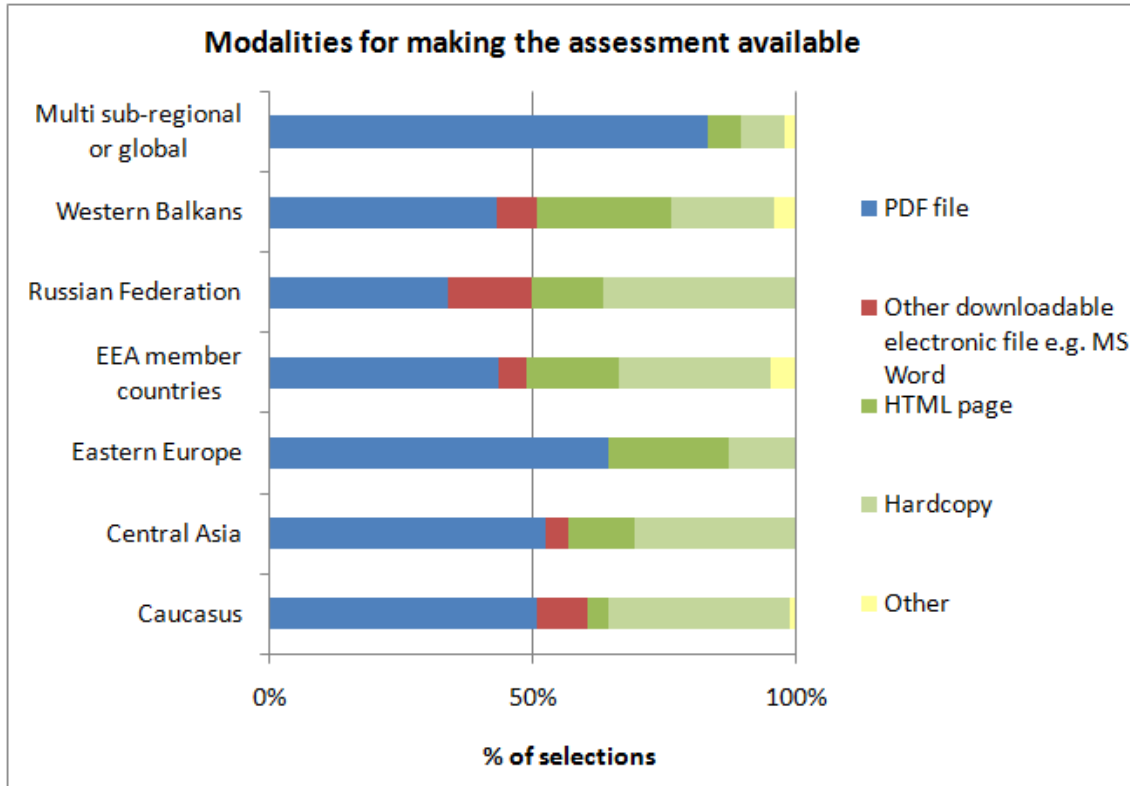


R14: Transfer findings to other areas, regions and globally through outreach and communication

Conferences and press releases are the most preferred modalities for dissemination (53% and 50% of assessments, respectively) while mass media such as TV and radio are the least (11% of the assessments)



The internet is the most used interface across the pan-European region to make available the assessments



The Russian Federation and Caucasus show the highest shares of dissemination of their assessments as hardcopy (76% and 63% of the assessments, respectively)

R12: Improve the accessibility of environmental assessments and related data and information

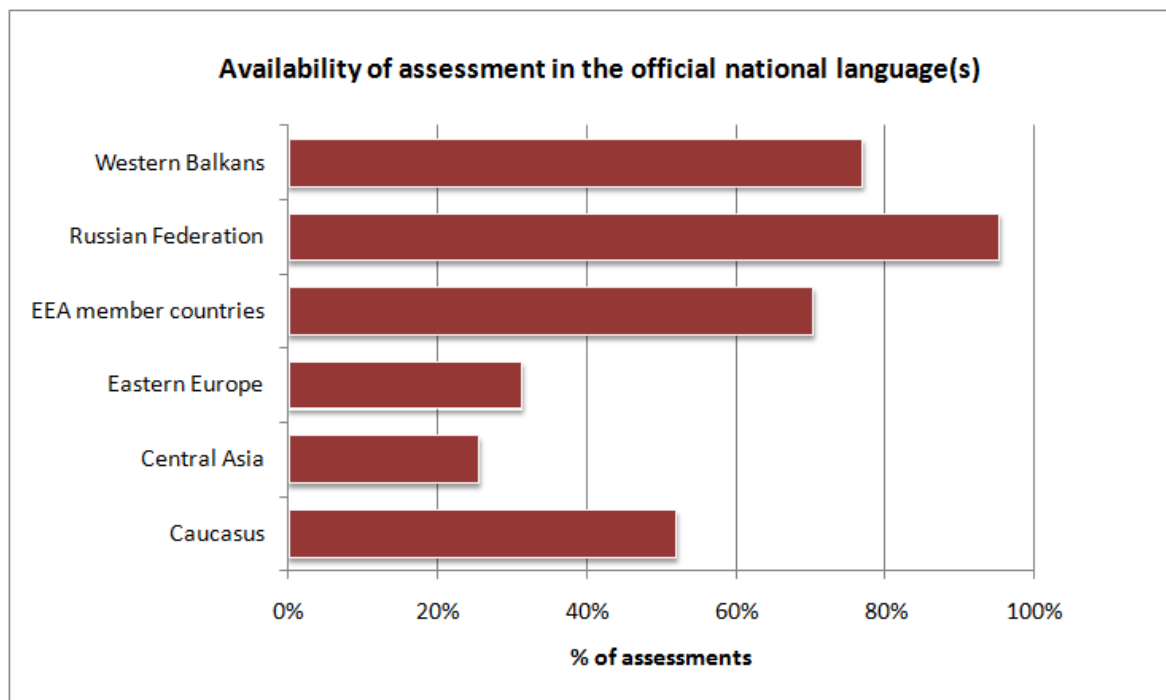
Providing for the right of the public to get access to environmental information

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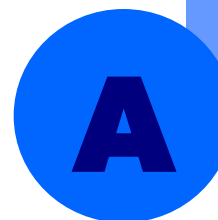
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Accessibility of assessments to the general public by making information available in the national languages is good



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

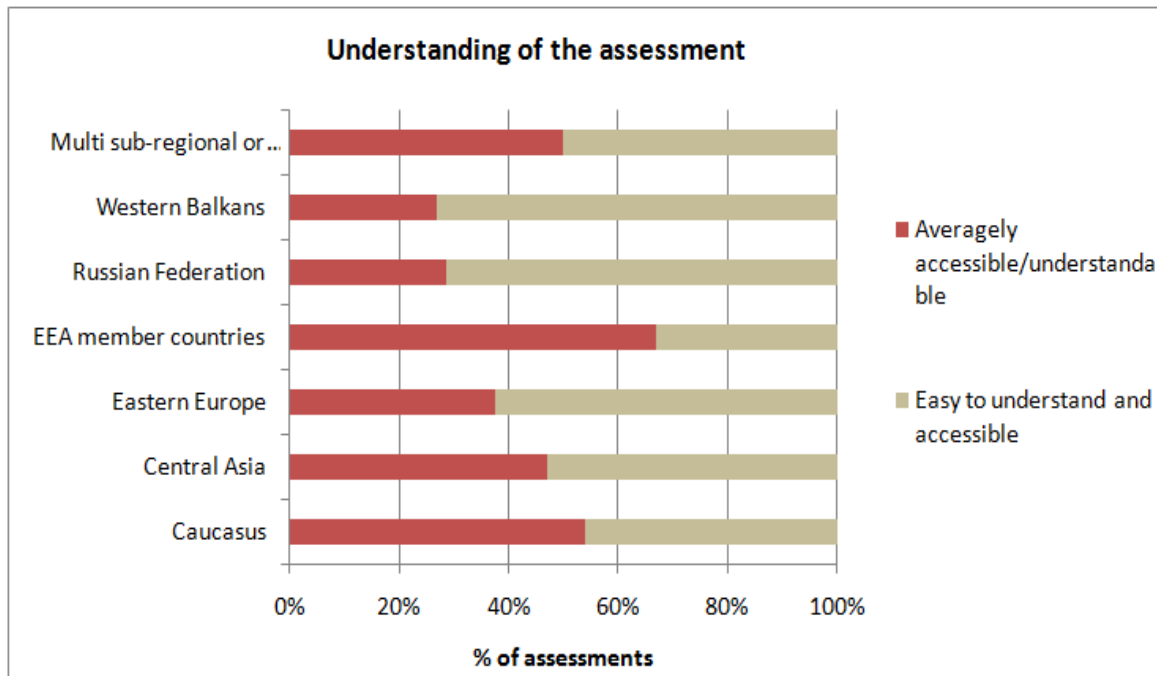


Information should be fully available to the general public.....in the relevant national language(s)

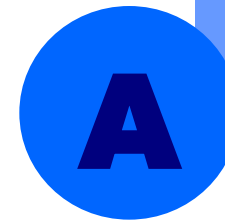
The Russian Federation leads the way in publishing assessments in the national language (95%), followed by the Western Balkans (77% of their assessments) and EEA member countries (72%)



Assessments are accessible and understandable in terms of content throughout the pan-European region



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



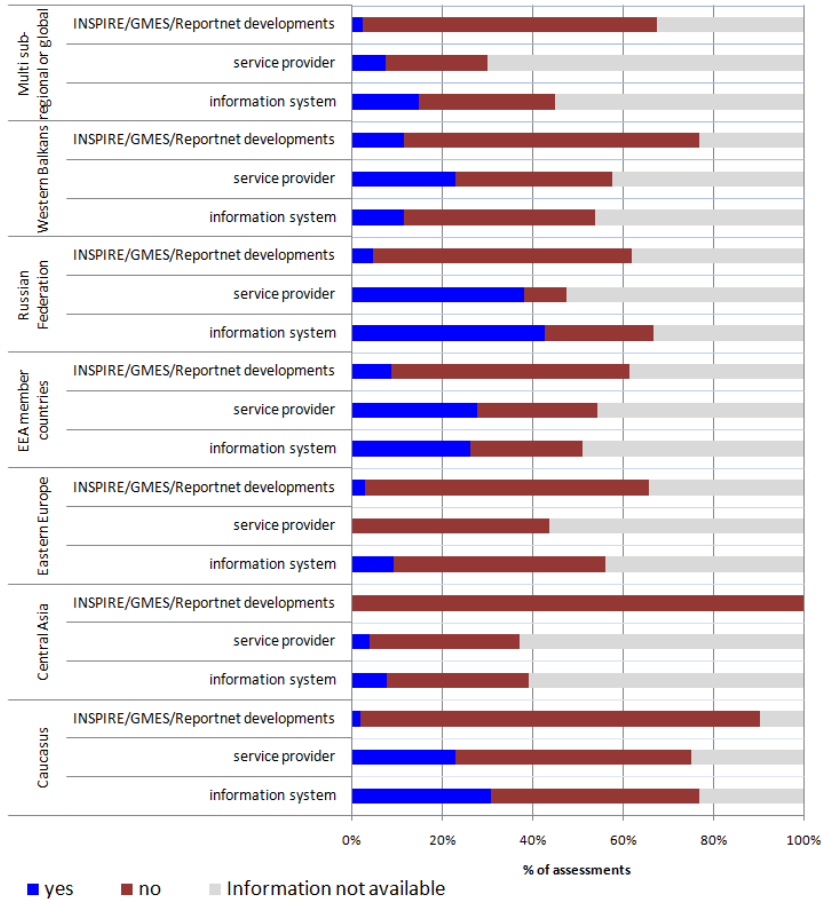
Information should be readily accessible to end-users, primarily public authorities at all levels from local to European.....

None of the reviewed assessments was considered not accessible or not understandable

Over 70% of the assessments covering Western Balkans and the Russian Federation are easy to understand



Infrastructure and services supporting the assessment



Assessments are very poorly supported by infrastructure and services across pan-Europe



Information sharing and processing should be supported through common, free open source software tools.

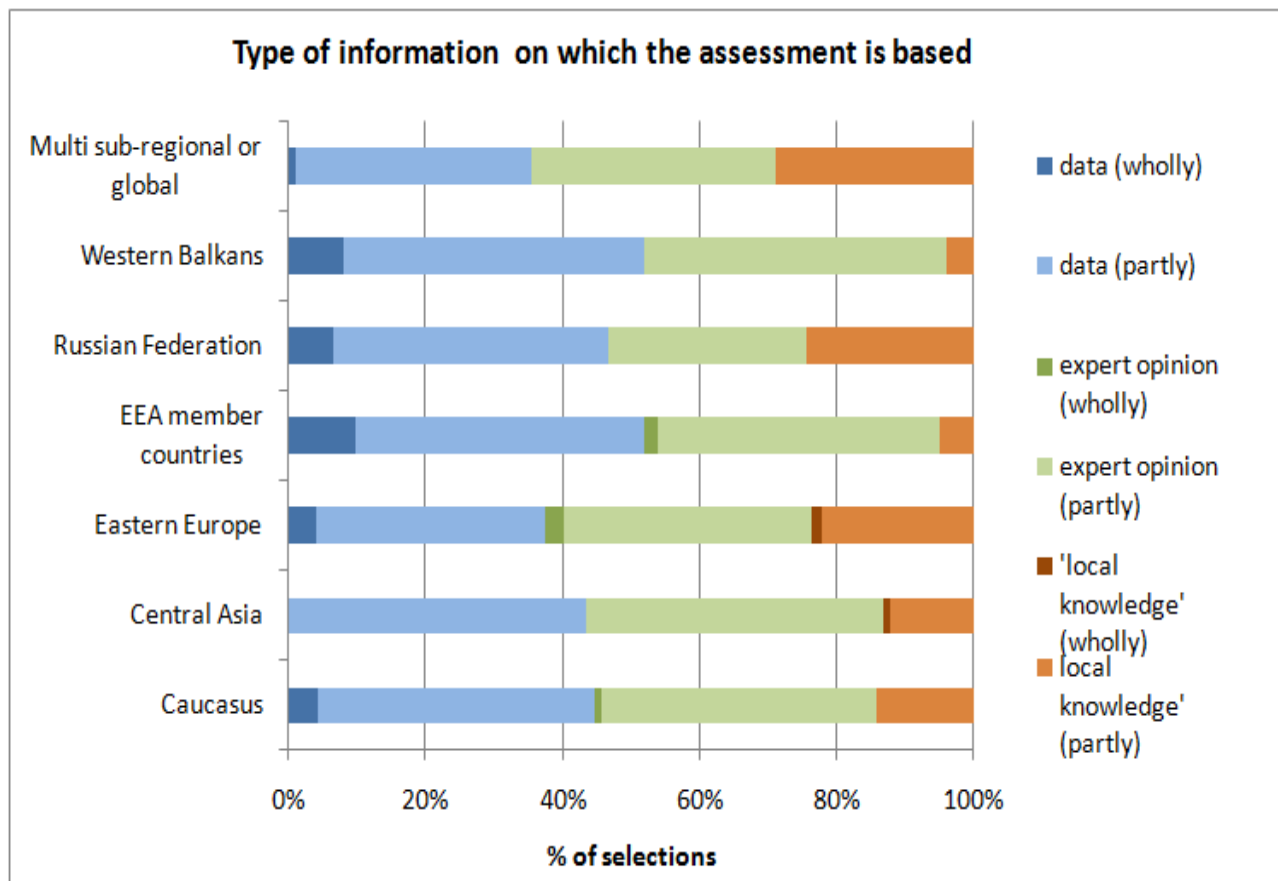
R12: Improve the accessibility of environmental assessments and related data and information



Central Asia and Eastern Europe are lagging behind in the use of service providers and common platforms supporting data management, sharing and exchange



In the pan-European region assessments are mostly based on a combination of data and expert opinion



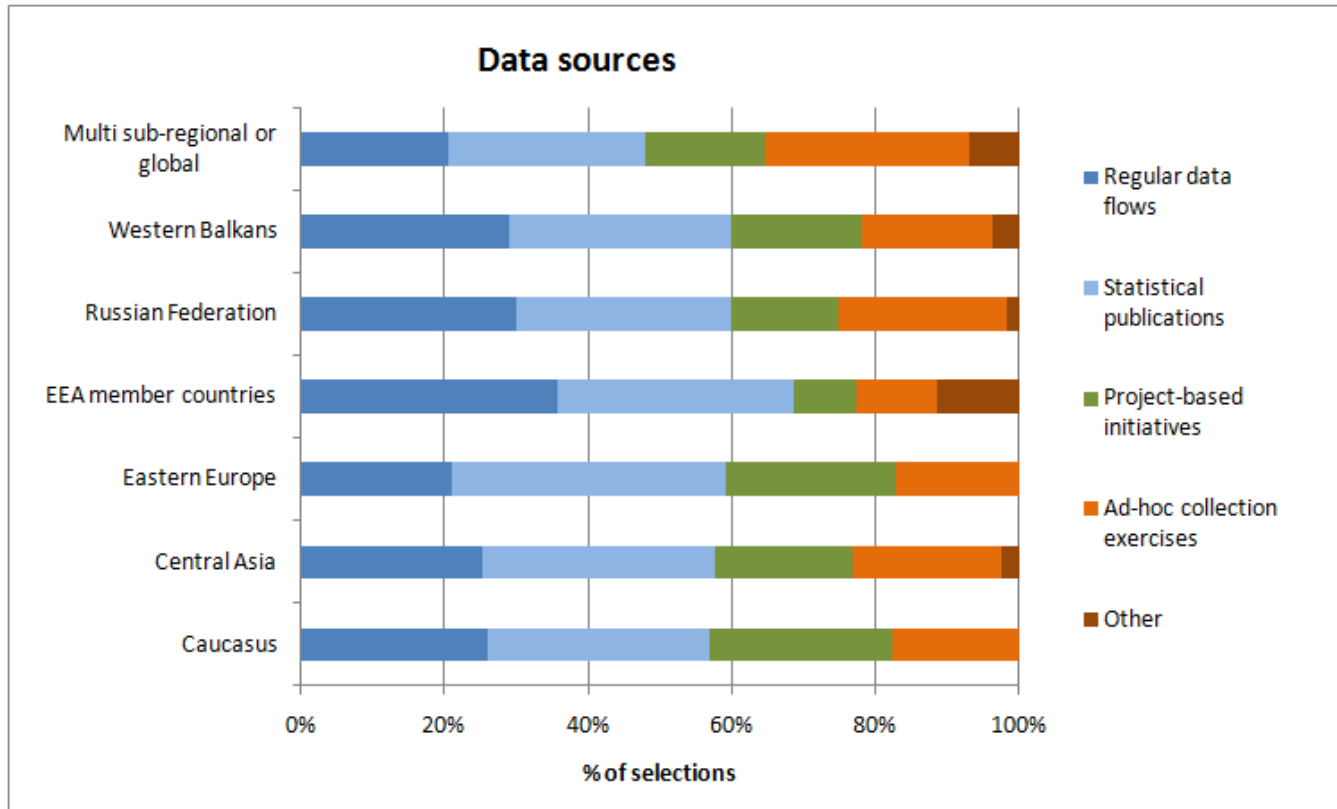
Some 83% of the assessments are partially based on data

Very few assessments are wholly based on only one type of information

In EEA member countries and the Western Balkans assessments are rarely based on 'local knowledge' (9% and 8% of the assessments, respectively)



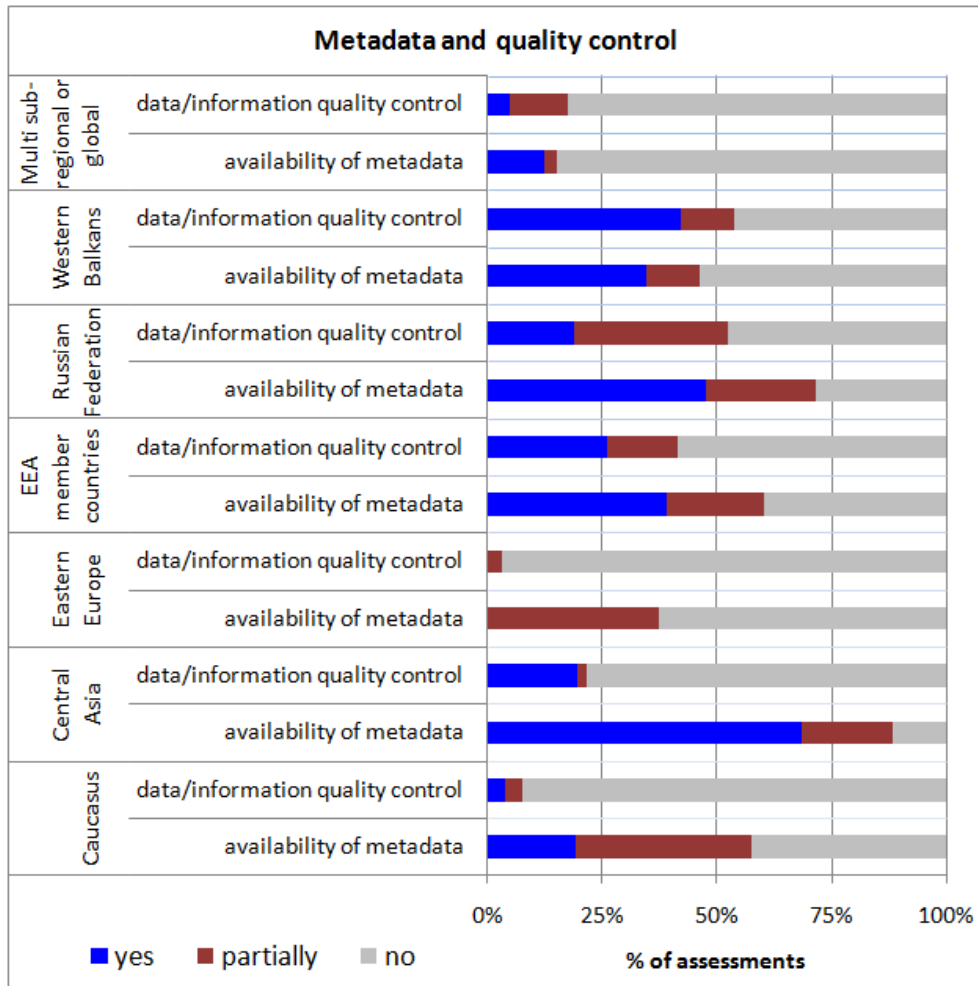
In each sub-region, regular data flows are used in at least 50% of the assessments produced



The highest shares of assessments sourcing data from regular flows are in the Russian Federation (86% of the assessments), EEA member countries (80%), and Caucasus (79%)

R2: Develop a regular process of environmental assessment and a shared environmental information system across the pan-European region





Quality checking of data and information and provision of metadata are irregularly mentioned in assessments



Information should be collected once, and shared with others for many purposes

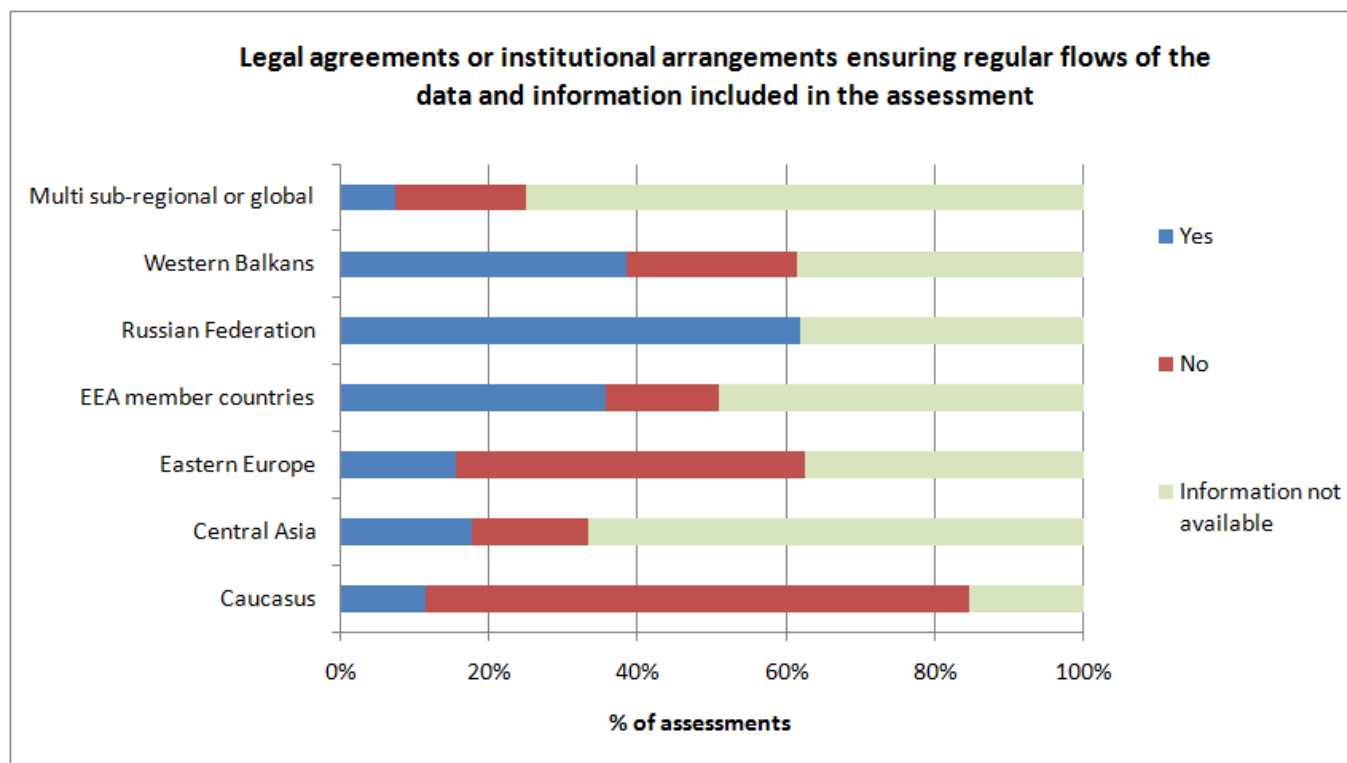
Eastern Europe is lagging behind in the provision of information on quality control and data in its assessments



R12: Improve the accessibility of environmental assessments and related data and information



Regularity of data flows is sporadically ensured by legal agreements or institutional arrangements

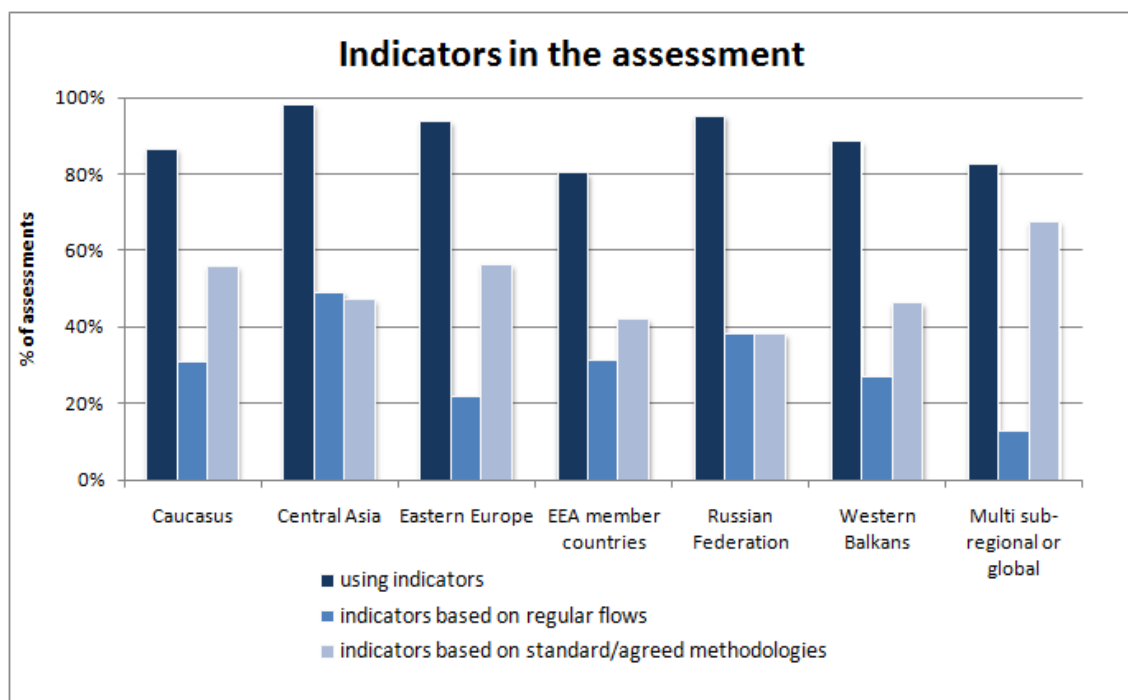


R11: Address information shortcomings

The Russian Federation has the highest share of assessments (62%) with regular flows of data and information formally ensured



Indicator-based reporting is widespread across the pan-European region. A reasonable use of standard/agreed methodologies for the production of indicators is not accompanied to the reliance on regular data flows.



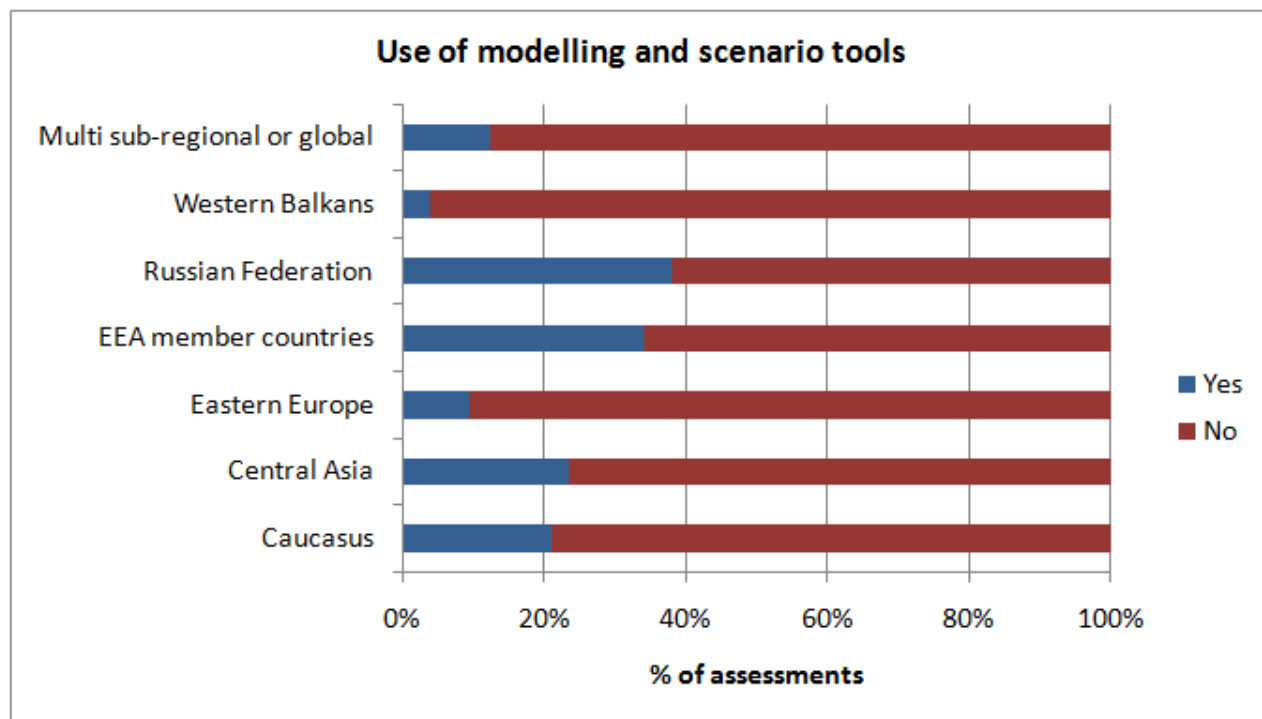
Eastern Europe shows amongst the highest levels of compliance of indicators' production to standard/agreed methodologies but the lowest level of reliance of indicators on regular flows



R11: Address information shortcomings



There is a limited use of modelling and scenario tools across the pan-European region (25% of the assessments)



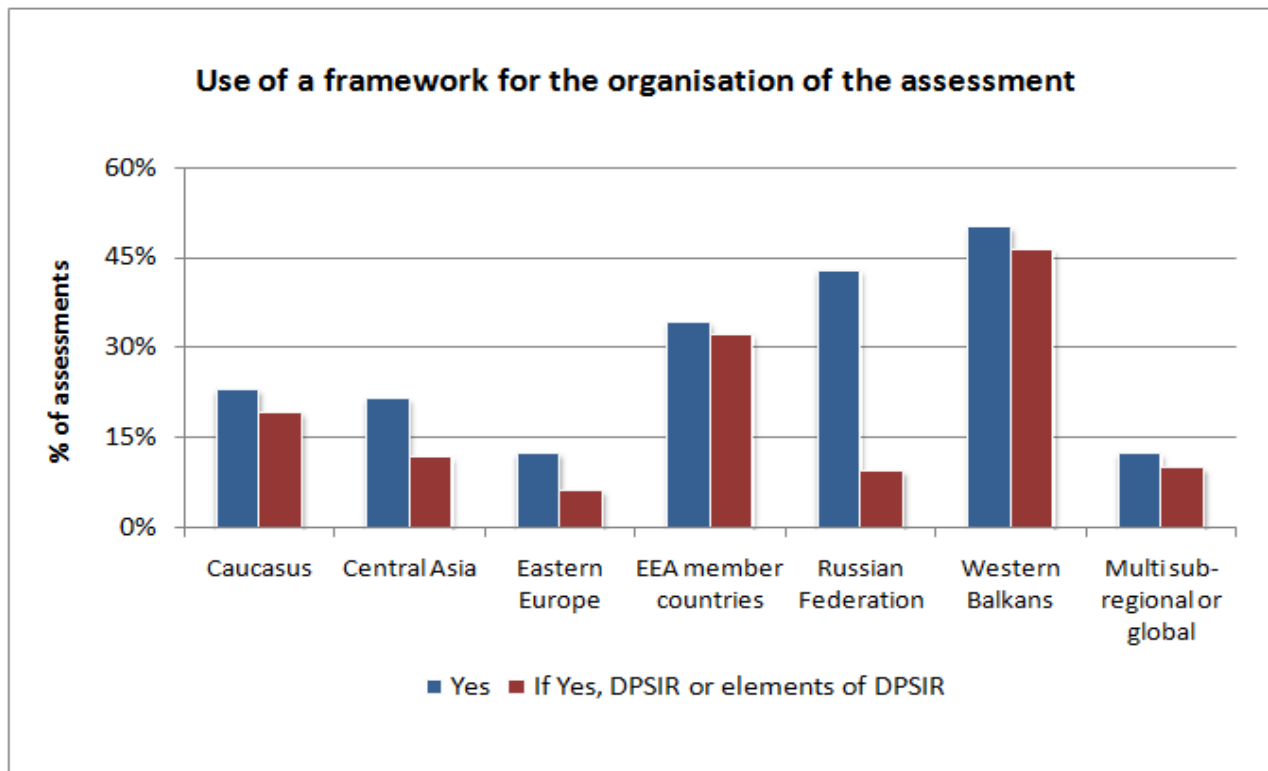
R7: Promote and strengthen forward-looking activities

Western Balkans and Eastern Europe lag behind in the use of forward-looking tools

In all sub-regions, assessments using models and scenarios are less than 40% of the total assessments



The use of frameworks across the pan-European region for the organisation of the assessment process is not systematic

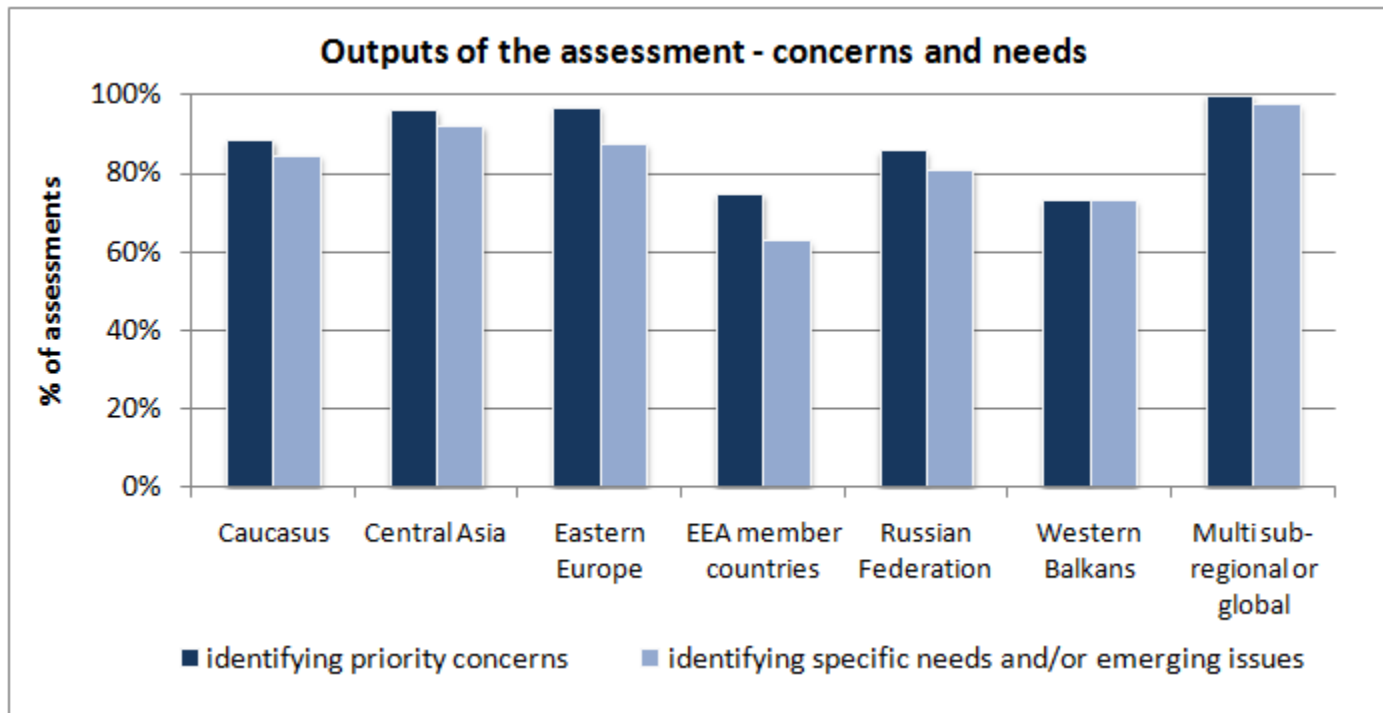


R8: Improve understanding of the underlying concepts

Western Balkans leads the way in organising the assessments according to a DPSIR framework.



A fair number of assessments identify priority concerns and needs/emerging issues but unevenly across the pan-European region

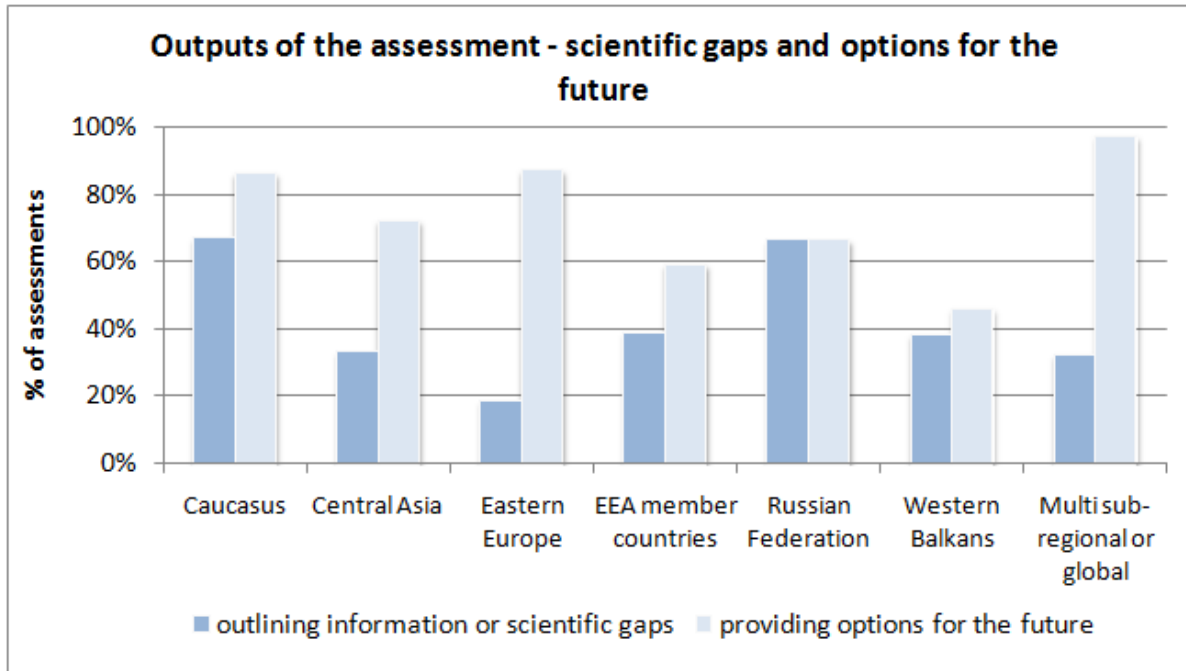


R1: Improve the linkage and use of assessments in the policy process

EEA member countries show among the lowest levels of assessment reports identifying concerns and needs



Several assessment reports provide options for the future while less frequently assessments outline gaps



Some 87% of the assessments covering Caucasus or Eastern Europe provide options for the future

Information and scientific gaps are most commonly identified in assessments covering Caucasus and the Russian Federation (67% of the reports)

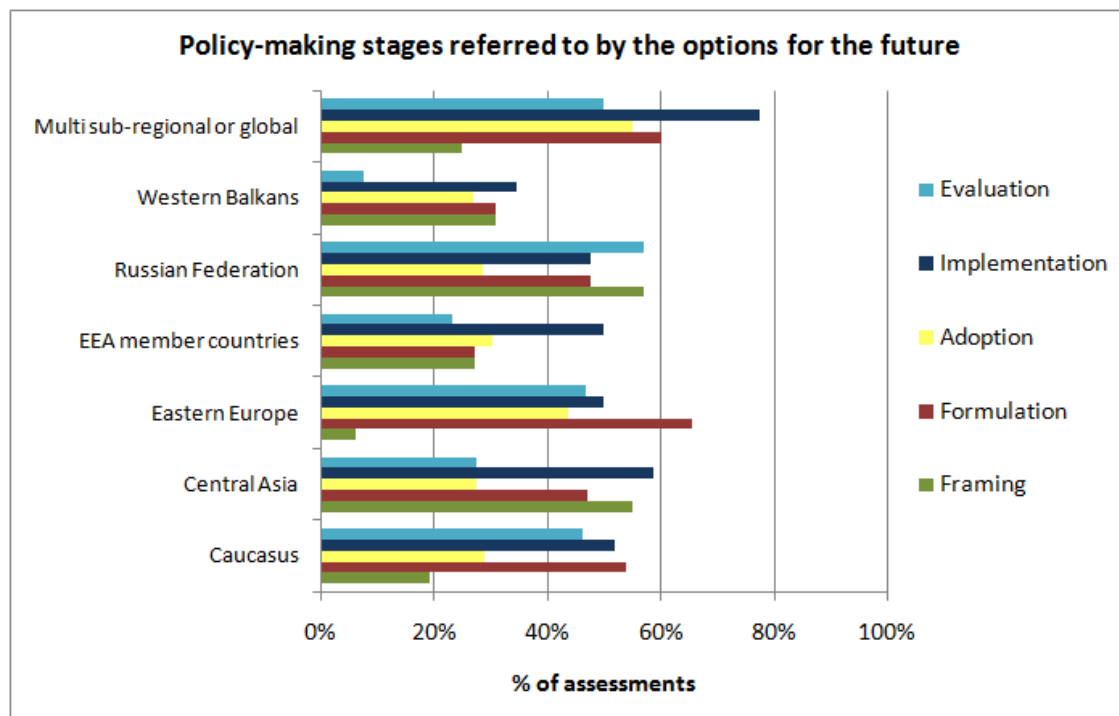
Most of the assessments covering regions are policy-oriented



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



Assessments do not cover evenly all the stages of policy-making



Framing and evaluation are the less supported stages of policy-making, with the lowest share of assessments relating to framing found in Eastern Europe (6%) and to evaluation found in the Western Balkans (8%)

Implementation is the most informed stage, followed by formulation

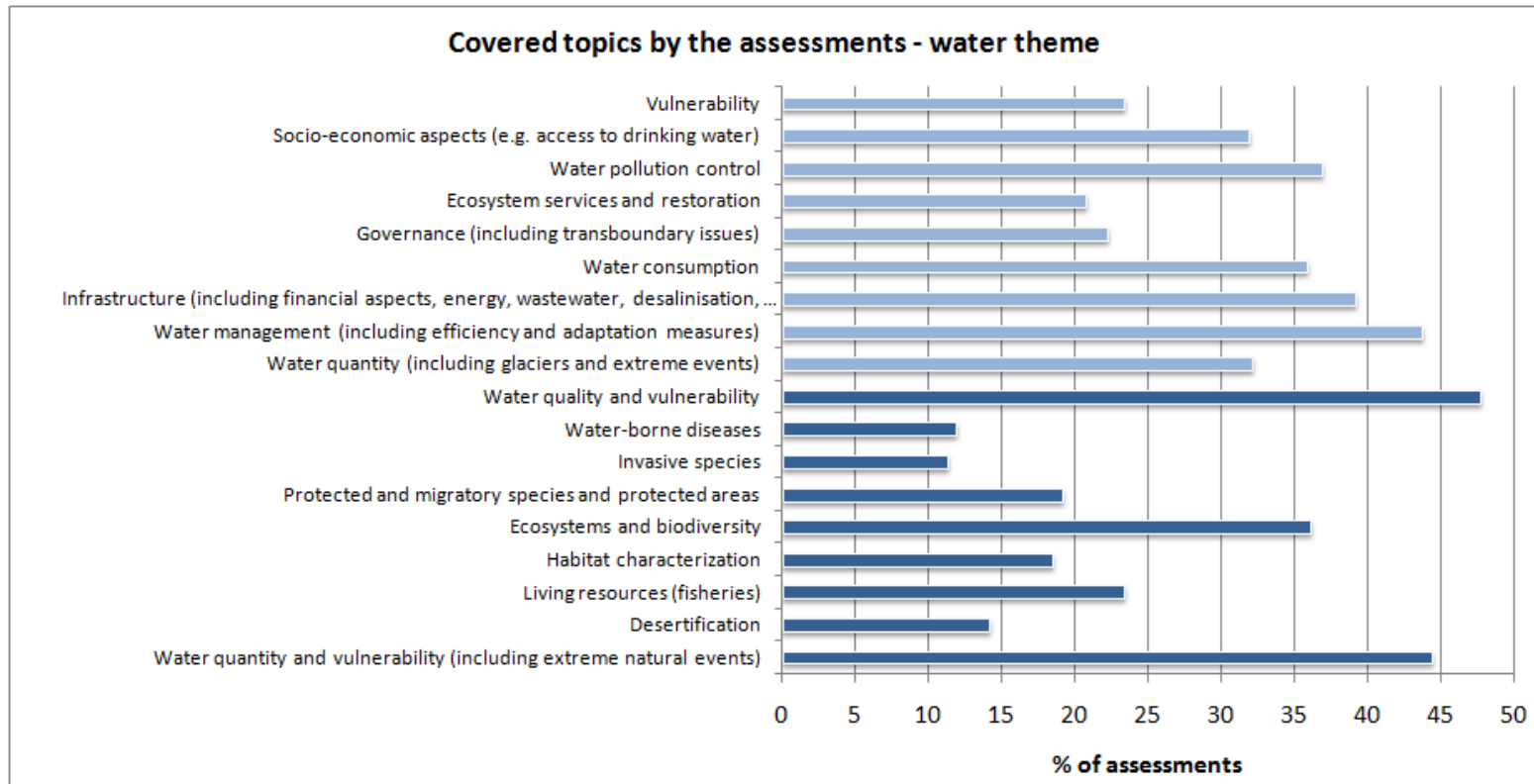


R1: Improve the linkage and use of assessments in the policy process

R10: Close gaps in knowledge, reduce duplication of effort and increase the use of the rich diversity of environmental assessments in Europe



All water topics are satisfactorily addressed across the pan-European region

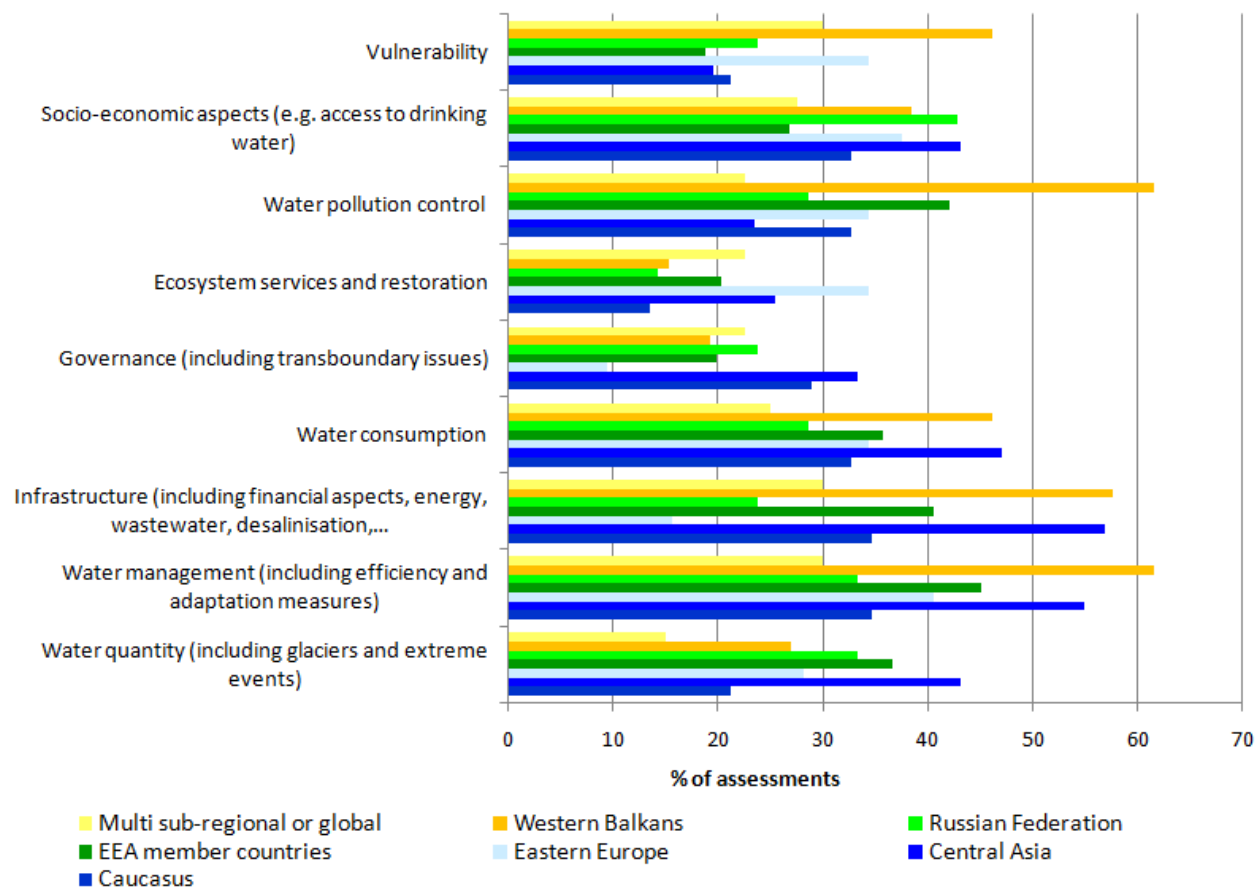


Water quality and vulnerability, water quantity and vulnerability, and water management are the most covered topics.



Water resource management topics at sub-regional level show a few deficiencies in coverage

Selection of water resource management topics



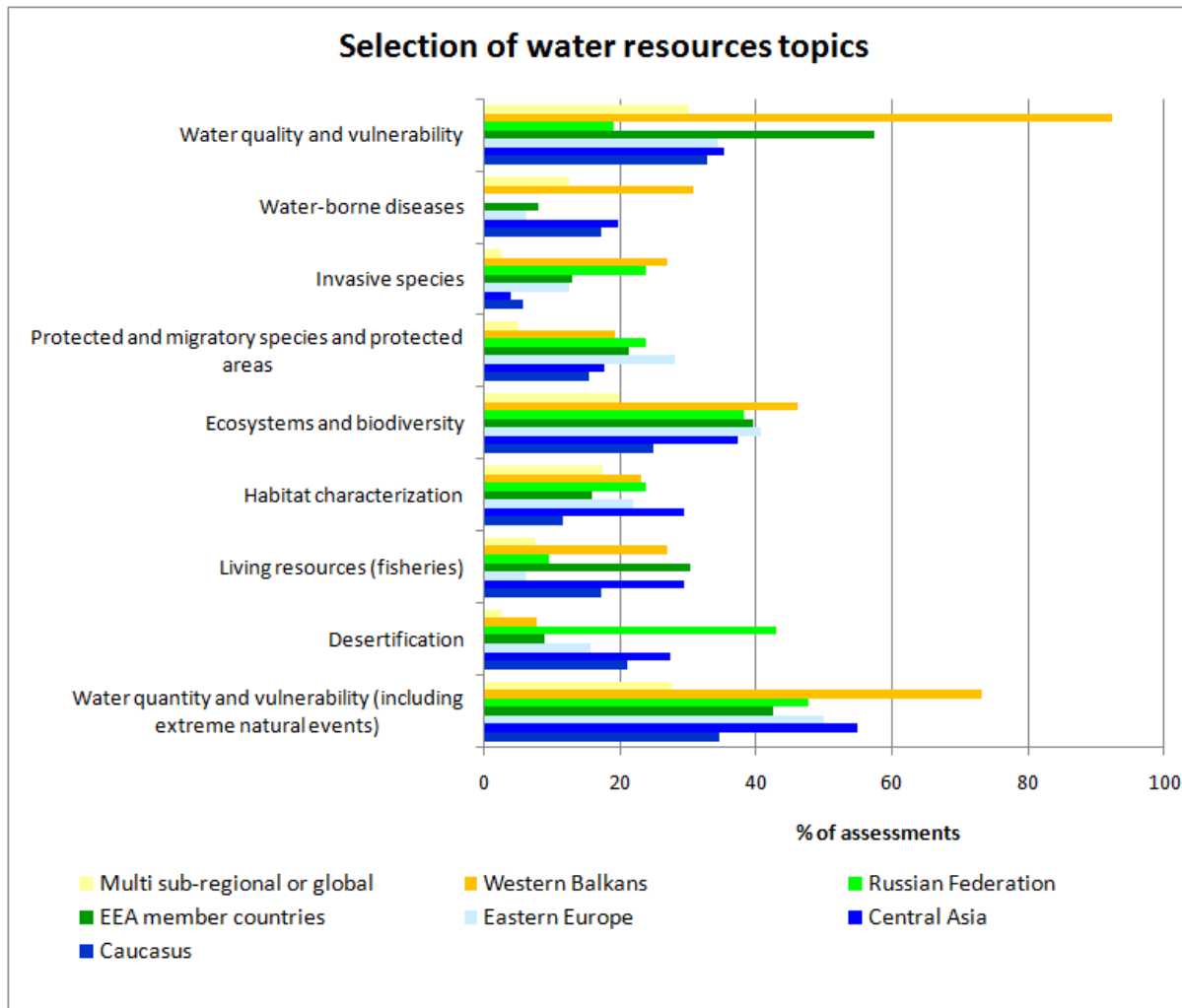
Main coverage deficiencies:

'Governance' in Eastern Europe (covered only by 9% of the assessments)

'Ecosystem services and restoration' in Caucasus, Russian Federation and Western Balkans (13-15%)



Water resources topics at sub-regional level show several deficiencies in coverage



Main coverage deficiencies:

'Desertification' in Western Balkans (8% of the assessments) and EEA member countries (9%)

'Invasive species' in Central Asia (4%) and Caucasus (6%)

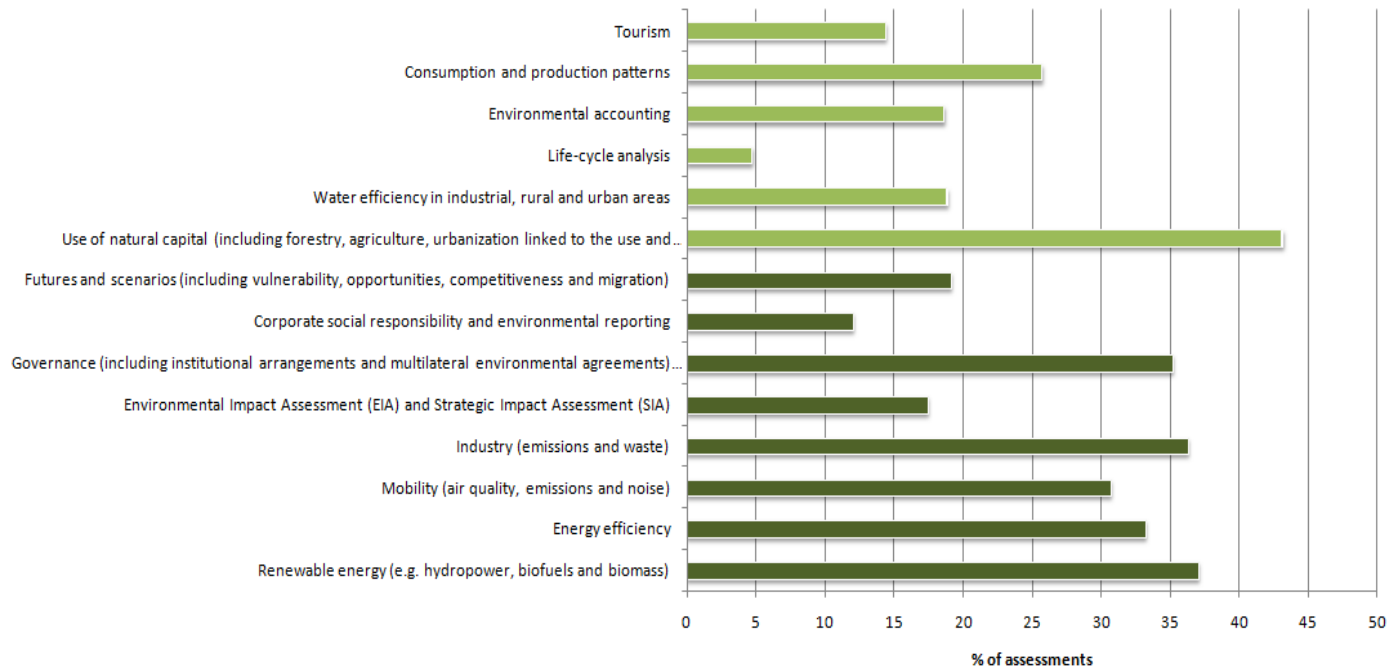
'Living resources' in Eastern Europe (6%) and the Russian Federation (10%)

'Water-borne disease' in the Russian Federation (0%) and Eastern Europe (6%)



Some of the green economy topics are insufficiently addressed across the pan-European region

Covered topics by the assessments - green economy theme



Use of natural capital, renewable energy and industry are the most covered topics

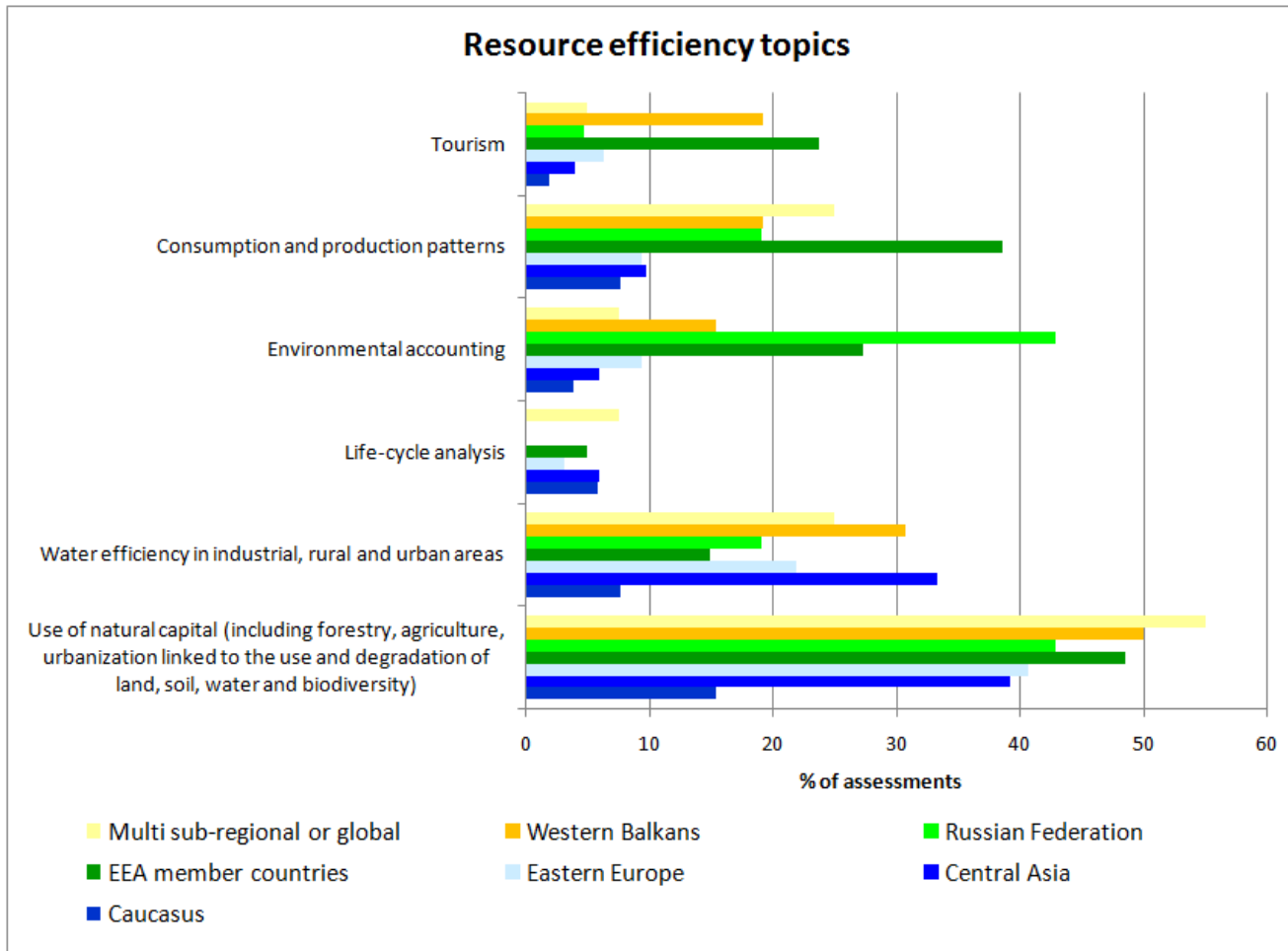
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R5: Promote national/regional level green economy assessments

R9: Clarify roles of different organisations in green economy assessments



Resource efficiency topics at sub-regional level show several deficiencies in coverage



Main coverage deficiencies:

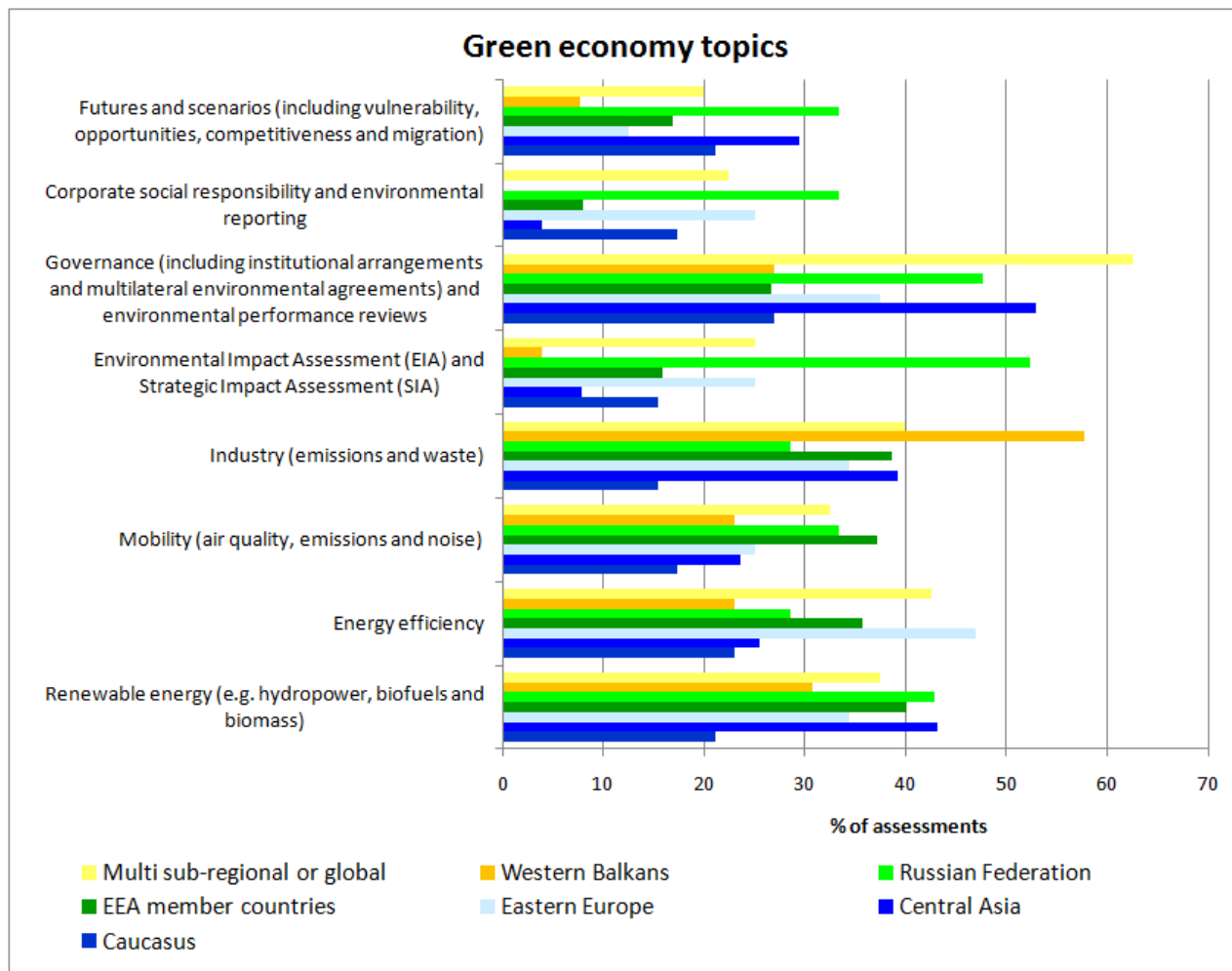
'Life cycle analysis' in all sub-regions (0-6% of the assessments)

'Tourism' in Caucasus (2%), Central Asia (4%), Russian Federation (5%)

'Environmental accounting' in Caucasus (4%) and Central Asia (6%)



Green economy topics at sub-regional level show several deficiencies in coverage



Main coverage deficiencies

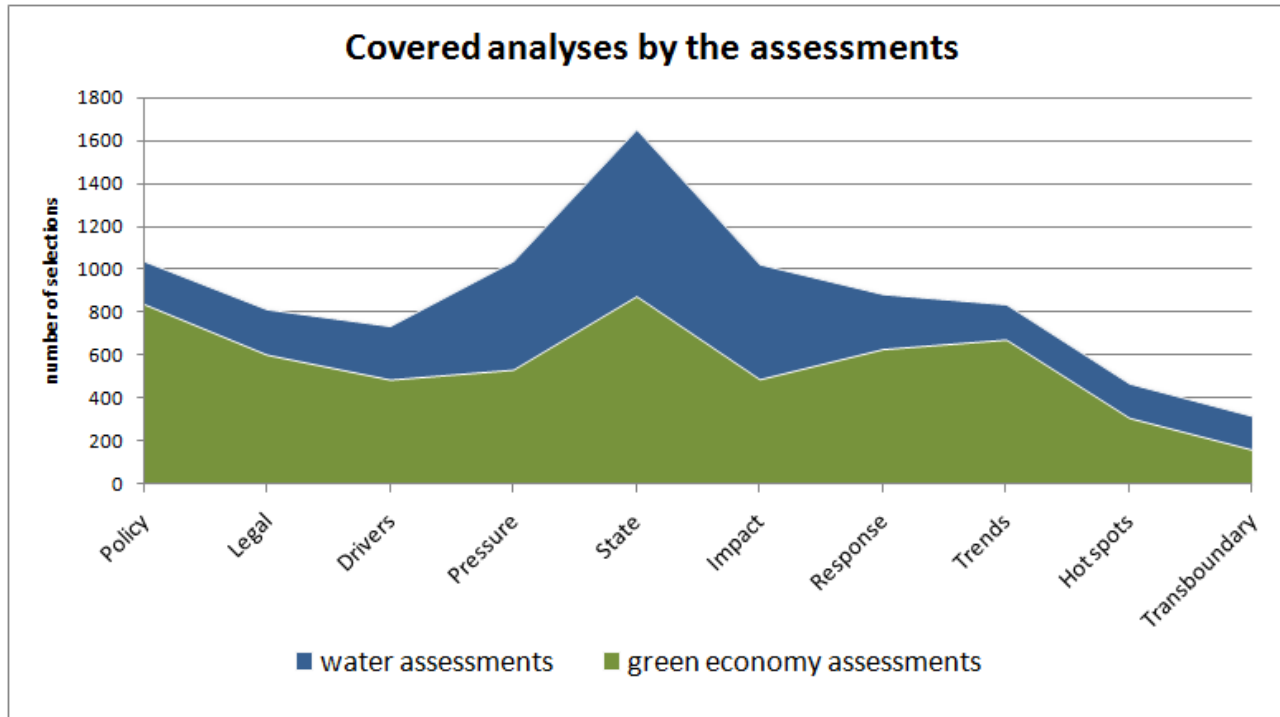
'EIA and SIA' in Western Balkans (4% of the assessments) and Central Asia (8%)

'CSR and environmental reporting' in Western Balkans (0%), Central Asia (4%) and EEA member countries (8%)

'Futures and scenarios' in Western Balkans (8%)



Hot spots and transboundary analyses are limited. 'Drivers' and 'responses' analyses are the least covered within the DPSIR framework.



The frequency of analysis types follows a similar trend in water and GE reports, with the exception of 'impact' and 'response' analyses, that are more frequently carried out for water than for GE

'State analyses' disproportionately dominate over the other types

R **R2:** Commission new assessments as part of a new 'Regular Process'
R10: Close gaps in knowledge, reduce duplication of effort and increase the use of the rich diversity of environmental assessments in Europe

