

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## **Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS)**

This documentation is valid from the reference period:

**2014**

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## Executive Summary

The objective of „Environmental Goods and Services Sector“ is the comprehensive presentation of output, gross value added, exports generated with environmental goods, technologies and services as well as the associated employment according to a concept of Eurostat<sup>1</sup>.

For this purpose an annual evaluation has been carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (since January 2018 Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism) since 2009 (reporting year 2008). Thematically it is connected to the work on eco-industries<sup>2</sup> of Statistics Austria.

Data are based on the following Eurostat definition<sup>3</sup>: „The environmental goods and services sector consists of a heterogeneous set of producers of technologies, goods and services which are spread across all industries. Environmental goods shall prevent or at least minimise, treat, measure and research environmental damages. *Resource depletion shall be avoided to a large extent by the use of resource efficient goods, technologies and services or at least minimised as well as measured, controlled and researched.*“. The main purpose of these goods, technologies and services must be environmental protection.

For the period 2008 to 2013 only output generated with environmental goods, technologies and services and the related employment (in persons) were calculated.<sup>4</sup> As from 2017 on, data on environmental goods and services sector have to be reported to Eurostat (first reporting year is 2014) there are also calculated data on gross value added, exports as well as employment in full time units.

Goods, technologies and services are broken down into groups of environmental protection or resource management activities. Environmental protection activities are based on the [CEPA](#) classification, resource management activities on the CReMA classification. Data are available one year after the end of the reporting period (t+1); at present for 2014 to 2016. EGSS is a part of the environmental accounting system and therefore complies with the criteria of national accounts. Data collection runs across all industries and relates different environmental media. In doing so, different views of the results are relevant. In order to take appropriate account of the complexity data are shown by the following breakdowns:

- Results are presented by goods (adapted goods and connected products), technologies (end-of-pipe and integrated technologies) and services (including ancillary activities).
- Data are shown by environmental domain by means of [CEPA](#) classification (Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditure<sup>5</sup>) as well as CReMA classification (Classification of Resource Management Activities). CReMA was specifically developed for the breakdown of resource management activities.
- In addition data are distinguished between private industries and the general government sector whereby private industries are classified according to the classification of economic activities ÖNACE 2008 and the product classification ÖPRODCOM at 2-digit-level, respectively.

The Eurostat methodology was first implemented by several Member States like Austria in 2009.<sup>6</sup> In subsequent years a database of harmonised information on economic activities related to environmental protection and resource management was created. For this purpose the first data collection was carried out among all Member States in 2011. In 2014 a legal basis in form of a regulation<sup>7</sup> entered into force. Hence, data on EGSS have been collected obligatorily throughout Europe and reported to Eurostat since 2017.

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<sup>1</sup>) Eurostat, 2009, manual EGSS, and 2016, EGSS handbook.

<sup>2</sup>) Latest version: Petrovic, 2009.

<sup>3</sup>) Eurostat, 2009, manual EGSS.

<sup>4</sup>) See also the relevant standard-documentation.

<sup>5</sup>) Eurostat, European nomenclature of environmental domains

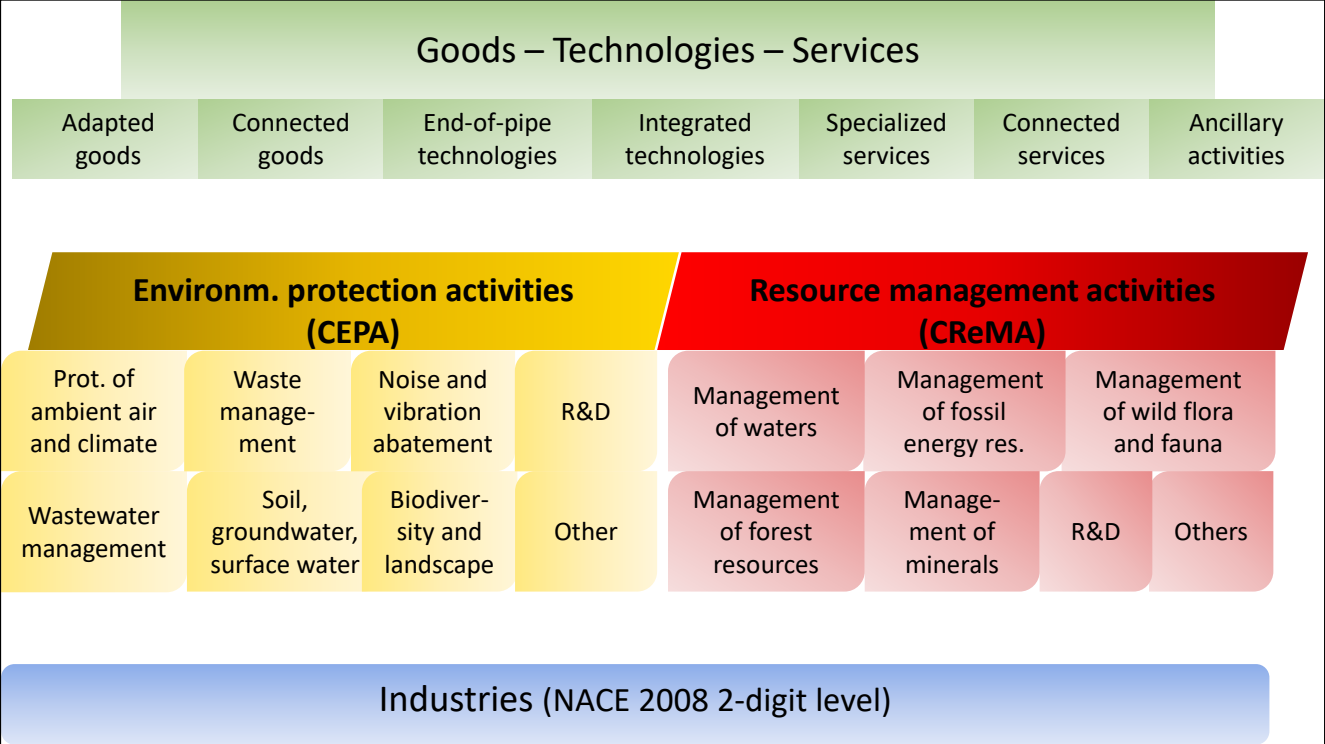
<sup>6</sup>) Wegscheider-Pichler, 2009.

<sup>7</sup>) Regulation (EU) No. 538/2014,

The EGSS manual as well as the handbook of 2016 contain comprehensive guidelines and recommendations for data collection. In general different methods are proposed and a combination of them recommended, as appropriate. Accordingly, Austria uses a mix of methods, preferring supply side data, i.e. data of producers. In a few cases also demand side data are used for data calculation. If these data are not available at all or not in the required scope or level of detail, internet research, specialist literature as well as expert estimations are used. Data applied for the calculations are inter alia production data of short term statistics, data of structural business statistics, information on organic farming from the Green Report and environmental protection expenditure accounts. In addition data of companies specialised in environmental technologies and goods are taken into account.

In addition to the data according to Eurostat also employment data for public transport activities are calculated at national level. At international level public transport activities are not taken into account as by definition they do not belong to the scope of EGSS.

Figure 1: Different breakdowns of the environmental goods and services sector



<b>Environmental Goods and Services (EGSS) from 2014 – Main Features</b>	
Subject matter	Presentation of output, gross value added and exports generated with environmental goods, technologies and services as well as associated employment (persons and full time units) according to a Europe-wide consistent concept
Population	All environmentally relevant goods, technologies and services
Type of statistics	Accounts with small share of primary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	<p>Basic statistics of Statistics Austria; e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term statistics in manufacturing</li> <li>• Structural business statistics</li> <li>• Environmental protection expenditure accounts</li> <li>• Foreign trade statistics</li> <li>• Austrian energy balances</li> <li>• Business register</li> </ul> <p>Other data sources; e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social insurance associations (employment data)</li> <li>• Green report (BMNT)</li> <li>• Reports (e.g. Innovative energy technologies in Austria, housing subsidies in Austria)</li> <li>• Company reports</li> </ul> <p>Voluntary survey by telephone among approx. 130 companies of environment industry on their environmental share of output, exports and employment.</p>
Reference period or due day	Calendar year
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	<p><u>National legal act:</u> Contract with Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (since January 2018 Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism)</p> <p>EU legal acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Regulation (EU) 538/2014</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Implementing regulation (EU) 2015/2174</a></li> </ul>
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria; federal provinces (2008 – present) by means of separate order
Availability of results	T + 1 year preliminary results, t + 2 years final results
Other	-