

## BUDGETS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEASUREMENT NETWORKS

ENV 1

Wallonia finances and manages various networks for measuring and monitoring the state of environmental components and the pressures they are under, in order to meet the requirements of European legislation. These networks perform different functions: alerting, monitoring activities, protecting health and ecosystems, characterising phenomena (e.g., the validation of models) or evaluating the effectiveness of implemented measures.

### Shared management

The indicators presented here relate only to the measurement networks that are dependent on DG03 and AwAC and for which data were available as of 01/01/2016. The Walloon Government entrusts the technical operation of the most important networks (air, water, technical landfill sites, etc.) to the Scientific Institute of Public Service (*Institut scientifique de service public - ISSeP*). In other cases, networks are managed by DG03 with the scientific support of university research centres. Some measurement networks, monitored internally by the DG03, are not yet included in this inventory.

### Decreasing budgets

Over the period 2000 - 2015, the total budget allocated to environmental quality measurement networks doubled, reaching €15.6 million in 2015. Approximately 86% of this budget was spent on air and water quality monitoring and control. More than half of the amounts allocated were intended to cover staff costs (55%). General and operating expenses accounted for 41% of the total budget. However, there are differences between networks, particularly between highly automated networks or those based on observation by field operators or requiring laboratory analysis. For example,

highly automated networks see an average of 20% of their budget used for staff costs and 76% for operating costs, while networks that rely on field observers or require laboratory analysis have an average of 60% of their budget devoted to staff costs and 17% to operating costs.

Since 2011, the total budget has been reduced by 13%, due in particular to budget cuts for public services and investments made in the past to further automate some networks.

### A new tool to monitor forest health

The Walloon Observatory of Forest Health (*Observatoire wallon de la santé et des forêts - OWSF*)<sup>1</sup> was set up in 2012. This tool makes it possible to maintain a phytosanitary watch of Walloon forests thanks to a network of field observers, based on the collaboration of the scientific scientific community and the DG03.

<sup>[1]</sup> More information at <http://owsf.environnement.wallonie.be>

Fig. ENV 1-1 Budgets allocated to the main environmental quality measurement networks in Wallonia

