



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



# **INFO/RAC**

# **National Focal Points Meeting**

Palermo, Italy 20-21 May 2025

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# IMAP Info System

Reporting implementation status  
and next steps (WG.623\_Inf. 5)

# IMAP Info System

- Introduction to IMAP Info System
- New features
- Fine tuning (DSs & DDs)
- State of art of the IMAP reporting
- Data metric policy



# **INTRODUCTION TO IMAP INFO SYSTEM**

# What is IMAP Info System

**IMAP Info System**, developed by INFO/RAC, **aims to collect, manage and share data** from monitoring programs under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) in the framework of Barcelona Convention.



<http://imapinfosystem.info-rac.org/app/#/>

- **Easy navigation** with three mega menu:

- 1) Reporting
- 2) Explore
- 3) Info

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Standards

Conformity  
Check

Upload

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Published data

Geographical data

Dashboard

Utility tools

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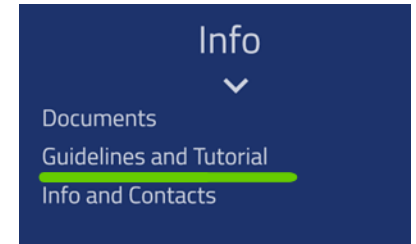
- 1) Reporting
- 2) Explore
- 3) Info

Documents

Info and  
Contacts

Guidelines and  
Tutorial

# Info section: Guidelines and Tutorial

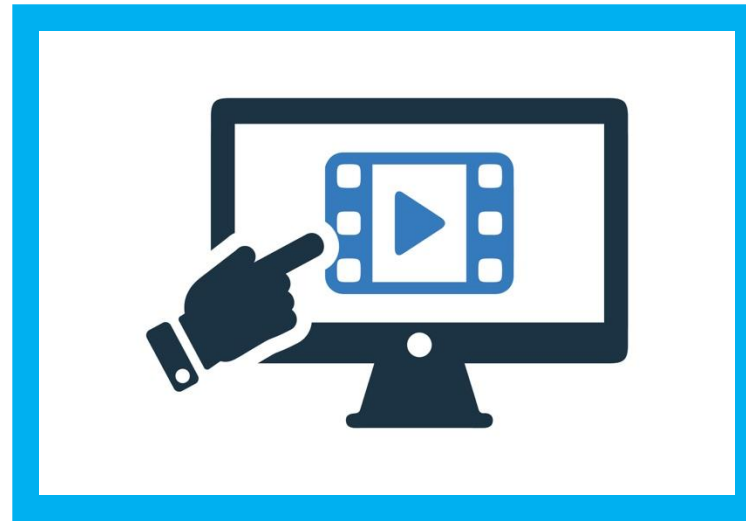


1) USER GUIDE: explaining step by step how to report data in the IMAP Info System

2) TECHNICAL GUIDE: to guide the user in browsing the website



3) VIDEO TUTORIAL: the **simplest way** to understand how to navigate the website and report data in the IMAP Info System





# **NEW FEATURES**

# New Features - Implemented

Features introduced at the previous INFO/RAC NFP Meeting **now implemented** in the IMAP Info System:



**Statistical Dashboard** providing an interactive overview of the reporting status of Contracting Parties, developed using Superset



**6 VIDEO TUTORIAL:** the simplest way to understand how to navigate the website and report data in the IMAP Info System

# New Features - Planned

**Planned System upgrades** to support data extraction, aggregation, and analysis:



Interactive dashboards and graphical outputs using Superset



Custom scripts for advanced data analysis through JupyterLab



Export of maps and geospatial datasets



# **FINE TUNING**

# FINE TUNING

A systematic review process is underway for all available Information Standards.

## Role of Contracting Parties

CPs are invited to conduct internal assessments based on:



Availability of national data



Alignment with National monitoring plans



Feedback from national IMAP users

# FINE TUNING

## Support from INFO/RAC

A dedicated form has been developed to support the structured submission of proposals, which will be discussed collaboratively with CPs.

Cluster	EO	CI	Module	Standard sheet	Remarks

# FINE TUNING

## CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries (7–8 April 2025, Athens)

To support a more structured evaluation of proposed changes and strengthen collaboration among Contracting Parties, the Meeting recommended the establishment of an **Online Working Group** dedicated to the fine-tuning of all available information standards on Biodiversity.





# **STATE OF ART OF THE IMAP REPORTING**

# Introduction

- IMAP Info System allows contracting parties to communicate data for the **19 IMAP Common Indicators**, including Candidate Indicator 24 (*Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles*).
- **30 Information Standards** have been developed and implemented in the IMAP Info System, including Candidate Indicator 24.

# Quantification of Information Standards Usage

Contracting Party	No. of standard used
Syrian Arab Republic	1/30
Albania	3/30
Algeria	3/30
Greece	5/30
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6/30
Croatia	6/30
France	6/30
Turkey	6/30
Cyprus	7/30
Montenegro	8/30

Contracting Party	No. of standard used
Slovenia	8/30
Israel	9/30
Morocco	9/30
Libya	10/30
Spain	10/30
Egypt	11/30
Italy	11/30
Lebanon	12/30
Malta	12/30
Tunisia	12/30

# No. of files uploaded in IMAP Info System

	No. of files uploaded in IMAP Info System																								
Contracting Parties	B1	B2	B3	BA1	BB1	BB2	BB3	BB4	BC3	BT1	BT2	BT3	BT5	C1	E1	H1	I1	M1	M2	M3	MLT1	P1	PMO1	PSF1	Q1
Albania															3			1				1			
Algeria														1	2							6			
Bosnia and Herzegovina														1	5			6	6	3					3
Croatia															10			4	4	4		9			3
Cyprus															7			3	1		1	14		1	6
Egypt			1		1	1	1	1		1	1				3		1					6	2		
France														2	5			3	1	1		19			
Greece															2			2		4	1	5			
Israel	2														11		1	4	7	3	1	19			2
Italy			2											2	12		3	5		8	7	13	3	1	2
Lebanon				1		1			1	2					9		2	4		2	1	5		2	8
Libya					1	1				1			1	1	1		2	1				1			
Malta		1	8	1										1	1	2	1	1	2		1	2			1
Montenegro	1		3											2	11		5	10	3			18			
Morocco	1													4	4		1	5	4	1		13			5
Slovenia			1											2	7			2	2	2		16			5
Spain		1	1											1	18		1	5	9	1		41			7
Syrian Arab Republic																						4			
Tunisia			1			1		1		1	1		1	1	2			1	2	2		7			
Turkey														1	7			2	2	2		14			

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Albania															3			1				1			
Algeria														1	2							6			
Bosnia and Herzegovina														1	5			6	6	3					3
Croatia																									3
Cyprus																								1	6
Egypt																						2			
France																									
Greece																									
Israel																									2
Italy																						3		1	2
Lebanon																								2	8
Libya																									
Malta																									1
Montenegro																									
Morocco																									5
Slovenia			1											2	7			2	2	2		16			5
Spain		1	1											1	18		1	5	9	1		41			7
Syrian Arab Republic																						4			
Tunisia			1			1		1		1	1		1	1	2			1	2	2		7			
Turkey														1	7			2	2	2		14			

**MISSING!**

BC1 - Photo-Identification - Marine Mammals

BC2 - Acoustic Sampling - Marine Mammals




BM1 - Monk seal - Marine Mammals

BT4 - Marine Habitat (Telemetry) - Marine Turtles

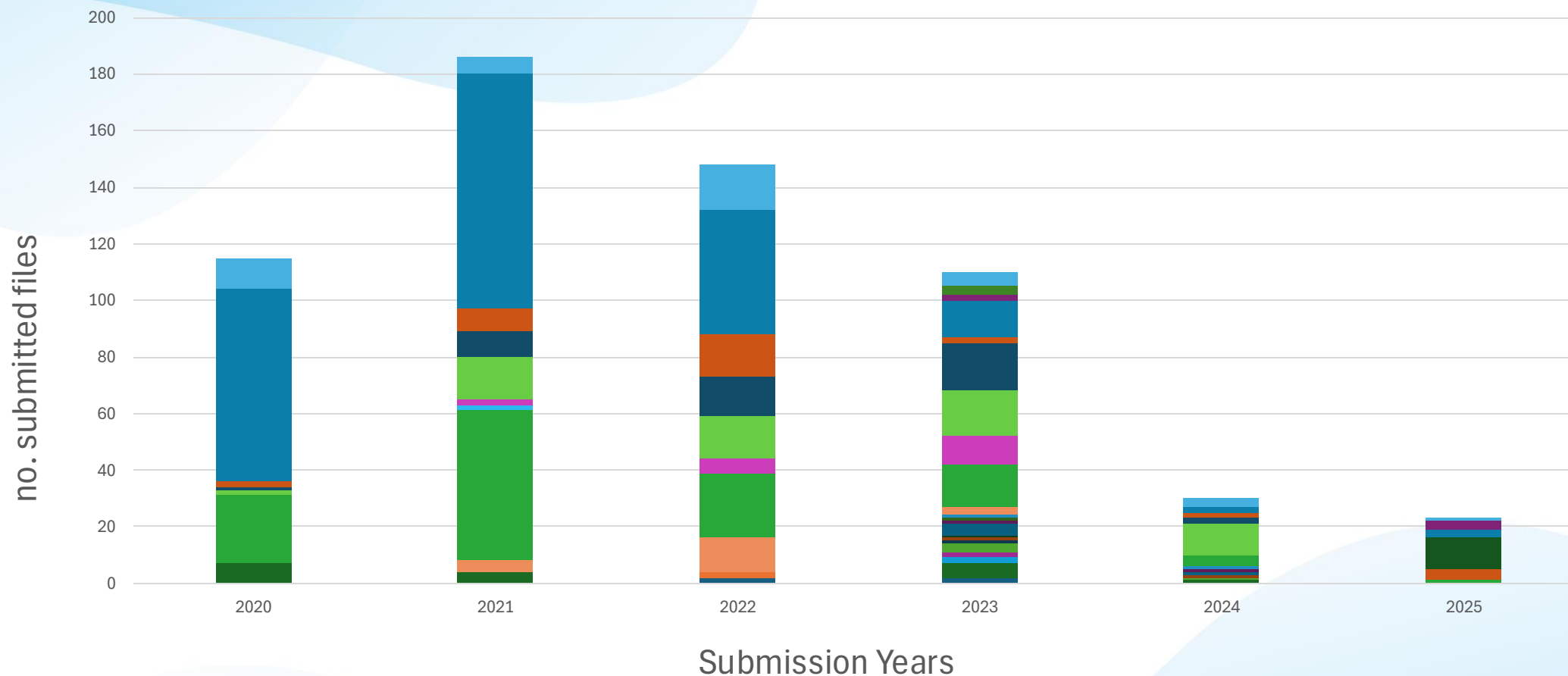
PAE1 - Acute pollution events

# Reporting Implementation Status: Key Observations

## Utilization and submission of IMAP Data Reporting Standards

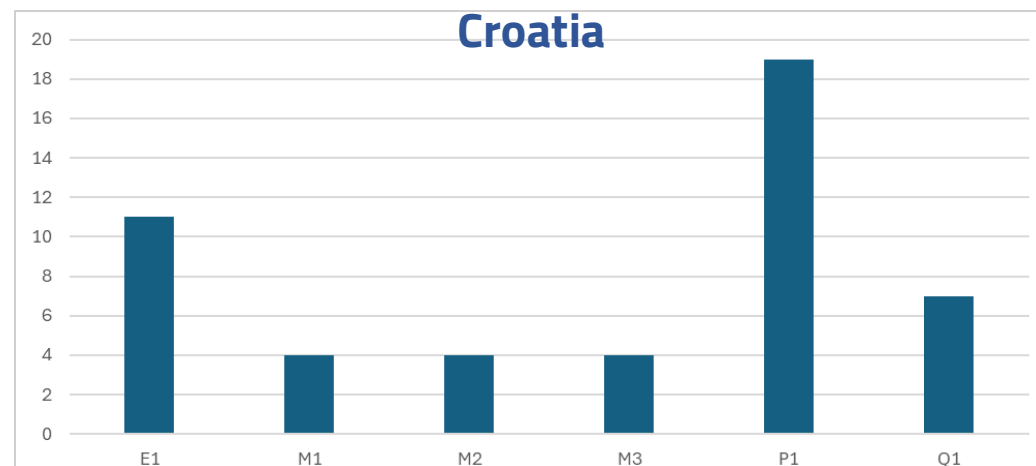
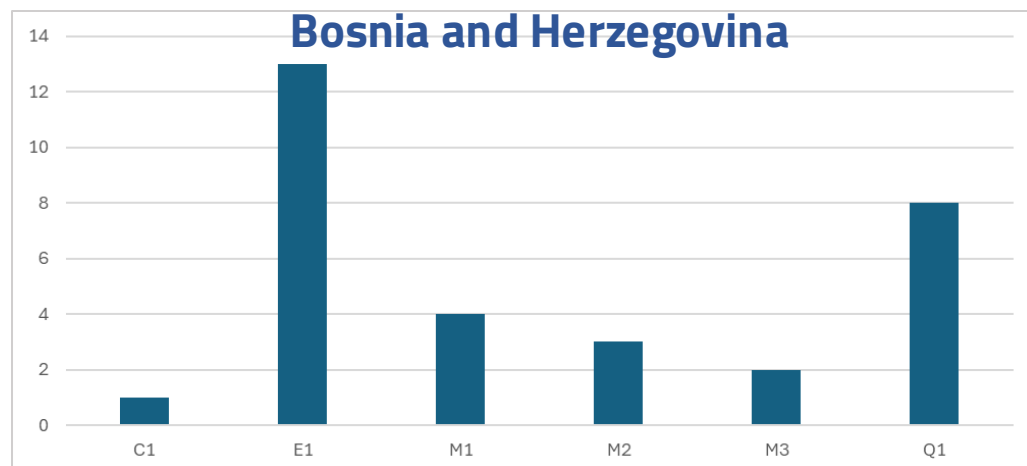
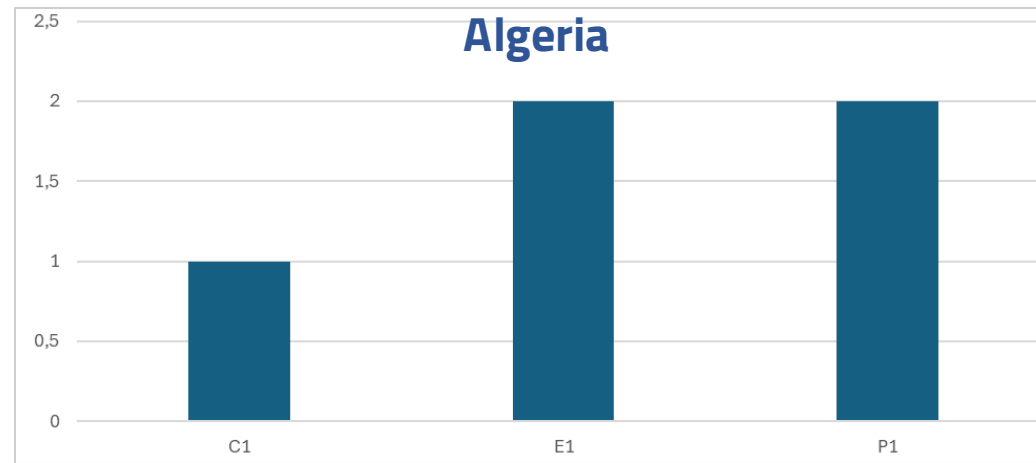
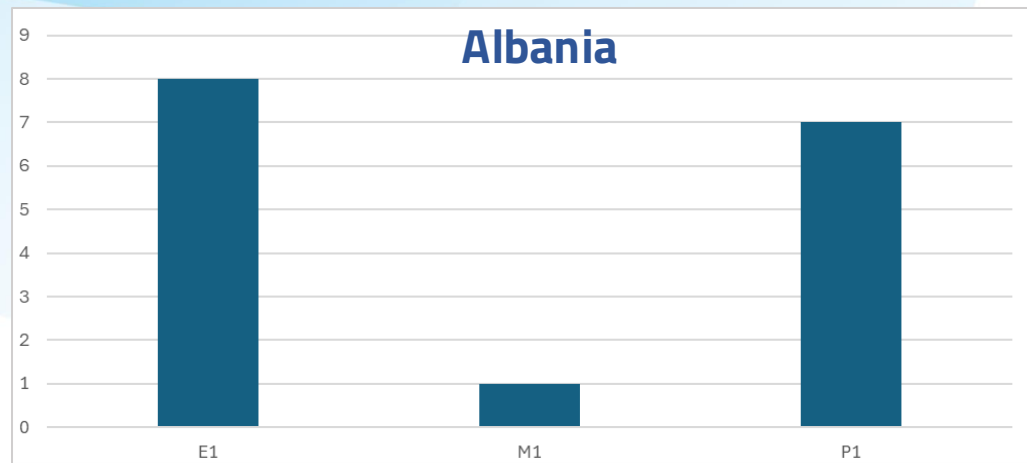
-  30 Information Standards developed to support IMAP data reporting
-  Limited usage by CPs despite full availability
-  Very few files submitted overall

# No. of submitted files per submission year



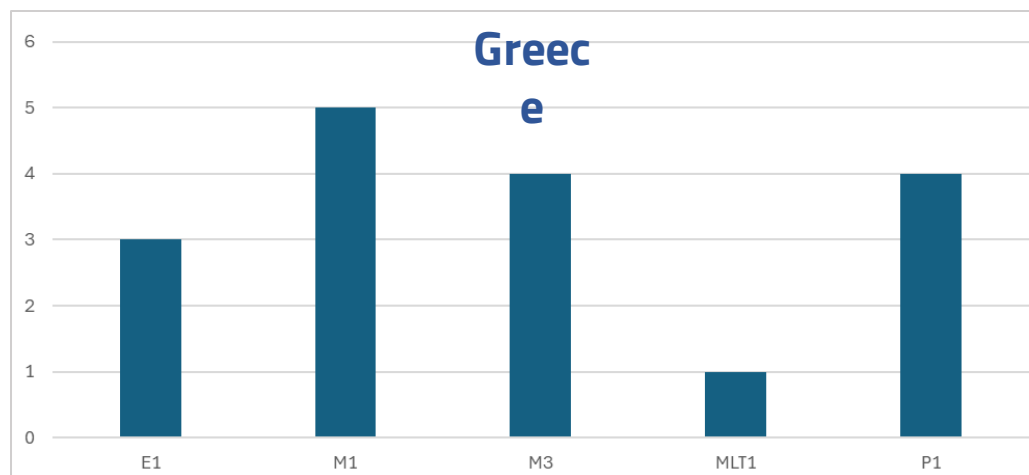
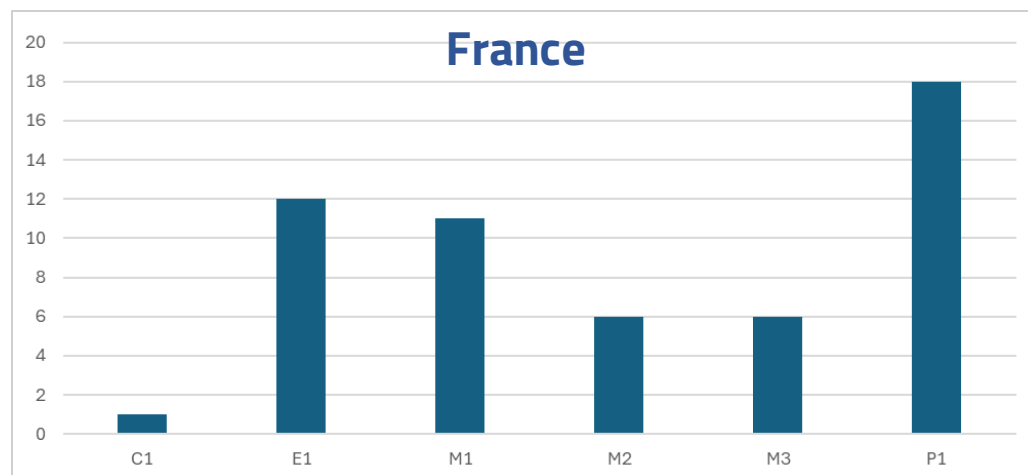
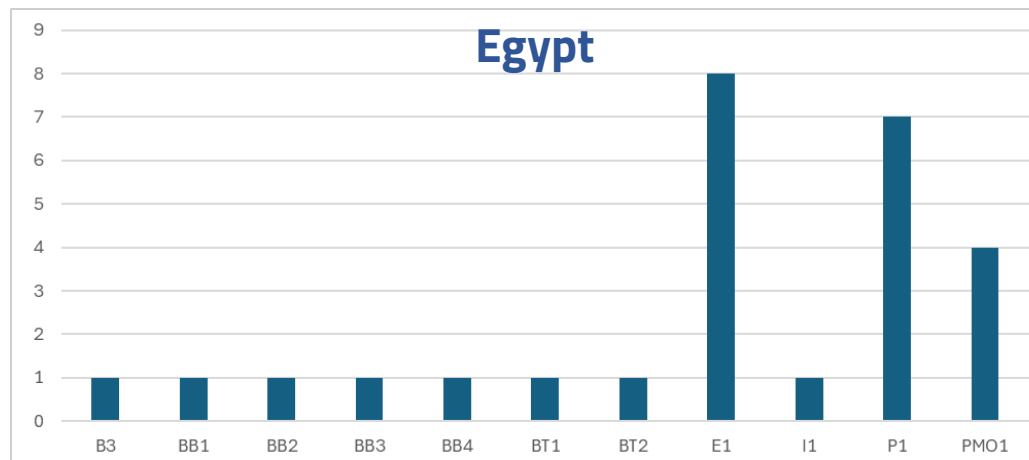
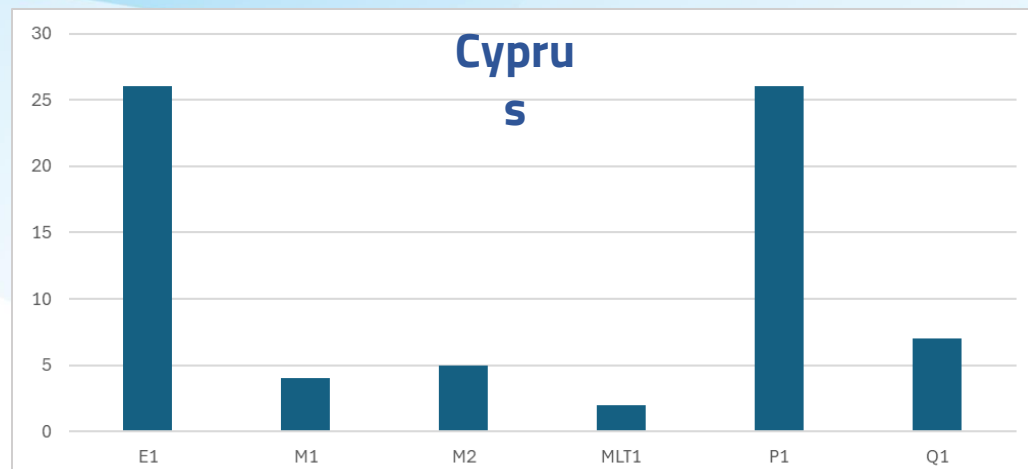
# No. of sampling years per Modules

no. of sampling years



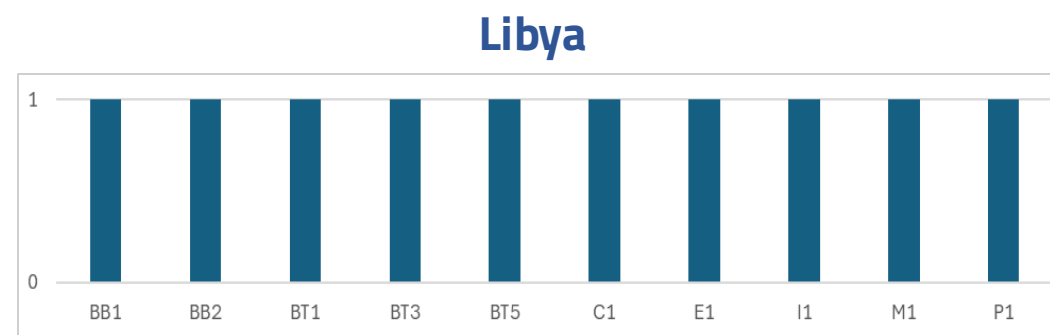
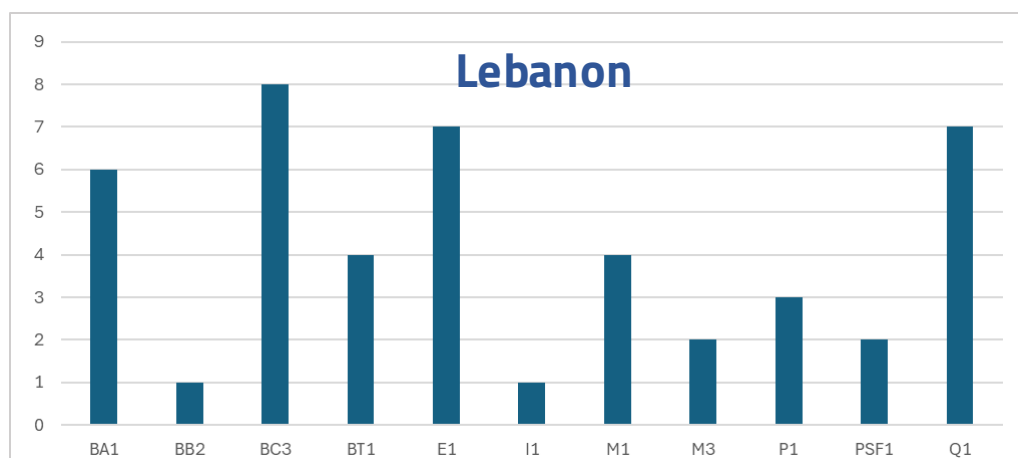
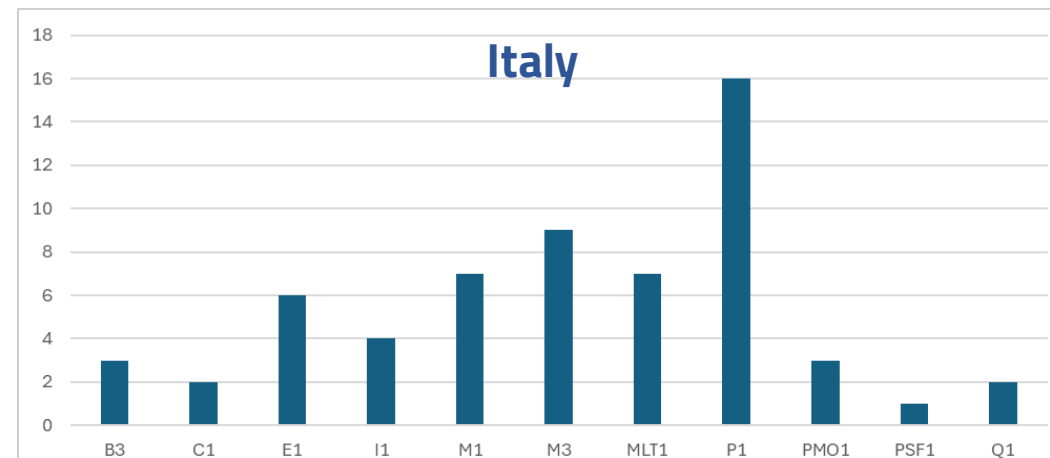
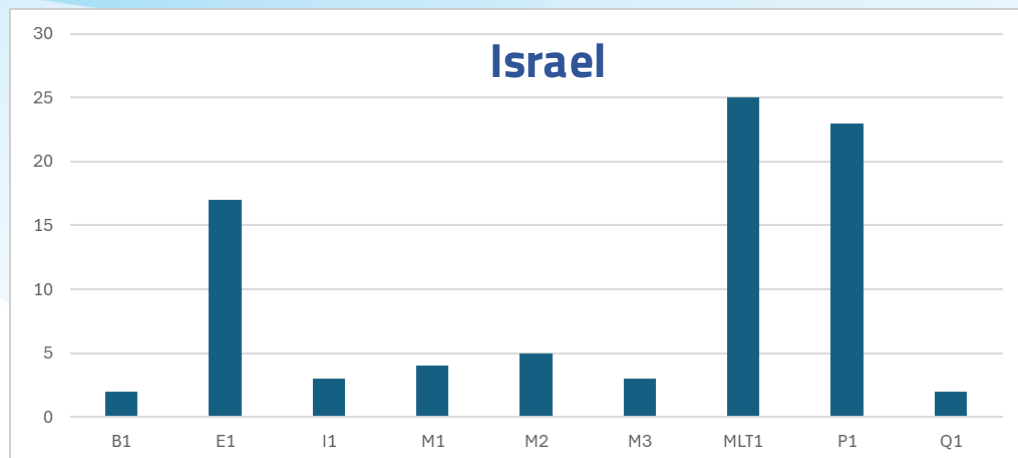
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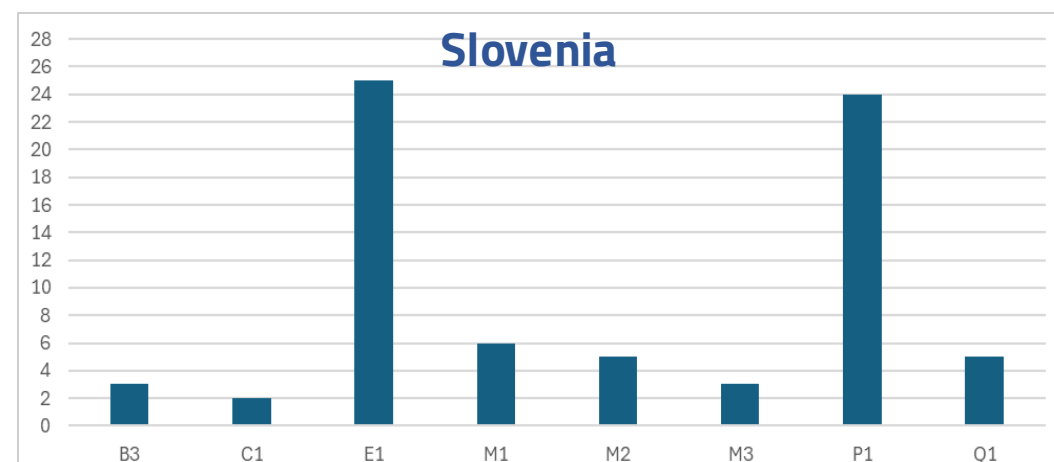
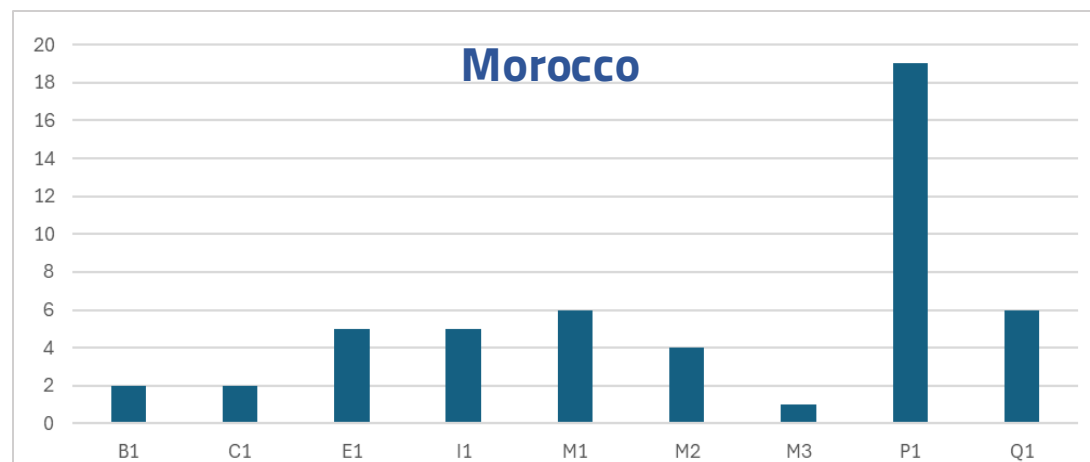
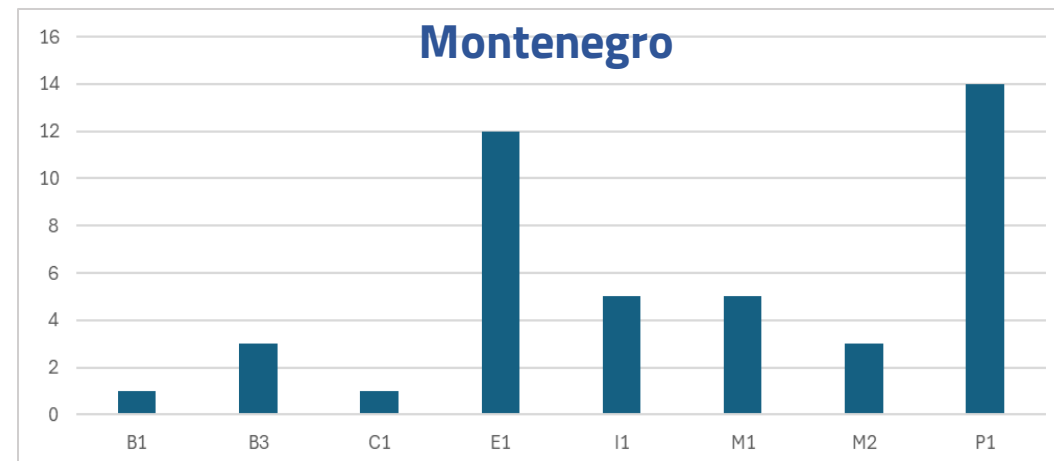
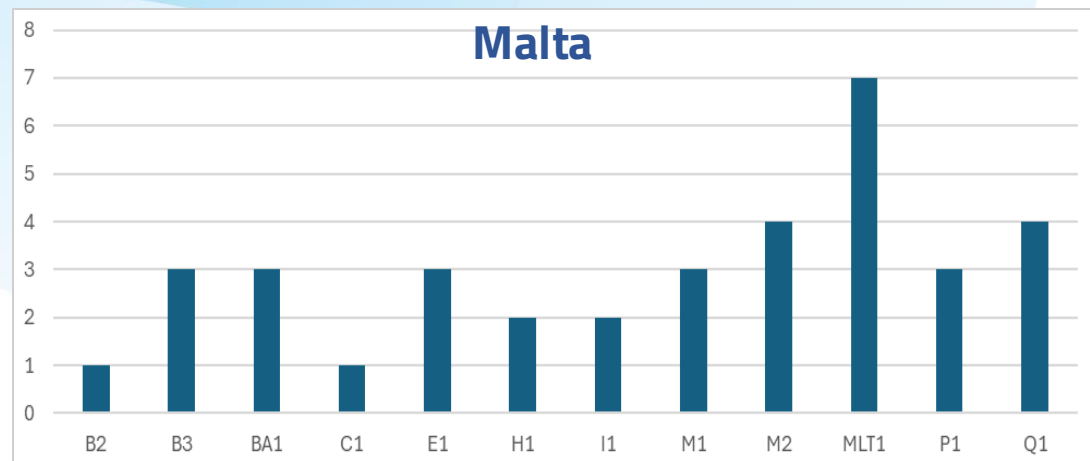
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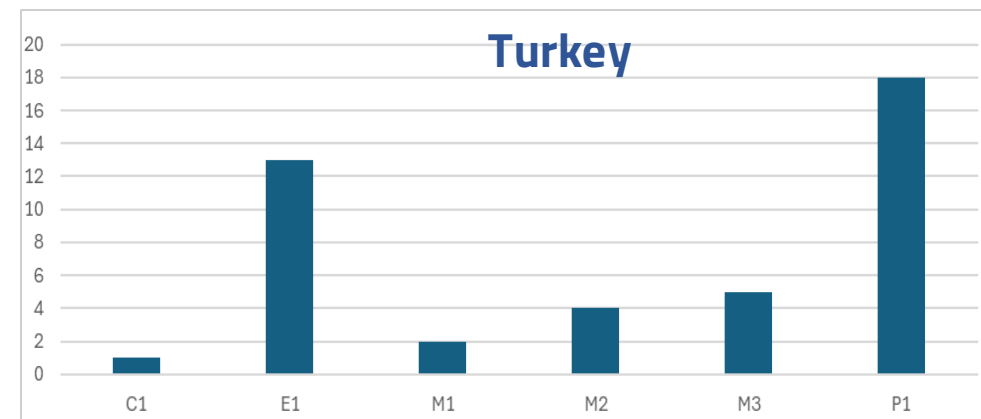
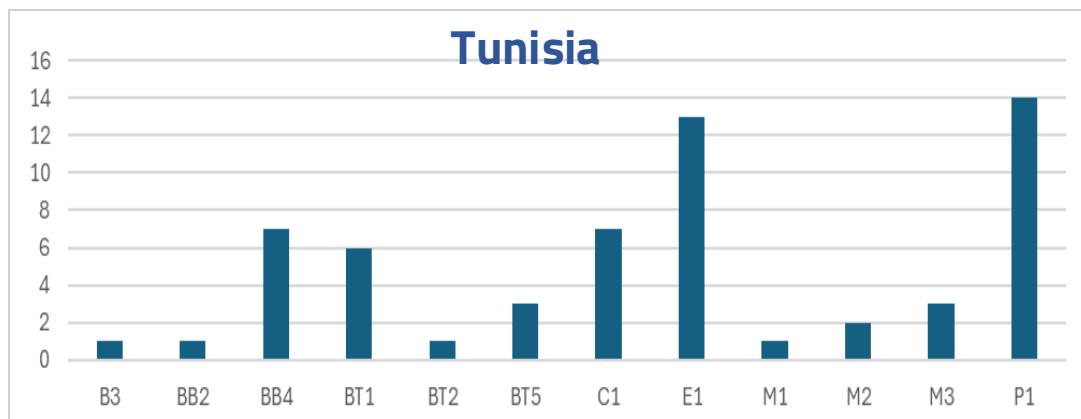
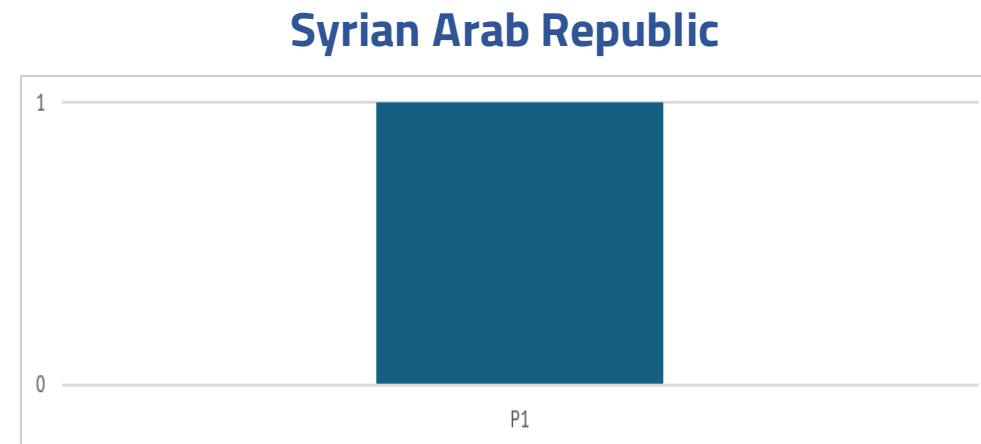
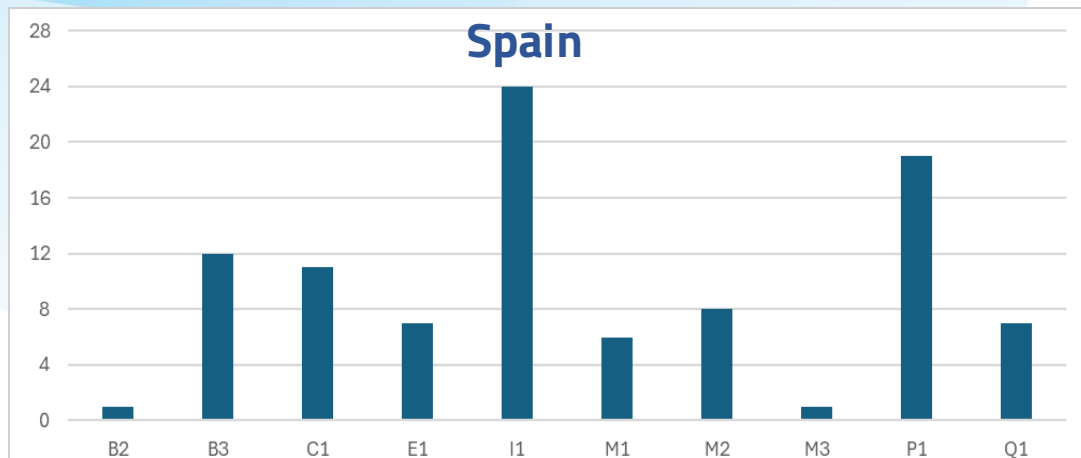
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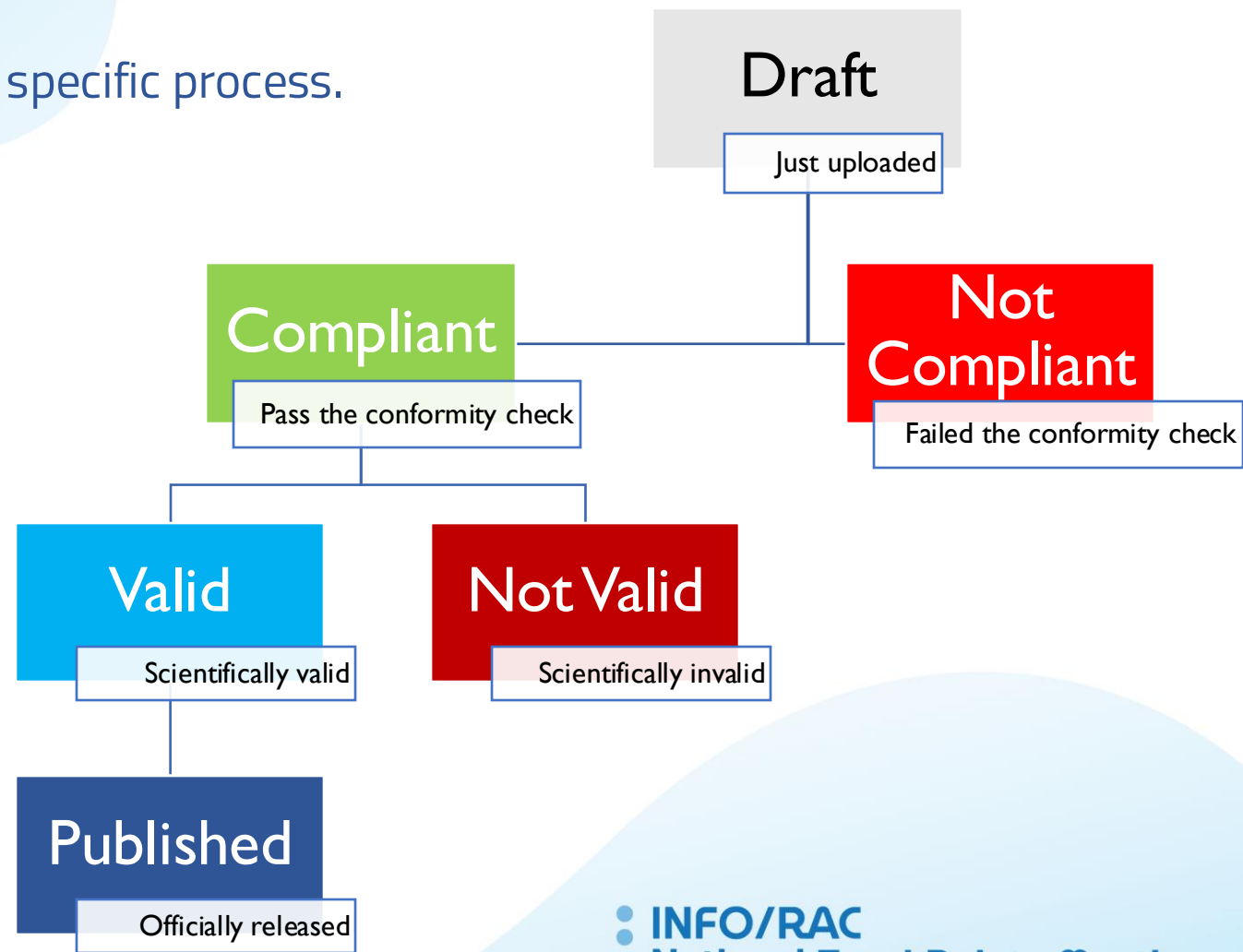
# Reporting Implementation Status: Key Observations

## Temporal Coverage of Reporting

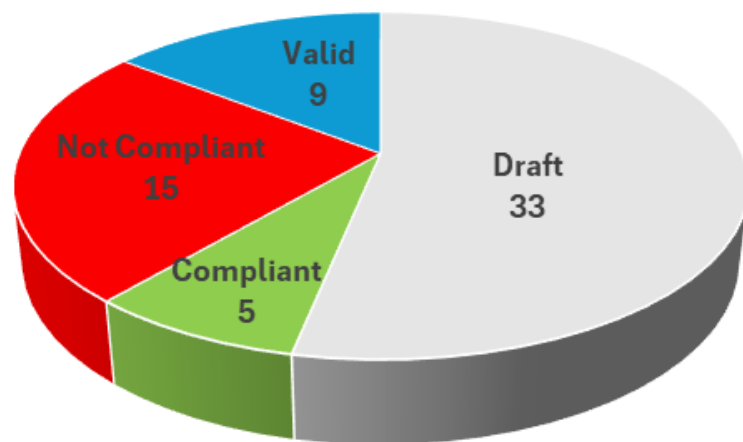
-  Monitoring years reported are very limited
-  We are now in the second monitoring cycle
-  Data from the first cycle (up to 2021) still not submitted  
→ Deadline was 2023
-  Data gaps detected

# Status Categories for IMAP Reporting

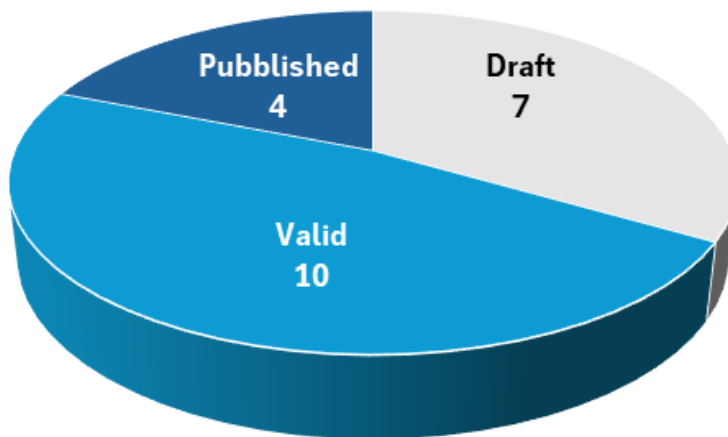
Datasets submitted in IMAP must follow a specific process.



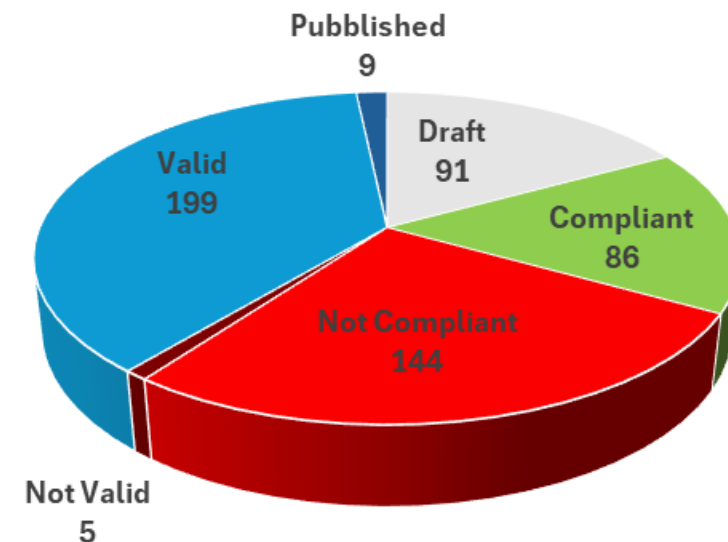
# Status of reporting of the submitted files per Cluster



**Biodiversity: 62**






**Coast and Hydrography: 21**



**Pollution: 534**

# Reporting Implementation Status: Key Observations

## Status of IMAP Data Submissions

-  Many files remain in Draft status  
→ suggests process is stalling early
-  Very few reach Compliant or Valid status  
→ could suggest issues with data quality, structure, or completeness
-  Published files are extremely limited  
→ contradicts MAP Data Policy

# Reporting Implementation Status: What Are the Constraints?

What are the main obstacles your country has faced in reporting?

- Technical challenges in data collection or formatting?
- Delays in national implementation of IMAP monitoring programme?
- Resource constraints or low prioritization of some indicators?
- Other contextual or institutional factors?



Could enhanced collaboration between countries help overcome the main obstacles?

Let's discuss how we can better support effective implementation



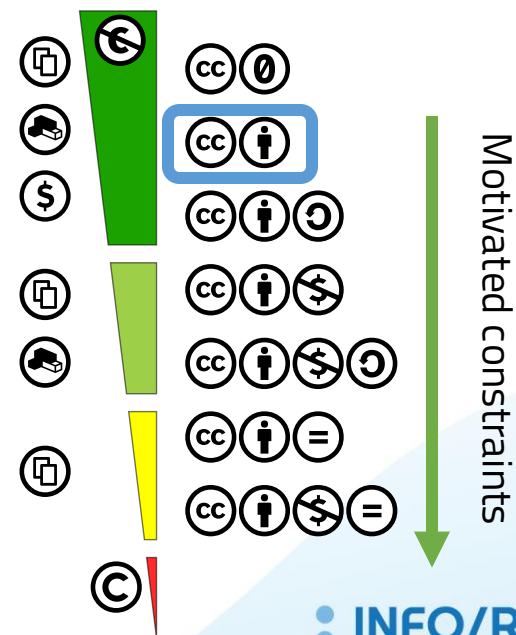
# **DATA METRIC POLICY**

## Principles behind prescriptions: open access

Following the principles behind UNEP/MAP Data Policy, Annex I of the decision ([UNEP/MED IG.25/27, Decision IG.25/10](#)): data must be as open as possible, respecting the constraints imposed by local legislation, sensitivity of data and copyrights

To formalize Open Access, we need **Open Data licenses**:

- Public Domain (CC-0)
- Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY)



# Principles behind prescriptions: restriction and embargo

- **Restrictions** to put attention on are:
  - Binding rules
  - International treaties
  - National legislation
  - Statistical confidentiality
  - Protection of intellectual property rights
  - Protection of national security
  - Defense purposes
  - Public security
- **Embargo** is **a temporary stop** on disclosing information contained in a research paper. The embargo process is not automatic; embargoes **must be requested by the CPs**.
- Embargoes **will be automatically lifted after two years** (or until scientific publication connected to data is approved: whichever happens first). Up to two-year extensions can be requested.

# Data policy implementation in the IMAP Info System

According to UNEP/MAP Data Policy and IMAP Data Policy Annex:

## Datasets

- All monitoring data must be open and published
- Exceptions allowed only if justified
- If delayed without justification:
  - kind reminders
  - UNEP/MAP will publish the data

## Publication function

- Until now: Publication by INFO/RAC
- Next step: CPs will publish data by their own



# IMAP User Network

- **IMAP User Network** is the network of IMAP Users responsible to upload, validate and release monitoring data related to IMAP Common Indicators.
- IMAP user Network consists of **Country expert** representatives, **officially appointed by** the **MAP Focal Point** and **coordinated by** the **INFO/RAC NFPs**.
- **INFO/RAC NFP acts as facilitators** among INFO/RAC and IMAP users, allowing the sharing and exchange of knowledge and information for data reporting purposes on IMAP Info System. As facilitators, INFO/RAC NFPs collaborates with INFO/RAC providing suggestion and observations to improve Information Standards.
- Furthermore, INFO/RAC NFPs encourage all national IMAP Users to participate in the Training/Assistance meeting organized by INFO/RAC.

# IMAP User profiles

**INFO/RAC suggests 3 levels as IMAP User:**

**Level I - Upload:** users uploading the monitoring data file and performing the compliance quality check - *scientific institutions responsible for data production and elaboration (i.e. monitoring and research institutes).*

**Level II - Validation:** users performing the process of quality control of monitoring data - *national institutions responsible for data collection and validation (i.e. Environmental National Agency).*

**Level III - Official release:** users have the duty to confirm the official release - *national entities responsible for the official release of the data (i.e. National Focal Point).*

**Nevertheless, Contracting Parties can decide to appoint the same user even for all the 3 levels.**

# THANKS for your attention

[imap@info-rac.org](mailto:imap@info-rac.org)

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(INFO/RAC)**



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