



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

Dutch expertise deployable all over the world

# Environmental Assessment Unit (EAU)



## Why call upon the EAU?

When an environmental or natural disaster occurs, the impact on public health and the environment can be severe. Authorities and response organisations need to assess the consequences quickly and thoroughly. They will need specific knowledge and capacity, which the Environmental Assessment Unit (EAU) can provide anywhere in the world.

## What is the EAU?

The EAU is a small, flexible team that can be deployed quickly all over the world. The team and its equipment are highly mobile. Supported by a Back Office, the team is trained to quickly and comprehensively assess the medium and long-term effects of released hazardous substances. With the EAU, the Netherlands contributes to disaster relief worldwide.

## Main activities

The EAU provides support during and after environmental disasters. A dedicated team provides screening services to characterise chemical or environmental threats, and provide advice where needed.

The team collects data to assess the risks. This can be based on readily available on-site information, either collated and provided by an EAU expert or provided by local authorities or other (local) response experts and organisations. In the absence of on-site information, an (extended) EAU field team can be deployed to generate the required data (sampling, quick measurements and first interpretation of results on-site).

## Field team

The EAU field team consists of a team leader with general knowledge of risks of hazardous substances for public health and the environment. The team can be extended with one or two technically skilled sampling experts. In case of deployment of a mobile lab (EU only), one or two analytical experts will join.

## Back-office

The EAU is supported by a Back Office that is part of the Dutch Environmental Incident Service and available 24/7. The Back Office has close connections with a supportive network of knowledge institutes, ensuring a broad range of expertise in the field of public health and the environment. The support may range from assistance in performing model calculations of dispersion of compounds in air, water and soil, to risk assessments (human health and the environment) and subsequent advice on (safety) measures.

## Get in touch

E-mail: [incident@rivm.nl](mailto:incident@rivm.nl)

For more information: [www.rivm.nl/en/eau](http://www.rivm.nl/en/eau)



The EAU is a joint initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is responsible for managing and deploying the EAU.