ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA umweltbundesamt

Reporting mechanism development

Update and next steps from a country perspective

UN-ECE WGEMA, Geneva, 7 September 2015

„Small Working Group" results

- Armenia, Austria, Georgia, Finland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Russian Federation
- met on July 3rd in Geneva
- discussed methodology and the technical/organisational implementation measures proposed by the Secretariat for develop the reporting mechanism on SEIS
- Two-stage approach
  → the reporting mechanism should be developed as simple electronic online application – mid-term (depending on time for financing and programming)
  → For reporting in time to the 2016 Ministerial conference, initial evaluation by excel-sheet (developed by the Secretariat)

Rating blocks of reporting mechanism

- Five rating blocks confirmed as proposed by the secretariat
  1. Data flow/set accessible online
  2. Data set up-to-date
  3. Production methodology standardised
  4. Data set assessed
  5. Data source provided
- each building block to have equal weight (5 * 0,2) for assessing the effective production and sharing of the data sets
- rating by Yes or No depending on whether the specific requirements of that block were or were not met.
- possibility of comment or explanation on the evaluation given
- rating block 'data set up-to-date' to have clear requirements for the periodicity of the update

Process: self-evaluation and reviewers

- Need for double procedure confirmed:
  → self-evaluation by country SEIS focal point and its
  → review by reviewers – UNECE secretariat for countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and [presumably/potentially] EEA for European Union member countries and other EEA member countries.
- It was further agreed that countries may wish to nominate more than one SEIS focal points. For that reason, the reporting mechanism should offer the possibility for opening several SEIS user accounts for the same country for its SEIS performance evaluation.

Question streams to identify gaps

- logical question streams formulated for each of the rating blocks
- to help SEIS focal points to identify reasons for performance gaps in the requirements of the rating blocks for any specific SEIS data set
- question streams to be incorporated into the electronic online application, with space for comments or further explanations
- application to keep track of developments in the gap identification process managed by countries themselves.
- Russian-speaking members of the WGEMA sub-group would further review the Russian expressions used in the question streams

follow-up on 3rd July meeting

- To support countries, the Secretariat has pre-filled the excel sheet with national information on the 67 indicators found on publicly available national and international web-sites
- Only information which is actually "shared" and openly available exists in "S" EIS
- Pre-filling necessarily limited in completeness, eg
  → regarding sources in national languages
  → countries with complex administrative structures
  → short time available for research
- Secretariat has been asked to share their "national" sheet with countries to further complete and validate
- Country validation deadlines for being included in report to CEP October 2015 ? and to Batumi June 2016 ?

Some personal impressions

- Pre-filling by Secretariat gives interesting feedback regarding which information is "easy-to-find" information on our national and on international web-sites
- Easy public access also supports implementation of the "information pillar" of the Aarhus Convention (and Directive 2003/4/EC for EU Member States)
- Most EEA countries have so far focused more on providing information to EEA for presentation of cumulated "European" information, than on giving public access to provided data
- Since many years Sweden is the EEA Member State most systematically and transparently documenting its international reporting in the environment sactor

Thank you for your attention

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