



Establishing a regular environmental assessment process and developing SEIS in the pan-European region

Committee on Environmental Policy

21st Session

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GEO-6 Pan-European status & update



REIN Conference
April 2015
Priorities
Emerging Issues
Outlooks

Drafting the
Assessment
71 Experts
25 Countries

Section 1: Regional
Priorities

Section 2: State &
Trends & Policies

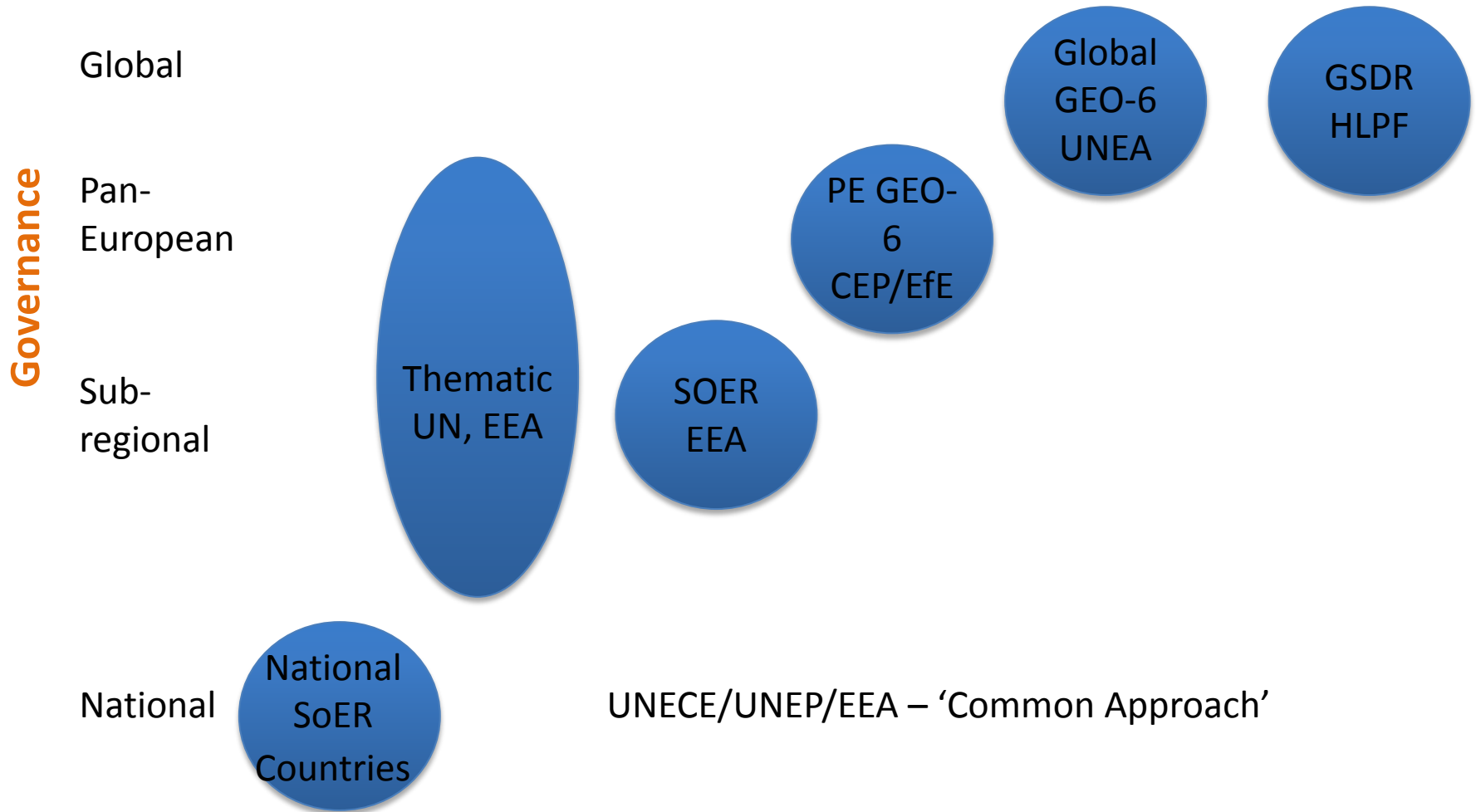
Section 3:
Megatrends,
Outlooks & Emerging
Issues

Stage 1 expert review
Stage 2
Intergovernmental
Review

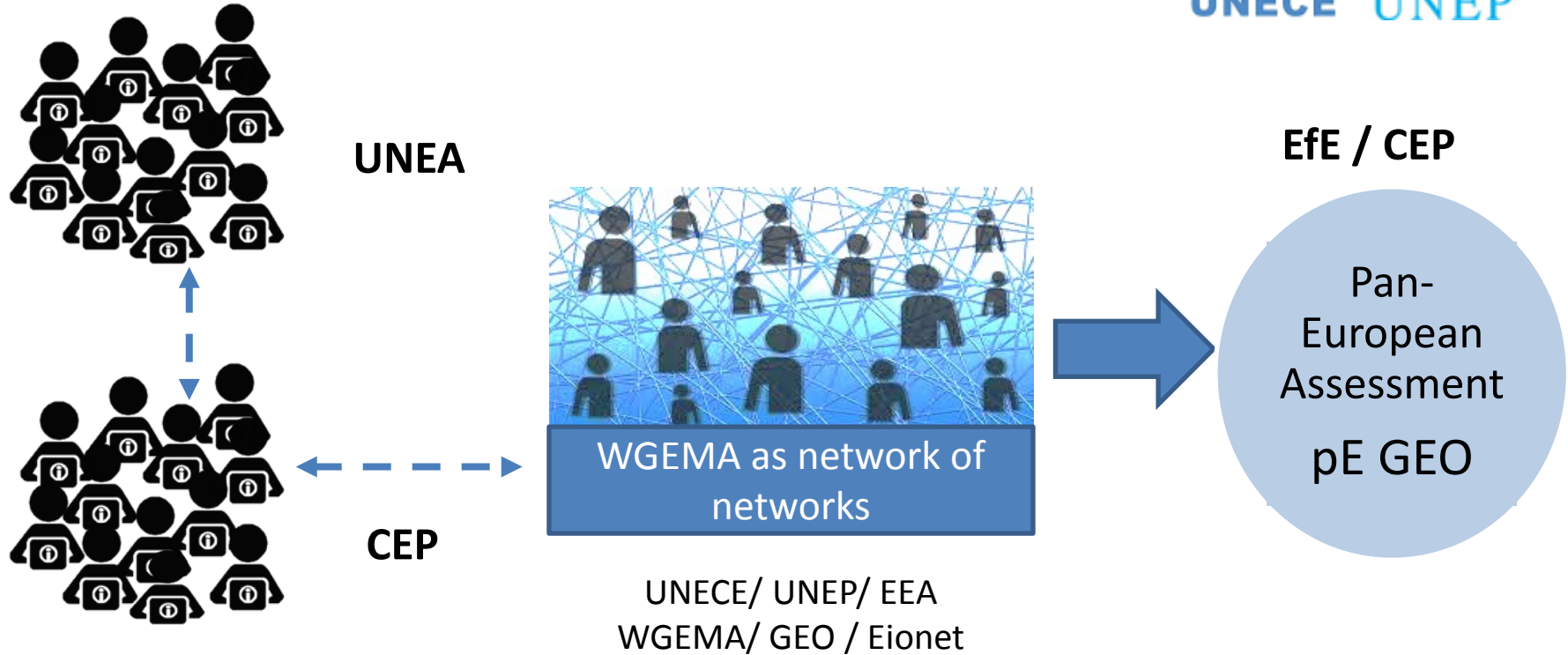
E-publication, design
and translation

Launch &
Outreach

Regular environmental assessment – GoF SEIS (1)

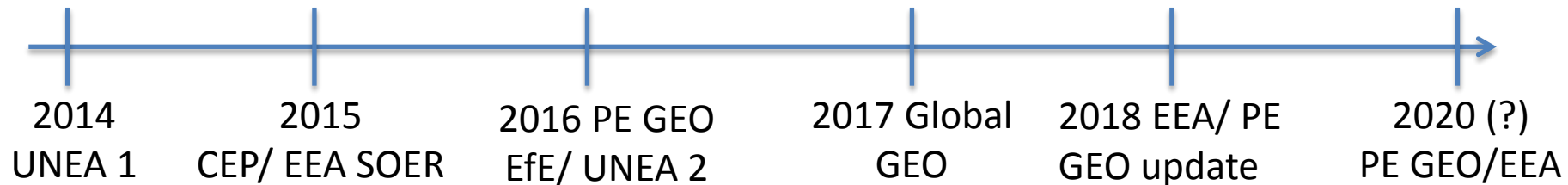


Regular environmental assessment process - GoF SEIS (2)

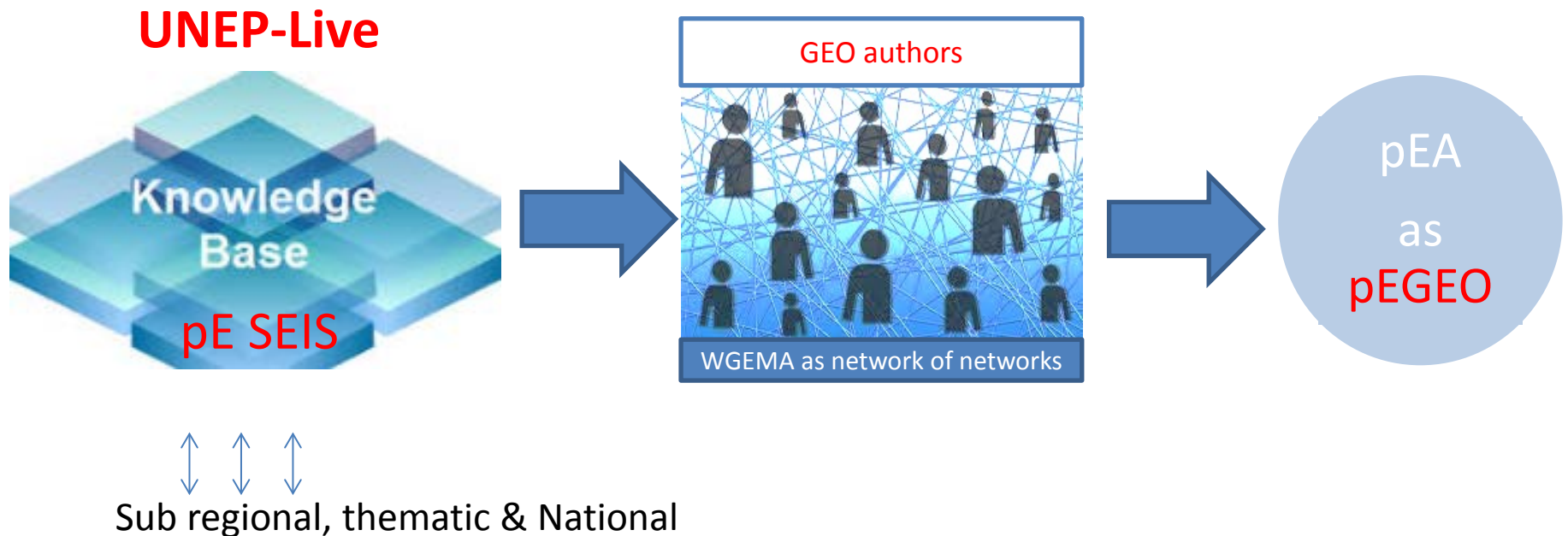


Political oversight
(Global and Regional)

TIMELINES



Regular environmental assessment process - GoF SEIS (3)



Decisions at CEP-20



- SEIS targets and performance indicators adopted
- WGEMA mandated to review SEIS establishment in UNECE countries as per SEIS targets and performance indicators
- WGEMA mandated to report on progress made by UNECE countries in establishing SEIS (for 2016 EfE Ministerial Conference with a first version for CEP-21 in 2015)
- Close cooperation between GEO and EfE processes emphasized to forge mutual benefits in the area of environmental assessments

WGEMA-16 at REIN Conference 16-17 April, Istanbul



Countries

- Agreement on 8 thematic areas for which access to data and information produced in common formats and standards should be facilitated under the pan-European SEIS;
- Agreement to produce and share, to the extent possible, the 67 agreed data sets (data flows): 25 refer to the theme of air pollution and ozone depletion; 4 to climate change; 20 to water; 4 to biodiversity; 2 to land and soil; 4 to energy; and 8 to waste.

Dedicated group/WGEMA

- Development of a reporting mechanism
- Use the mechanism to assess progress in establishing SEIS in 2015 i.e. in relation to the production and sharing of the 67 data sets by all UNECE countries
- Prepare its initial report for the CEP-21 session in Oct 2015

Reporting mechanism



A dedicated group was set up to develop and test the reporting mechanism: Armenia, Austria, Georgia, Finland, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with support by the UNECE secretariat, EEA and UNEP

Starting point: concept developed by the secretariat

Reporting on performance in establishing and operating the Shared Environmental Information System

Rating process: Data flow up to date (2) (2015)

Dataflow: PM2.5

Answer questions Continue

N°	Rating block	Evaluation by the country		Evaluation by UNECE/EEA		Rating
		YES	NO	YES	NO	
1	Data flow accessible online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	😊😊😊
2	Data flow up-to-date	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	😊😊
3	Production methodology available and in accordance with the agreed standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	😊😊
4	Data flow assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	😊😊
5	Data flow source provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	😊

Please answer questions

no extensive consultations required

informative

WGEMA 17

7-8 September, Geneva



WGEMA Mandate:

- Assess the availability and accessibility of data and related information for the list of 67 data sets for the pan-European countries.

WGEMA request to Secretariat:

- Prepare a desk study presenting the results of the test for the Working Group's consideration.

Progress on Reporting Mechanism

- Each SEIS data set would be reviewed on 5 elements: online accessibility; update regularity; application of a standard production methodology; data interpretation availability; and information on the data source.
- Review by SEIS focal points in the ECE countries and examined by the European Environment Agency (EEA) for its pan-European member States and by the ECE secretariat for member States from the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as other pan-European countries not covered by EEA.

WGEMA 17

Desk Study results



- Availability and accessibility of the 67 SEIS data sets and related information were rated for 53 pan-European countries and Kosovo in accordance with criteria agreed by the development group.
- Country desk-study assessments were reviewed only by nine countries; therefore this first “test” prepared by the secretariat was not presenting a confirmed state of SEIS performance-it was prepared to help the Working Group to discuss the content of its report on SEIS.

Outcome of the WGEMA-17 deliberations



The Working Group agreed that for its report to CEP21:

- The SEIS performance assessment should be updated after validation by countries of the desk study assessment,
- Criteria applied for assessing SEIS performance should be visibly specified (for example, state that only online published data and information are assessed on other SEIS criteria),
- It should be specified if the SEIS status information was or was not validated by the country, and
- Key messages on SEIS should be added linking the SEIS work to the generation of environmental assessments.

First report on establishment of SEIS in the pan European region:

Rating elements



Rating element	Success criteria
Online accessibility	The data set can be easily accessed by anybody at any time online.
Update regularity	The data set is updated with figures of the latest agreed production period.
Application of a standard production methodology	Anybody can access detailed information on the applied methodology and calculation methods for the production of the data set. The detailed information confirms that the applied methodology is the agreed methodology for the production of the particular data set.
Availability of data interpretation	The data set is supported by information about what it presents and how to understand the changes in figures over time also vis-à-vis possible policy targets. This information should be provided in the national language for the national public and in an international language — English and/or Russian — to be accessible to the international community.
Information on data source	The institution responsible for the production of the data set and its contact details are available.

Some caveats...



- The value of 1 was given if detailed information on the production methodology was made accessible without verification of the methodology applied.
- For the rating element of data interpretation a value of 1 was given if the information was provided with no evaluation of the content.
- A rating of 1 was provided when time series for several years were provided and the last series was not older than 2013 for data sets subject to annual update.

Performance Tables



- Background paper

Results



- On average, 44 per cent of datasets were found to be available for 53 pan-European countries and Kosovo as of September 2015.
- Armenia, Canada, Ireland, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Sweden have nearly all or all 67 datasets available and accessible.
- There are several countries for which none or only a few datasets were available online. After validation, however, their SEIS performance status is anticipated to improve.
- The current review, when validated, provides a SEIS establishment status that can serve as a baseline.
- The average thematic area performance is above the overall average for biodiversity (11 percentage points above), climate change (11 percentage points above), energy (10 percentage points above) and air pollution and ozone depletion (3 percentage points above).
- Below the overall average are the thematic areas of waste (1 percentage point below), land and soil (8 percentage points below) and water (7 percentage points below).

Results, continued



- On average, the interpretation of data and the information on the data source is provided for nearly every data set and the link to applied methodology for nearly 9 out of 10 data sets.
- For data interpretation, the lowest score for a data set is 88 per cent of countries providing this element, while for 35 data sets all the countries provided data interpretation.
- The lowest score for countries providing the data source of a data set is 77 per cent. For 29 data sets the score reached 100 per cent.
- The data set with the lowest number of countries providing links to or information about the data production methodologies had a score of 74 per cent. For five data sets a score of 100 per cent was reached.
- For the application of a standard data methodology, the rating may decline when it is assessed also against its fulfilment of internationally accepted standards.
- For data interpretation, the rating may decrease if the aspects of interpretation availability in local and international languages or data assessment versus policy targets are taken into account.
- On average, for 1 out of 4 data sets the time series provided are not up to date. For as many as 10 data sets, in more than 30 per cent of cases the data were not up to date. There is no single data set for which all the countries provided updated time series.

CONCLUSIONS



- 28 countries achieved a satisfactory SEIS performance (above 50 per cent of the data and related information were available online)
- There are several data sets which are published by only a limited number of countries.
- Updating the data with the most recent time series can be considered as not fully satisfactory.
- Providing links to data methodologies, data interpretation and the data source does not seem to present any difficulty for countries.
- The next round needs to consider fulfilment of internationally accepted standards for data set production.
- Only 17 pan-European countries validated the information, while 38 countries as well as Kosovo still need to do it. It is expected that with the country validation, the overall SEIS performance will improve.
- Once the validation is finalized, the analysis will be updated to show the confirmed status of the pan-European countries performance in establishing SEIS. That status will then serve as a baseline to review countries' progress in establishing SEIS in Batumi and in the coming years.
- Proceed to a simple electronic system of reporting as offered by UNEP and work with the members of WGEMA in its development for the reporting to Batumi.