



Review in June 2017

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment



- *ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/5. Reporting on progress in establishing a Shared Environmental Information System: data quality considerations*
- Working Group reviewed an updated assessment framework for SEIS, comprising a set of 31 questions, including questions related to each component of the UNECE data quality framework
- Working Group also saw how the assessment framework could be accessed online in the SEIS reporting application
- The assessment framework comprised a general part and an indicator-level part
- **Purpose** of this continuing review of the SEIS Assessment Framework was to utilize the revised assessment framework in the preparation of a mid-term SEIS assessment that will be submitted to the Committee on Environmental Policy

Questions posed

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- How can the SEIS assessment framework be made more **user-friendly** and simpler so as to minimize the national reporting burden?
- What should be the **modalities** of the Working Group to allow for timely reporting on progress in establishing SEIS and the production of the UNECE set of environmental indicators?
- How should the various components of the SEIS assessment framework be **weighted** for the production of a national SEIS performance score?
- What should be the **milestones** for SEIS establishment until 2021 (in accordance with the Batumi Declaration)?
- How should the SEIS assessment framework and its underlying questions be used to identify **gaps** in the production of national environmental statistics?

Decisions taken

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- Have to pilot SEIS Assessment Framework and associated reporting application, before data collection for mid-term SEIS assessment
- SEIS Assessment Framework should be streamlined with other initiatives, such as the data quality assessment framework being developed by EEA
- Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia agreed to participate in piloting
- EEA also expressed its interest to take part in process
- Secretariat to prepare guidance document and clarify which of UNECE set of environmental indicators would be used for piloting
- Full list of questions to be converted into a paper-based questionnaire that could be shared with other relevant agencies on national level
- **SEIS mid-term assessment would be reviewed at 20th session of Working Group**



Pilot exercise

SEIS assessment framework

- Two questionnaires (general, indicator-specific) issued as Word files, English and Russian
- Guidance document, with glossary, English and Russian
- Suggested UNECE environmental datasets:
 - 1 Emissions of sulphur expressed in sulphur dioxide
 - 2 Emissions of nitrogen oxides expressed in nitrogen dioxide
 - 13 Emissions of PM10
 - 52 Number of species protected
 - 53 Number of species threatened
- Two-week deadline



Pilot exercise – responses

SEIS assessment framework

- Four out of five pilot countries responded
- About 1 hour per indicator-level questionnaire
- Armenia (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Russian Federation (1, 2) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1, 2, 13, 52/53)
- Comments on questions and suggestions made by Russian Federation
- All four countries gave ratings for each question:
 - Importance of the question
 - Clarity of the question and the guidance
- All five countries joined SEIS workshop in Vienna, 14-15 September





Which UNECE environmental indicators, which datasets?

SEIS assessment framework

- All those in the UNECE set of 42 environmental indicators?
- Priority given to core set of 14 indicators?
- Priority given to 8 biodiversity and energy (D, G) indicators?
 - D1. Protected areas
 - D3. Forests & other wooded land
 - D4. Threatened & protected species
 - D5. Trends in the number & distribution of selected species
 - G1. Final energy consumption
 - G2. Total primary energy supply
 - G3. Energy intensity
 - G4. Renewable energy consumption
- And air quality?





Next steps: reporting

SEIS assessment framework

- Finalization of SEIS assessment framework for mid-term review (questions, weighting, performance score)
- Verification of Russian translation
- Production of questionnaires in Word
- Revision of online reporting application
- Issue of call to report to all member States, with tailored message for EIONET members – date?
- 14-17 November 2017: secretariat reports on progress to Committee on Environmental Policy
- Deadline for reporting?





Next steps: mid-term assessment

SEIS assessment framework

- Compilation of national reports by secretariat (and checking)
- Drafting of conclusions by secretariat, in consultation with UNEP and EEA
- (Drafting by secretariat of analytical reports for countries of the Caucasus and Eastern Europe)
- 26-27 March 2018: Working Group considers draft SEIS mid-term assessment
- Revision of SEIS mid-term assessment by secretariat, in consultation with Chair of Working Group
- Consultation of member States for checking
- Drafting by secretariat of guidelines on SEIS Assessment Framework
- Submission as official documents to Committee on Environmental Policy
- 13-16 November 2018: Committee on Environmental Policy considers SEIS mid-term assessment



Next steps: final assessment

SEIS assessment framework

- 2019: Working Group adjust the SEIS assessment framework, as necessary
- 12-15 November 2019: secretariat reports on progress to Committee on Environmental Policy
- 2020: reporting by member States
- 10-13 November 2020: Committee on Environmental Policy considers SEIS final assessment
- 2021: Ministers consider SEIS final assessment (to be confirmed)