

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS (DECISION II/3)**

Please fill in and return this questionnaire to the Aarhus Convention secretariat by  
20 November 2006

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1. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to para 9 (c) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Reports on the state of the environment are:

i. Generally available **\_X\_** Partly available      Not available

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- ii. Please provide internet link <http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncsd/eng/bulletins.html>
- iii. Are reports on the state of the environment legally required to be available?  
Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?  
Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments
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b) Texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link <http://www2.moew.government.bg/>
- iii. Are texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?  
Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments

**The texts of legislations and regulations are generally available through Internet on the above mentioned link.**

c) Texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements are:

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link <http://www2.moew.government.bg/>
- iii. Are texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?  
Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments
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d) Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation, where it is held in electronic form, is:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)
- iii. Are environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐

v. Comments

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e) Reference to where environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation can be accessed is:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)

f) Data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), are:

i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Are PRTR data legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments

**According to the requirements of Environmental protection act (art. 130) the Executive Environment Agency maintains public register containing the monitoring data required by the IPPC permit. These data has to be transferred to EPER register. At the moment a software product is preparing. The EPER register will be available to the public.**

g) Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention is:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link  
[http://www.moew.government.bg/access\\_to\\_info.html](http://www.moew.government.bg/access_to_info.html);  
<http://www.moew.government.bg/aarhus>.

iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments

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2. In your country, among documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6, and where held in electronic form, which categories of environmental information are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Applications for licences or permits are:

i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)

- iii. Are applications for licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v. Comments

**The notification for investment proposals, the List of sectors subject to IPPS and the dates for implementation are available on the MoEW's web page.**

**According to the requirements of IPPC regulation (art. 11) the application for IPPC permit (paper copy) is submitted to public access for 1 month. The access is conducted in the Executive Environment Agency (responsible for the permit preparation) and in the relevant (to the installation location) municipality.**

- b) Draft licences or permits and their attached conditions are:
- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)
- iii. Are draft licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments

**According to the requirements of IPPC regulation (art. 15) the draft of IPPC permit (paper copy) is submitted to public access for 1 month. The access is conducted in the Executive Environment Agency (responsible for the permit preparation) and in the relevant (to the installation location) municipality.**

- c) Final licences or permits and their attached conditions are:
- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable [www.moew.government.bg](http://www.moew.government.bg)
- iii. Are final licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes ☒ No ☐
- v. Comments

**List of screening decisions, EIA decisions, IPPS permits, SEA statements are partly available on the MoEW's web page.**

- d) Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions are:
- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Are comments of third parties legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments

**Till the moment comments made by the public during the public access are submitted on paper.**

e) Where it is not available in electronic form, a reference to where documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6 can be accessed is:

i. Generally available **X** Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable **http://www.moew.government.bg**

iii. Is such a reference legally required to be available? Yes **X** No \_\_\_

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments

**According to the requirements of IPPC regulation (art. 11 and art. 15) a reference to where the documentation (application and draft permit) can be accessed is given on the Internet site of the Ministry of Environment and Water.**

3. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to the paragraph 9 (d) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision 11/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities, including spatial attributes are:

i. Generally available **X** Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable **http://www.moew.government.bg**  
**http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int ncesd/bul/index.html**

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes **X** No \_\_\_

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments

b) Product information that enables consumers to make informed environmental choices is:

i. Generally available \_\_\_ Partly available **X** Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable **http://www.moew.government.bg**

iii. Are such data legally required to be available? Yes **X** No \_\_\_

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes **X** No \_\_\_

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v. Comments

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c) Good practice information and guidelines on better environmental management are:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable <http://www2.moew.government.bg/> ,  
**<http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncsd/bul/index.html>**

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments

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d) Appropriate metadata or background information so that the methods, processes and standards of data collection are transparent to future data users is:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable **<http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncsd/bul/index.html>**;

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments

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e) Meta-information including catalogues of data sources and details of the scope of information held by public authorities and mechanisms for the provision of access to environmental information is:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable [http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/cds\\_eng/main.htm](http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/cds_eng/main.htm)

iii. Is such meta-information legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments

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4. In your country, what proportion of members of the public has electronic access:

a) In their place of residence?

More than 80% ☐ 60-79% ☐ 40-59% ☐ 20-39% ☐ Less than 20% ☒

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b) In their place of work (employment, school etc.)?

More than 80% \_\_\_ 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% \_\_\_ 20-39% \_\_\_ Less than 20% **\_X\_**

c) In a publicly accessible facility (internet café, public library, kiosk etc)?

More than 80% \_\_\_ 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% \_\_\_ 20-39% \_\_\_ Less than 20% **\_X\_**

5. In your country, has the scope of environmental information that is electronically accessible since 2005:

Generally increased **\_X\_** Partly increased \_\_\_ Remained the same \_\_\_ Declined \_

6. For the majority of Internet users in your country, what is the most common form of Internet access:

Dial-up (telephony) \_\_\_ Wi-Fi (wireless networking) \_\_\_ Broadband **\_X\_** Don't know: \_\_\_

*Broadband is a term that encompasses DSL, cable and satellite high-speed Internet connections. DSL stands for "Digital Subscriber Line". Variants include ADSL, HDSL, IDSL, VDSL and SDSL.*

7. Please describe any methods or measures that are used to gauge the level of actual use of environmental information accessed electronically in your country (for example, tracking of web traffic statistics on official environmental information sites):

**The Ministry of Environment and Water has traffic statistics on its official web page.**

8. Please identify in the table below the  
a) main users of environmental information in your country, and  
b) methods used to assess their information needs.

*You may choose one or more categories.*

a) Main User	b) Methods
Government	<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Open days</li> <li>• Posters</li> <li>• TV, Radio</li> </ul>
Academia / Schools <b>X</b>	<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Open days</li> <li>• Posters</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV, Radio</li> </ul>
General Public <b>X</b>	<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Open days</li> <li>• Posters</li> <li>• TV, Radio</li> </ul>
Nongovernmental Organizations	<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax</li> <li>• Other (to be specified)</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Open days</li> <li>• Posters</li> <li>• TV, Radio</li> </ul>
Private sector	<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open days</li><li>• Posters</li><li>• TV, Radio</li></ul>
Others (Please identify)	

9. If your Ministry or agency has assessed user needs for environmental information, please briefly describe how successful it has been.

**Official statistics on field requests for access to information has been kept in the Ministry of Environment and Water since June 2003. The experience gathered so far shows that the more information is actively disseminated through internet and information centers, the fewer written applications for access to information are filed.**

10. In your country, how is progress on improving electronic access to environmental information being communicated to the public?

**Information about progress on improving electronic access to environmental information as well as established updates is communicated to the public through internet or medias.**

11. What concrete steps have been undertaken to ensure that information is available electronically? Please include reference to national web portals or other sites of interest.

**In the structure of Ministry of Environment and Water as well as in the Executive Environment Agency have an experts obligated to ensure and update electronically information.**

12. Is public access to environmental information through the Internet or other electronic means provided as a matter of practice or is there a legally enforceable right to such access? If possible, please include reference to relevant national policies or provisions of national law referring to this right.

**The public access to environment information through the Internet or other electronic means is provided according to the national legislation requirements, mainly through the Environmental Protection Act.**

13. Has your country formulated and implemented national "e-government" strategies for the use of electronic tools to facilitate administrative processes and services, to make public administration more transparent and efficient in providing available environmental information and dealing with requests for such information from the public? Please include relevant title(s), name(s), contact information of responsible officer(s) and timeframe for implementation.

**The newly created Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform has been established with the mission to accomplish the reform in the public administration. One of the basic instruments for the modernization is the development of e-government. Bulgaria has e-government Strategy. The Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform is the responsible Ministry for its implementation - [http://www.mdaar.government.bg/docs/en\\_e-gov\\_str\\_en2002k.pdf](http://www.mdaar.government.bg/docs/en_e-gov_str_en2002k.pdf).**

14. In which types of environmental decision-making process (in the sense of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention) may public participation take place electronically? What are the main steps in the process? If possible, please give concrete examples.

**An established practice is the MOEW to provide for public access all drafts of plans, programs and strategies on the Ministry's web site at the earliest possible stage, allowing a term of 30 days for comments and proposals. The Draft National Environmental Strategy 2005-2014 has been up loaded to the Ministry's website for comments and proposals - <http://www2.moew.government.bg/> .**

15. Have comprehensive environment-related programmes, including specific training programmes linking the use of information technology applications to the promotion of good environmental governance, been developed and implemented in your country?

- a) Yes ☒ No ☐
- b) Is the training programme:
- i. Ongoing ☐ Periodic ☒ One-time ☐
- ii. Financed through international assistance ☒  
State-financed (National or local government) ☐  
Privately-financed (philanthropy, NGO, private sector) ☐  
Other (please describe)
- c) Please provide the date(s) of initiation and target audience of environment-related training programmes:
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16. Please describe any measures taken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public?

**The most common way to promote the involvement of different stakeholders in the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information are seminars and working groups. Usually the implementation of the new legislation act is followed by seminars, working groups and meetings. The main goal of these events is to promote and clarify the scope and responsibilities of the act as well as to point out the importance of electronic tools and sharing environmental information.**

17. What are the most important challenges and obstacles in your country to the use of electronic tools to implement the *Recommendations* contained in decision II/3?

*You can use the enclosed list of possible challenges on page 10 as reference.*

**The most crucial part is to develop a user friendly model as well as to provide data in easily understandable way.**

18. Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node web portal? If yes, please identify the website address (url):  
<http://www2.moew.government.bg/aarhus/index.html>

19. Does your country have a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node Administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node? Yes ☒ No ☐

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20. Date of launch of national node of the Clearinghouse: (Month/Year) **May, 2003**

21. How often does your national node administration update the National Clearinghouse web portal? Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☒ Annually ☐ Never ☐

22. Approximately how many resource entries in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>) reflect national content?

More than 10 ☐ 5 to 10 ☐ Less than 5 ☐ None ☐

23. What method of communicating resource entries to the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy does your organization or agency prefer to use? Does it submit information:

By email to [aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org](mailto:aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org) ☒

By email to staff of the Aarhus secretariat ☐

By email to national experts serving on Task Force ☐

By email to Clearinghouse National Node Administrator ☐

Using Clearinghouse's online form accessible to registered content managers ☐

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

24. Please describe any measures undertaken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the national node of the Clearinghouse.

**The most common way to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions in the national node of the Clearinghouse are seminars and working groups.**

25. Please provide any additional comments below.

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Information Tools	Relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention	Challenges & obstacles to ICT Implementation
<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet</li> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• Electronic Community Notice Boards/ Billboards</li> <li>• CD-Rom</li> <li>• Electronic data accessible through bar-code scanning</li> <li>• Electronic data accessible through touch-tone dialling</li> <li>• SMS – Short Messaging System</li> <li>• Public electronic information kiosks</li> <li>• Telephone Hotlines/Fax TV Teletext</li> <li>• Other (to be specified)</li> </ul> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brochures</li> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Green community reps</li> <li>• Info-shops (walk in)</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Open days</li> <li>• Posters</li> <li>• TV, Cinema, Radio</li> <li>• Other (to be specified)</li> </ul>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4, PARA. 1</b></p> <p>Response to requests for environmental information in the form requested</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 5, PARA. 3</b></p> <p>a) Reports on the state of the environment b) Texts of legislation on or relating to the environment c) Policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements d) Other information, to the extent that the availability of such information in this form would facilitate the application of national law implementing the Convention.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 6</b></p> <p>Public participation in decisions on specific activities which may have a significant effect on the environment</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 7</b></p> <p>Public participation concerning plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8</b></p> <p>Public participation during the preparation of executive regulations and/or generally applicable legally binding normative instruments</p>	<p><b>INSTITUTIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country</li> <li>• Limited standardization of data sets</li> <li>• Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data</li> <li>• Limited interest in utilizing ICT among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Data providers (you)</li> <li>-Data users (pls. Quantify)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other priorities (pls. Detail)</li> <li>• Lack of time to explore/implement</li> </ul> <p><b>ECONOMIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited market availability of equipment</li> <li>• Lack of IT service providers</li> <li>• Lack of technical support</li> <li>• High cost of online access</li> <li>• High cost of equipment</li> <li>• Poor state of telecommunication networks</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited expertise/know-how</li> </ul> <p><b>LEGAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear rules, legislation on environment and informational responsibility</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER</b> (to be specified)</p>

