

**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

Secretariat: Fax: +41 22 917 0634, E-mail: michael.stanley-jones@unece.org

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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 ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link www.kvvm.hu

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: Public access through the Internet of SOE reports legally are not required but (if it is technically feasible) are strongly recommended.

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: www.kvvm.hu

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: These pieces of information are publicly accessible on the home pages of inspectorates for environment, nature and water inspectorates, directorates of national parks as well.

(The internet links of inspectorates: atiktf.zoldhatosag.hu; ddktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; edktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; emiktfvf.zoldhatosag.hu; ftvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; kvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; kdvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; kdtktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; ktvktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; nydtktfvf.zoldhatosag.hu; ttktvf.zoldhatosag.hu; www.ddkf.hu)

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

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

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- ii. Please provide internet link: www.kvvm.hu
- iii. Are texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes ___ No X
- 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: To be available these texts on the Internet legally are not required but (if it is technically feasible) are recommended. Some of these pieces of information are publicly accessible on the web portals of the environmental, nature conservation and water inspectorates, national parks as well.
- d) Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation, where it is held in electronic form, is:
- i. Generally available ___ Partly available X Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link: www.kvvm.hu (and web sites of inspectorates for environment, nature and water)
- iii. Are environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation legally required to be available? Yes ___ No X
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ___ No ___
- v. Comments: If technically feasible the uploading of them on the Internet are strongly recommended.
- e) Reference to where environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation can be accessed is:
- i. Generally available ___ Partly available X Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link: www.kvvm.hu (and the home pages of authorized inspectorates for environment, nature and water)
- 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 X Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link: www.kvvm.hu/szakmai/eper/; www.emla.hu (Environmental Management and Law Association)
- iii. Are PRTR 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 ___
- v. Comments: This time are only available the data on environmentally significant releases of pollutants within the scope of European Pollutant Emission Register (which was established by a Commission Decision of 17 July 2000). As from January 1st 2008 the publicly accessibility of PRTR data through the Internet are legally required.
- g) Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention is:
- i. Generally available X Partly available ___ Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link: abiweb.obh.hu/dpc/index.htm (Data Protection Commissioner of Hungary); www.tasz.hu (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union); www.emla.hu
- iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice legally required to be available? Yes X No ___

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

v. Comments: The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services and the environmental democracy is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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 X

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are applications for licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No X

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

v. Comments:

The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services and the environmental democracy is going to progressively improve access to this information.

b) Draft licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ☐ Partly available X Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable: home pages of the authorized inspectorates for environment, nature and water

iii. Are draft licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No X

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

v. Comments: The publicly accessibility of draft licences and permits are legally recommended if it is technically feasible and the law requires for the planned development, activity a detailed environmental impact assessment. The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services and the environmental democracy is going to progressively improve access to this information.

c) Final licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available X

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are final licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No X

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

v. Comments: If technically feasible legally are recommended providing of the public access through the Internet to the final licences or permits. This time the service is about to be implemented. (This content service is being tested at the intranet of the Ministry.)

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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: The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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 ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- iii. Is such a reference 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 Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

3. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to the paragraph 9 (d) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/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 ☐ Partly available ☐ Not available ☒
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- 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: The publicly accessibility through the Internet of these data – if it is technically feasible – are legally recommended. This time the service is about to be implemented. (This content service is being tested at the intranet of the Ministry.)

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

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable http://okocimke.kvvm.hu/public_eng/
- iii. Are such 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 ☐

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v. Comments: The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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 _____

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: The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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 _____

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: According the legal rules the authority provides metadata or background information only for the request of the clients. The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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 _____

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: According the legal rules the authority provides this kind of information only for the request of the clients. The Environmental Operative Program of the National Development Plan (2007-2013) in the framework of the development of environmental content services is going to progressively improve access to this information.

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% ☐

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

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

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

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More than 80% X 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% ___ Less than 20% ___

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

Generally increased ___ Partly increased X Remained the same ___ Declined ___

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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):

Tracking of web traffic statistics (number of visitors), data traffic (quantity of downloaded information) etc.

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
General Public	Yearly (trimonthly) thematic analysis of the client turnover. Tracking of web traffic statistics, data and information traffic statistics on environmental information sites
Nongovernmental Organizations	as above
Private sector	as above

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

The employees of Public Information Office (The Green-Point Service of the Ministry of Environment and Water) generally assess the enquiries and in every year (trimonthly) make a thematic analysis of the client turnover at the Office. Some inspectorates also keep their own statistics. The results of the assessment are used to the developing of the home pages of ministry and the inspectorates.

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

Via press conferences, press releases and by the Internet

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.

- At the end of last year was promulgated Government Decree No. 311/2005. (XII.25.) on public access to environmental information. (This Decree was brought into force to comply with directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC.)

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- In the beginning of September 2005 at the Green-Point Office of the MoEW an automatic dial-up information system of ambient air quality was installed. The data of monitoring network can access online on the web site of the MoEW (www.kvvm.hu/szakmai/nmc/), and the free access to the data is provided by phone as well. For informing the citizens the green authorities have plasma displays operated in their Green-Point Offices. In 23 towns are placed outdoor display boards which show the actual concentration of measured air pollutants.
- This year have completed the uniform web sites of regional inspectorates for environment, nature and water (so-called 'green authorities') which provide connection with the regional green-point offices and give useful information (data/information of public interest, information about tenders, downloadable documents, forms, technical guides for getting environmental permissions etc.) for the enterprises NGOs and citizens.)

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.

This time public access to environmental information through the Internet or other electronic means is not legally enforceable right. It is provided as a matter of practice. (This service is legally binding only if it is technically feasible.)

The relevant legal rules:

Act XC of 2005 on the Electronic Freedom of Information

Government Decree No. 311/2005. (XII.25.) on public access to environmental information

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.

Yes, Hungary has formulated national "e-government" strategy. (For details see www.ekk.gov.hu web site.)

Responsible officers:

Mr. Simon Géza

government commissioner

phone: +36 1 441 2400

Mrs. G. Kocsis Mariann

general director

Email: mariann.gkocsis@ekk.gov.hu

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.

Public participation:

- Article 7: concerning plans, programmes and policies (coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Water) relating to the environment, and
- Article 8: during the preparation of executive regulations and/or generally applicable legally binding normative instruments.

The MoEW uploads the draft conception of plans, programmes, or the draft versions of legal rules on his home page and the stakeholders within a time limit (it's varying from one week to one month) can give their opinions, reviews and recommendations on them. The experts of the division responsible for the preparation of plans, legal rules etc. summarizes of the reviews arrived until the deadline and gives (sometimes electronically, sometimes in a meeting) detailed argumentation to the acceptance/rejection of the reviews.

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(Examples: Environmental Operative Program; National Environment Program; draft legal rules etc.)

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:

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?

See our answer is given for question 11.

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?

- Institutional: poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data; limited standardization of data sets;
- Economic: high cost of online access; poor state of telecommunication network;
- Legal: unclear legislation on environment and informational responsibility

18. Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node web portal? If yes, please identify the website address (url): _____

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 ☒

Responsible for content management:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Postal address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

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Technical contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

20. Date of launch of national node of the Clearinghouse: (Month/Year) _____

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 ____

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.

25. Please provide any additional comments below.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

Aarhus

Convention

Secretariat

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