

**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](mailto:michael.stanley-jones@unece.org)

Submitted by:	<i>Katarzyna Karpińska, Elżbieta Kur</i>
Title:	<i>Adviser to Minister, Chief specialist</i>
Organization:	<i>Ministry of the Environment</i>
Address	<i>52/54 Wawelska St. 00-922 Warsaw Poland</i>
Telephone:	<i>+48 22 57 92 471, Fax +48 22 57 92 473</i>
Email:	<i>katarzyna.karpinska@mos.gov.pl, elzbieta.kur@mos.gov.pl</i>

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: for example [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl), [www.gios.gov.pl](http://www.gios.gov.pl)
- 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

*Reports concerning state of environment at the country level, which are prepared by the GIOS (Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection) are presented at [www.gios.gov.pl](http://www.gios.gov.pl). Reports which concern the state of environment at the voivodship level are presented on the Internet sites of the relevant WIOS (Voivodship Inspectorate for Environmental Protection).*

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: for example database of legal acts is available at the site of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland – [www.sejm.gov.pl](http://www.sejm.gov.pl), [www.mos.gov.pl](http://www.mos.gov.pl) and also other Internet sites of public administration offices.
- 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

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

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force

23-24 November 2006

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link: the documents are available at the internet sites of the public administration offices on central, regional and local level ([www.ekoportal.pl](http://www.ekoportal.pl)).
- 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

---

---

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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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

*There is no legal obligation to make EIA and SEA documentation available via Internet. However, information cards on EIA and SEA documentation are available in publicly accessible registers of data on documents containing information on the environment and its protection which, in general, are available via Internet.*

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: the documents are available at the internet sites of the public administration offices on central, regional and local level, for example at: [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl).

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 ☐ will be available internet as soon as possible
- 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

---

---

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

- i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force  
23-24 November 2006

- ii. Please provide internet link www.mos.gov.pl
- iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice 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

---

---

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 X Not available   

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable this documents are presented at the internet sites of the appropriate offices (for example [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl))

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 basic information concerning applications for licences or permits have to be presented in the publicly accessible registers of data available on the websites of the public administration offices.*

b) Draft 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 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    No X

v. Comments

*There is possibility to make available draft licences or permits, but it depends on decision of the relevant authority.*

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

i. Generally available X Partly available    Not available   

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable: for example [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl) and other internet sites of public administration offices

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

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

v. Comments

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force

23-24 November 2006

*Basic information concerning applications for licences or permits have to be presented in the publicly accessible registers of data available on the websites of public administration offices*

d) Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions are:

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

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Are comments of third parties 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 \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments

---

---

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: [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl) and websites of public administration offices.

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

---

---

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 X Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable: Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection) - [www.gios.gov.pl](http://www.gios.gov.pl) and websites of Voivodship Inspectorates for Environmental Protection

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 \_\_\_ Not available X

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force  
23-24 November 2006

- 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 \_\_\_
- v. Comments
- 
- 

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

- i. Generally available \_\_\_ Partly available \_X\_ 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 \_\_\_

Comments

*Good practice information and guidelines on better environmental management are available on the websites of the public administration offices.*

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 \_X\_ Not available \_\_\_
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_
- 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
- 
- 

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 X Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable: this data are presented at the internet sites of the appropriate offices (for example [www.mos.gov.pl](http://www.mos.gov.pl), [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl))
- iii. Is such meta-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
- 
- 

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% X (30% - 2005) Less than 20% \_\_\_

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force

23-24 November 2006

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

More than 80% \_\_\_ 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% \_\_\_ 20-39% X (38% - 2005) Less than 20% \_\_\_

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

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

*Data on proportion of members of the public with electronic access are given on:  
[http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane\\_spol-gosp/spoleczenstwo\\_informacyjne/2005/index.htm](http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/spoleczenstwo_informacyjne/2005/index.htm)*

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 \_\_\_

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):

\_\_\_\_\_opinion pool

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 X	Electronic form and paper documents
Academia / Schools X	Above mentioned
General Public X	Above mentioned

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force  
23-24 November 2006

Nongovernmental Organizations X	Above mentioned
Private sector X	Above mentioned
Others (Please identify)	

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

10. In your country, how is progress on improving electronic access to environmental information being communicated to the public?  
*Internet becomes more and more popular environmental information tool.*

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 2006 the Environmental Protection Law was amended in order to ensure that publicly accessible registers of data on documents containing information on the environment and its protection will be available via Internet. The national web portals are for example: [www.mos.gov.pl](http://www.mos.gov.pl), [www.ekoportal.gov.pl](http://www.ekoportal.gov.pl), [www.gios.gov.pl](http://www.gios.gov.pl)*

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.

*In 2006 the Environmental Protection Law was amended in order to ensure that publicly accessible registers of data on documents containing information on the environment and its protection will be available via Internet.*

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.  
[www.mswia.gov.pl](http://www.mswia.gov.pl)

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 in decision-making process starts from announcing on the website information about planned investment. Public submit opinions and proposals which have to be taken into consideration by administration. Results of this process are presented on the administration website.*

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?

---

---

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.*



Obstacles - financial

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: Pawel Tudek

Title: Chief specialist

Organization: Centrum Informacji o Środowisku

Postal address: 52/54 Wawelska St. 00-922 Warsaw, Poland

Telephone: +48 22 57 92 202

Fax: +48 22 57 92 215

Email: pawel.tudek@cios.gov.pl

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](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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Please provide any additional comments below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force  
23-24 November 2006

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>