Open Data for the Environment

2 October 2019
Salle XXII, Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Chair: Ms. Valentina Tapis, Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information under auspices of the Aarhus Convention

The UNECE – EEA joint workshop "Open Data for the Environment" will be held in Geneva on 2 October 2019 back-to-back with the sixth meeting of the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information (3-4 October 2019).

The event is organised under the auspices of the Task Force pursuant to decision VI/1 of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties on promoting effective access to information adopted in 2017. Through the decision, the Meeting of the Parties welcomed initiatives by Parties, signatories, partner organizations and other stakeholders to widen and improve public accessibility of environmental information, including through electronic information tools and e-government, open government data, the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region and other similar initiatives. In 2021, the progress in this area is expected to be considered in the lead up to the ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

Objectives:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of authorities to implement the information pillar of the Aarhus Convention with the focus on effective provision of information by taking the advantage of new and emerging digital technologies and on enabling the public to reuse it;

(b) Promote synergy by linking relevant initiatives of governments, partner organizations and other stakeholders to widen and improve sharing and public accessibility of environmental information, including through electronic information tools and e-government, open government data, the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region and other similar initiatives;

(c) Discuss the way forward for modernising environmental information systems and raising the profile of environmental information through its accessibility, sharing and wider dissemination, as well as harnessing additional economic, social and environmental benefits;

(d) Support countries' efforts in measuring and monitoring environment-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including target 16.10 on ensuring public access to information in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

The workshop will bring together the representatives of governments and stakeholders as to allow sharing different case studies, challenges and good practices in open data for the environment.

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Background

The workshop is supported by the project of the European Environment Agency on further implementation of the Shared Environment Information System principles in the six Eastern Partnership countries (ENI SEIS II East project) funded by the European Union. The workshop will also take stock of the project outputs of the first regional meeting on open data and e-government for the environment (Kyiv, 5-6 March 2019), national round tables in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, open data and e-government good practices for fostering environmental information sharing and dissemination, open data maturity reports, and roadmaps for these countries to improve the dissemination and sharing of environmental data through e-governance and open data initiatives.

Time	Session
10.00-10.15	**1. Opening** Ms. Valentina TAPIS, the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information Ms. Nicholas BONVOISIN, Chief, Operational Activities and Review Section, UNECE Ms. Galina GEORGIEVA, European Environment Agency
10.15-11.15	**2. Setting the scene: from data collection to knowledge management** Mr. Szymon LEWANDOWSKI, Legal/Policy Officer, DG CNECT, European Commission (video presentation) *Open Data in the EU - current situation and outlook for the future* Ms. Daniela Cristiana DOCAN, European Environment Agency *Roadmap for integrating environmental information in national E-Governance/Open Data processes for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine* Ms. Antje LORCH, Ecoropa and European EcoForum *Why open data, accessibility and the right to reuse it are of key importance to the public* *Presentations will be followed by plenary discussion.*
11.15-13.00	**3. Benefits, progress and current challenges in open data for the environment:** *Introduction to the session:* Mr. Nicolas HAZARD, EEA project contractor for the ENI SEIS II East project funded by the European Union *Good practices and lessons learned from the project*

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	Experiences from the Parties to the Aarhus Convention *ARMENIA* Ms. Narine SOLOMONYAN, Adviser to the Minister of Environment, Armenia *Dissemination of environmental information in Armenia* *AZERBAIJAN* Mr. Tural MAMMADOV, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan *Dissemination of environmental information in Azerbaijan* *BELARUS* Mr. Alexander MAKARENKO, Consultant, Ministry of Communication and Informatization Ms. Alena BAHADZIAZH, Head of Service, Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Contamination and Environmental Monitoring, Belarus *Practical Application of the National Open Data Portal in Belarus* *CROATIA* Ms. Andrina CRNJAK THAVENET, Head of Sector, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia *Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)* *Presentations will be followed by plenary discussion.*
13.00-15.00	LUNCH BREAK
15.00-16.30	**3. Benefits, progress and current challenges in open data for the environment (continued)** *GEORGIA* Ms. Tamar ALADASHVILI, Director, Environmental Information and Education Centre, Georgia *Management and Dissemination of Environmental Information in Georgia* *IRELAND* Ms. Deirdre KIRWAN, Senior Scientific Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland *Developing modern environmental information systems*

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	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA Ms. Silvia NICOLAESCU, Head of Division, Environmental Agency, Republic of Moldova Ms. Elena ORLOVA, Head of Division, National Statistical Committee, Republic of Moldova *Environmental Information System and Dissemination in the Republic of Moldova* *SLOVAKIA* Mr. Martin TUCHYNA, GEOICT specialist, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia *Potential and Challenges of Open Data in Enabling Access to Environmental Information from the Slovak Perspective* *UKRAINE* Ms. Galina SIEROVA, Director, Aarhus Centre Kyiv, Ukraine Mr. Dmytro AVERIN, National SEIS Assistant, Ukraine *Open Data in Providing Public Access to Environmental Information in Ukraine* *Presentations will be followed by plenary discussion.*
16.30-17.50	**4. The way forward for advancing sharing and dissemination of environmental information** The session will focus on further steps to modernize national environmental information systems, implement principles of the Shared Environmental Information System and to promote effective dissemination of environmental information harnessing new and emerging digital technologies. These activities will support countries' efforts in carrying out comprehensive environmental assessments, informed and evidence-based decision-making and effective public involvement in environmental protection and sustainable development. *Plenary discussion*
17.50-18.00	**5. Closing** Ms. Galina GEORGIEVA, European Environment Agency Ms. Valentina TAPIS, the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information