



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Working Group on Environmental
Monitoring and Assessment

Reporting on the progress made in Environmental
Monitoring and Assessment at the national level

This questionnaire has been designed to collect information on the **results of major actions taken** by the countries in environmental monitoring and assessment **since the previous meeting of the Working Group (27 October 2020)**. The objective is to evaluate to which extent and how your country has progressed in environmental monitoring and assessment, including through using the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), the regular production of quality environmental indicators and digitalization efforts related to environmental information at the national level.

The Working Group could then identify the needs of your country to be addressed in the future to underpin regular reporting and assessments, in accordance with international monitoring and assessment requirements and obligations.

The main aims of the questionnaire are to:

- Determine if the countries regularly produce environmental reports, analyses and assessments, including through using environmental indicators and SEIS
- Ensure that monitoring networks are upgraded or modernized, and that data quality assurance and control mechanisms and data management are in place or improved where needed, in particular for water, air and soil monitoring and data management
- Assess steps taken at country level to enhance digitalization and digital transformation related to environmental information including through the use of new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring.
- Follow improvements in national environmental policy reflecting all three SEIS pillars (content, infrastructure and cooperation)
- Capture the implementation status of relevant recommendations made in national environmental performance reviews (EPRs)
- Foresee the challenges to be addressed by the Working Group in the years to come regarding institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level

If you wish to receive further information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on WGEMASec@un.org.

Information on the person filling in the form

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Has your country produced any environmental report, analysis or assessment on environmental information and indicators, including via the use of SEIS, since October 2020?

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify which environmental report, analysis or assessment has been produced and provide the link to the website if available.

Environmental report, analysis or assessment

1 [Four new SEIS indicators have been developed in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and published on the Belstat website \(in Russian and Belarusian only; English version will be added in 2021\): C7. Water losses; C9. Drinking water quality; E1. Land uptake; F1. Irrigation.](#)

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Please note the main changes that have been made to improve the work of national monitoring networks, in particular on air, water, soil and biodiversity.

Changes

1 [The methodology on the SEEA-forest \(including three kinds of accounts: asset accounts for forest land, asset accounts for timber, physical flow accounts for timber\) has been developed and approved by Belstat. It will be published on the Belstat website in June, 2021.](#)

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Please note the steps taken in your country to enhance digitalization related to environmental information including through the use of new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and Earth observation for environmental monitoring.

Steps taken on digitalization

1 The main database on the Belstat website (Interactive business intelligence system for distribution of official statistical information) has been replenished with new indicators on water, air, waste and timber. The indicators are presented since 2010 by region and other characteristics (depending on the topic). The database works in Russian. The English version should be operational in 2021.

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What types of improvements have been made in your country to enhance data quality assurance, control and data management?

Improvements

1 At the end of 2020, regular work was carried out to prepare and approve documents to improve data quality, control and manage data (Statistical work program for 2021, Plan of scientific and methodological work of Belstat for 2021, etc.).

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Which improvements in data policy, institutional and regulatory mechanisms and technical solutions have been applied in your country to facilitate and improve data exchange between the parties concerned (ministries of environment, environment agencies and ministries of agriculture, energy, health, industry, transport and water) and with other users, including the public?

Mechanisms and solutions

In February 2021, two Interdepartmental Working Groups for the Development of SEEA were established by Belstat:

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- On SEEA-water (members: Belstat, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Central Research Institute for the Integrated Use of Water Resources);
 - On SEEA-forest (members: Belstat, the Ministry of Forestry, Forest Inventory Republican Unitary Enterprise “Belgosles”).

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Has your country made any changes in data policy within the last year?

Yes No

X

If yes, please specify which changes.

Changes

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Please provide **a list of activities** undertaken by your country to implement the recommendations on environmental monitoring and assessment made in previous national environmental performance reviews (EPRs). – *Belstat has already implemented the EPRs recommendations.*

Recommendations

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What do you think are **the main challenges** for your country with regard to institutional, regulatory mechanisms and infrastructure at the national level?

Challenges

1 Lack of knowledge and human resources.

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Please indicate any other information you think may be relevant. Please also indicate how the Working Group could assist in facilitating environmental monitoring and assessment in your country and region.

Regular updating of possible guidelines.