



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

Reporting to 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 (6-7 May 2019). The objective is to evaluate to which extent and how your country progressed in environmental monitoring and assessment, including through using the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the regular production of quality environmental indicators 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
- 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 May 2019?

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	Annual report: Quality of the environment in the Republic of Macedonia 2018 http://www.moepp.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/2018_Vkopen.pdf
2	Envirnmental statistic 2019 http://www.moepp.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Zivotna-sredina-2019.pdf
3	
4	
5	

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

Changes	
	Air
	Latest upgrade of the State automatic air quality monitoring system was in 2019, when PM10 measuring instruments were replaced in the following stations: Gazi Baba, Gostivar, Kicevo, Lisice, Veles and Kavadarci.
1	Furthermore, at the beginning of 2019, the Automatic Monitoring Stations for Ambient Air Quality from the village of Mrshevci and Veles 1 UZUS, considering that from the moment of their installation, significant changes have occurred in the dominant sources of pollution (termination of the operation of the OKTA refinery and the Veles smelter) and given the fact that near OKTA monitoring remains the station located in the village Miladinovci and in Veles the monitoring station Veles 2 remains in function, they were dislocated and placed in the Municipality of Gostivar and in the Municipality of Strumica, in order to assess the air quality and to complete the State automatic air quality monitoring system.
2	Water
	No significant progress
3	Soil
	No significant progress.
4	
5	

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

Improvements	
1	Air No significant progress.
2	Water No significant progress.
3	Soil No significant progress.

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	
1	<p>Currently, there is ongoing activities on project “Development of Environmental Monitoring and Information System”. Related to all environmental topics the following outputs are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Establishment of the National Environmental Databases for all environmental topics in the MEPP, with appropriate application modules, that will enable automated and standardized data gathering and automated data validation.– Establishment of environmental data and metadata standards and repositories;– Legal and technical standards, to regulate methodologies and procedures in the creation, access, protection and uniformity of environmental information in the related institutions and the Country as a whole;– Preparation of appropriate secondary legislation on different environmental areas related to the data acquisition and sharing between the MEPP and other stakeholders;– Developed web interface that will allow data access via internet in real time that includes import of spatial data that enables GIS integration for all environmental topics.

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

Yes

No

If yes, please specify which changes.

Changes
1
2
3
4
5

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).

Recommendations

- 3rd cycle, 2019 - Recommendation 4.1:
- 1 This recommendation will be finalized in the frame of the project “Development of Environmental Monitoring and Information System”, and become part of the National Environmental Monitoring Strategy with Action Plan and the National Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- 3rd cycle, 2019 - Recommendation 4.3:
- 2 This recommendation will be finalized in the frame of the project “Development of Environmental Monitoring and Information System”, and become part of the National Environmental Monitoring Strategy with Action Plan and the National Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- 3rd cycle, 2019 - Recommendation 4.5:
- 3 This recommendation will be finalized in the frame of the project “Development of Environmental Monitoring and Information System”, and become part of the Detailed design of NEIS and developed fully functional NEIS
- 3rd cycle, 2019 - Recommendation 4.6 and 4.7:
- 4 Activities for realization of the recommendations are in progress.

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	General - Need for human capacities and capacity building in relevant institutions
2	General - Lack of national sustainable funding
Air	
3	The main problems for regular service and maintenance of the monitoring system and accreditation of the calibration laboratory are lack of personal, secured sufficient budget and inflexible procedure for procurement of spare parts and gas bottles.
Water	
4	Although the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EEC) is transposed in the national legislation (Law on Water, adopted in 2008) its practical implementation started in January 2011. For complete and successful implementation of water monitoring, according to the WFD requirements, further allocation of finances and the securing of up-to-date technical equipment are needed, as well as well trained staff and additional human resources.
Soil	
5	Main challenges in soil management are preparation of legislation on soil as environmental medium, identification of funding sources for reclamation of historical soil contaminations due to the operation of mines and industrial facilities, overcoming of pollution from local industrial and commercial sources and municipal landfills, as well as trans-boundary air pollution, prevention of uncontrolled land use change in urban areas and control of soil erosion.

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.