

Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

Outline of the new publication on Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange

(ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/INF.3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/INF.3)

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Background of the publication:

- At its 9th session (Geneva, 29 September – 1 October 2021) the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to collect good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange and synthesize them in a publication.
- Draft Outline of the new publication was prepared by the secretariat with input from lead Parties. It includes the template for submission of cases.
- Draft Outline was discussed at the Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange (13 and 14 April 2022).

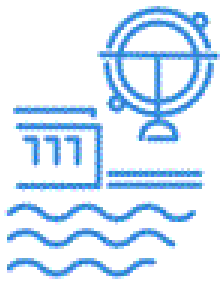


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Proposed structure of the new publication:

1. Introduction
2. Set-up of the data exchange
3. Types of data and information exchanged
4. Harmonization and quality insurance
5. Data management, processing and exchange
6. Reporting and use of data
7. Impacts and benefits



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Purpose of the new publication:

1. Collection of good practices and case studies with reference to good practices on the data and information exchange;
2. Content and experience will be drawn from a range of sources, including from reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2, from projects or other work under the Water Convention, and workshops and other meetings organized under the Convention's programme of work for 2022-2024;
3. The purpose of the cases is to learn from real life examples, including both the difficulties and challenges that countries face and good solutions and ways of organization that countries and joint bodies have found useful;
4. Ongoing (non-complete or unfinished) examples can be submitted, not only success stories.



Template for submission of cases

Name of basin(s) for which data exchange takes place/name of the case	
Riparian countries:	<i>What are the riparian countries through which the basin(s) flow?</i>
Responsible institution(s):	<i>What institution(s) is (are) responsible for the data exchange? This may be a joint body or the respective national institutes responsible for data collection.</i>
Mandate for data exchange:	<i>Is there an agreement between the riparian countries about the data exchange and what is in the mandate for the responsible institution(s)? This may also be an informal agreement.</i>
Financial arrangement:	<i>How is the data and information exchange financed?</i>
Types of data and information exchanged:	<p><i>What types of data and information are exchanged? Data exchange may refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Monitoring data of the environmental conditions of transboundary waters;</i> <i>b) Information on best available technology;</i> <i>c) Results of relevant research and development;</i> <i>d) Emission data of pollutants and waste water;</i> <i>e) Measures taken and planned;</i> <i>f) Permits or regulations for waste-water;</i> <i>g) National regulations.</i> <i>h) Critical situations (e.g., emerging floods or droughts, accidental spills).</i>
Harmonization and quality assurance:	<i>What measures are in place to ensure comparability and quality of the data (metadata, data dictionary, etc.)?</i>
Form of exchange:	<i>In what form is the data exchanged (e.g., paper/report, data file, online access, direct transmission, provision of information service, etc.)?</i>
Frequency of exchange:	<i>How often is the data exchanged (maybe different for different types of data)?</i>
Data storage:	<p><i>Is the data stored in a joint database or in national databases?</i></p> <p><i>Are the data bases accessible and open for public (are data/outputs findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR))?</i></p>
Reporting and information utilization:	<p><i>Are there joint reports? What frequency?</i></p> <p><i>Are decision makers informed? If yes, how?</i></p> <p><i>Is the public informed/ is the information publicly available? If yes, how?</i></p>
Main difficulties and challenges:	<i>What are the main difficulties and challenges encountered in exchanging data and information?</i>
Impacts of data and information exchange:	<i>What are the impacts of exchange of data and information? (Can be social, economic, environmental, policy level)</i>
Additional information:	<i>Any other information</i>





Next steps

to prepare the new publication on *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*



Activity	Responsible	Timeframe
Call for good practices launched (using the template described in the Outline)	Case studies will be submitted by email following an invitation by the Secretariat	Countries and organizations submit cases according to the template by 31 October 2022
Regional workshops to collect good practices	Secretariat and lead Parties	Autumn 2022 to Spring 2023
Development of the publication	Secretariat and lead Parties	Spring-Summer 2023
First draft of the publication presented and discussed	Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment	October 2023
Submission of written comments to the secretariat	Parties, non-Parties and partners	End of 2023
Finalization of the text	Secretariat and lead Parties	
Publication ready	Secretariat and lead Parties	Meeting of the Parties in 2024



Questions for discussion

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- Any comments to the Outline of the publication on *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*?
- Any comments to the template for submission of cases?
- Would you like to contribute a case study from your basin that could be of interest for the development of the publication?
- Do you have an interest in hosting a regional workshop in your country/ basin to collect lessons learned and good practices in transboundary data exchange?

Thank you



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For more information: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/monitoring-assessment-and-information-sharing-transboundary-basins>



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