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UNECE Regional training on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators*

Producing, sharing and using high-quality information for Cleaner Air

Twenty-fifth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Palais de Nations, Geneva, 2-3 May 2023

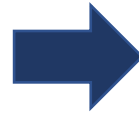
*Organized by UNECE in cooperation with UNEP, the Environment Agency Austria and Statistics Luxembourg, and with financial support of the European Union

1. Background

- The JTFESI (established in 2009) has revised the list of indicators in the **ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators** to help countries in:
 - **Informing better the recent global policies with high-quality indicators** (such as 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster-risk Reduction)
 - **Improving the systems of environmental monitoring and reporting** (national action programs to reduce emissions in specific sectors and raising awareness campaigns)
 - **Making national and regional environment assessments comparable** (Pan-European Environmental Assessment)
 - **Facilitating data gathering** through consistent and comparable statistics
 - Updated methodological descriptions, policy references and methodological references
 - Recommended classifications and parameters
 - Updated metadata

2. Training's objectives:

- To enhance the **capacity** of countries to **produce and use consistent and harmonized** air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators.



- To help countries to **provide robust methodological information for evidence-based policies**, following the SEIS principles

by

- Providing a technical overview of the different steps for the **production, sharing and use** of the UNECE air related indicators through **good practices and experiences from experts** of different countries and international organisations.
- Discussing challenges that could result in delays and gaps in the indicator production procedure and identifying possible solutions.

through

- a hybrid meeting with in-person and online participation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 4 and 5 May 2023.
- Training materials will be available at the UNECE website: [Regional training on Air Quality and Emissions to air statistics and indicators | UNECE](#)

2. The training: Why air quality should be monitored and statistical tools available

International level - representatives from organizations with relevant developments and further steps

Session 1. Why improving air quality and measuring emissions matter. Indicators as tools to address local, national and regional challenges.

Available statistical tools: frameworks and the ECE Revised Guidelines

Session 2. Using UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators and global statistical frameworks to produce high quality statistics and indicators for Cleaner Air

Challenges identified*: “The existing equipment was installed in 2005 and needs to be renovated”

“The difficulties of coordination of activities between different institutions”

Source: Questionnaire sent by the Secretariat and answered by 11 countries.

3. The training. Establishing systematic, comparable and high-quality indicators

ECE Guidelines – Indicators, calculation methods and coverage

Session 3. Technical training on UNECE’s **Air Quality** indicators

Session 5. Technical training on UNECE’s emissions of **GHGs** indicators

Session 7. Technical training on UNECE’s indicators on consumption of **ozone depleting substances (ODSs)** and emissions of other substances to air

Challenges identified:

- “It is necessary to approve the national methodology of production of this indicator and then it may be included in the official activities”.
- “There is no national quality standard that sets the annual limit concentration or the daily limit concentration”.
- “The preparation of GHG inventory was outsourced”.

Lessons learned: Producing and sharing quality indicators

Session 4. Experiences and innovative tools for producing and sharing UNECE **Air Quality** indicators

Session 6. National experiences in producing UNECE **GHG** indicators

4. Sharing and reporting harmonized statistics and indicators

Produced once.... for multiple purposes

Session 8. Supporting implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and reporting under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Challenges identified:

- “The information is available but not displayed on the websites”.

5. What can be done with: assessed data needs and later.. with disseminated indicators?

Assessed data needs

- Define air quality standards (limits, thresholds, alerts)
- Plan monitoring systems
 - Short term: Priority indicators (areas, sources, pollutants)
 - Long term: Extended/ National coverage, all sources, all emissions)
- Define capacity development and technical assistance activities
- Create data analysis and dissemination activities

National action programmes

- Fuels: Substitution; quality standards
- Public /private transportation characteristics (fleets, emission levels)
- Walking and cycling infrastructure
- Buildings: energy efficiency
- Aware-raising campaigns
- Harmonization of legislation (between countries, between subnational regions)