

# Tenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs

Agenda item 3. Promotion and coordination

## Overview on activities implemented under the UNECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme

### Tenth meeting

27–28 November 2023

Palais des Nations, Geneva





- Overview on the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- Overview on activities implemented by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
- Overview on activities implemented by the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
- Possible areas of cooperation with Working Group of Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs



# Overview – Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Programme



- Crucial cross-cutting tool to enable informed decision-making
- Areas of work
  - Environmental Monitoring (closure of monitoring gaps)
  - Assessment and Reporting (pan-European assessment, national state-of-the environment reports, international reporting)
  - Information Systems (Shared Environmental Information System, open data)
  - Environmental Statistics, Indicators and Reporting (incl. support to SDG reporting)
  - Guidelines and capacity development (e.g. ECE Indicator Guidelines)
- Intergovernmental bodies
  - Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
  - Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators



*Improvement  
is not  
possible  
without  
monitoring  
and  
measuring!*



# Working Group – Recent work

## Environmental monitoring



- **Sharing of good practices and experiences on environmental monitoring (including use of new technologies such as Earth observation)** during sessions of the Working Group and workshops
- Support to closure of identified monitoring gaps (incl. in the 7<sup>th</sup> pan-European environmental assessment)
- **Revision of the 2003 publication “Environmental Monitoring and Reporting: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”** to be started



***Nicosia Declaration** (Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference):*

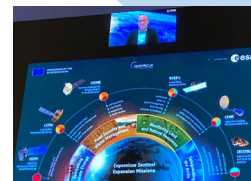
*Rely on open data, big data & state-of-the-art digital technologies*

*Common pan-European methods & systems for monitoring & information management*

*Monitoring of air pollution*

*Broaden access to reliable, detailed information on chemicals and waste*

*Establish a resource-oriented, pan-European e-waste management partnership*



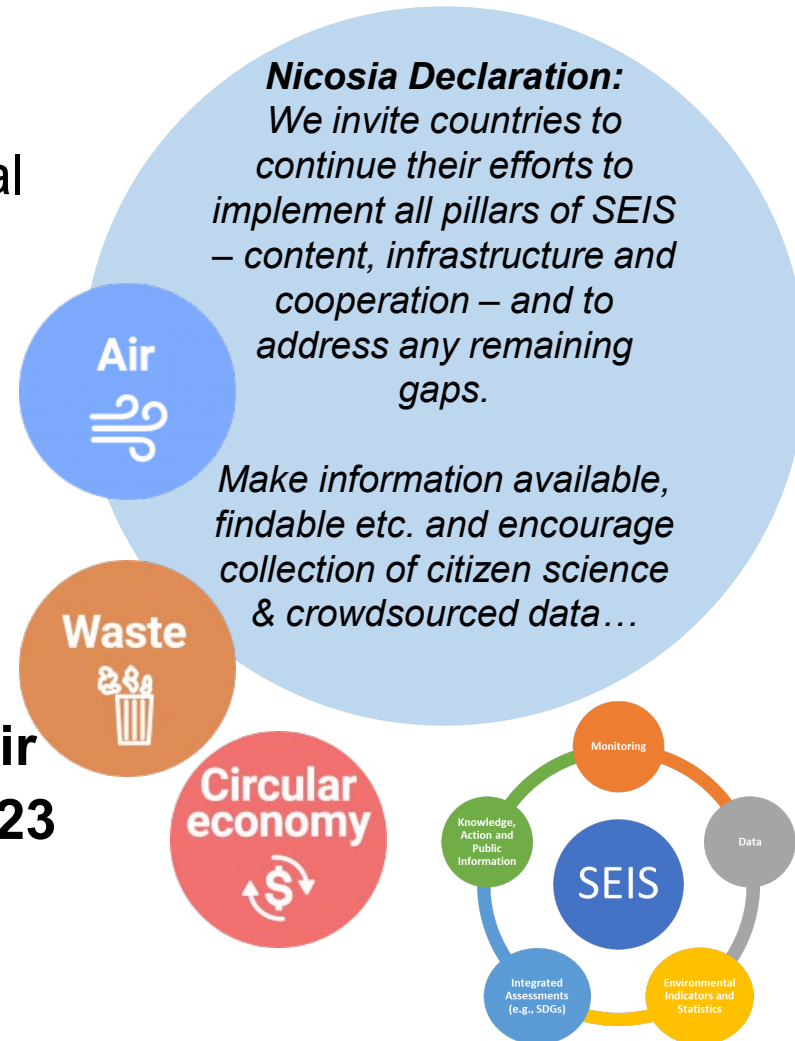
# Working Group – Recent work

## Environmental information systems



### Support to implementation of SEIS and open data principles

- Working Group agreed in 2022 to review annually a limited number of environmental themes and indicators based on SEIS assessment framework & revised UNECE indicator guidelines
- Agreed to **review in 2023 the theme “air pollution and air quality”** followed by theme “waste” in 2024
- **Deadline for SEIS reporting on theme air extended by CEP until 30 November 2023**
- Next step → report compilation



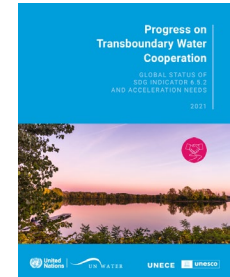
# Working Group – Recent work

## Environmental reporting



### Support to environmental reporting

- **Sharing of good practices on environmental reporting** during sessions of the Working Group and workshops
  - e.g., training / guidance sessions on reporting under Water Convention and SDG 6.5.2, Air Convention (emission inventories), monitoring and reporting under Convention on Biodiversity, specific training on air theme
- **Support to development of National State of the Environment Reports**
  - e.g. in **Uzbekistan (together with UNEP)**
    - Methodology developed
    - Training held
    - Support to actual drafting of the report → soon to be finalized
    - Next steps: Develop an online version (led by UNEP)



#### National State-of-the-Environment Reports

- Information on quality of the environment and environmental pressures, in the context of economic development and policy responses
- Provides timely information for decision-makers and the public
- Continuous process: setting targets, monitoring, data analysis, reporting, setting targets...



Inception workshop and training on the National State of the Environment Report (NSoER) development in Uzbekistan

1 February 2023, Frankfort Hotel, Tashkent  
4 Ne'mat Street, Tashkent 100160

# Working Group – Recent work

## Keeping pan-European region under regular review

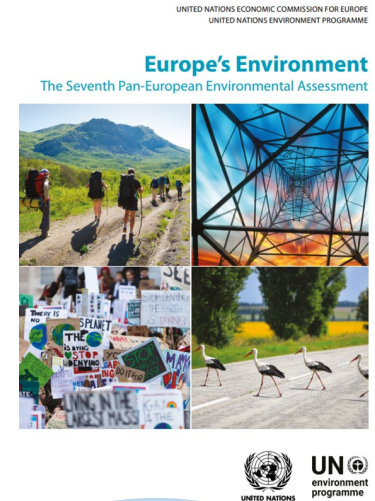


### Regular pan-European environmental assessments

- 7th pan-European environmental assessment launched at Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference on 5 October 2022 in Nicosia

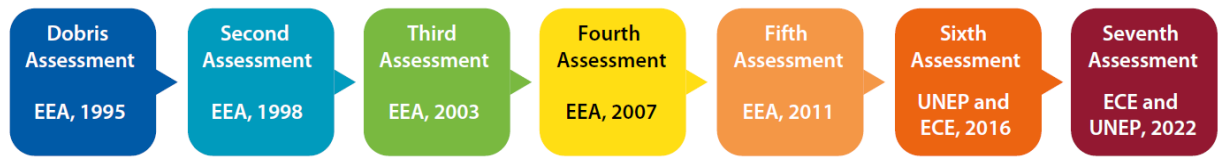
**Summary for policymakers** with key messages and policy recommendations and full **pan-European environmental assessment publication** available at UNECE website

- 8th pan-European environmental assessment
  - to be developed for next EfE Ministerial Conference in 2027 - first ideas on approaches developed



**Nicosia Declaration:**

*We acknowledge the importance of regular, indicator-based environmental assessments, and confirm our commitment to keeping the pan-European region under regular review*



# Working Group – Recent work

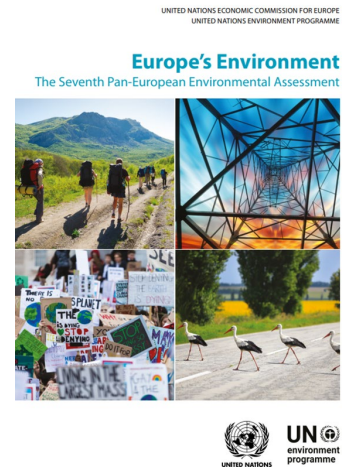
## Keeping pan-European region under regular review



### 7<sup>th</sup> pan-European environmental assessment

#### Recommendations: Governments in the pan-European region should:

- Strengthen their waste and chemicals management systems and should strive to **further advance full and coherent implementation of MEAs, including the Protocol on PRTRs** (*Chapter on Chemicals*)
- **Ensure effective public access to information**, participation in decision-making, protection of environmental defenders and access to justice in environmental matters, as provided, for example, by the Aarhus Convention and its **Protocol on PRTRs** (*Chapter on Environmental governance*)
- Consider **implementing PRTRs and the SEIS in synergy** (*Chapter on Monitoring and information management*)





# Working Group – Recent work

## Capacity development activities



### Output 2.4 Open data and citizens' participation in data collection and analysis are further operationalized (implemented by OiEau)

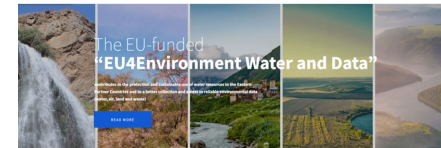


Funded by  
the European Union

- Implementation of Roadmaps related to E-government and Open Data initiatives
- Work on metadata related to environmental data
- Gradually implementing annual preparation of the open data maturity reports
- Integrating environmental data into open government portals

**EU4Environment**  
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

### Output 2.5 Support to International sharing of data & networking (UNECE, UBA Austria)



- Review of status and gaps in international reporting
- Enhance cooperation of EaP countries with Working Group and Joint Task Force
- Support SEIS implementation & SDG monitoring (Regional trainings, provision of guidance etc.)

Implementing partners



Co-funded by



# Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

## Recent work



- Recent work of the Joint Task Force includes:
  - Revision of the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators
  - Capacity development activities, including to enhance integration of data and statistics and support methodological work
  - Support of follow-up to Nicosia outcomes
  - Drafting of new mandate and terms of reference and outline of activities
  - Regular holding of sessions of Joint Task Force



# Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

## Possible areas of cooperation with WG on Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs



- Implementation of **Shared Environmental Information System and PRTRs in synergy (e.g. integration of PRTRs into environmental portals etc.)**
- Contribution to review of environmental monitoring and reporting guidelines
- Participation in regular sessions of intergovernmental bodies (e.g., sharing of good practices of PRTRs, monitoring, etc.)
- Joint capacity-development activities
- Support to the preparation of environmental assessments and reporting based on PRTRs

# Thank you for your attention!



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