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EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries



EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER AND DATA NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE – AZERBAIJAN

THEMATIC SESSION 3 - DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND OPEN DATA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU4ENVIRONMENT WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA PROGRAMME

5 April 2023

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THEMATIC SESSION 3

- EU4Environment Water and Data aims to support Azerbaijan in making progress in several thematic areas of environmental data related to policy development and EU approximation, including
 - Strengthen further **water monitoring** in Azerbaijan
 - Support to **land-cover analysis**, based on Sentinel 2 imagery and derived products (topic and area to be agreed)
 - Further improving the availability of policy-relevant **air quality** and **waste management** data
 - Strengthen the sharing and use of data in reporting including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, UN-ECE and co-operation with the **European Environment Agency** as an important European partnership step

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EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY & EIONET

MEMBER STATES & CO-OPERATING COUNTRIES

→ AZERBAIJAN TO JOIN THIS CO-OPERATION ?



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AMONG NEXT ACTION POINTS

- Develop/negotiate for prepared Eastern Partner Countries including Azerbaijan a **co-operating countries programme** with the European Environment Agency at the model of the EEA programme for Western Balkan countries
- **2022 status/baseline assessment** on
 - international reporting (focus UNECE Conventions)
 - policy relevant air quality and waste management data with proposed/agreed **improvement actions**
- **Air quality data** – managing/using data of new automated stations, linking data from Azerbaijan to European Air Quality index at EEA ?
- Deciding scope and messages of **awareness action in Azeri municipalities** on health-endangering Fine Particular Matter pollution

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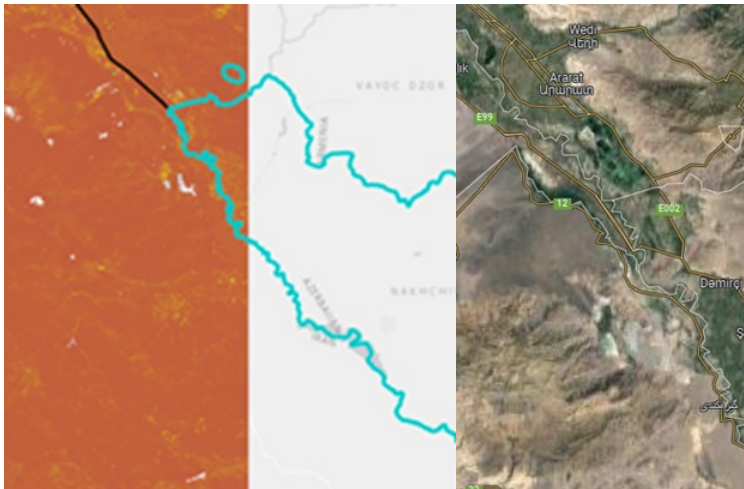




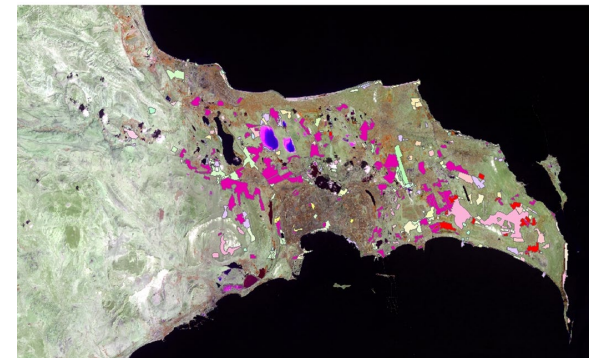
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LAND MONITORING



CLC Changes from 2018 SEIS II



- European Commission has been requested to provide Copernicus **High-Resolution-time series on Vegetation phenology and productivity (HRVPP)** also to Eastern Partner countries
→ Technical preparatory / preview training already possible with data of current HRVPP overlap areas (in AZ – North-West Nachitchevan)

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FURTHER DEVELOPING OPEN DATA ACCESS

- **Open Data Portal** opendata.az being confirmed as an entry point for access to the data in Azerbaijan but there are only few dataset related to environment published on the Open Data Portal.
- Need to validate the principle of a **single entry point portal “Ekoportal” for access to environmental datasets**. This **Ekoportal** hosted on MENR server **will feed Open Data Portal and will give access to** :
 - environmental datasets and information respecting access rights defined with the producers
 - metadata describing existing dataset produced by various institutions with information on their and level of access, their level of access,
- There is a **need for clear institutional framework** on definition of responsibilities and obligations for public authorities to publish environmental datasets
- A particular accent has to be put on the **metadata production by all institutions** on the environmental datasets that they produce, in order to allow easy retrieving, traceability and information of the potential data users on the characteristics of the available datasets (sources, level of quality control, conditions of use, detailed description, etc...).

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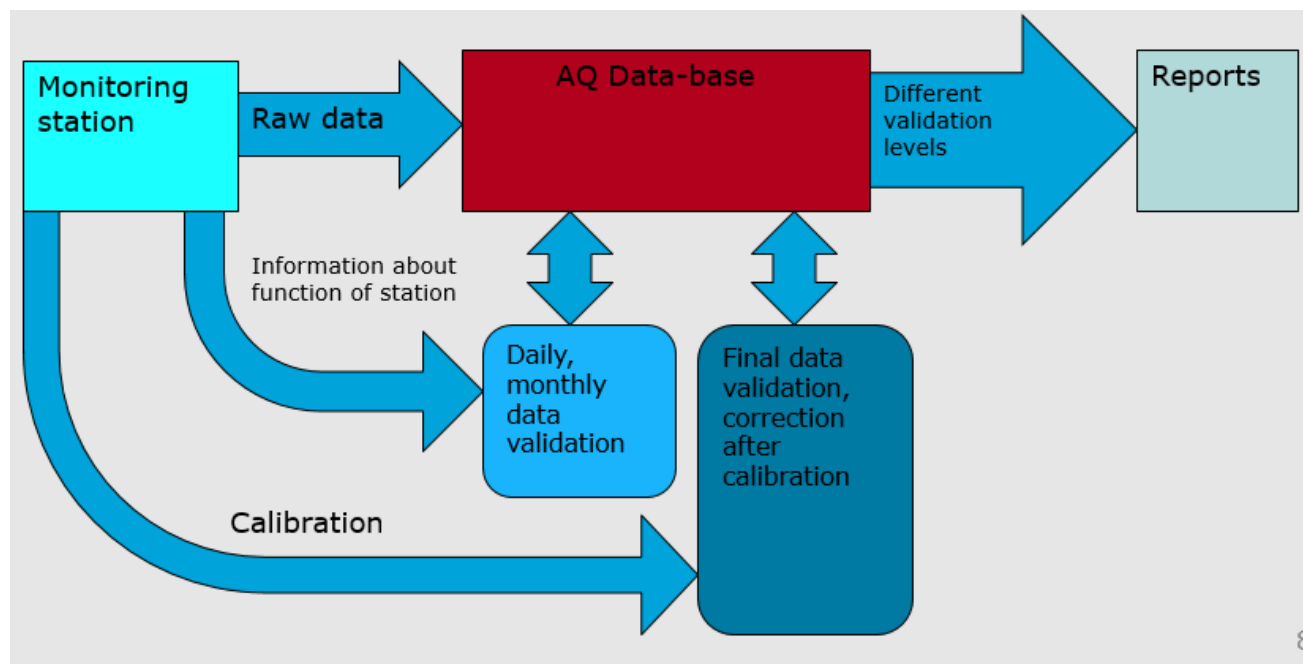




ASSURE & IMPROVE QUALITY OF MONITORING DATA

Defined quality assurance measures / certified methods for laboratory and monitoring work, calibration of monitoring equipment, data validation

Example air quality monitoring from automated stations



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ASSURE & IMPROVE QUALITY OF REPORTED DATA

- Primary responsibility for correct data always remains with the reporter
- Authorities check for plausibility & completeness, request corrections
- Cross-checks with other data sources – eg production statistics vs emission reporting
- Data audits for emission inventories and inspections to focus on large emitters
- National waste statistics need to analyse and complete data reported by waste generators with statistical methods
- Regular independent audits when reported data directly relate to payments (eg for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes in waste management)

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SOME POLICY QUESTIONS

NPD Steering Committee Members are invited to consider open policy questions regarding environmental data, including the following:

- What are the **key priorities and implementation challenges** for inter-ministerial cooperation and access to environmental statistics and open data?
- In which areas do you experience the most critical challenges regarding the **availability of relevant data** for your policy implementation work ?
- Does Azerbaijan aim to **establish regular co-operation with the European Environment Agency** as eg Turkey and the Western Balkan countries ?
- Where do you see important needs and opportunities for better access to **air quality data** and awareness-raising on **health-endangering air pollution** ?
- How could environmental **open data access** could be reinforced, including entry point portal definition and maintenance, inter-institutional co-operation, metadata development and better environmental dataset access?

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