

Developing the Shared Environmental Information System and keeping the pan-European environment under review — the European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook

Special Session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, 23 - 25 February 2016, Geneva

Filip Aggestam, Manager, UNECE Programme on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Outline



Draft report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook



Preparing the summary of key findings and policy messages of the European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook





Report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Background

WGEMA was mandated to **review progress** in establishing SEIS, and the report is foreseen to be submitted to the EfE Ministerial Conference in Batumi in June 2016 through CEP.

WGEMA had agreed to:

- Assess **progress in establishing SEIS** in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region
- Develop a reporting mechanism for managing SEIS and collect information on the **availability and on-line accessibility of SEIS data sets** and related information



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



The review process

- Developing a framework to review progress towards SEIS included:
 - identifying specific data sets for the pan-European SEIS, as defined by **67 data sets** grouped across **seven thematic areas** (air pollution, climate change, water, biodiversity, land and soil, energy and waste).
 - a **reporting mechanism** to be developed as an online application that allows each member State to provide summary records and information for each data set (in process)
 - **five criteria for review** as proposed by the secretariat in its concept for a reporting mechanism.



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



The review process

- Desk study conducted in the period between August 2015 and January 2016
- Secretariat collected all relevant information related to each environmental data set available online
- Data sets were rated according to the five criteria for review
 - Online accessibility
 - Update regularity
 - Production methodology
 - Data interpretation and use
 - Data source



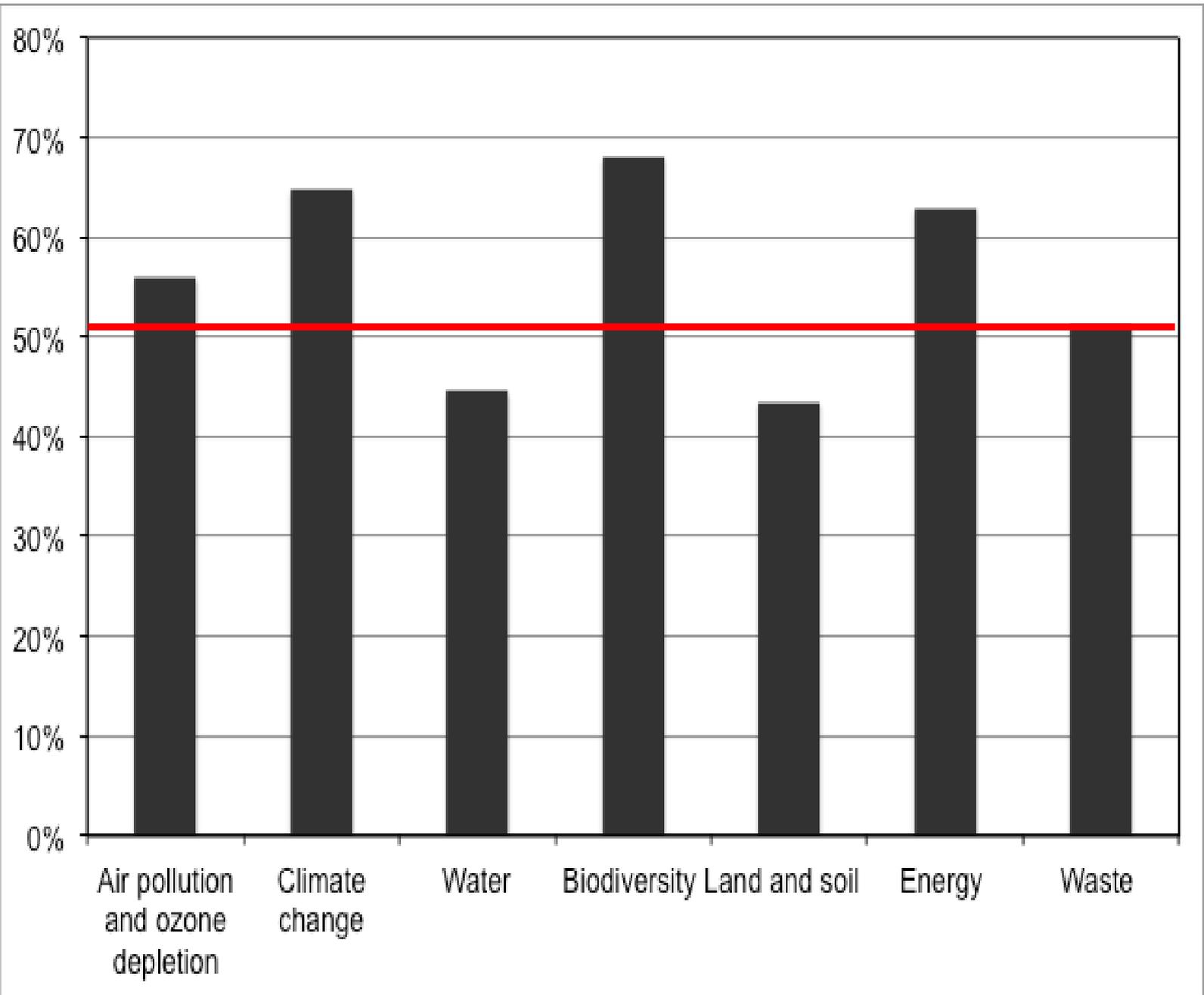
Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Results

- The 67 data sets and related information has been assessed for **53 pan-European countries**.
- **22 countries** have provided the secretariat with their comments and validated their SEIS status as of January 2016.
- Out of the 67 SEIS-related data sets, **51 per cent** were available across all national websites.



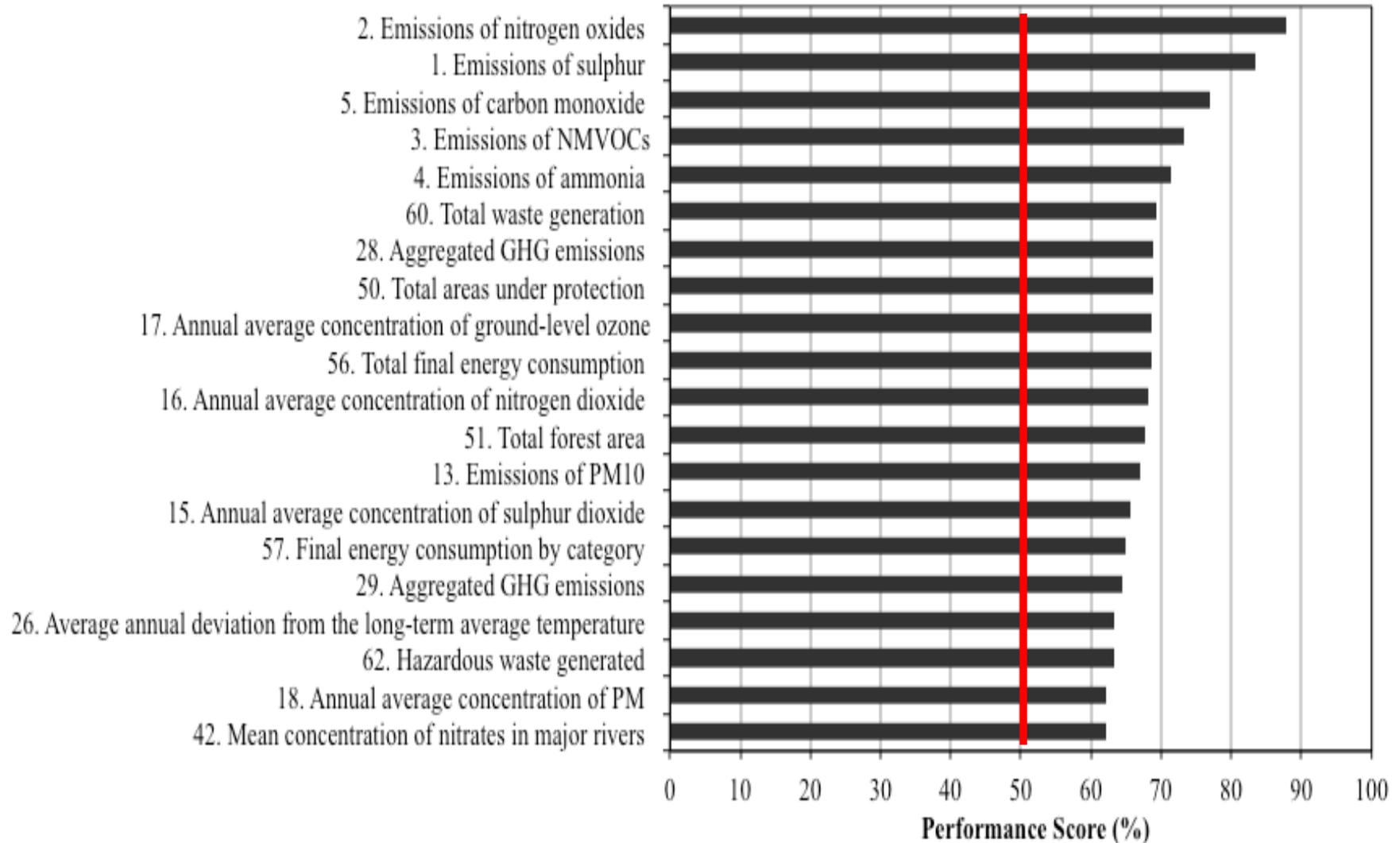


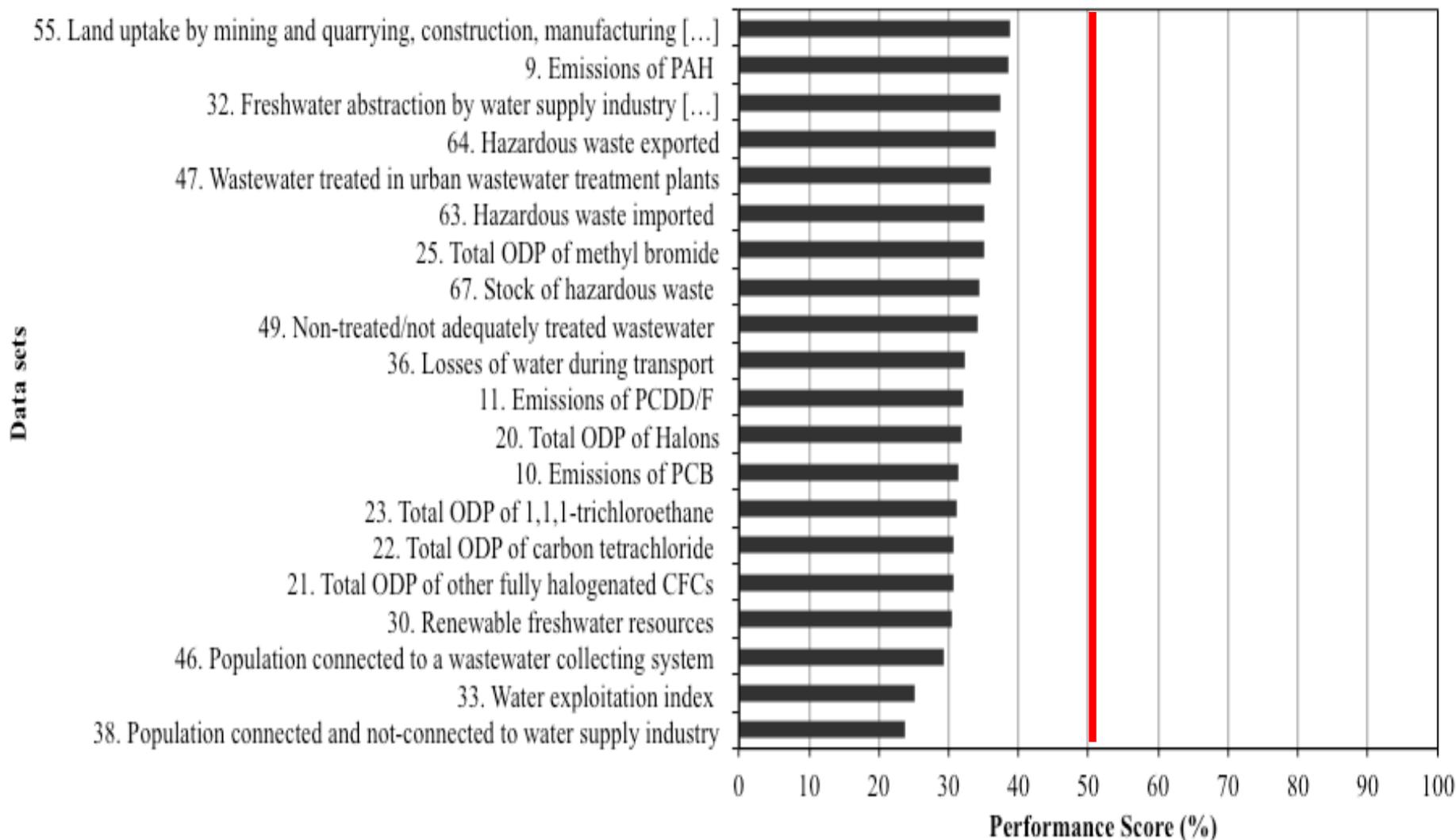
Air pollution

Climate Change

Waste

Data sets





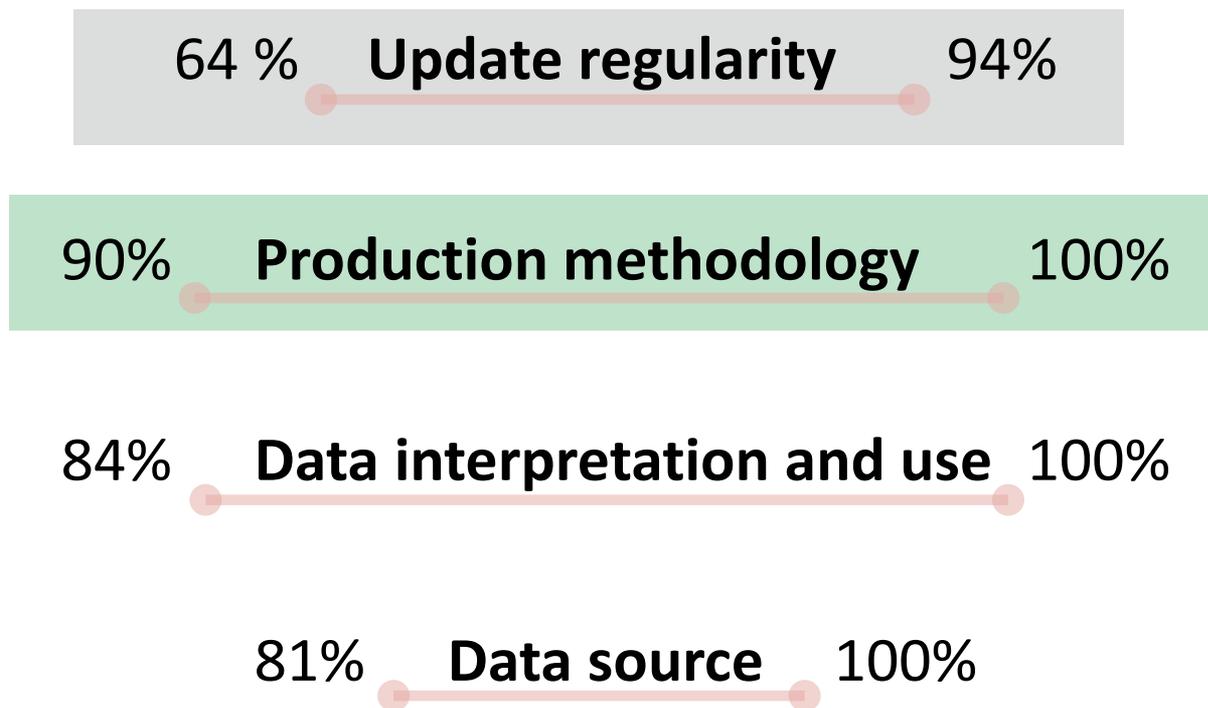
Water

Waste

Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Performance by review criteria



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Improving the availability and accessibility of SEIS data sets and related information

- Significant progress has been made by the reviewed countries in establishing SEIS.
- Case study examples
 - Belarus
 - Italy



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Extending the analysis

- Diversity in how SEIS-relevant data set are published online is not fully reflected.
 - some countries have all their data available on **only one website while others have several focal points** and the information is spread across many platforms and types of media.
 - most websites still present all publically available information in **one language**.
 - user **friendliness vary significantly** (e.g. clarity and the way data is being presented).
- Initial approach has not been satisfactory in addressing **variations in online accessibility**.
- Need to further **develop the reporting mechanism** to address and monitor performance gaps over time.



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Conclusions

- The drive towards establishing the SEIS and to facilitate data harmonisation has had a positive impact.
 - 32 countries in the pan-European region have **improved their SEIS performance score**.
 - Only a **limited number of countries** for which only a few or no data sets could be found online.
- Results have highlighted **performance gaps** and areas in need of improvements.
 - Updating data sets with more recent content.
- Move beyond evaluating SEIS implementation across thematic areas and data sets to include an assessment of the content (e.g. data quality) as part of the reporting mechanism.



Progress in establishing SEIS in support to regular reporting in the pan-European region



Next steps

- Finalize the report for Batumi
- Bring in all three SEIS pillars into the the review and extend the analysis
 - expand on the **review criteria to enhance data quality**
 - update the **indicators** and associated **data sets**
- Progress in developing the online application of the reporting mechanism as a **self-assessment tool** for each country.
 - re-engage the development sub-group
 - liase with developers from UNEP live
 - pilot the reporting mechanism and online application





European regional assessment of the Sixth Global Environmental Outlook



Background

- At its 20th session, CEP accepted UNEPs invitation to work in a collaborative manner with ECE and EEA on a regional environmental assessment.
- At its 21st session, CEP agreed to launch the European regional assessment of the **Sixth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6)** as the regional environmental assessment at the Batumi Ministerial Conference.





The GEO-6 Pan-European Regional Assessment

Special Session of the Committee on
Environmental Policy

Geneva, 23-25 February 2016



Key process milestones



**1. IGMC
(Oct 2014)**

**2.
Nomination
of experts**

**3. REIN
(Apr 2015)**

**4. Drafting
(Apr – Oct
2015)**

**5. Stage 1
Peer Review
(Nov 2015)**

**6. Stage 2
Peer Review
(Dec, Jan
2016)**

**7. Consult
on Summary**

**8. Production
stage**

**9. Launch
at Batumi**





Peer review process



Stage 1:

Expert Peer Review

(October – November 2015 – 3 weeks)

Stage 2:

Intergovernmental & Multi-stakeholder Peer Review

(December – January 2016 – 6 weeks)



Summary of Key Findings and Policy Messages



A draft summary will be prepared for consultation with the CEP and the GEO-6 HLG

The draft summary will be available for review by CEP from 01-14 March 2016

Final discussions on the summary will take place in a face to face meeting of the GEO-6 HLG & representatives of the CEP Bureau

30 March – 01 April 2016





Documents & Launch at Batumi



Summary of Key Findings and Policy Messages
(made available as an inf doc and submitted in advance
of the meeting)

GEO-6 Pan-European Regional Assessment
(made available as an inf doc and embargoed until the
launch on June 8th)





Thank you

Special Session of the Committee on
Environmental Policy
Geneva, 23-25 February 2016