Aarhus Clearinghouse: a tool for collection, dissemination and exchange of information

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Overview of the presentation

- Framework for maintenance and further development of the Aarhus Clearinghouse
  - Aarhus Clearinghouse as Central node
  - National nodes
  - Benefits of the Aarhus Clearinghouse
  - Further steps
Framework for maintenance and further development of the Aarhus Clearinghouse

- Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3 of the Meeting of the Parties
- Draft Guidance for National Nodes of the Clearinghouse mechanism
- Decision IV/1 on access to environmental information
Clearinghouse – system of nodes
Central node
http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/

Developed with the support of the Government of Norway

Developed and hosted by UNEP/Grid-Arenal

Managed by the Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Accessible from the Convention’s webpage

Resources can be:
- added by authorised users (username and password are needed)
- searched by anyone
The Resource Directory currently holds 1609 separate entries.

RSS Feed is available

Each entry is ‘tagged’ with one or more attributes. The directory can be searched by attribute.

BUT… there are less and less new entries and stronger links with national nodes are needed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Region/Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Access to Information</td>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>AFRICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experts</td>
<td>Access to Justice</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Convention Compliance</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>ASIA/PACIFIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
<td>Electronic Tools</td>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>GMOs</td>
<td>IGOs</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Media</td>
<td>PRTRs</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Public participation</td>
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<td>EUROPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procedures</td>
<td>Strategic Decision-making</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training materials</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Clearinghouse – Adding new resources

Admin access can be requested at the secretariat.

Click on the Aarhus Clearinghouse Admin link.

Login to the Admin module to add resources to the Clearinghouse.

For more information, please check Quick Guide available on this meeting’s webpage.
# Clearinghouse – Content management system

## Site administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Users</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>News items</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Categories</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom field types</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sites</td>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Admin Tools

- Admin Guide

## Recent Actions

- Civil Society: New Bill Opens the Door to New Criminal Privatization
- Aarhus Convention High risk factories: the security issue raised again
- Environment and new landfills: citizens have a right to know. This was established by the judgment of the ECJ
- Israel joins UN protocol on air pollution
- CCCO warns about the risks of exploitation of subsurface gas
- Information at your fingertips (Luxembourg)
- Information at your fingertips
- More than 160 firms are reported in the House on emissions registry
- Ecologists in Action presents the annual report on air quality in the Region of Murcia
National nodes

– Resource directory in accordance with the Draft Guidance for National Nodes of the Clearinghouse Mechanism
  • News
  • Calendar (Convention-related activities in the countries)
  • Search
  • Text of the convention in the national language(s)
  • English and local language switch button
  • National coordinator, focal points for the Convention’s task forces, working groups and other bodies (contact details)
  • Details of organizations active in Convention-related activities
  • Date of the last update of the page
  • Link to the Aarhus Clearinghouse (http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org)

– More detailed recommendations are needed?
Benefits of the Aarhus Clearinghouse

• A platform for sharing of news, information as well as analytical and training material in English or your national languages with summary in English with regard to:
  • Access to information
  • Public Participation in Decision-making
  • Access to Justice
• Awareness raising about your activities related to implementation of the Convention allowing for better synergies and avoiding duplication of work
• Timely update on the new developments and preventing obsolescence of information
Further steps

- Upgrade of the Aarhus Clearinghouse
  Users are welcome to email suggestions to public.participation@unece.org
- National Node capacity building
  - please provide the secretariat with the contact details of persons in your country responsible for posting resources in the Aarhus Clearinghouse and exploring the possibilities of linking national nodes to the Aarhus Clearinghouse.
- Development of the framework
  - ‘Draft Guidance of National Nodes for the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism’ – there might be a need to update this document