At its fourth meeting (Geneva, 8–10 December 2015), the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information requested the secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to carry out a survey to monitor progress in the implementation of the Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3 (hereinafter – Recommendations) (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.4) by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at its second session. The updated since 2013 questionnaire was considered by the Task Force at this meeting and finalized in consultation with the Chair of the Task Force taking into account final comments received from Italy, Malta and the United Kingdom afterwards (see the final revisions in track changes from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/taia5.html#/).

This questionnaire is distributed to national focal points of Parties, Signatories and other UNECE Member States involved in the activities under the Aarhus Convention. Non-governmental organizations and stakeholders are also kindly invited to provide their input to the survey by using this questionnaire.

Parties and stakeholders are kindly invited to complete and return the questionnaire to the following email address: aarhus.survey@unece.org with the subject line “EIT survey from [name of country, organization]” for processing before 1 May 2016.

While providing answers to the questions with squares , please select the relevant square and click on the right button of the mouse to select in menu “properties” and then “checked”.

The links to the relevant websites provided in this questionnaire would be posted as resources in the Aarhus Clearinghouse upon its upgrade.

The preliminary outcomes of the survey will be discussed by the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information at its fifth meeting in Geneva on 10-11 October 2016 and reported to the following meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention to inform the future decision by the Meeting of the Parties on access to information. Please note that the answers to this questionnaire are very important for identifying priorities for the further work on access to information pillar for the next intersessional period and fostering capacity-building efforts to support work in this area.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please provide name and contact data of the person who filled in the questionnaire:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name:</th>
<th>Rudolf</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Name:</td>
<td>LEGAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position:</td>
<td>Head of Coordination Centre Environmental Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Organization:</td>
<td>UMWELTBUNDESAMT Environment Agency Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>Austria, 1090 Vienna, Spittelauer Lände 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>0043 1 31304 5364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rudolf.legat@umweltbundesamt.at">rudolf.legat@umweltbundesamt.at</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ref.gv.at/Umweltinformation.1024.0.html">http://www.ref.gv.at/Umweltinformation.1024.0.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. In your country, which of the categories of environmental information (according to articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Convention and para. 9 of the Recommendations) are publicly accessible through the Internet?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</th>
<th>Art.of the Convention (C), para. of the Recommendations (R)</th>
<th>Legally required to be available through the Internet (yes / no)</th>
<th>Information fully available through the Internet</th>
<th>Information partly available through the Internet</th>
<th>Information not available through the Internet</th>
<th>Links to the websites (please provide as specific links as possible)</th>
<th>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</th>
<th>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</th>
<th>Comments (Please indicate the reasons for partial availability or non-availability of information)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reports on the state of the environment (para. 9 (c) of Recommendations)</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (a) C, para. 9 (c) (i) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Austrian State of the Environment Report 2013 Umweltkontrollbericht 2013 National State of the Environment Reports</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment (para. 9 (c) of Recommendations)</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (b) C, para. 9 (c) (ii) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Austrian Report on Directive 2003/4/EC Austrian Legal Information System Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes (RIS)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (c) C, para. 9 (c) (iii) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Embedded into webpages of environmental authorities: e.g.: EAA Environmental Agency Austria Umweltbundesamt – BMLFUW – Federal Ministry of Environment Unweltsituation - State of the Environment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</td>
<td>Art.of the Convention (C), para. of the Recommendations (R)</td>
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<td>Water Information System Austria Wasser Informationssystem Austria - WISA Environmental Information Umweltinformation auf Help.gv.at Public Participation in environmental matters Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung auf Help.gv.at Business Service Portal Umwelt auf usp.gv.at</td>
<td>Water Information System Austria Wasser Informationssystem Austria - WISA Environmental Information Umweltinformation auf Help.gv.at Public Participation in environmental matters Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung auf Help.gv.at Business Service Portal Umwelt auf usp.gv.at</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>§ 9 para. 3 UIG states that environmental info should be disseminated via electronic media</td>
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<td>various web platforms of environmental authorities: Strategische Umweltprüfung Austrian Report on Directive 2003/4/EC Statistik: Wie geht’s Österreich Statistische Publikationen Umweltrelevante</td>
<td>No</td>
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4. Documentation on environmental impact assessment (EIA) or other relevant assessments

5. Strategic Environmental Assessment Documentation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</th>
<th>Art.of the Convention (C), para. of the Recommendations (R)</th>
<th>Legally required to be available through the Internet (yes / no) Please indicate the Art. of C (and) R</th>
<th>Information fully available through the Internet</th>
<th>Information partly available through the Internet</th>
<th>Information not available through the Internet</th>
<th>Links to the websites (please provide as specific links as possible)</th>
<th>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</th>
<th>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</th>
<th>Comments (Please indicate the reasons for partial availability or non-availability of)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>6. Public notice about all environmental decision-making procedure subject to article 6 (please indicate stages of the procedure)</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) and art. 6 C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participation &amp; Sustainable Development in Europe Präsentation e-Partizipation Standards der Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung in Österreich – public participation eGov Task Force E-Democracy Projektgruppe E-Demokratie Presentation on Public participation in environmental decision-making</td>
<td></td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Public notice about strategic environmental assessment</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) и art. 7 C</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Art.of the Convention (C), para. of the Recommendations (R)</td>
<td>Legally required to be available through the Internet (yes / no)</td>
<td>Please indicate the type of legal act, its number and date Info. fully available through the Internet</td>
<td>Info. partly available through the Internet</td>
<td>Info. not available through the Internet</td>
<td>Links to the websites (please provide as specific links as possible)</td>
<td>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</td>
<td>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 8. Conclusions of state environmental expertise 
For activities under EIA ☐  
For other activities ☐ | Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R | ☐ by national authorities  
☐ by local authorities  
☐ Other | | | | | | | tool is not used in Austria |
| 9. Reference to location of environmental impact assessment, conclusions of state environmental expertise and strategic environmental assessment documentation | Art. 5 (2) C, para. 9 (c) R | Yes | X | EAA Environmental Agency Austria Umweltbundesamt – BMFLFUW eGov Task force env information Projekgruppe Umweltinformation | | | No | tool is not used in Austria |

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Editor’s note: The OVOS/expertiza system is a development control mechanism followed in many countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Committee has held that the OVOS and the expertiza should be considered jointly as the decision-making process constituting a form of environmental impact assessment procedure (see ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/9, para. 44).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</th>
<th>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</th>
<th>Comments (Please indicate the reasons for partial availability or non-availability of)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (v) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pollutant Release and Transfer Register PRTR Implementation of the PRTR Protocol in Austria PRTR Protokoll BMLFUW Environmental protection at company level BMLFUW Anlagenbezogener Umweltschutz BMLFUW Umweltkontrolle / Information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention</td>
<td>Art. 9 (5) C, para. 9 (c) (vii) R</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation Report of Austria to the Aarhus Convention Umsetzungsbericht Österreichs zur UNECE Aarhus Konvention –</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>12. Decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other review bodies, held in electronic form</td>
<td>Art. 9 (4) C</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Rechtsinformationssystem – Judikatur -</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>13. Applications for licenses or permits</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local</td>
<td>UVP - Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung UVP Dokumentation Database on EIA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Legally required to be available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</td>
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<td>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</td>
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<td>14. Draft licenses or permits and their attached conditions</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>UVP - Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Legally required to be available</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Final licenses or permits and their attached conditions</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>UVP Datenbanken</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Legally required to be available</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions</td>
<td>Art. 5 (3) (d) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>UVP Datenbanken</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Legally required to be available</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. A reference to location of documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6</td>
<td>Art. 5 (2) (a) C, para. 9 (c) (vi) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>☐ by national authorities ☐ by local authorities ☐ Other</td>
<td>Aktuelle Informationen der UVP-Behörden</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Legally required to be available</td>
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<td>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</td>
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<td>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</td>
<td>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</td>
<td>Comments (Please indicate the reasons for partial availability or non-availability of information)</td>
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<td>18. Environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities</td>
<td>Art. 5 (9) C, para. 9 (d) (i) R</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Umweltkontrollbericht 2013</td>
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<td>Klimaschutzbericht 2013 – climate report</td>
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<td>air quality emission reports Aktuelle Emissionsberichte – Wasser Informationssystem Austria WISA</td>
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<td>19. Product information that enables consumers to make informed environmental choices</td>
<td>Art. 5 (8) C, para. 9 (d) (ii) R</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Austrian Ecolabel Österreichische Umweltzeichen Eco-labels in Austria and Europe Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit – AGES Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety AGES Lebensmittel Das Österreichische Umweltzeichen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of environmental information accessible through the Internet</strong></td>
<td><strong>Art.of the Convention (C), para. of the Recommendations (R)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Links to the websites (please provide as specific links as possible)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plans for improvement (yes / no)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Charges for access the information (yes / no)</strong></td>
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<td>20. Information on good practice and guidelines on better environmental management</td>
<td>Art. 5 (6) C, para. 9 (d) (iii) R</td>
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<td>EMAS BMLFUW - Eco Management and Audit Scheme</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Okoaudit nach der EMAS Verordnung</td>
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<td>20. Appropriate metadata or background information to make the methods, processes and standards of data collection transparent to future data users</td>
<td>Art. 5 (2) C, para. 9 (d) (iv) R</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Open Government Vorgehensmodell KDZ</td>
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<td>21. Meta-information (including catalogues of data sources and details of the scope of information held by public authorities and mechanisms for the provision of access to environmental information)</td>
<td>Art. 5 (2) C, para. 9 (d) (v) R</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Metadata catalogue UDK</td>
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<td>Open Government Data: OGD Portal Austria Veröffentlichende Stellen: (Daten) – OGD Umweltdaten</td>
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</table>
2. What electronic tools are generally used or planned to be used in your country to disseminate environmental information:

(a) General Governmental portal
   Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐

(b) Specialized (one-stop access) portal dedicated to environmental information
   Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐

(c) Website of the environmental authorities
   National: Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐
   Local: Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐

(d) Website of the local authorities
   Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐

(e) Website of other key providers (e.g. for statistics, legislation, court decisions, etc.)
   Used ☑ Planned to be used ☐

Names of key providers: Statistics Austria, Federal Chancellery, Austrian Parliament,

(f) Website of funded environment projects
   National: Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐
   Local: Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

(g) Social media of the environmental authorities
   Used ☑ Plan to be used ☐

Twitter user name:
   • https://twitter.com/Umwelt_AT
   • https://twitter.com/BMRupprechter

YouTube user name: Umweltbundesamt Wien

Google+ user name:

WhatsApp user name:

LinkedIn user name:

Facebook user name:

Tumblr user name:

Instagram user name:

Other social media channel and user name:

(h) Mobile applications of the public authorities
   Used ☑ Plan to be used ☐

User name(s) and scope:

(i) Widgets
   Used ☐ Plan to be used ☐
3. In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, what electronic tools will be used by a public authority in your country to disseminate information which could enable the public who may be affected to take the measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat (article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool Description</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Planned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) General Governmental portal</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Specialized (one stop access) portal dedicated to environmental information</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Website of the environmental authorities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Website of the local authorities</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Social media</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Mobile applications</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name(s):

(g) Widgets
(h) SMS services (i.e. application-to-person sms)
(i) E-mail alerts
(j) Electronic data accessible through touch-tone dialing
(k) Public electronic information kiosks
   Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

(l) Telephone hotlines/fax Used ☒ Planned to be used ☐

(m) TV teletext Used ☒ Planned to be used ☐

(n) Radio Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

(o) Other (to be specified) Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

4. If your ministry or agency has assessed user needs for environmental information, please briefly describe how successful this assessment has been and what methods were used.

Interpellation by MP Mr. Johann Maier, 06. November 2012, Nr. 12961/J, regarding Environmental Information Act:
Answer by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management:

5. Regarding data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on PRTRs (art. 5 (3) (d) of the Convention and para. 9 (c) (v) of the Recommendations) and environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities (art. 5 (9) of the Convention and para. 9 (d) (i) of the Recommendations), please describe whether these data are provided using geo-spatial technologies or in machine readable formats or other agreed or recognized standards? Is real-time environmental monitoring data available and for which type of monitoring?

   In the Austrian PRTR there is a GIS (geographic information system) component included in order to query geo-based data. It is possible to search for facilities via map service.

   No machine readable formats or other recognized standards are used.

   There is no real-time environmental monitoring data available, as the PRTR-data reported by the operators has to be checked before it is published. As these data checks are carried out at different levels, no up-to-date data on a daily basis is available.

   The Austrian PRTR-data is published from the time when the European PRTR data has been published, which is usually by end of April.

   • http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/prtr/
   • Messwerte aus dem österreichischen Strahlenfrühwarnsystem
   • Aktueller Ozonbericht

6. (a) What concrete steps have been taken to ensure that environmental information is collected and disseminated electronically (please list relevant national policies, action plans or provisions of national law)?
   (b) Have remote sensing (e.g. high-resolution/high-frequency satellites, remote-operated aircraft, drones, and more) and location enabling applications (e.g. local observation by the public through mobile phones) been used to collect environmental information? (c) Have location enabling applications (e.g. local observation by the public through mobile phones) been used to collect environmental information? (d) Are there any initiatives or experiences in using “big data” for environmental information purposes? If yes, please describe.

   (b) YES, we have used the SENTINEL-2 data from the COPERNICUS programme to evaluate changes in landscape on different levels (state changes, cyclic changes and conditional changes). These observations have been underpinned using very high resolution orthofoto derived from drones (unmanned aerial vehicles). In order to motivate the public and to guide our in-situ teams we have adapted the mobile APP “Fotoquest Austria” for gathering ground based photos and descriptive information.
Austria on the way to a European Shared Environmental Information System

http://www.ref.gv.at/Open-Government-Let-the-suns.opengovernment.0.html

Bundesamt für Wald

Österreichische Waldinventur (ÖWI) (remote sensing)

TAIEX-Workshop on the Aarhus Convention: Austrian Experience and Practical Steps

Reports from the Member States under Article 9 of Directive 2003/4/EC:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aurhus/reports_ms.htm

7. Please indicate specific data sets that are made publicly accessible through the Internet as a part of establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region. For more details, please consult document “First report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in the pan-European region” (Document ECE/CEP/S/2016/L.9). No reference has been made to existing information sources.

8. Please describe whether information indicated in question 1 is:

(1) Openly accessible 3 through the Internet by default or by a decision of the competent public authority (official). Please describe if a risk assessment for releasing the information should be carried out.

or

(2) subject to restrictions on disclosure and for which types. In this case, please list the applicable restrictions on disclosure with reference to the Convention’s article 4, paras. 3 and 4. Please also specify for which type of information indicated in question 1 these restrictions are applicable.

9. Has public access to environmental information become a part of the formulated and/or implemented national “E-government” or “Open Government Data” strategies? Please describe institutional and legal framework and time frames for implementation relevant to access to environmental information and any progress made since 2013.

- eGovernment Factsheet Austria 2016
- eGovernment Reference Server: https://www.ref.gv.at/
- Open Government Data: Coop. Open Government Data
- Environmental Information: Umweltinformation
- OGD: http://www.ref.gv.at/Open-Government-Let-the-suns.opengovernment.0.html
- National OGD-Portal: https://www.data.gv.at/
- Austria on the way to a European Shared Environmental Information System
- Rudolf Legat: Practical Steps: From eGovernment to Open Government
- Gregor Eibl: Open Government Data (OGD) in Austria

Press contact:
Christian Rupp,

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2 Available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=417208/ (under item 3 (c)

3 Open access to information stands for unrestricted access and unrestricted reuse.
10. How is the interoperability of the various datasets ensured? Have the metadata conventions (standards) for describing open documents been adopted? Is the metadata compliant with the INSPIRE requirements or other requirements for dissemination of geospatial information? If possible, please include reference to relevant national policies, action plans or provisions of national law referring to this matter.

Metadata records have been created for all datasets in compliance with the requirements ensuing from INSPIRE. At present there are still slight technical problems with the National INSPIRE Metadata Portal, so the metadata records provided are not completely INSPIRE compliant; however, this problem will be rectified shortly, and the metadata records will be INSPIRE compliant.

Interoperability for OpenData-metadata is ensured by using an Austrian profile of the DCAT-AP format (see https://www.ref.gv.at/fileadmin/_migrated/content_uploads/OGD-Metadaten_2_3_2015_02_19_EN.pdf), for INSPIRE-relevant geodata by using the INSPIRE metadata profile.

Interoperability of INSPIRE datasets will be achieved according to the relevant deadlines, there is no broad intention to harmonize (non INSPIRE) OpenData datasets – they are delivered “as is”.

- National OpenData - portal: www.data.gv.at
- National INSPIRE - portal: www.inspire.gv.at
- Geodateninfrastrukturgesetz (INSPIRE)


11. In your country, in which types of environmental decision-making process (in the sense of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention) may public participation take place electronically? What are the main steps in the process? If possible, please give concrete examples.

There is no e-participation in the strict sense of the word, but e.g. the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Federal Law Gazette 697/1993, last amended by Fed. Law Gaz. I No. 95/2013, provides in § 5 para. 1 that the application for a project and the EIA report shall as far as technically feasible be submitted electronically. The competent authority has to publish a summary of both the project and the EIA report on the internet (§ 9 para. 4). The data have to remain online until the permit cannot be appealed against any more. The permit decision has to be made available at the respective municipality; the details of where to find it have also to be made available online (§ 17 para. 7).

In general drafts for amendments to Acts are sent out for comments (usually for six weeks) to stakeholders and are also published on the internet.

12. Please indicate what tools are used or are planned to be used in your country to support e-participation in environmental decision-making:
(a) Public advisory e-committees/ People’s e-assemblies/ Town-hall e-meetings / e-Briefings
Used ☒ Planned to be used ☐

Link:

(b) Internet discussion forums Used ☒ Plan to be used ☐

Link:

(c) e-Collaborative Environment
Used ☐ Plan to be used ☒

Link:

(d) Public e-consultations Used ☒ Plan to be used ☐

Link:

(e) e-Interviews Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

Link:

(f) Web meetings, webinars Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

Link :

(g) E-campaigning Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

Link :

(h) CD-ROM Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

(i) Mobile applications Used ☒ Planned to be used ☒

Name(s) :

(j) Web subscriptions Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

(k) Other (to be specified) Used ☐ Planned to be used ☐

13. Have comprehensive environment-related education programmes, including specific training programmes linking the use of information technology applications to the promotion of good environmental governance, been developed and implemented in your country?

   a) Yes ☒ No ☐

   b) Is the training programme:

      (i) Ongoing ☐ Periodic ☒ One-time ☐

      (ii) Financed through international assistance ☐
            State-financed (national or local government) ☒
            Financed by the private sector ☐
            Financed by philanthropy or NGO ☐
            Other (please describe):
c) Please provide target audience of environment-related training programmes (school education, professional education (training, workshops, seminars), life-long education, programmes for marginalised groups, community education):

Austrian Network for schools and the environment: [http://www.oekolog.at/](http://www.oekolog.at/)
Environmental management in Viennese schools: [http://box.lehrerweb.at/puma/](http://box.lehrerweb.at/puma/)
Forum Umweltbildung: [http://www.umweltbildung.at/](http://www.umweltbildung.at/)

14. Please describe any measures taken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing providers and users of information, including civil society, Aarhus Centres and private sector institutions, in the development and use of one-stop access portals and other electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public (e.g. through public-private partnerships)?

- Aarhus Convention at BMLFUW
- Umsetzungsbericht Österreichs zur UNECE Aarhus Konvention (Implementation Report)
- Various Aarhus-presentations at OSCE in Vienna
- Participation & Sustainable Development in Europe

15. Please list international forums and platforms working, inter alia, to encourage/promote the development and more effective use of electronic information tools in which your ministry or agency participates.

EIONET: [European Environment Information and Observation Network](http://www.eionet.europa.eu/)
INSPIRE: [Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/)
SEIS: [Shared Environmental Information System](http://www.eea.europa.eu/)
GMES/Copernicus: [Europe’s eyes on Earth](http://www.gmes.eu/)
GBIF: [Free and Open Access to Biodiversity Data](http://www.gbif.org/)
LTER: DEIMS - [Repository for Research Sites and Datasets](http://data.lter-europe.net/deims/)

Various FP7 Projects:

- EUDAT: [http://www.eudat.eu/](http://www.eudat.eu/)
- ENVRI: [http://envri.eu/](http://envri.eu/)
- EnvEurope: [http://www.envEurope.eu/](http://www.envEurope.eu/)
- ICT-ENSURE: [http://ict-ensure.tugraz.at/](http://ict-ensure.tugraz.at/)
- ExpeER: [http://www.expeeronline.eu/](http://www.expeeronline.eu/)

Networks:

- LTER Europe ([http://www.lter-europe.net/](http://www.lter-europe.net/))
- LTER Europe DEIMS ([http://data.lter-europe.net/deims/](http://data.lter-europe.net/deims/))
- LTER Austria ([http://www.lter-austria.at/](http://www.lter-austria.at/))
- eLTER ESFRI initiative ([http://www.lter-europe.net/elter-esfri](http://www.lter-europe.net/elter-esfri))
European Union H2020:

- EUDAT2020 (https://www.eudat.eu/)
- ENVRI-Plus (http://www.envriplus.eu/)
- eLTER (http://www.iter-europe.net/elter/about)
- EcoPotential (http://www.ecopotential-project.eu/)

Austrian national funding (e.g. ACRP, ÖAW, FWF)

- WoodNClimate (ACRP)
- CentForCSink (ACRP)
- CCN-Adapt (ACRP)
- CAlp (ÖAW)

Contributions to intergovernmental bodies

- UNECE ICP Integrated Monitoring (IM Site Zöbelboden)
- UNECE Working Group on Effects (WGE)
- UNECE ICP Modelling and Mapping (Critical Loads Reporting)
- UNECE Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (Expert Panel on Nitrogen Budget)

16. What are the most important challenges and obstacles in your country to the use of electronic tools to implement the Recommendations contained in decision II/3 from the list below? (Please select all applicable challenges and obstacles)

**INSTITUTIONAL**

- Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country
- Limited standardization of data sets
- Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data
- Limited interest in using ICT among:
  - Data providers
  - Data users (please indicate categories)
- Other priorities (please specify)
- Lack of means to explore/ implement
  - Time
  - Resources

**ECONOMIC**

- Limited availability of equipment in the market place
- Lack of IT service providers
- Lack of technical support
- High cost of online access
- High cost of equipment
- Poor state of telecommunication networks
- Limited expert capacities/know-how

**LEGAL**

- Unclear legislation on public access to environmental information through internet

**OTHER**
17. Please indicate any emerging or systemic issues regarding public access to environmental information through the use of electronic information tools that are not covered by the Recommendations contained in decision II/3 but might require exchange of experience.

With regard to online availability of air quality data it could be of relevance to exchange best practices on how to present up-to-date air quality data information (see the fully automated presentation for the current and past calendar years on http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltsituation/luft/luftguete_aktuell/ueberschreitungen/, with link to all current and past air quality data for the Austrian monitoring stations).

Täglicher Luftgütebericht: Daily air quality information from monitoring sites in the provinces: http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltsituation/luft/luftguete_aktuell/tgl_bericht/

18.a) Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse national node Web portal in accordance with paragraph 19 of the Recommendations? If yes, please provide the Web link:

   b) Does the national node have RSS feeds or other APIs technologies for news or other resources (including social media channels)?
   c) Does your country have a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse national node administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node? Yes ☐ No ☒

   (a) **Responsible for content management:**
   Name:
   Title:
   Organization:
   Postal address:
   Telephone:
   Fax:
   E-mail:

   (b) **Technical contact:**
   Name:
   Telephone:
   E-mail:

   d) Has a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse national node administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node applied for a user’s account in the Aarhus Clearinghouse? Yes ☐ No ☐

☐ No, but hereby we would like to request a user account to the Aarhus Clearinghouse
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY

I. Description

1. Title
   Electronic Data Management (EDM) Environment Austria

2. Brief description:
   As an eGovernment application EDM standardises and simplifies the cooperation between companies and the authorities with regard to the implementation of legal obligations in the field of environmental protection.
   The EDM program is used actively in several European and international work groups who are preparing the way for and promoting interoperability with other European and international eGovernment systems.

3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:
   English language Video:
   - http://vimeo.com/63807606
   - http://vimeo.com/63814412
   - http://vimeo.com/66108359
   Main web address: https://secure.umweltbundesamt.at/edm_portal/home.do

4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other): governmental

5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local):
   Ministry of Life (various sections and departments)
   Other federal authorities (e.g. Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Finance)
   Provincial administrative authorities of all 9 federal provinces
   District authorities Austria-wide
   Federal Economic Chamber
   Platform Digital Austria, EUDIN Network, Statistics Austria, business register, commercial register, trade register, etc.

6. Working language(s): German

7. Target users:
   Cooperation between waste and trade authorities has been improved Austrian wide thanks to the new implementation of the Directive on Industrial Emissions EDM includes environmentally relevant information concerning 45,000 registered companies with 17,000 locations and 20,000 plants.

8. Starting year: 2002

9. Budget and funding source:

10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number):
    Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
    Mr Franz Mochty
    Stubenbastei 5, 1001 Vienna, Austria
    Telephone: +43 (664) 2510580
II. Implementation

11. Policy, legal and institutional context

12. Partner organizations involved

EDM includes environmentally relevant information concerning 45,000 registered companies with 17,000 locations and 20,000 plants.

Around 1500 employees in various administrative authorities work with EDM. EDM is used in 4 federal ministries - Health, Finance, the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management - as well as in all Austrian provinces and all 95 district authorities.

Around 800,000 reports a year are submitted in EDM, consisting in part of several thousand datasets, and there is a total of over 20 million hits of EDM services annually.

13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:

14. User needs and methods of their assessment

15. Technology choice

How is EDM structured? Web portal and central master data register for persons, locations and plants with currently over 20 specialist applications from the areas of waste management and the environment.

EDM is an extremely extensive and complex Software as a Service application. It is a cloud application in the classic sense of the NIST definition:

- It can be accessed on the Internet via standard protocols, is neither bound to any specific terminals nor does it require any local installation.
- Provision of the service is automatic needing no interaction with the operator of EDM.
- All resources and data are freely available for the many users in the form of a pool.
- The services of EDM are provided for the most part free of charge and without requiring a licence.
- There are, a series of web service and XML interfaces available for import and export, so that highly automated processes can also be supported by EDM.

III. Evaluation

16. Results

17. Efficiency gains

18. Risks

19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)

20. Lessons learned

21. Conditions for successful replication

22. Overall assessment of the tool
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY

I. Description

1. Title

Website www.environmental-accounting.at

2. Brief description

Website with information about methods, structure, legal basis, scope and applications of environmental accounts.

One feature at the site offers the possibility for individual designed data analysis with environmental accounting data of Eurostat with Google Motion Charts.

http://www.umweltgesamtrechnung.at/ms/ugr/en/ugr_individualdataanalysis/

3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:

http://www.umweltgesamtrechnung.at/ms/ugr/en/ugr_individualdataanalysis/

4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):

-  

5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local):

national and international

6. Working language(s):

German and English

7. Target users:

Experts and interested public

8. Starting year:

2008

9. Budget and funding source:

EU-Grant; Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)

Andreas Berthold, Environment Agency Austria, Department of Ecosystem Research & Environmental Information Management

T: +43-(0)1-313 04/3411; andreas.berthold@umweltbundesamt.at

II. Implementation

11. Policy, legal and institutional context

Cooperation of Environment Agency Austria, Statistics Austria and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

12. Partner organizations involved

Statistics Austria

13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:
Information about environmental accounting and individual data analysis for experts and the interested public

- 14. User needs and methods of their assessment
- 15. Technology choice
  
  Website / Google Motion Chart for data analysis

III. Evaluation

- 16. Results
- 17. Efficiency gains
- 18. Risks
- 19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)
- 20. Lessons learned
- 21. Conditions for successful replication
- 22. Overall assessment of the tool
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY

I. Description

1. Title
   Data.gv.at – offene Daten Österreichs

2. Brief description
   data.gv.at is the „single point of contact“ to the EUROPEAN DATA PORTAL. data.gv.at is the central Austrian OGD-metadata catalogue

3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:
   https://www.data.gv.at/

4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other): governmental

5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local): sub-regional, national, local

6. Working language(s): German

7. Target users: Public, Administration

8. Starting year: 2011

9. Budget and funding source: Federal Chancellery Austria

10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)
    Roland Ledinger
    Federal Chancellery, Federal ICT Board Digital Austria
    Ballhausplatz 2, 1014 Wien
    Tel.: 53115/202745
    roland.ledinger@bka.gv.at

II. Implementation

11. Policy, legal and institutional context
    https://www.data.gv.at/infos/cooperation-ogd-austria/

12. Partner organizations involved
    https://www.data.gv.at/veroeffentlichende-stellen/

13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:
    https://www.data.gv.at/infos/zielsetzung-data-gv-at/

14. User needs and methods of their assessment
    https://www.ref.gv.at/Coop-Open-Government-Data.2771.0.html

15. Technology choice
    https://www.data.gv.at/infos/cooperation-ogd-oesterreich/

III. Evaluation

16. Results

17. Efficiency gains
18. Risks
19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)
20. Lessons learned
21. Conditions for successful replication
22. Overall assessment of the tool
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY

I. Description

1. Title:
   **BORIS Soil Information System**

2. Brief description:
   BORIS provides Austrian soil data from over 10,000 sites all over Austria. This includes mainly soil quality data on site description (soil type, land use,...), soil profile description and analytical values (e.g. heavy metals, organic pollutants, nutrients, soil physics,...). All data are harmonized due to the Data Key Soil Science, a handbook of methods used in Austria and a guidance for encoding soil data for the implementation in the BORIS Database. The BORIS data portal provides webtools for data selection, download and a webGIS solution for data visualization combined with soil related maps. BORIS data are available for the public as well as for soil experts and conform to INSPIRE requirements. BORIS Soil information System is a cooperation of governmental and scientific institutions, leader is the Environment Agency Austria.

3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:
   Weblink: [http://www.borisdaten.at](http://www.borisdaten.at) (German)

4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other): governmental

5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local): national

6. Working language(s): German

7. Target users:
   Public, experts, engineers for environmental impact assessment, EC - reporting

8. Starting year: 1999

9. Budget and funding source:
   Cooperation of Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the governments of the Federal Provinces, Environment Agency Austria EAA

10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)

   **Ms Monika Tulipan**
   Soil and land management
   T: +43-(0)1-313 04/3661
   F: +43-(0)1-313 04/3533
   monika.tulipan@umweltbundesamt.at

   **Umweltbundesamt GmbH**
   Environment Agency Austria Ltd.
   Spittelauer Lände 5
   1090 Wien/Vienna
   Österreich/Austria
   [http://www.umweltbundesamt.at](http://www.umweltbundesamt.at)

II. Implementation

11. Policy, legal and institutional context

   **BORIS has been implemented by EAA in cooperation with federal provinces as data providers to achieve the goal of providing harmonized Austrian Soil data. This supports difficulties resulting from the lack of a national legislation for Soil in Austria. EAA is in a leading role to collect, assess and provide environmental data and excellent cooperation over many years made the implementation of a soil information system possible.**
12. Partner organizations involved

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, governments of the Provinces, Environment Agency Austria, Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW), Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:

See above, benefits are data management and data provision for data owners, comparability with other soil data, INSPIRE conformity, data availability for soil protection issues and execution of soil policy on national and international level (e.g. EC reporting, EIA,INSPIRE)

14. User needs and methods of their assessment

15. Technology choice

Soil database and soil data management tools development by EAA, WEBGIS and data selection tools using DISY Cadenza technology

III. Evaluation

16. Results

17. Efficiency gains

18. Risks

19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)

20. Lessons learned

21. Conditions for successful replication

22. Overall assessment of the tool
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY

I. Description

- 1. Title: Water Information System Austria (WISA)
- 2. Brief description: The major tasks which WISA is to fulfil are:
  - active participation of the public in the implementation of the Water Act 1959 (WRG 1959)
  - collection and provision of the Water Management data using the already existing databases and establishment of an additional databases;
  - effective preparation, publication and interactive provision of the prepared “National Water Management Plans”, “Flood Risk Management Plans” and the associated background information, as well as other water-relevant reports to the European Union;
  - making the data of the Federal Government and the Federal Provinces mutually utilisable for water management planning.
- 3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:
  - WISA-Portal: http://wisa.bmlfuw.gv.at/
  - Water Quality Database as one example for a thematically database: https://wasser.umweltbundesamt.at/h2odb/
- 4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other): governmental
- 5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local): national
- 6. Working language(s): German
- 7. Target users: Public, Administration
- 8. Starting year: 2003
- 9. Budget and funding source:
- 10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)
  
  Mr Harald Marent
  Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
  Programme Manager – Data Management Water
  Directorate General IV - Water Management
  Email: harald.marent@bmlfuw.gv.at
  Tel. ++43-1-71100-607119
  Fax. ++43-1-71100-607180

II. Implementation

- 11. Policy, legal and institutional context: Austrian Water Act (Wasserrechtsgesetz, WRG) of 1959 as applicable
- 12. Partner organizations involved: Umweltbundesamt GmbH, LFRZ GmbH
- 13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits: The system has been developed in cooperation with the Austrian federal provinces
14. User needs and methods of their assessment
15. Technology choice: Portal solution with web applications, using webservices

III. Evaluation
16. Results
17. Efficiency gains
18. Risks
19. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)
20. Lessons learned
21. Conditions for successful replication
22. Overall assessment of the tool