



European Environment Agency



**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators**

European Environmental Agency

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

**Regional workshop for the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe,
Caucasus and Central Asia on water information systems and reporting of water
data**

13 May 2014

**Venue: Palais des Nations, Salle V
Geneva, Switzerland**

Introduction

This workshop contributes to the overall aim to develop a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review. Efforts aim to advance the production of a regional core set of environmental indicators by supporting the establishment of data flows (sharing/access to common datasets). For the area of water, priority indicators relate to water quality in rivers and lakes, as agreed by the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators at its 5th Session in July 2012, and described in a feasibility study aiming to support the development of regular/sustained data flows for the agreed indicators.

In December 2013, the European Environment Agency (EEA) facilitated sharing of experiences between the European environment information and observation network (Eionet) and partner countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus through a regional training conducted under the ENPI-SEIS project on how water quality data is shared and used to assess the state and pressures on water resources at the European scale (i.e. to explore and review the Water Information for Europe (WISE) “State of the Environment” (SoE) reporting procedure and tools). A conclusion of this activity was the agreement to share such experiences with the broader audience of UNECE Environmental Monitoring Programme's target countries.

As regards to other water indicators, six were reviewed at the 7th Session of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, 5-6 November 2013. This workshop will advance the discussions on two of these indicators that were identified most challenging for the



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countries, mainly on connection of population to public water supply and population connected to wastewater treatment.

This workshop is also a continuation of earlier events, such as the Eurostat Seminar on Water Statistics for EECCA countries that took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on the 11-13 September 2012.

The regional training is organized with funding provided by the European Commission.

General objectives

The main objective of the regional workshop is to share good practice and experience in establishing water information systems in the target countries in support of the national policy development in the fields of water protection and of the population access to water and sanitation and the international – pan European – reporting in these fields.



9:00 – 9:30	Arrival of participants
9:30 – 9:45	Opening of the workshop Welcome statements by UNECE, EEA
<p style="text-align: center;">Session I: National information systems for managing water quality of rivers and lakes, reporting of water data</p>	
<p>Session objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To exchange good practice and experience on information systems for managing water quality of rivers and lakes;(b) To understand the differences in data collection and reporting procedures between national systems and the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and what it takes to harmonize these procedures	
<p>Expected outcome:</p> <p>Participants should have a clear understanding on how information systems for managing water quality for rivers and lakes have been developed in four target countries, to which degree the data collection and reporting procedures in these countries are different to those used under WISE and what would it take to harmonize these procedures</p>	
<p>Relevant datasets:</p> <p>Data underpinning the production of the indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BOD-5 and concentration of ammonium in rivers• Nutrients in freshwater	
9:45 – 10:45	Setting the scene for the session National information system for managing water quality for rivers and lakes, differences vis-à-vis procedures used under WISE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- in Armenia- in Belarus
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- in Georgia- in Republic of Moldova <p>Questions, comments and feedback, including from ETC/ICM on the presentations from the volunteering countries</p>



12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Discussion on information systems for managing water quality data, and a way forward to advance sharing data using common approaches, including brief information on the systems, approaches and visions in the other target countries. Segment with moderation
16:00 – 16:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session II: Exchange of practices and experience in developing national information systems on population's connection to public water supply and to wastewater treatment	
Session objectives: To provide good practice in establishing effective procedures for data collection and validation on connection of population to public water supply and waste water treatment	
Expected outcome: Participants should have a general understanding how effective procedures have been developed and what kind of regulations did it require in order to manage an information system on population's connection to public water supply and wastewater treatment	
Relevant datasets: Data underpinning the production of the indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population connected to public water supply• Population connected to wastewater treatment	
16:20 – 17:00	Setting the scene for the session Regulations and procedures to establish an information system on population connection to public water supply and wastewater treatment – presentations by 2 countries advanced in building their systems
17:00 – 17:30	Questions and answers, discussion on the way forward Segment with moderation
17:30	End of the workshop