

Workshop on Water Statistics and Water Indicators, 11 May 2015, Geneva

Data quality assurance and methodologies for Renewable freshwater resources (C1), Freshwater abstraction (C2) and Total water use (C3)

Concept Note

Background

The JTF on Environmental Indicators agreed at its ninth session (Geneva, 4-5 November 2014) to extend the set of initial eight selected indicators for production and sharing with six more indicators from the Indicator Guidelines, including renewable freshwater resources (C1), freshwater abstraction (C2) and total water use (C3).

Workshops discussing methodologies and quality assurance were specifically requested by the JTF (e.g. a workshop on air indicators was organized in November 2014).

Recently, there have been two regional workshops which were dealing with water statistics and indicators:

- 11-13 September 2012 (Almaty): Seminar on Water Statistics for Countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA): Mainly oriented on the Eurostat/OECD-JQ on Inland Waters and covering statistics related to water resources, water abstraction and use, wastewater collection and treatment.
- 13 May 2014 (Geneva): Regional workshop for the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia on water information systems and reporting of water data: Main focus on water information systems, data on ambient water quality and population connected to wastewater collection and treatment

This workshop is a continuation of those earlier events and will provide deeper knowledge on data quality assurance and data collection methodologies for water resources, water abstraction and water use.

Objectives of the workshop

The main objectives of the workshop on water statistics and water indicators:

- To familiarize the participants with important conceptual and terminological issues related to water statistics and water indicators
- To share good practice and experience in data collection, quality assurance and data dissemination related to the three water indicators,
- To show the policy relevance and the links to environmental-economic accounting (SEEA)

The workshop may further discuss and propose adjustments, if necessary (e.g. including a column for the long term annual average (LTAA) in the water resources table), to the existing data collection tables for those three water indicators as available in the Online Guidelines for the Application of the Environmental Indicators.

Workshop Participants, Target Audience

The workshop participants are from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), which include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Interested countries from South-Eastern Europe (SEE) are also invited to participate and include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The workshop targets both statisticians and environment experts, members of the JTF. The target audience also includes water authorities' representatives. Both participants and international experts are invited to share their knowledge and experience on, what are frequent data quality problems, what methodologies are already available and used, what networks for data processing and sharing between different national agencies/bodies/structures in the countries are involved, etc.

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction into the workshop

2. Setting the scene

This session aims to bring statistics and indicators on water resources, water abstractions and water uses in relation with national and international policy needs. It will also show the links with activities by other international organisations.

Typical water-related policy needs of the region as well as the global perspective (e.g. SDGs) will be discussed and examples will be presented how water statistics and indicators can respond to these needs.

Presentations by ECE and/or other international organisation

3. Terminology, definitions and classifications

This session will present and discuss the terminology, definitions and classifications used in international water statistics. It will show the conceptual model that is used in international water statistics, show how water flows in that model are related to the discussed statistics and indicators and will highlight main differences regarding water-related terms used by different expert communities.

This session will also give an overview on the most relevant international standards and guidance documents, such as the International Recommendations on Water Statistics, SEEA-Water and the Data Collection Manual for the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters.

Presentations by ECE and/or Eurostat

4. Water resources

This session will discuss the information needs regarding renewable freshwater resources (C-1). It will also show the main methodological background, data sources and discuss important data quality aspects. Issues related to availability of data at different scales and to temporal resolution can also be discussed.

Presentations by ECE and/or Eurostat or other international organisation

Country presentations: case examples (ideally countries represent diversity in terms of monitoring systems (financial and human resources), data availability, relative importance of surface water and groundwater resources, climatic zone (semi-arid vs. humid).

5. Water abstraction and water uses

This session will discuss the information needs regarding water abstraction (C-2) and water uses (C-3). It will discuss the issue of consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Methodological background, data sources and important data quality aspects will be discussed.

Presentations by ECE and/or Eurostat

Country presentations: case examples

6. Final discussions and conclusions

This session will give participants the possibility to raise final questions. The discussions might lead to recommendations for further steps (e.g. identification of training needs or slight modifications of data collection templates) that will be concluded in this final session.