Regional network of networks

Establishing a regional environmental information and assessment network-of-networks

Nick Bonvoisin/ 2 October 2017

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Mandate

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- *ECE/CEP/2015/2. Report of the 21st session of CEP*
  - 91. (ii) **To serve as the regional environmental information and assessment network of networks**, bringing together the UNEP Global Environment Outlook expert teams and the EEA European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) to formulate the regional priorities and scope for the pan-European assessments.
  - The Working Group would also link with thematic networks, including those under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements.

Mandate

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- *ECE/CEP/2017/2. Report of 22nd session of CEP (annex II, Mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment)*

  (c)   **Initiate a process of consultation on the development of a regional network of networks** and … develop an inclusive platform to discuss integration of environmental, economic & social considerations regarding 2030 Agenda, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, green economy and other areas, and:

  (i)   Coordinate a consultative process, involving all relevant thematic networks & interested parties … to elaborate working modalities of a network of networks

  (ii)   **Cooperate with the Joint Task Force to ensure that all planned & future activities are synergetic & streamlined**

  (iii)   Develop capacities to engage other communities & networks … to discuss how environmental, social & economic information & data can be integrated and utilized & in decision-making, how to present information on geospatial platforms

  (iv)   Operationalize proposed recommendations & guidance provided through the process to ensure sustainable implementation of a network of networks

  (v)   Publish outcomes from the Working Group's collaborative activities … to share outputs and guide future activities in the area

Objectives

of the regional network of networks

- Sharing of environmental information, ideas, experiences & good practices between relevant networks around common challenges

- Develop coordinated ways through which environmental information & data can be more effectively communicated to relevant target groups. It will also facilitate co-learning and establish connections between stakeholders to encourage new & fruitful collaborations & partnerships

- Breaking down organizational & knowledge silos and facilitate provision of comparable environmental data & information across the region

- Finding new & innovative tools & methods to deliver environmental information & data to policymakers, members of regional network of networks and other relevant bodies

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Process of consultation

on the regional network of networks

- Questionnaire circulated (May 2017) to
  - explore potential drivers & topics for regional network of networks
  - identify expectations as regards to how it should function
- Informal background document on possible working modalities to
  - explore possible scenarios for how it could be operationalized
- Discussion by Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment during its 19th session (June 2017)
- Discussion by Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics & Indicators (now, Oct. 2017)
- Report to Committee on Environmental Policy (Nov. 2017)

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Proposed next steps

on the regional network of networks

- Working Group proposed
  - efforts should be directed towards improving participation in its activities and ensuring that it capitalizes on existing structures to achieve the objective of serving as a regional network of networks and to strengthen relations with current partners and others
  - secretariat should develop a document setting out how to use available structures to enhance the visibility of Working Group, improve participation in its meetings and activities and find topics of common interest for the pan-European region. In this way, Working Group would attract wider participation and thus itself continue to develop as a regional network of networks
- Working Group agreed
  - secretariat would inform Committee on Environmental Policy on outcomes of the *present* discussion to complement the proposals in document ECE/CEP/2017/14

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Moderated discussion

on the regional network of networks

- Which existing networks do we need in a network of networks and why?

- What are the topics of interest to these networks and their members?

- What would the benefits be for countries in transition from such broader participation?
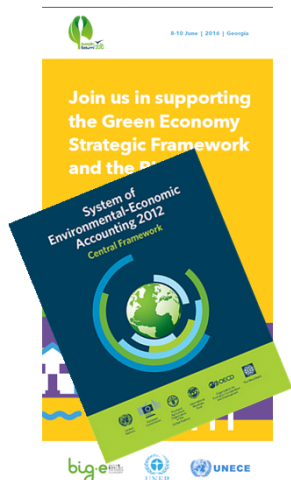

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Which existing networks do we need in a network of networks and why?

- Which networks do you interact with?

- Why would we need to interact with them?
  - To formulate the regional priorities and scope for the pan-European assessments?

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ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PAN-EUROPEAN
REGION

What are the topics of interest to these networks and their members?

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- Integration of environmental, economic & social considerations
- 2030 Agenda
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
- Green economy
- Geospatial data
- Reporting under multilateral environmental agreements
- Regional priorities and assessment

What would the benefits be for countries in transition from such broader participation?

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