

## **[Draft] mid-term review of the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System**

**Submitted by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment**

### *Summary*

In the Declaration, “Greener, cleaner, smarter!”, adopted at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), the ministers and heads of delegations invited countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021 (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/2/Add.1, para. 10). They also invited the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Environmental Policy to convene in 2018 a mid-term review to assess progress in the implementation of the main outcomes of the Conference (ibid., para. 16).

At its twenty-third session (14–17 November 2017), the Committee on Environmental Policy agreed to hold the mid-term review of the Batumi Conference’s main outcomes within the framework of its twenty-fourth session and invited partners and stakeholders to proceed with the preparation of the mid-term review reports in accordance with a reporting template (ECE/CEP/2017/16, annex II).

The present document was prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, with support from the secretariat, in accordance with the above mandate. The Committee will be invited to review progress achieved in developing SEIS to support a regular process of environmental assessment. The mid-term review was produced using the updated SEIS Assessment Framework (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5).

## I. Overview of main achievements and key findings

1. The mid-term review of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia is based on an assessment framework developed by the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment,<sup>1</sup> in close cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Environment Agency (EEA). The SEIS Assessment Framework focuses on the quality of the ECE environmental indicators<sup>2</sup> and addresses limitations associated with the earlier SEIS assessment in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

2. The mid-term review builds on countries' responses to a self-assessment questionnaire, as part of the SEIS Assessment Framework, covering seven categories that are associated with data production and use of the ECE environmental indicators. These are relevance; accuracy; timeliness and punctuality; accessibility; clarity; comparability; and institutional and organizational arrangements. The present review addresses all three SEIS pillars — content, infrastructure and cooperation — and all seven SEIS principles,<sup>4</sup> unlike previous assessments. The present exercise is furthermore a trial-run of the SEIS Assessment Framework, leading up to the SEIS review for the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, expected in 2021.

3. The review is based upon self-assessments submitted by 34 of the 53 ECE member States in Europe and Central Asia:<sup>5</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. All member States with economies in transition submitted self-assessments.

4. The present document is limited to seven data flows, covering three of the ECE environmental indicators. For theme A on air pollution and ozone depletion and indicator A2 (on ambient air quality in urban areas), the four data flows were of annual average concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ground-level ozone. For theme C on water and indicator C10 (on biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and concentration of ammonium in rivers), the two data flows addressed the mean concentration of BOD<sub>5</sub> (5-day BOD) and ammonium in major rivers. Lastly, for theme D on biodiversity and indicator D1 (on protected areas), the data flow was total protected areas.

5. More information on the SEIS Assessment Framework and data collection for the mid-term review is provided in annex.

### A. Working Group recommendations

6. Based on key findings and results from the SEIS mid-term review, as presented in the sections below, the Working Group recommends encouraging countries to:

<sup>1</sup> Assessment framework for the mid-term review of the Shared Environmental Information System (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5).

<sup>2</sup> See the online *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators*, available at <http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/8).

<sup>4</sup> See the SEIS Assessment Framework for a list of the principles.

<sup>5</sup> The 56 ECE member States, with the exception of Canada, Israel and the United States of America.

(a) Improve regular data production and the publication of environmental information online. Environmental authorities are also encouraged to work closely with their corresponding national statistical agencies to integrate and share information;

(b) Continue work on the integration and harmonization of environmental data flows, in line with the SEIS principles, and taking into account the System of Environmental Economic Accounting;

(c) Address gaps in SEIS establishment, particularly leading up to the next progress report, covering relevant SEIS pillars (content, infrastructure and institutional cooperation), thematic categories and data flows;

(d) Better align data collection processes with national policy contexts and targets and to improve the use of available data flows and related indicators in the production of environmental assessments and reports;

(e) Improve the use of relevant environmental assessments and reports to measure progress against policy targets and/or objectives and improve policymaking.

7. It is further recommended that ECE, UNEP and EEA continue their long-standing and effective cooperation in support of the establishment of SEIS in Europe and Central Asia. These organizations should also actively support countries in the review of progress.

## **B Key Findings**

8. The self-assessments confirm that many countries have continued to harmonize relevant data flows and improve the quality of the selected environmental indicators and underpinning data flows since 2016. This demonstrates a positive trend regarding SEIS in Europe and Central Asia following the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

9. Results reveal that theme A (on air pollution and ozone depletion) has the highest performance scores, followed by D (on biodiversity) and C (on water). The same applies to the indicator level as only one indicator was assessed per theme. At the data flow level, the average score was highest for air quality (sulphur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, ground-level ozone and nitrogen dioxide), followed by total protected areas, ammonium in major rivers and, lowest, BOD<sub>5</sub> in major rivers.

10. Most of the data flows are used for different purposes (e.g., environmental assessments) and converted into different formats (e.g., tables and maps). There is also generally consistency between national and ECE indicators included in the review. These are positive developments. However, the use of the indicators in state-of-the-environment reporting remains poor.

11. Nearly all countries have highlighted limitations in comparing data flows across regions and/or between countries. One prominent example being for protected areas where many countries provided information on national categories of protected areas rather than using the categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as foreseen by the relevant ECE environmental indicator. These limitations highlight the need for further efforts to harmonize data flows across the region, including in view of reporting obligations and for use in thematic assessments at different geographical levels (e.g., for transboundary ecosystems or river basins).

12. The mid-term review demonstrates the inherent value in continued monitoring of SEIS establishment through a regular self-assessment of progress, particularly as SEIS contributes to improving the use of relevant environmental data flows, across multiple contexts, bodies of knowledge and policymaking approaches.

## C. The pillars of the Shared Environmental Information System

13. SEIS is basically a set of principles, operationalized as a distributed environmental information system that is connected and integrated with the help of modern technologies. The SEIS pillars symbolize the importance of linking environmental data flows, networks, policymakers and governance. All three SEIS pillars are considered within the mid-term review in order to account for the entire data value chain.

### 1. Content

14. Countries reported that nearly all of the seven data flows are being produced at the national level (90 per cent). In most cases, primary data from public authorities are accessible (71 per cent).

15. Almost all countries reported that procedures and guidelines for data quality management exist (89 per cent) and that metadata is available for the seven data flows (92 per cent), thus ensuring greater clarity and quality of the information provided.

16. The data flows are most often used to produce different types of content (69 per cent), such as reports and visual representations. This is a positive development, aside from the relatively low use of indicators in state-of-the-environment reporting (see Figure 3).

### 2. Infrastructure

17. Nearly all of the seven data flows are readily available and accessible online for users on national platforms (see Figure 2). This suggests a positive development regarding the accessibility and availability of the data flows, in part, due to efforts to establish SEIS.

18. Most countries also reported that the seven data flows were readily available and accessible on integrated platforms (90 per cent). Some limitations have however been reported, notably for BOD<sub>5</sub> and ammonium in major rivers and total protected areas. Inconsistencies have moreover been found in the self-assessments regarding the links provided for the respective data flows as many are not operational or do not indicate a relevant source or platform.

19. Many countries have also established internal procedures, such as regular data validation (79 per cent) and revision (61 per cent) for all the seven data flows. The prevalence of internal procedures on how to use and manage the data flows implies that the trustworthiness of the data infrastructure has increased.

### 3. Institutional cooperation

20. Countries reported having in place national legislation, plans, programmes or strategies related to the production of the indicators and legal or institutional arrangements for regular production and sharing of data between various institutions at national level (97 per cent). Effective institutional and administrative capacities at local, regional and national level are crucial for SEIS establishment.

21. Countries from across the region noted that the self-assessment questionnaire facilitated communication between data producers that normally do not share and/or exchange information. This demonstrates the added value of the SEIS Assessment Framework as an instrument that can improve communication between data producers. It also highlights the need to improve institutional cooperation between fragmented data producers (and users).

Box 1.

**Developments since the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**

Gaps identified in the SEIS progress report in 2016 demonstrated the continued need for assistance to achieve the production and sharing of the ECE environmental indicators and data flows (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/8).

One positive development since 2016, when data usage was not assessed, is that most countries report that the data flows are being used for multiple purposes, in line with the SEIS principles. Those purposes include the production of national and regional indicators, national frameworks for reporting on multilateral environmental agreements and the state-of-the-environment, and infrastructure for dissemination.

The mid-term review in 2018 provides a more holistic and complete picture of data sharing and access, data practices and quality and information infrastructure. However, it also demonstrates limitations in using certain data flows (e.g., ground-level ozone and BOD<sub>5</sub> in major rivers) for multiple purposes and that only some countries explicitly use the indicators for environmental policymaking (e.g., tracking progress towards policy targets) and reporting on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **D. The Shared Environmental Information System Assessment Framework**

22. Piloting the SEIS Assessment Framework through the mid-term review has been a significant step forward in assessing SEIS establishment. Lessons learned, as provided by countries, do nevertheless demonstrate the need for making adjustments to the framework leading up to the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

23. The mid-term review is based on self-assessments by countries. The secretariat has not verified the information provided by countries. Inconsistencies in the information provided do, however, suggest the need for a validation mechanism. The significant time invested by countries in answering a questionnaire for each data flow furthermore suggests the need for simplifying the review process.

24. The Working Group has decided that a revised assessment framework would be used for the report of progress in the establishment of SEIS in 2021, to be initiated at a time to be determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy.

## **II. Lessons learned and challenges**

25. The mid-term review is a milestone in reviewing SEIS, particularly as the SEIS Assessment Framework considers all three SEIS pillars in contrast to the earlier assessment. This is an important step forward for reviewing SEIS establishment throughout Europe and Central Asia in support of a regular assessment process. Nevertheless, due to the limited scope of this review, it is not yet possible to determine whether countries are fully on track to establish SEIS by 2021.

26. The present review was limited to three indicators and seven data flows. One key challenge would be to encourage countries to report on all data flows associated with the

ECE core environmental indicators (across all themes)<sup>6</sup> to provide a more complete picture of the progress achieved since the Eight Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

27. Full participation in the mid-term review by all countries in the pan-European region was furthermore not achieved. For instance, even though EEA pre-filled the self-assessment questionnaires for its member countries, participation from European Union countries remains moderate (15 out of 28 countries). Despite a clear upward trend since 2016, further steps to achieve higher participation are therefore needed. This should include collaborative efforts, together with EEA and UNEP, to identify mechanisms to motivate countries to participate in the regular self-assessment of progress.

28. The purpose of a regular self-assessment is to encourage countries to implement measures that address gaps in SEIS establishment, over time. The SEIS Assessment Framework consequently provides a tool that allow countries to monitor progress and identify solutions. Lessons learned from using the self-assessment questionnaire, however, demonstrate that it needs to be easier for countries to respond. This could be achieved by reducing the number of questions at the data flow level.

29. It may also be relevant for the self-assessment questionnaire to look beyond the data flow to quantitatively and qualitatively assess how countries use the data in policymaking, monitoring progress towards policy targets and the streamlining of reporting processes. This may help to make the SEIS Assessment Framework more relevant for the countries in the region.

30. The online reporting tool, developed by UNEP in consultation with the Working Group and supported by ECE and EEA, was made available during the mid-term review for testing only. It would be useful to complete and improve the online reporting tool, so that it can be operational for the next review.

### III. Further steps

31. SEIS establishment is supported by several international capacity-development mechanisms in the pan-European region, including the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators and SEIS-relevant projects being carried out by EEA, ECE and UNEP. These activities are being implemented with financial support from donor countries, the European Union's European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument and the United Nations Development Account.

32. ECE has received funding from EEA to assist in the implementation of one EEA project in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.<sup>7</sup> Together with UNEP, ECE is also implementing a project funded by the United Nations Development Account in the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. This project focuses on assessing the status of SEIS establishment, production of data flows for the full set of ECE environmental indicators and their use for various reporting purposes, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

33. While the above projects cannot fully address all three SEIS pillars, they provide a valuable source of information on and support for the establishment of SEIS as well as the production and use of the ECE environmental indicators. They moreover contribute to reaching the Batumi target to have SEIS in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021.

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east>.

34. The gaps identified by the self-assessments demonstrate the continued need for assistance with a view to full implementation of the SEIS pillars and principles, and thus to the full production and sharing of all data flows associated with the ECE environmental indicators by 2021.

35. Results from the mid-term review will serve as a baseline for the next progress report on SEIS and, in particular, help to assess country performance related to data quality aspects, the effective operationalization of all three pillars of SEIS and data flows underpinning the ECE set of environmental indicators. It is expected that the continued review of SEIS establishment will help to address gaps, and by doing so, ensure that SEIS supports regular assessments and reporting in the region.

36. It is recommended that the establishment of SEIS and the production of relevant data flows that underpin the ECE environmental indicators be harmonized and aligned with other monitoring and assessment processes at the regional and global levels, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The mid-term review demonstrates not only the continued demand for improved data sharing and use of available data for multiple purposes but also the need for streamlining in accordance with other indicator-based initiatives (e.g., the green growth indicators of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and associated reporting obligations.

37. The next reporting round should include the data flows that underpin the ECE core environmental indicators. Future SEIS reviews should also aim to monitor variations from the baseline established through the mid-term review and the earlier SEIS review in 2016.

38. It would be useful to identify national contact points for SEIS. The continued monitoring of progress on establishing SEIS in Central Asia and Europe will require contact points who can assist in data collection.

39. The following milestones associated with the mid-term and the SEIS review in 2021 are anticipated:

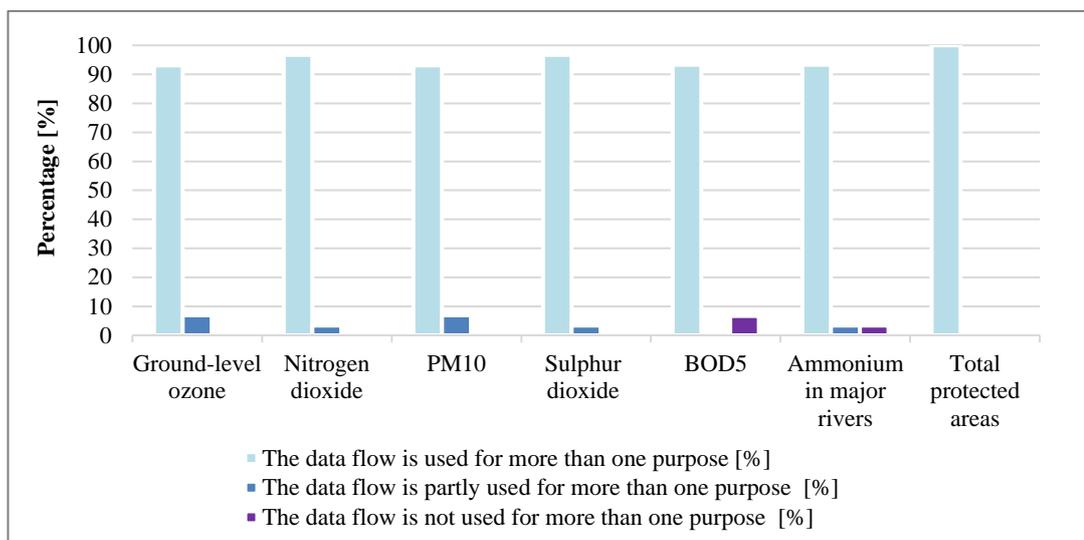
- (a) January 2019: Committee on Environmental Policy considers the mid-term review;
- (b) May 2019: Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment reviews and revises the SEIS assessment framework, as necessary;
- (c) In 2020: Countries provide data for the next review;
- (d) November 2020: Committee considers the final review on SEIS establishment in Europe and Central Asia;
- (e) In 2021: Ministers consider the final SEIS review during the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

## **IV. Fact sheets on key findings and messages**

### **A. Relevance**

40. In the category of “relevance”, countries were invited to specify, for each data flow, whether it was used for more than one purpose (e.g., for the production of national indicators, and in order to meet reporting obligations) with the option of replying “yes”, “partly” or “no”. The results from the 34 submissions are shown in Figure 1. The default response provided by EEA was “yes” for all seven data flows. Data flows were used for multiple purposes in 95 per cent of cases.

Figure 1.  
Use of data flows for more than one purpose



41. Countries were asked to provide examples of multipurpose use of data flows. The replies included combinations of the following:

- (a) Reporting under European Union directives and ECE multilateral environmental agreements, as well as other national and international reporting purposes;
- (b) Provision of data for the European Air Quality Portal and for posting on the websites of national statistical agencies;
- (c) Provision of data for the European (EEA and Eurostat) Environmental Indicators and other national and regional indicators;
- (d) Inputs to EEA reports, such as the *Air Quality in Europe* report series, and Eurostat reports (e.g., under Sustainable Development Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation);
- (e) Production of national state-of-the-environment reports and thematic bulletins;
- (f) Production of technical reports on, for example, urban air quality for specific purposes and requests; improvement of a national monitoring programme; legislative frameworks concerning air quality; and justification of the need for an increase in air quality monitoring capacity at the national level;
- (g) Policy-making at the national level;
- (h) Public information.

## B. Accessibility

42. In the category of “accessibility”, countries were invited to specify, for each data set, whether it was readily available and accessible online for users on any national platform, with the option of replying either “yes” or “no”. The results from the 34 submissions are shown in Figure 2. The default response provided by EEA was “yes” for all seven data flows. Data flows were readily available and accessible online in 90 per cent of cases, though that proportion dropped to 77 per cent for water-related data flows. Countries were also asked in what formats information on the data flows was presented with the option to select all applicable options. The results are shown in Figure 3. The most popular formats were reports (such as state-of-the-environment reports) and visual presentations.

Figure 2.

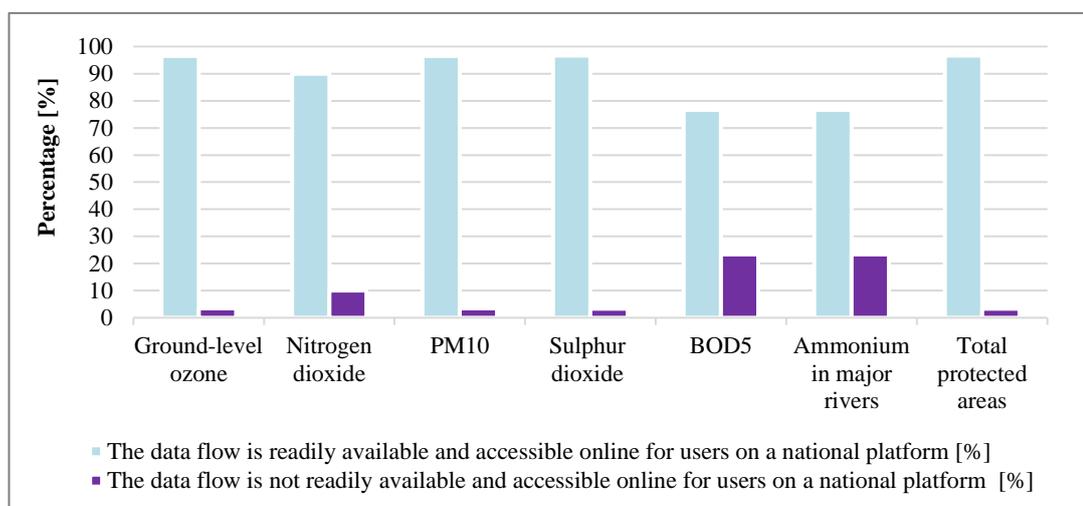
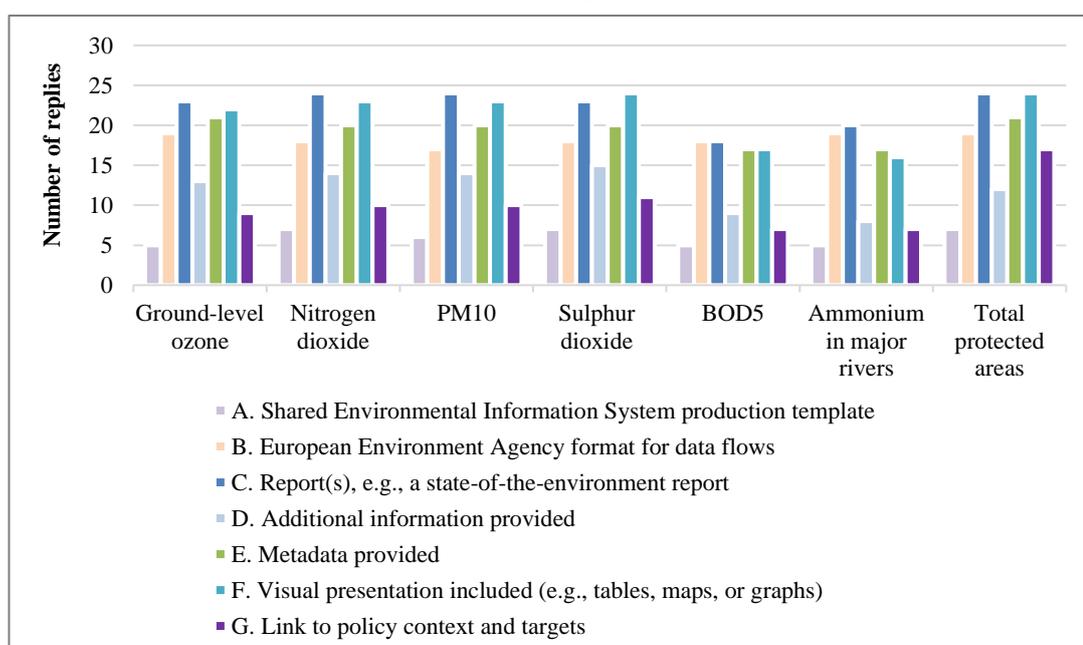
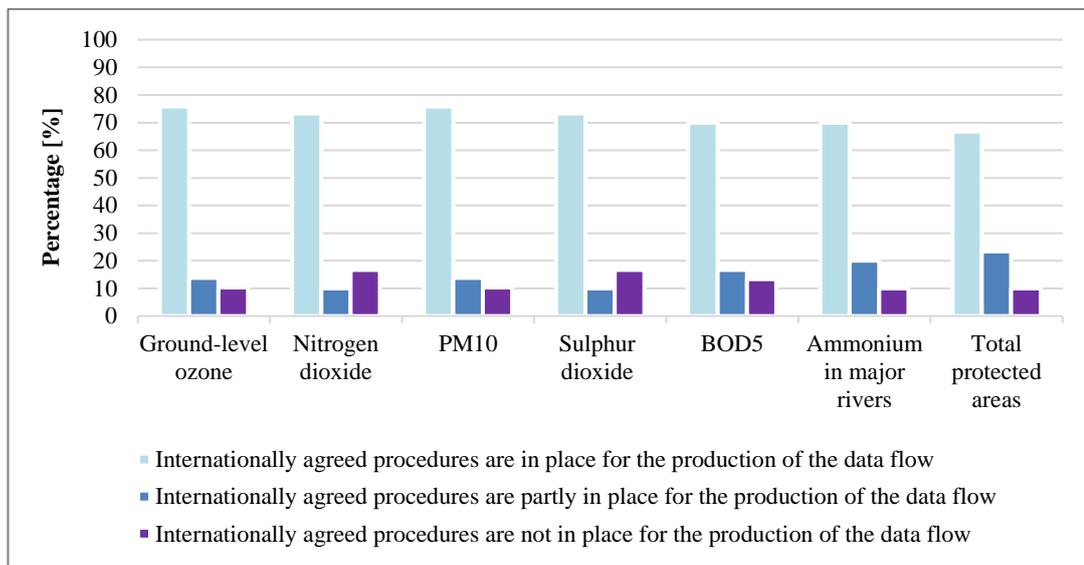
**Ready availability and accessibility online of data flows on a national platform**

Figure 3.

**Formats in which information on the data flows is presented****C. Comparability: application of internationally-agreed procedures in the production of data flows**

43. Within the category of “comparability”, countries were invited to specify, for each data flow, whether they applied internationally-agreed procedures in its production with the option of replying “yes”, “partly” or “no”. The results from the submissions are shown in Figure 4. The default response provided by EEA was “yes” for all seven data flows. Internationally-agreed procedures were applied in 72 per cent of cases, falling to 67 per cent for total protected areas.

Figure 4.

**Application of internationally-agreed procedures in the production of data flows**

44. Within the same category, countries described limitations in comparing data flows across regions and between countries owing to differences in, for example:

- (a) Densities of measurement stations and configurations of monitoring networks;
- (b) Means of data collection (e.g., automated stations and laboratory processing) and determination methodologies;
- (c) Data flow definitions (e.g., use of 7-day BOD instead of 5-day BOD and differing definitions of protected areas);
- (d) Legislation.

## Annex

# Background information

## I. Assessment framework

1. The Working Group agreed at its sixteenth session (Istanbul, Turkey, 16–17 April 2015) that the data and information included in the mid-term review should allow the measurement of progress towards agreed global and regional priorities in line, as relevant, with global and regional multilateral environmental agreements. The Working Group further agreed on a first development milestone: 67 specific data flows that every country in the pan-European region should aim to make available and accessible online during 2015.
2. During the first assessment in 2015, full participation of all countries in the pan-European region could not be achieved and the assessment was not able to take into account internationally accepted standards for data set production nor data quality, given the limited resources available. Neither data quality nor data usage was, as such, assessed. It was suggested that these shortcomings should be rectified in the next review round.
3. At its eighteenth session (28–29 June 2016), the Working Group agreed that the secretariat would revise the review criteria and integrate a quality component as part of the assessment framework. The purpose of that continuing review of the assessment framework was to utilize the revised assessment framework in the preparation of the mid-term review.
4. At its nineteenth session (27–28 June 2017), the Working Group examined the results of the review of the assessment framework (see ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/5). The Working Group agreed that it would be necessary to pilot the assessment framework and its associated reporting application before moving on to data collection for the mid-term assessment. It was also noted that steps would need to be taken to ensure that the assessment framework was streamlined with other initiatives.
5. The self-assessment questionnaire, as part of the SEIS assessment framework, has been developed by the Working Group together with ECE, UNEP and the EEA. The self-assessment questionnaire is available as an online reporting tool and as a Microsoft Excel workbook. These two reporting tools provided the basis to pilot the reporting across the pan-European region and for conducting the mid-term review.
6. During a Technical Meeting and Country Workshop (Vienna, 13–15 September 2017), the self-assessment questionnaire was further developed with countries that volunteered at the thirteenth session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (29–30 June 2017). The workshop was attended by representatives of the ECE, UNEP and the EEA.
7. Based on the outcomes of the workshop in Vienna, the self-assessment questionnaire was updated and then further discussed during the fourteenth session of the Joint Task Force (Rome, 2–3 October 2017). During this meeting, member States agreed on the modalities and data flows that were included in the mid-term review.
8. At the twentieth session of the Working Group (3–4 September 2018), the secretariat presented the SEIS assessment framework and the draft mid-term review to the Working Group. Members of the Working Group furthermore reported on their experiences in monitoring progress towards SEIS and commented on both the assessment framework and the draft mid-term review. It was agreed that the assessment framework would be further improved for the next reporting period.

## II. Data collection

9. Data collection based on the SEIS assessment framework and self-assessment questionnaire and the analysis for the current mid-term review was conducted in the period between March and June 2018:

(a) The secretariat shared the self-assessment questionnaire at the beginning of March 2018 and member States were invited to complete the self-assessment questionnaire by 6 May 2018;

(b) Replies to 15 of the 25 questions contained in the self-assessment questionnaire were mandatory. The SEIS performance score was calculated on the basis of the answers to the mandatory questions, with averages calculated for countries and subregions. The results presented in this document are based on countries' responses to the 15 mandatory questions;

(c) The scoring of mandatory questions according to the 7 review criteria was done automatically based on the developed Excel workbook that already contained respective calculation formula in line with the scoring for mandatory questions as indicated in the SEIS assessment framework;

(d) Based on the submitted self-assessments the secretariat compiled the draft mid-term review report. All self-assessments submitted have been integrated into the present mid-term review report for consideration at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy;

(e) Only a few countries requested clarifications regarding the filling of the questionnaire. The secretariat and EEA provided clarifications where needed.

10. EEA pre-filled the self-assessment questionnaire for its 33 members and 5 cooperating countries in South-Eastern Europe;<sup>8</sup> for EEA members that did not submit a self-assessment, the default values were used for the review at the suggestion of EEA. Countries were invited to report on other data flows underpinning the ECE set of environmental indicators, in addition to the seven listed, but none did so. They were also invited to review the assessment framework, test an online reporting tool and provide suggestions for improvement of the framework and tool; several did so and their comments are being used to refine the two instruments.

11. Of the 34 countries that responded, 30 submitted results for all seven data flows and answered all 15 mandatory questions. Four countries (Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Tajikistan and Ukraine) did not answer some of the mandatory questions for one or two data flows.

12. Of the countries that responded, 19 answered all 10 non-mandatory questions for at least one data set: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

13. The self-assessment conducted by EEA members and cooperating countries revealed an overall good performance. However, EEA members were also the least likely to provide

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<sup>8</sup> The five cooperating countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, Kosovo (without prejudice to its status and in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo (*I.C.J. Reports* 2010, p. 403), Kosovo is recognized by the European Union and, as an EEA cooperating country, was invited by EEA to submit a completed questionnaire but did not do so.

a response (only 17 did so), whereas all countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as the Russian Federation, did so.

### **III. Indicator and national performance scores**

14. For the 2016 SEIS progress report, the assessment was not able to review the progress for all three SEIS pillars and it was highlighted that the next assessment would benefit from an adequate review of all three main pillars — cooperation, content and infrastructure.

15. The revised SEIS assessment framework addressed this shortcoming through the introduction of 25 review questions grouped into 7 categories. These categories (review criteria) are linked to one or more of the SEIS pillars.

16. The results from the self-assessments submitted by countries are presented in the table below, based on the mandatory questions. Considering that the current mid-term review ensured the review of all SEIS pillars it can be seen as a major achievement of this review and progress of countries in self-assessing their performance in the different categories.

**Indicator and national performance scores.**

Country	A. Air pollution and ozone depletion				C. Water		D. Biodiversity	National performance score
	A2. Ambient air quality in urban areas				C10. BOD5 and concentration of ammonium in rivers		D1. Protected areas	
	Annual average concentration of PM10 - validated	Annual average concentration of sulphur dioxide - validated	Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide - validated	Annual average concentration of ground-level ozone - validated	Mean concentration of BOD5 in major rivers	Mean concentration of ammonium in major rivers	Total protected areas (by IUCN categories)	
Albania	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	<b>87%</b>
Armenia	97%	97%	85%	97%	100%	100%	100%	<b>96%</b>
Azerbaijan	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	93%	<b>90%</b>
Belarus	90%	90%	90%	90%	85%	85%	60%	<b>84%</b>
Belgium	87%	87%	87%	87%	85%	85%	83%	<b>86%</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	90%	90%	90%	90%	92%	92%	82%	<b>89%</b>
Bulgaria	87%	87%	87%	87%	70%	70%	98%	<b>84%</b>
Croatia	90%	90%	90%	90%	92%	85%	85%	<b>89%</b>
Estonia	90%	90%	90%	90%	93%	93%	88%	<b>91%</b>
Finland	93%	93%	93%	93%	98%	98%	82%	<b>93%</b>
France	88%	88%	88%	88%	92%	92%	93%	<b>90%</b>
Georgia	80%	80%	80%	80%	78%	78%	68%	<b>78%</b>
Germany	100%	100%	100%	100%	73%	80%	77%	<b>90%</b>
Hungary	87%	87%	87%	87%	93%	93%	93%	<b>90%</b>
Italy	88%	88%	88%	88%	87%	87%	82%	<b>87%</b>
Kazakhstan	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	<b>87%</b>
Kyrgyzstan	N/A	53%	48%	N/A	50%	53%	65%	<b>39%</b>
Latvia	100%	90%	100%	90%	95%	95%	97%	<b>95%</b>
Lithuania	85%	85%	85%	85%	80%	80%	73%	<b>82%</b>
Montenegro	100%	100%	100%	100%	77%	77%	65%	<b>88%</b>
Poland	97%	97%	97%	97%	62%	62%	82%	<b>85%</b>
Republic of Moldova	70%	72%	70%	70%	95%	95%	73%	<b>78%</b>

Romania	63%	63%	63%	63%	50%	50%	100%	65%
Russian Federation	93%	93%	93%	93%	87%	87%	95%	92%
Serbia	97%	97%	97%	97%	47%	47%	93%	82%
Slovakia	52%	52%	52%	52%	38%	38%	45%	47%
Sweden	87%	87%	87%	87%	93%	93%	100%	90%
Switzerland	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Tajikistan	43%	N/A	42%	55%	62%	77%	100%	54%
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	93%	93%	93%	93%	83%	83%	93%	90%
Turkey	85%	92%	90%	85%	65%	65%	42%	75%
Turkmenistan	47%	47%	47%	40%	47%	47%	67%	49%
Ukraine	62%	62%	62%	N/A	62%	62%	70%	54%
Uzbekistan	73%	68%	75%	75%	67%	72%	80%	73%
<b>Average for all countries</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>

Notes: Calculation of the performance scores is explained in the SEIS Assessment Framework. N/A=Data not available; performance score for the indicator is assumed to be zero.

Key:

	0-50%: Requires improvement
	51-75%: Moderate performance
	76-95%: Good performance
	96-100%: Very good performance