



Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators: Initial review


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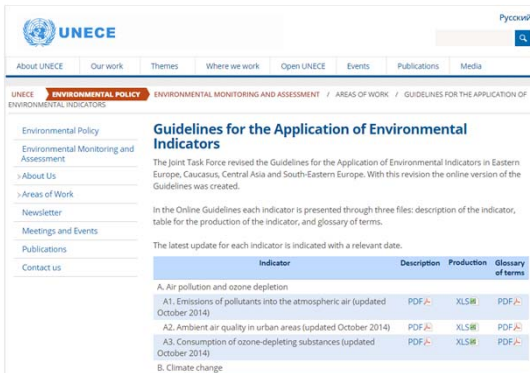
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Basis for the review


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- General review of the current website content
<http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html>
- Detailed review of files on:
 - A. Air pollution and ozone depletion**
 - D. Biodiversity**
 - G. Energy**




Indicator	Description	Production	Glossary of terms
A. Air pollution and ozone depletion			
A1. Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air (updated October 2014)	PDF A	XLSM	PDF A
A2. Ambient air quality in urban areas (updated October 2014)	PDF A	XLSM	PDF A
A3. Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (updated October 2014)	PDF A	XLSM	PDF A
B. Climate change			






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General comments




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- Different use of “**indicator**” **concept** from a single indicator to a set of indicators under a common title. Example:
 - A-2: Ambient air quality in urban areas:
 - The number or percentage of days during a year when air pollution levels exceed the established limit values in urban areas with regular observations of air quality;
 - Percentage of urban population in a country exposed to air pollution above the established limit values;
 - Absolute values of concentration of pollutants in the air.
 - G-2: Total primary energy supply
- **Names** of indicators not precise e.g. “D5: Trends in the number and distribution of selected species”
- **No introduction** to the guidelines as a whole on the webpage
- **Repetitions** of content between some description and glossary files
- Not very attractive **presentation on the website**
- Information **stored in separate files** is difficult to maintain and reuse




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Description file




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G-1: Final energy consumption

1) General description	1
1.1) Brief definition	2
1.2) Units of measurement	2
1.3) Context	2
2) Relevance for environmental policy	2
2.1) Purpose	2
2.2) Issue	2
2.3) International agreements and targets	3
a) Global level	3
b) Regional level	3
c) Subregional level	3




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Description file




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- **Unified structure, but...**
- **Content of existing sections is not presented consistently:**
 - Definitions, units, calculation formula, possible disaggregation levels
 - Overlap between “Data collection and calculation”, “Internationally agreed methodologies and standards” and “Data sources and reporting”
 - No clear section on recommended frequency of producing the indicators
- **Layout** could be more attractive and accessible
- Overall text could be more **concise, precise and updated** for new developments (especially regarding international agreements and targets)
- References to **SDGs and FDES** could be added where possible




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Glossary file



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- **Inconsistent level of details and type of content**
- **Abbreviations are mostly already spelled out in the description file**
- **Necessary glossary could be part of the description files**

A-1: Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air


Abbreviations, legends and units of measurement

Abbreviations:


CLRTAP:	ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
ECE:	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EEA:	European Environment Agency
EMEP:	Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
ETC/AE:	European Topic Centre on Air Emissions
EU:	European Union
Eurostat:	European Union Statistical Office
Fugitive emissions:	Emissions not caught by a capture system; typically, small releases from leaks in plant equipment or in other cases.
GDP:	Gross domestic product
International dollar:	Monetary unit used by the World Bank for the calculation of the GDP at purchasing power parity
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISIC:	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities



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Possible improvements

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1. **Review** the content of the description files.
2. **Rearrange and clean up** the content of description files to resolve identified issues within the existing structures.
3. Add **references to FDES and SDG** indicators.
4. **Reduce and align the glossaries** and incorporate them into the descriptions.
5. Review **grouping of indicators** under single codes and under categories.
6. Create a “**database**” of the guidelines/metadata and a more **interactive presentation**.

Question: What is important from the user’s perspective?


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Thank you for your attention!

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