

**Twentieth session**

Geneva, 3-4 September 2018
Palais des Nations
Meeting room VII

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Agenda Item 5: Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment

Mid-term review report on progress in establishing SEIS





Summary

- 30 out of the 53 ECE Member States (not incl. Canada, Israel and the United States of America) submitted a self-assessment by 15 June 2018:
 - Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Performance score has been calculated based on the answers to the mandatory questions.
- EEA pre-filled the questionnaire for 33 of its members and 5 cooperating countries. Default values were used for countries that did not submit a self-assessment.
- 27 countries submitted results for all the 7 data flows.

**The Secretariat would like to thank countries for
all the contributions and comments received!**



Data flows

The 7 data flows underlying the environmental indicators from the core set of ECE environmental indicators

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Data flow</i>
A. Air pollution and ozone depletion	A2. Ambient air quality in urban areas	Annual average concentration of PM ₁₀ – validated Annual average concentration of sulphur dioxide – validated Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide – validated Annual average concentration of ground-level ozone – validated
C. Water	C10. BOD and concentration of ammonium in rivers	Mean concentration of BOD ₅ in major rivers Mean concentration of ammonium in major rivers
D. Biodiversity	D1. Protected areas	Total protected areas (by International Union for Conservation of Nature categories)



The Caucasus, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation

- 5 countries submitted a self-assessment with Armenia reporting the highest ("very good") overall performance score.
- 3 countries have reported a "good" performance score.
- No response received from Georgia. Response from Ukraine last week.
- At the thematic level, the highest score was for C, (water), followed by A (air pollution and ozone depletion) and D (biodiversity).
- At the data flow level, the highest score was for BOD_5 in major rivers and ammonium in major rivers, followed by SO_2 , PM_{10} and O_3 .
- 6 countries are engaged in a project to support implementation of the SEIS principles and practices under the ENI SEIS II East project funded by the European Union and implemented by the EEA.
- Countries have facilitated data harmonization and improved overall data quality.



Subregional findings

South-Eastern Europe

- 5 (EEA cooperating) countries in South-Eastern Europe submitted self-assessments with an overall “good” performance score.
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has reported the highest (“good”) overall performance score.
- At the thematic level, the highest score was for A (on air pollution and ozone depletion).
- At the data flow level, the highest performance scores were for SO₂, NO₂, PM₁₀, O₃ followed by total protected areas.
- 5 countries showed a “moderate” to “good” performance in relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality.



Central Asia

- 5 countries submitted self-assessments, 3 responded to all of the mandatory questions.
- Kazakhstan has reported the highest (“good”) overall performance score
- 4 countries faced various challenges, which are addressed in the report.
- At the thematic level, the highest rating was for D (on biodiversity), followed by C (on water) and, lastly, A (on air pollution and ozone depletion).
- At the data flow level, the highest average performance score was for protected areas, followed by ammonium in major rivers.
- Countries showed “medium” performance in the categories of relevance; accuracy; timeliness and punctuality; and accessibility, suggesting the need for improvement.



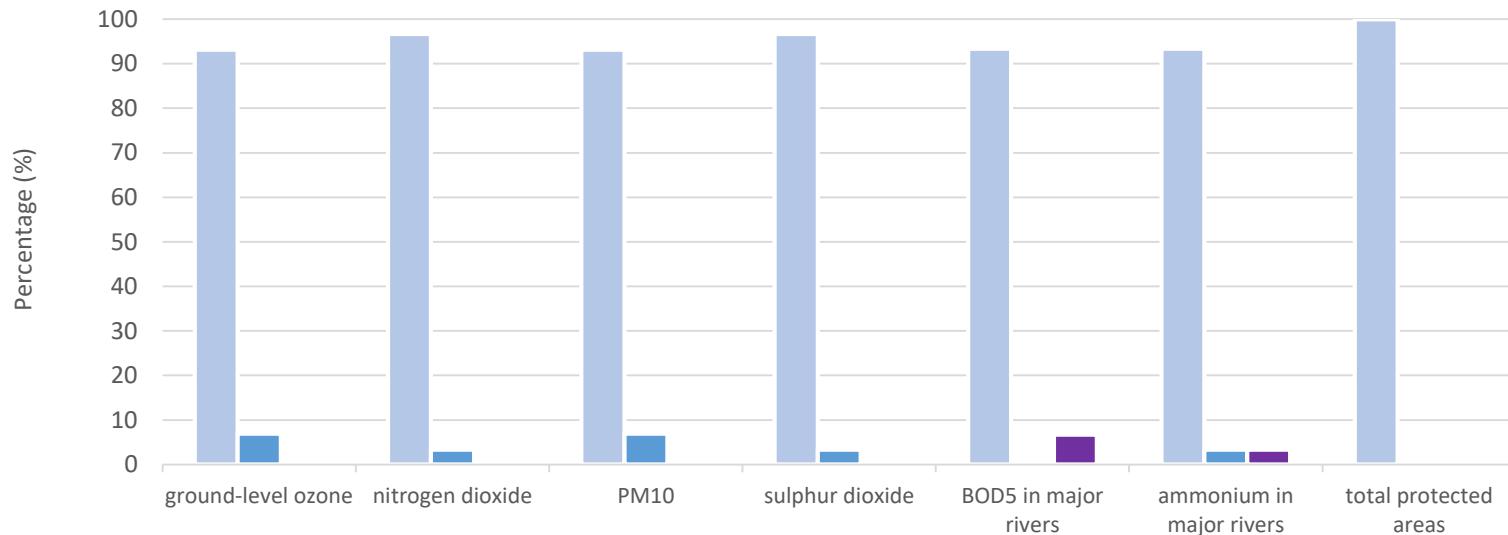
European Environment Agency members

- 15 completed self-assessments with 14 responding to all of the mandatory questions.
- Finland has reported the highest (“good”) overall performance score.
- 12 countries reported an overall “good” performance score.
- 18 countries, for which the default values were used, achieved an overall “good” performance score.
- At the thematic level, the highest score is for A (on air pollution and ozone depletion).
- At the data flow level, the highest performance scores are for SO₂, NO₂, PM₁₀ followed by O₃ and total protected areas for the 15 responding countries.
- Accuracy and relevance categories require improvement.
- Results from Italy and Switzerland not yet included (both reported an overall good performance score), nor from Ukraine; their results will be incorporated in revised version for consideration by CEP in January 2019



Relevance

Use of data flows for more than one purpose



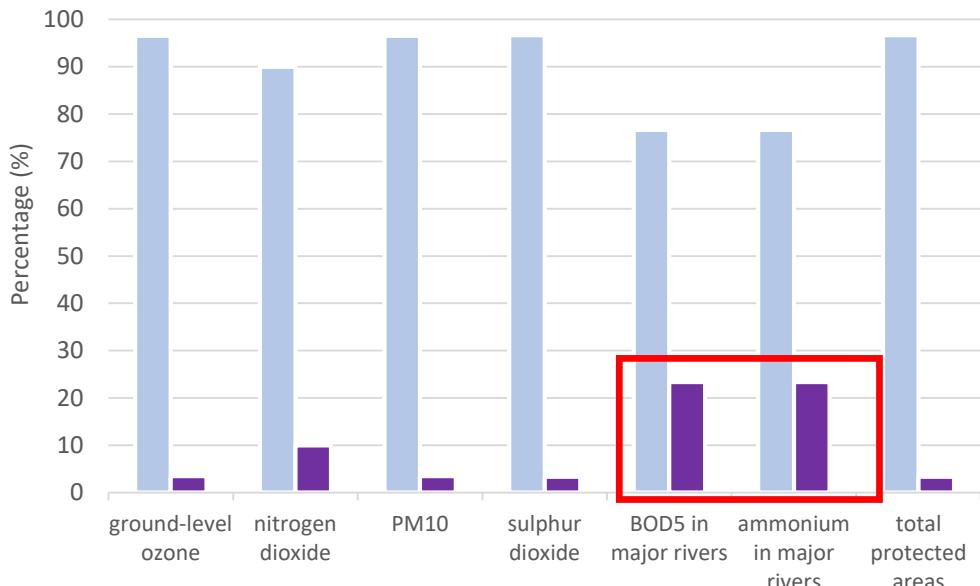
Data flows were used for multiple purposes in 95 per cent of cases.

- The data flow is used for more than one purpose [%]
- The data flow is partly used for more than one purpose [%]
- The data flow is not used for more than one purpose [%]



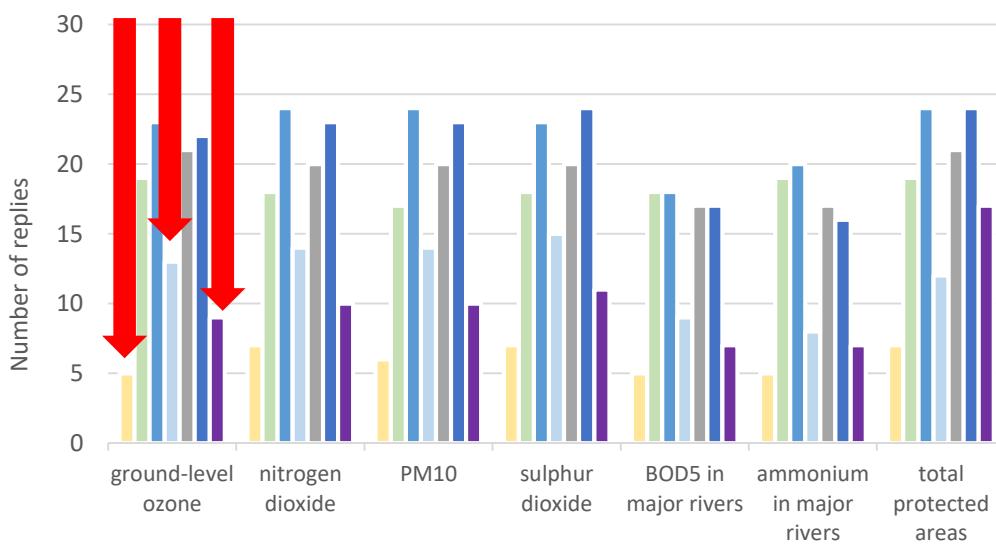
Accessibility

Availability and online accessibility



- The data flow is readily available and accessible online for users on a national platform [%]
- The data flow is not readily available and accessible online for users on a national platform [%]

Formats in which the information is presented

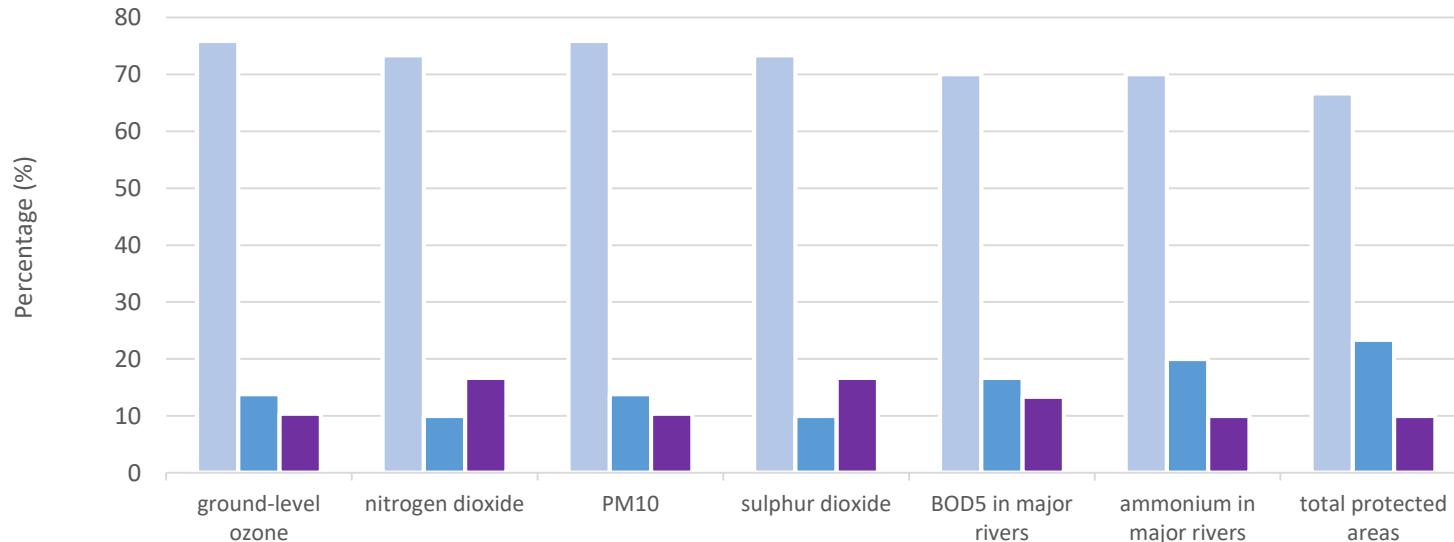


- A. Shared Environmental Information System production template
- B. European Environment Agency format for data flows
- C. Report(s), e.g., a state-of-the-environment report
- D. Additional information provided
- E. Metadata provided
- F. Visual presentation included (e.g., tables, maps, or graphs)
- G. Link to policy context and targets



Comparability

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



- Internationally agreed procedures are in place for the production of the data flow
- Internationally agreed procedures are partly in place for the production of the data flow
- Internationally agreed procedures are not in place for the production of the data flow



General findings

- Considerable progress made in addressing all three SEIS pillars as part of the new SEIS Assessment Framework.
- At the thematic level, the highest score was for A (on air pollution and ozone depletion), followed by D (on biodiversity) and C (on water).
- At the data flow level, the highest score was air quality (SO_2 , PM_{10} , O_3 and NO_2), followed in descending order by total protected areas, ammonium in major rivers and BOD_5 in major rivers.
- It is not possible to determine whether countries are fully on track to establish SEIS in Europe and Central Asia by 2021.
- Full participation in the mid-term review, by all countries in the pan-European region, was not achieved.



General findings

- SEIS establishment in countries that have received project-support demonstrate a positive impact on the accessibility and availability of the data flows on national platforms.
- Positive developments can be noted in the “institutional and organizational arrangements” category.
- Most of the countries that responded confirmed that the data flows were used for multiple purposes
- Almost all of the countries reported that metadata was available for all data flows, thus ensuring greater clarity and quality of the information provided
- Further efforts (in all sub regions) are needed with regards to the “timeliness and punctuality”, “accuracy” and “relevance” categories.
- There is a general need to further improve performance in Central Asia.
- Continued efforts needed in the area of data and indicator harmonization, particularly in view of reporting obligations and the use of data flows in thematic assessments, at different geographical levels.



- Addressing indicators that are not produced at the national level.
- List countries that have answered additional questions (Section A, paragraph 6).
- Reflect the achievements and conclusions made in regard to the Russian Federation (Section B, paragraph 1).
- Comments provided on SEIS Assessment Framework should be reflected in the SEIS Mid-term Review, including possible revision of results.
- Present progress in SEIS implementation and performance scores for all countries that have participated in the mid-term review (Section IV).



Policy Recommendations

Making Data Meaningful

- Encourage countries to continue improving their regular data production and publishing environmental information online. Environmental authorities are also encouraged to work closely with their national statistical agencies to integrate and share information.
- Further work on the integration and compatibility of environmental and economic information and data is recommended, in line with SEEA.
- Encourage countries to address noted performance gaps in establishing SEIS, leading up to the next progress reports, covering thematic areas, categories and data flows.
- Encourage countries to improve the use of relevant environmental assessments and reports in policy-making and to better align data collection processes with national policy contexts and targets.
- Continue the long-standing and effective cooperation between the ECE, UNEP and EEA on supporting the establishment of SEIS in Europe and Central Asia.



Next steps



- To agree on necessary revisions of the mid-term review, including on policy recommendations.
- To agree on whether a SEIS review should be carried out in 2019 or only for the final SEIS progress report.
- To motivate countries to participate in the regular review process. Further efforts are needed to achieve an adequate level of participation.
- To include all ECE environmental indicators for the next SEIS progress report.
- To introduce a validation mechanism as part of the submission process for the SEIS review.
- To monitor variations from the baseline established through the mid-term review and to include a comparative analysis with results from the SEIS progress report in 2016 (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/8).
- To start preparations for the ECE publication on SEIS implementation.



The next phase of the SEIS review will include two elements:

- 1. Progress report on SEIS implementation** to the CEP (ECE/CEP/...), leading up to the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (*pending*).
- 2. ECE publication** (ECE/CEP/...), covering the SEIS review and additional elements. It will be produced in electronic format and made available in English, French and Russian

Draft structure (table of contents) for the ECE publication on SEIS establishment:

- 1. Introduction:** Setting the stage
- 2. SEIS Assessment Framework:** ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5.
- 3. Progress in SEIS implementation:** ECE/CEP/...
- 4. Case studies:** 3-5 sub-chapters, covering stand-alone thematic sections on SEIS implementation and environmental governance (*Call for interest*)
- 5. Policy Recommendations:** Main recommendations from the SEIS progress report.
- 6. Annex:** Country Profiles (TBC)

ENVIRONMENT



Thank you!

UNECE

3-4 September 2018, Geneva

