Outcomes of the Survey on the implementation of the EIT Recommendations

UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat/ 10 October 2016
Focus

• Survey framework

• Access to ICTs

• Availability of priority categories of environmental information through Internet

• EITs used or planned to be used

• Challenges and obstacles to the use of EITs

• Conclusions
Survey framework

- Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools (adopted in 2005)
  - Survey 2007
  - Survey 2013
  - Survey 2016
    - Revised questionnaire
    - Collected responses
    - Report AC/TF.AI-5/Inf. 3 and its accompanying document AC/TF.AI-5/Inf. 3/Add.1
    - EIT case studies
Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Parties</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU+CH</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EECCA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- **Blue** Number of Parties
- **Red** Number of Respondents
Access to ICTs (based on ITU statistics) I

Percentage of households with (HH) and individuals (Ind) using certain devices
Access to ICTs (based on ITU statistics) II

Average percentage of individuals using the Internet per subregion for 2000-2015
Access to ICTs (based on ITU statistics) III

Average percentage of individuals by gender using the Internet by country
Access to priority types of environmental information

1. In your country, which of the categories of environmental information (according to articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Convention and para. 9 of the Recommendations) are publicly accessible through the Internet? (percentage of respondents)
Access to priority types of environmental information II

1. In your country, which of the categories of environmental information (according to articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Convention and para. 9 of the Recommendations) are publicly accessible through the Internet? (percentage of respondents)
EIT used or planned to be used

2. What electronic tools are generally used or planned to be used in your country to disseminate environmental information?

(percentage and number of respondents)
EIT used or planned to be used in emergency situations

3. In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, what electronic tools will be used by a public authority in your country to disseminate information which could enable the public who may be affected to take the measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat (article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention)?

(percentage and number of respondents)
EIT used or planned to be used in environmental decision-making

12. Please indicate what tools are used or are planned to be used in your country to support e-participation in environmental decision-making

(percentage and number of respondents)
Use of social media

- Total
- EU+CH
- EECCA
- SEE

Platforms:
- FB
- Twitter
- Youtube
- Others
Institutional challenges and obstacles to the use of EITs

- Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country:
  - All respondents: 21%
  - EU+CH: 6%
  - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: 43%
  - SEE: 50%

- Limited standardization of data sets:
  - All respondents: 39%
  - EU+CH: 35%
  - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: 43%
  - SEE: 50%

- Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data:
  - All respondents: 25%
  - EU+CH: 18%
  - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: 25%
  - SEE: 25%

- Limited interest in using ICT:
  - All respondents: 18%
  - EU+CH: 18%
  - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: 14%
  - SEE: 25%

- Other:
  - All respondents: 18%
  - EU+CH: 25%
  - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: 43%
  - SEE: 43%
Economic challenges and obstacles to the use of EITs
Legal challenges and obstacles to the use of EITs

![Bar chart showing percentages for different regions and categories.]

- **All respondents**: 14%
- **EU+CH**: 6%
- **Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**: 43%
- **SEE**: 0%
Conclusions

• No costs for information access online were reported, nevertheless a digital divide and high Internet costs might remain obstacles for some countries.

• Electronic access to information provisions of the Convention is progressively increasing, as well as the availability of a range of reference documents and data.

• Access to decisions of courts and other review bodies should be strengthened.

• Increasing use of geo-spatial technologies, machine-readable formats and real-time data when providing public access to environmental information might lead to better satisfaction of users’ needs and re-use of environmental information.

• Further improvement of environmental information is needed for access to documentation regarding specific activities (e.g. EIA, state environmental expertiza, licences and permits, SEA).

• Measures to address institutional, economic and legal challenges should be further taken in order to improve the implementation of the Convention.
Thank you
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