Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators

Agenda Item 3: Progress in establishing a Shared Environmental Information System to support a regular process of environmental assessment

SEIS Assessment Framework

Looking back

- An updated SEIS Assessment Framework was presented to the Working Group during its 19th session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2017/5), taking into account the review questions asked for the first progress report (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/8, annex I).

- The SEIS self-assessment questionnaire was updated during a Technical meeting and Country Workshop in Vienna (13-15 September 2017), together with UNECE, UNEP and EEA.

- The SEIS Assessment Framework was revised during the 14th session of the Joint Task Force (Rome, 2-3 October 2017), including decisions on the modalities and data flows for the SEIS mid-term review.

- These steps resulted in the final version of the SEIS Assessment Framework used for the mid-term review (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2018/5).
Changes introduced by the Working Group

The Working Group, at its 20th session, decided to introduce the following changes to the SEIS Assessment Framework, notably:

- Improve the clarity of the questions, the terminology used and the scoring.
- Revised framework would be used for a final report of progress in the establishment of SEIS at the pan-European level for the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, to be initiated at a time determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy in preparation for the Conference.
- Larger number of indicators would have to be reported upon and the actual indicators to be assessed would be determined at the time when it is decided to initiate the report.
- Requested UNEP to finalize the online reporting tool once the revised framework has been agreed.

Questionnaire design

- 25 questions + 11 sub-questions
  - Most of the questions are dichotomous (‘yes/no’ type) questions or multiple choice.
  - D1, D2, D3, D15, D16, D18, D19, D22, D23, D24, D25 contain follow-up questions for further information for the selected data flows.
  - Secretariat assists in answering D23
  - 15 out of 25 questions are mandatory

- 7 categories (review criteria)
  - Relevance
  - Accuracy
  - Timeliness and punctuality
  - Accessibility
  - Clarity
  - Comparability
  - Institutional and organizational arrangements
### ENVIRONMENT

#### SEIS Assessment Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Data-flow ID question</th>
<th>Guidance</th>
<th>Possible answers</th>
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**Relevance**

D1. Do you actively or passively collect user feedback to assess whether the data can meet the needs of users?  

The purpose of this question is to identify whether the disseminated information is adjusted to the users’ needs. This question can be answered with “actively” (e.g., user satisfaction surveys), “passively”, or “no user feedback is collected”.  

You can also specify further how user feedback is collected in greater detail; this is an open question and you can type an extended response, though without formatting options.  

Activity, passively or no user feedback is collected  

Activity = 1  

Passively = 0  

No = 0

D2. Is the data flow used for more than one purpose (multipurpose use, e.g., for production of national indicators, production of regional indicators, various reporting obligations)?  

The purpose of this question is to assess whether the data flow is used for more than one purpose. Please answer according to your understanding with “yes”, “partly” or “no”.  

If the answer to this question is yes or partly, please specify.  

Yes, partly or no  

Yes = 1  

Partly = 0.5  

No = 0

D3. Do you regularly improve your data (e.g., quality of data, representativeness, time or spatial coverage) to meet the needs of users?  

The purpose of this question is to see whether action is taken to improve the data to meet the needs of the users. This question needs to be answered with “yes” or “no”.  

If the answer to this question is yes, please specify how you improve the data.  

Open  

None

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**Accuracy**

24. Where do you get the primary data from (please select all options that apply)?  

The purpose of this question is to check the reliability of the data. This question allows the ticking of a number of boxes. Please select as many options as applicable.  

A. We use the data that we produce ourselves  

B. We use other producers’ data  

C. We use estimates obtained through, e.g., enodok or objective estimation methods  

A. Yes or no  

B. Yes  

C. Yes = 1  

No = 0

25. Are any other data sources available on the same topic?  

The purpose of this question is to determine whether the data provided by a source can be checked for bias. This question requires only a yes or no answer.  

Yes or no  

Yes = 1  

No = 0

26. If the answer to question 25 is yes, do you systematically compare the data with data from other sources?  

The purpose of this question is to determine whether the data quality is checked. This question can be answered with “yes”, “partly” or “no”.  

Yes, partly or no  

Yes = 1  

Partly = 0.5  

No = 0

27. Are data validation procedures in place?  

The purpose of this question is to determine whether data are audited when necessary. This question can be answered with “regularly”, “occasionally” or “never”.  

Regularly, occasionally or no  

Regularly = 1  

Occasionally = 1  

Never = 0

28. Do you carry out revisions to the data?  

The purpose of this question is to identify the reason for revisions. This question allows the ticking of a number of boxes. Please select as many options as applicable.  

A. Methodological change  

B. New data  

C. Emits  

D. Manifested  

A. None
ENVIRONMENT

SEIS Assessment Framework

### Timeframe and Punctuality

- **Question 310:** What is the frequency of dissemination of the data flow?
  - The purpose of this question is to determine how regularly the data is disseminated. Please select one or more options as apply.
  - A. Continuously
  - B. Monthly
  - C. Annually
  - D. Multi-annually
  - E. No regular frequency

- **Question 311:** When was the data flow released?
  - The purpose of this question is to determine when the data flow was published. Please indicate the date.

- **Question 312:** Is the answer to question 310 above one of the options A-C, where is the past or the immediacy of the data flow’s online revue?
  - Deviation less than 4 days
  - Deviation between 4 days and 8 weeks
  - Deviation more than 8 weeks

- **Question 313:** What is the reference year of the data flow?
  - The purpose of this question is to ascertain the temporal coverage of the data flow. Please specify the year of the data, or the latest year if the data flow extends over several years.
  - Year

- **Question 314:** What is the completeness of the data flow?
  - The purpose of this question is to determine whether the data flow was released in time to be policy relevant. Please indicate the completeness by calculating the actual release year minus the reference year. The delay is expressed in years.
  - Less than 1 year
  - 1-2 years
  - More than 2 years

### Availability

- **Question 315:** Is the data flow readily available and accessible online for users on any national platform?
  - Yes or no
  - Score:

- **Question 316:** Is the primary data from public authorities readily available to and accessible by users?
  - Yes, partly or no
  - Score:

- **Question 317:** In what format is the information on the data flow presented?
  - The purpose of this question is to see how information is presented and made available to the public. This question allows the ticking of a number of boxes. Please select as many options as apply.
  - A. Shared Environmental Information System production template
  - B. European Environment Agency template 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. Limit to policy context and targets

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**UNECE**

25/10/2018
Information is presented in a clear and understandable form and released in a suitable and convenient manner, with supporting metadata and guidance.

### SEIS Assessment Framework

#### Clarity

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>D10. Do procedures and guidelines for data quality management exist?</td>
<td>The purpose of this question is to determine suitability. This question requires a yes or no answer. If the answer is “yes”, please specify what procedures, such as procedures or guidelines, are available to assess data quality in general.</td>
<td>Yes or no</td>
<td>Yes = 1, No = 0</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| D11. Are metadata available for the data flow? | The purpose of this question is to determine if further explanations including of the metadata are provided and if the metadata meet standards. This question requires a yes or no answer. If the answer is “yes”, please describe the metadata by selecting one answer option and apply. If you select “Other”, please provide a short description of the kind of metadata. | Yes or no | Yes = 1, No = 0 | A. Information on data quality<br>B. Information on methodology<br>C. Information on data sources<br>D. Temporal coverage<br>E. Geographic coverage<br>F. Contact information for the data<br>G. Information on rights<br>H. Information on owner<br>I. Information on processor<br>J. Data flow(s) made available in English<br>K. Data flow(s) made available in Russian<br>L. Other (please specify) |

#### Compatibility

- Comparability over time
- Comparability through space
- Comparability between domains

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<td>D20. Do you apply internationally agreed procedures in the production of the data flow (e.g., compilation, data adjustments and transformations and statistical analysis)?</td>
<td>The purpose of this question is to determine whether standard techniques are used. Please answer this question with “yes”, “partly” or “no”.</td>
<td>Yes, partly or no</td>
<td>Yes = 1, Partly = 0.5, No = 0</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| D21. What is the length of the time series of the data flow? | The purpose of this question is to determine the period of time covered by the data flow. Please specify the length of the time series and the units (e.g., years). | Open (length of time series) | None |

| D22. Are there any breaks in the time series of the data flow (e.g., owing to a change of method)? | The purpose of this question is to determine consistency and/or impacts. This question requires a yes or no answer. | Yes or no | None |

| Question to be answered by the secretariat | The purpose of this question is to assess any limitations in comparability of the data flows across a certain geographical area. This question will be answered by the secretariat, where needed. | Yes, partly or no | Yes = 1, Partly = 0.5, No = 0 | None |

| D23. Are there any limitations in comparing the data flow across regions and countries? | If the answer to this question is yes or partly, please describe the limitations. | Open | None | None |
The SEIS Performance Score

- Focus on data quality and quality assurance
- Not all categories of the SEIS Assessment Framework are considered of equal importance, which has resulted in the use of a weighting scheme
- Results for thematic and individual SEIS indicators can be reported, alongside the aggregated national performance score underlying the respective data flows
The SEIS Performance Score

Questions' score → Average score → Category weight → SEIS Performance Score

- Yes = 1
- Partly = 0.5
- No = 0

Open questions = no score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 4 days = 1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 4 days and 8 weeks = 0.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 8 weeks = 0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 year = 1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 years = 0.5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 2 years = 0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commonly requested areas:
- Relevance
- Accuracy
- Timeliness and punctuality
- Accessibility
- Clarity
- Comparability
- Institutional and organizational arrangements

Weighted average (100%)
Questionnaire available as an online reporting tool and as a Microsoft Excel workbook for reporting across the pan-European region including for the mid-term review.

Available at https://environmentlive.unep.org/seis

Thank you!

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