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Shared Environmental Information System

Support to SEIS establishment in Europe and Central Asia

Key events and milestones in 2018 and 2019


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SEIS - Background and Mandate

- Ministers of Environment decided in 2011 at the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana to keep the pan-European environment under review by establishing a regular process of environmental assessment & developing a SEIS across the region
- UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy tasked the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment with the review of progress in the establishment of SEIS.
- The Ministerial Declaration of the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, 8–10 June 2016, states that:

“While welcoming progress in developing the SEIS to support a regular process of environmental assessment, we invite countries to continue their efforts and to further develop their national information systems to have SEIS in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021”.
- The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy was invited to convene a mid-term review in 2018 to assess progress in the implementation of SEIS

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 **What is SEIS?**

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SEIS is a collaborative approach aiming to organize environmental information based on 7 key principles.


The implementation of SEIS is underpinned by three main pillars:

Cooperation: building partnerships between the providers and users of data and information;

Content: generating policy-relevant and comparable information;


Infrastructure: using shared and modern web-based information and communication technologies.





The 3 Pillars of SEIS




Seven SEIS principles

1. Managed as close as possible to its source
2. Collected once and shared with others for many purposes
3. Readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations
4. Easily accessible to all users
5. Accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and the participation of citizens
6. Fully available to the general public at the national level in the relevant national language(s)
7. Supported through common, free, open software standards




   

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 **Milestones in the establishment of SEIS in Europe and Central Asia**

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DATE	Milestones in SEIS establishment in the pan-European region
June 2016 / June 2017 / October 2017	18 th & 19 th meetings of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring & Assessment and 13 th & 14 th sessions of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators - Several decisions made regarding reporting on SEIS progress, the need to revise the review criteria & integrate a quality component as part of the SEIS assessment framework.
October–March 2018	Finalization of SEIS assessment framework by UNECE secretariat in consultation with member States, EEA and UNEP & online SEIS reporting tool
March–May 2018	Self-assessment by countries for SEIS mid-term review
3–4 September 2018	Consideration of mid-term review at 20 th session of Working Group
January 2019	Committee on Environmental Policy to consider mid-term review
2020	Data provision by countries
November 2020	Committee on Environmental Policy to consider SEIS final review
2021	Ministers to consider the SEIS final review (to be confirmed)

 **Shared Environmental Information System**
Mid-term review

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A questionnaire distributed to UNECE member States with 25 questions on 7 data flows in the following categories:

- relevance
- accuracy,
- timeliness & punctuality
- accessibility
- clarity
- comparability
- institutional & organizational arrangements

→ All Central Asian countries have submitted their (draft) self-assessment

→ Mid-term review in progress

Indicator A2. Ambient air quality in urban areas, Data flows:

- 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


Indicator C10. BOD and concentration of ammonium in rivers, Data flows:

- Mean concentration of BOD5 in major rivers
- Mean concentration of ammonium in major rivers

Indicator D1. Protected areas, Data flow:

- Total protected areas (by IUCN categories)

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 **Capacity Development in Europe & Central Asia in establishing SEIS**

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Activities

- UNECE, EEA & UNEP support countries in Europe & Central Asia in establishing SEIS by strengthening capacities for generating policy-relevant & comparable information, improved indicator production and use, data quality standards, the integration of environmental indicators into SDG/global reporting & their use in national, regional & global assessments
- Strengthening of environmental statistics & accounting, in particular through application of the global standard SEEA-CF and revised United Nations Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics
- Strengthening institutional cooperation (e.g. Environment and Statistics)

SEIS establishment supported by UNECE, EEA and UNEP




Knowledge, Understanding & Action & Public Information

Monitoring

Data

Integrated Assessments (SDG, Green Growth reporting, SoERs)

Environmental-Economic Accounts



Activities in 2018 and 2019

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- Training sessions to be conducted during next **JTF session in October 2018**
- **20th session of Working Group** (3-4 September 2018) to consider draft mid-term review
- **New project** led by UNECE in partnership with UNEP funded by UN Development Account:
 - **Project:** Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (2018-2021)
 - **Target countries:** KAZ, KYR, TAJ, ARM, GEO, BiH, FYROM
 - **Main objectives:** (1) strengthen capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies to collect and produce required data and application of environmental indicators in accordance with SEIS principles and practices; and (2) improved accessibility and use of regularly updated and high quality environmental indicators, within the framework of SEIS, to respond to international indicator-based reporting obligations, including monitoring progress towards the SDGs
 - **Activities:** SEIS gap analysis reviews; advisory missions, capacity building workshops, guidelines for monitoring progress towards the SDGs, and development of a SEIS e-learning platform

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Thank you!

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