# TOWARDS A SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEIS) IN THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

# SECOND INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

## October 2012

European Environment Agency

**REPORT COVER PAGE**

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| Project Title: | Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood |
| Project Number: | C-210629 |
| Partner countries: | Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya[1], Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Russian Federation, Syria[2], Tunisia and Ukraine |
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| Author of report: | ENPI-SEIS team |

**Disclaimer**

The authors take full responsibility for the contents of this report. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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[1] As in the contract addendum No 1 ENPI/2009/210629 of 3 July 2012

[2] Collaboration is temporarily suspended

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# 1. LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| BSC PS | Black Sea Commission, Permanent Secretariat |
| BSIMAP | Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System |
| BSIS | Black Sea Information System |
| CAREC | Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation |
| CAs | Contract Agents |
| CAS | Central Administration of Statistics |
| CB-MEP | ENPI Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/. Mediterranean Environment Programme |
| CEDARE | Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe |
| CLRTAP | Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution |
| CSI | Core Set of Indicators |
| DG DEVCO | Director General Development and Cooperation |
| DG ENV | European Commission - Direction General Environment |
| DG RTD | Director General for Research and Innovation |
| EEA | European Environment Agency |
| EECCA | Countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) |
| EIB | European Investment Bank |
| EIONET | European Environment Information and Observation Network |
| EIS | Environmental Information Systems |
| EMWIS | Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System |
| ENP | European Neighbourhood Partnership |
| ENPI | European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument |
| EPR | Environment Performance Review |
| ESCWA | Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| ETC | European Topic Centre |
| ETC-ICM | European Topic Center on Inland, Coastal and Marine water |
| EU | European Union |
| EUROSTAT | Statistical office of the European Union |
| GHG | Green House Gas |
| GMES | Global Monitoring for Environment and Security |
| H2020 | Horizon 2020 Initiative aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 |
| ICM | Inland, Coastal and Marine Water |
| INSPIRE | Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe |
| JRC | European Joint Research Centre |
| JTF | Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators under UNECE |

| MAP | Mediterranean Action Plan |
|---|---|
| MEAs | Multilateral Environmental Agreements |
| MEDSTAT | Statistical cooperation programme with ENP-South Countries |
| MEHSIP-PPIF | The Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility |
| MENR | Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources |
| MG | Management Group |
| MISIS | MSFD guiding improvements in the Black Sea integrated monitoring system |
| MNRE | Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology |
| MSFD | Marine Strategy Framework Directive |
| NFPs | National Focal Points |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PERSEUS | Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern EUropean Seas |
| PRTR | Pollutant Release and Transfer Register |
| QA/QC | Quality Assurance/Quality Control |
| REC | Regional Environmental Centre |
| Reportnet | Eionet's infrastructure for supporting and improving data and information flows |
| RMR | Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group of H2020 Initiative |
| ROM | Results Oriented Monitoring |
| SEE | South East Europe |
| SEIS | Shared Environment Information System |
| SoER | State of the Environment Report |
| SOs | Specific Objectives |
| SC | Steering Committee |
| SWIM-SM Project | Sustainable Water Integrated Management -Support Mechanism |
| TAs | Temporary Agents |
| TAIEX | Technical Assistance and Information Exchange |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| UBA | Umweltbundesamt, Austria, Vienna |
| UfM | Union for the Mediterranean |
| UfMS | Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UN-ESCWA | United Nations regional economic and social development commission in Western Asia |
| UNSD | United Nations Statistics Division |
| UNICA | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa |
| WGEMA | Working Group for Environment Monitoring and Assessment |

## 2. PROJECT SYNOPSIS

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| **Project Title:** | TOWARDS A SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (SEIS) IN THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD |
| **Project Number:** | C-210629 |
| **Date Financing Agreement:** | 27/11/2009 |
| **Country:** | REGION NEIGHBOURHOOD |
| **Typology of Regional Programme:** | HYBRID REGIONAL |
| **Configuration of Regional Programme:** | 9+7 COUNTRIES |
| **Start Date – actual:** | 09/12/2009 |
| **End Date - planned:** | 09/06/2014 |
| **End Date - likely:** | 09/06/2014 |
| **Primary Commitment:** | €5.746.500 |

### Project Background

The Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) is an EU initiative to modernise and simplify the collection, exchange and use of the data and information required for the design and implementation of environmental policy.

The ENPI-SEIS project was launched to help protect the environment in the European Neighbourhood region by improving capacities of the relevant authorities in the ENP East countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and Russian Federation and in the ENP South countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya[3], Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria[4] and Tunisia) in the domain of monitoring, data management, assessment and indicator-based reporting on the environment.

Good and timely information is needed to support policy development and implementation, guide allocation of financial resources, support environmental democracy and implementation of international agreements dealing with transboundary environmental issues. These issues are on the agendas of both the Union for the Mediterranean and the Eastern Partnership.

### Project Intervention Logic

**Overall Objective (OO):**
Promote the protection of the environment in the countries of the ENPI area.

**Specific Objectives (SOs):**

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[3] As in the contract addendum No 1 ENPI/2009/210629 of 3 July 2012

[4] Collaboration is temporarily suspended

1. Identify or further develop environmental indicators and scorecards – suitable for the design and review of environmental policies, supporting the monitoring and compliance with various national, regional and international obligations and targets.
2. Improve capacities in the field of monitoring, collection, storage, assessment, and reporting of environmental data in the relevant environmental authorities including the national statistical systems, in compliance with reporting obligations to international agreements and in coordination with relevant regional initiatives.
3. Promote the basis for the future setting up of National and Regional Environmental Information Systems in line with the EU SEIS principles.
4. Track progress of the regional environmental initiatives (ENP, Eastern Partnership, Horizon 2020).

**Main Activity Areas:**
1. INDICATORS
2. DATA FLOWS
3. SEIS INFRASTRUCTURE
4. ASSESSMENT
5. COMMUNICATION
6. MANAGEMENT, NETWORKING AND COORDINATION

**Outputs for ENP East and Russian Federation:**
1. Core Set of updated and refined regional Indicators (CSI).
2. Regular data flows established for a selected number of topics.
3. Building SEIS through gradual integration of existing data and information systems.
4.1. Trained experts in the field of environmental reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methods and tools.
4.2. Reporting contribution covering the identified priority areas as part of EEA reporting cycle.
5.1. Newsletters.
5.2. Indicators and reports produced available on line.
6.1. Environment and statistics networks engaged.
6.2. Improved partnerships with regional and international institutions and bodies.

**Outputs for ENP South:**
1. Core Set of updated and refined regional Indicators (CSI).
2. Regionally agreed lists of indicators for the priority areas of Horizon 2020 (CSI for H2020).
3. Regular data flows in place for the three priority areas of H2020.
4. Building SEIS through gradual integration of existing data and information systems.
4.1. Trained experts in the field of environmental reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methods and tools.
4.2. Biennial synthesis progress report.
4.3. 5-year progress report under H2020.
5. 1. Newsletters.
5.2. Indicators and reports produced available on line.
6.1. Environment and statistics networks engaged.
6.2. Improved partnerships with regional and international institutions and bodies.

**Target groups:** The ministries, government agencies and statistical offices responsible for the production, storage, dissemination and assessment of environmental data.

**Project duration:**        54 months

## 3. INTRODUCTION

The ENPI-SEIS project aims to support the countries in the region to keep the state of their environment under review, to strengthen their capacity to meet environmental reporting obligations within the framework of national legislation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), to facilitate the sharing of environmental information, both at national and at regional levels, as well as to support decision-making processes through improved access to information.

In particular, the ENPI-SEIS initiative aims to strengthen the institutional infrastructure for environmental information management and sharing in the region by facilitating and encouraging the establishment of national environment information networks. The sustainability of such networks and the continuation of information sharing activities will rely on the identification and establishment of regional or sub-regional coordinating entities.

This second interim progress report covers the period from mid-September 2011 to mid-September 2012 and its structure follows the activity areas as laid down in the Terms of Reference for the current project contract for each region, with the exception of activities under Area 5 "Communication and dissemination" and Area 6 "Management and coordination", which have been merged into one section. This report builds on the activities reported in the first progress report (covering the period up to 15 September 2011) as well as those undertaken in the last quarter of 2011 and the ones initiated in 2012 as envisaged in the work plan 2012 agreed jointly with the partner countries at the ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee meeting in November 2011 (attached in Annex 2).

In order to take into accounts the political situation in the ENP South region and following direction of the Contracting Authority, over the reporting period, the cooperation with Syria has been suspended and preliminary contact engaged with Libya, as in the contract addendum No 1 ENPI/2009/210629 of 3 July 2012.

The objectives of the second implementation period of the ENPI-SEIS project, covered by the present progress report, were focused on strengthening the established networks in the ENPI area, responding to countries' immediate needs in the three priority areas by holding relevant regional/sub-regional seminars and workshops, agreeing on development of regional core set of indicators for both regions in line with the revised EEA Core Set of Indicators, as well as providing support to a trial delivery of data for the selected indicators. This work builds on the EEA experience in developing indicators for the West Balkan region and the gradual integration of the latter into SEIS implementation. The work in preparation for the assessment report on the Mediterranean has also been in the focus, and the first draft of a SEIS Cookbook – guidance document on Shared Environmental Information System has been finalised and shared with countries.

Following the ENPI-SEIS country visits conducted in 2011, the SEIS Country Reports have been finalised during the reported period. The reports have served in identifying regional activities as well as country or sub regional activities and provided the baseline against which to measure countries progress towards SEIS. Most of the SEIS Country Reports are currently available on the ENPI-SEIS portal.

The work and activities performed during the reported period are presented in section 4 for ENP South and section 5 for ENP East and Russian Federation, activities performed under activity areas 5 and 6 are presented under the sections 6, 7 and 8 further below.

## 4. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES FOR ENPI SOUTH

The activities implemented in the ENPI South region are reported under the activity areas as outlined in the agreed Terms of Reference (ToR) with the exception of activity areas 5 and 6 communication and management, which are elaborated in sections 6 and 7 of the report for both East and South regions.

### Area 1: Suitable environmental indicators and scorecards

Activities under this area are aimed at identifying and drawing up a list of potential common indicators - including methodology - based on available data and information in the ENPI South countries. This process is linked to existing relevant policy questions and initiatives to measure the progress made under the Horizon 2020 initiative of depolluting the Mediterranean sea, and particularly supports the activities of the H2020 sub-group on Review, Monitoring and Research (RMR) chaired by the European Environment Agency. The activities under this area are thus fully embedded in the Horizon 2020 initiative. The scope of the priority themes for the cooperation - focusing on the H2020 priority areas municipal waste, water (covering fresh and marine waters and including waste water) and industrial emissions - was agreed at the first ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee meeting held in November 2010.

**Setting up of a Working Group on Indicator Development in ENP South**

Within the reported period, focus has been given to the identification of a selection of meaningful and measurable indicators for the three H2020 priority areas and the development of the selected indicators with underpinning data. Following the 2nd Horizon 2020 Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group (RMR) meeting held on 30-31 March 2011, it was proposed to the ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee (meeting in November 2011) to set-up a Working Group (WG) on Environmental Indicators. The purpose of this Working Group is to support the indicator development work and complement the activities of the RMR sub-group on a more operational level, while the RMR subgroup's annual meetings are focusing more on the strategic discussions.

In early 2012, the ENPI-SEIS NFPs identified and nominated two working group members. In order to ensure continuity with the RMR activities, and following the EEA recommendations, the experts nominated are generally the same experts as the country representatives attending the RMR meetings. In addition to the country experts, the WG includes some key partners in the region, such as UfM Secretariat, CEDARE, EMWIS, UBA-Vienna. The description of the WG mandate, nominated members of this Working Group and materials developed are available on the project portal at: http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/data-and-indicators/working-group-environmental-indicators-south

**Indicators for the three priority areas identified**

The key milestones for the development of the indicators were the 1st meeting of the WG on Environmental indicators and the annual meeting of the RMR. Following close coordination with the European Commission (DG ENV, DG DEVCO), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the H2020 Capacity Building project (CB-MEP), the first meeting of the ENPI South Working Group on Environmental Indicators was held in Barcelona, 18 April 2012, back-to-back with the fifth H2020 Steering Committee meeting.

The aim of the first Working Group meeting was to identify potential indicators to provide a consistent baseline of information regularly reported from across the region. Based on the pilot outline proposed by the RMR for H2020 Review Mechanism in 2011, and in order to assess the overall progress at the regional level and the effectiveness of the pollution-reduction projects at

the national level, the Working Group started to frame relevant policy questions that address issues from the combined policy and scientific perspectives and identified a set of specific questions for each of the three Horizon 2020 priority areas. Each identified policy question was then linked with one (or more) indicators to measure the effectiveness of policy responses, using specific indicator selection criteria. Following this process, 6 indicators were proposed and agreed by the WG for further development and production (see Annex 4; background materials and minutes of the meeting are available on the project portal http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/data-and-indicators/working-group-environmental-indicators-south).

On 4-5 June 2012, the 3rd RMR meeting discussed further the indicator development process and the outcome of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators, illustrated by presentations of national experiences on some of the selected indicators. As part of a long-term process towards the development of a reporting mechanism for measuring progress under the Horizon 2020 initiative and based on this preliminary review, the RMR discussed a preliminary outline for a regional assessment report (see activity under area 4).

Complementary to the WG on Environmental Indicators, the WG on Information Technology (see activity under area 3) identifies the various possible problems in data accessibility and assesses the data availability in technical and institutional terms for the selected indicators developed by the WG on Environmental Indicators. Following the first meeting of the WG on Environmental indicators, further connections with the ENPI-SEIS Working Group on Information Technology were established. Through the implementation of the country pilots it was possible to adjust the indicator list and start developing a common methodology for their production.

**Indicator fact sheets and common methodology**

At the time of writing the current progress report, indicator fact sheets for the selected environmental indicators are being developed and a common methodology will be agreed in the coming period. To facilitate comparability across the region, the EEA indicator factsheet template and the available UNEP/MAP methodology are used to capture the various methods and processes existing in the countries. The factsheet provides the opportunity to clarify at national level the priorities in terms of data flows and precise what should be the budgetary and human resources needs to support sustained data flows. The scoping and detailed production of the indicator factsheets is developed closely with the members of the WG on Environmental Indicators in cooperation with UNEP/MAP and with the support of the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine (ETC-ICM) and consultation with Eurostat experts. A first draft of the indicator specifications will be shared and further discussed with the WG on Environmental Indicators, 10-11 October 2012 in Copenhagen.

In order to support the development of the indicator factsheets and to get an overview of the available data in relation to the H2020 key indicators, a comparative analysis of the country situation as regards the selected indicators has been carried out over the summer using a metadata questionnaire.

In the framework of the cooperation agreement with UNEP/MAP to support the activities of the ENPI-SEIS project (see section 7 – cooperation with UNEP/MAP), the work on development of the content and comparable regional indicators will be pursued in the next phase of the project implementation through national workshops for the production and use of indicators and in support to the implementation of the country pilots. UNEP/MAP should also contribute to the development of a strategic/policy paper providing guidelines on the key indicators, as agreed in the agreement concluded in September 2012.

It has to be underlined that despite the invested efforts, the project coordination team can not fully ensure the willingness of the environmental and statistical authorities in the countries to

cooperate and provide access to the available data and information as basis for harmonising indicators, as well as to commit resources at national level to support the process. This is a risk that should be addressed in the next Steering Committee meeting in November 2012.

**Area 2: Timely, relevant, reliable and coherent environmental data**

Linked to the activities described under area 1, EEA continued the constant dialogue with the countries during the country visits, the Steering Committee meeting and the meetings of the WG and RMR on the availability and regular update of data, data sets and information flows within the related national and international reporting obligations. This was then agreed as part of the implementation of the pilot activities as identified in the Country Reports. Following the different steps identified in the implementation of the pilot review mechanism, a gap analysis in relation to the data flows needed for producing the selected H2020 indicators has been deployed, supported by the information gathered through the metadata questionnaire (see activity under area 1). Inter-institutional coordination and need for formal agreements between institutions remain the most challenging issue.

**Capacity-building activities**

In relation with the WG on IT and the activities developed under the area 3, specific support to the countries on reporting tools will be provided during the next phase of implementation. Such activities will be built on the use of EEA tools such as Reportnet, as well as UNEP/MAP reporting tools (e.g. Info MAP). Within the EEA-UNEP/MAP cooperation agreement, it is envisaged to carry out population of data to feed into the selected set of H2020 indicators, ensuring support to countries in delivering reliable and coherent environmental data, making use of existing reporting obligation data flows (e.g. Barcelona Convention Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol).

Based on the requirements for technical assistance expressed by the countries during the country visits, a detailed work plan with regional activities for 2012 was prepared and proposed to the project Steering Committee in November 2011. According to this work plan (endorsed by the countries in early 2012), EEA planned together with relevant regional and international partners (see table 1 below) a range of capacity building activities/regional workshops for both environmental and statistical networks to share experience and further develop handling of environmental data in compliance with the SEIS principles. Focus has been given to the water issue, with an extensive support on water statistics and accounts, as well as to the launch of the activities on industrial emissions.

The following regional workshops have been carried out during the reported period:

**Table 1.**Overview of the ENP South regional workshops

| Name of workshop/training | Place and date of the event | Participating countries | Partner organisations involved |
|---|---|---|---|
| EEA/UN-ESCWA sub-regional workshop on water statistics and accounts | Beirut, 20-22 March 2012 | EG, JO, LB, PS | UNSD, UN-ESCWA, UBA-Vienna, EMWIS |
| EEA/CB-MEP training on monitoring Industrial emissions | Athens, 11-14 June 2012 | All ENP South countries | CB/MEP, UNEP/MAP |
| EEA/UNSD/UNICA-North Africa Office Regional workshop on water statistics and accounts for North African French Speaking Countries | Rabat, 11-13 September 2012 | DZ, MA, TN | UNSD, UNICA-North Africa Office, UNEP, UBA-Vienna, EMWIS |

The workshops on Water Statistics and Accounts were very successful, with active contribution from the countries demonstrating strong willingness to elaborate a practical implementation plan, contributing to progress towards the SEIS implementation. The very good cooperation with UNSD, UBA-Vienna and the regional UN commissions allowed a strong anchorage of this technical work within more strategic and forward-looking perspectives. Organised around practical exercises using the available data brought by the countries to the workshops, the meetings allowed strong interactions and sharing of experiences between experts. The critical need for a better sharing on the environmental information has been acknowledged and countries commit to support the implementation of the road-map for implementation developed during the workshops. A wide range of training materials, guidance and background documents have been specifically developed jointly with UNSD to support the countries implementation. As most of the documentation in this area is in English, efforts have been done to provide the key documentation/guidance in French as well. Materials are available at http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/data-and-indicators. Close follow-up have been provided to the countries after the workshop, to ensure proper national coordination and integration of the accounting activities with the development of the country pilots (production of environmental data and information, indicators production, development of water information systems, etc.).

Due to the political situation in the region, it has not been possible to involve Israel in the above regional workshops. In agreement with the Focal Points from Israel, and in order to give opportunity to share experiences with other countries, it has been proposed to Israel to attend the regional workshop on water statistics organised jointly with Eurostat for the EECCA countries in Almaty in September 2012. Considering regional aspect and the transboundary dimension of the water resources management, efforts will be deployed to keep Israel within the regional perspective of ENPI South, and to this end close coordination with the EU delegation and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) has been ensured.

In close coordination with the Capacity Building component of the H2020 initiative and the Capacity Building Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP) and the technical support of MED POL, a joint training session entitled "Improving capacity for monitoring industrial emissions" was organised on 11-14 June 2012 in Athens, Greece. This training session allowed linking the support provided with SEIS implementation at the country level and the country pilots on the design of national Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR). It also gave an opportunity to introduce the support to be provided by UNEP/MAP in the framework of the cooperation agreement with the EEA in support of the ENPI-SEIS project. Participants actively supported this and acknowledged the synergies and complementarities between the different H2020 components and UNEP/MAP activities. Materials available at http://www.h2020.net/en/resources/training-materials/viewcategory/196.html.

Given the progress in implementing the different project activities, which require active contribution from the partner countries (i.e. finalisation of the Country Reports, indicators development activity, capacity building workshops and training, development of the country pilots), the joint EEA-Eurostat workshop on waste foreseen in the 2012 work plan will be postponed to first the half of 2013, and will support the development on the selected waste indicators.

Regular contacts and coordination with other partners, particularly UNEP/MAP (participation to the UNEP/MAP Focal point meeting), EMWIS (involvement in country visits and water accounts workshops), UfMS, SWIM-SM project and some relevant research projects with an important data and information dimension (PEGASO, PERSEUS, MIRA) have been regularly maintained in order to identify available data sources and streamline the existing data flows.

**Regular data flows**

In the next period of implementation, focus will be given to the setting-up of the data flows underpinning the selected indicators. Cooperation with other relevant regional initiatives and bodies will continue in order to streamline the data and information flows and ensuring this cooperation is vital for the process. The agreement with UNEP/MAP will support a sustainable/continuous data flow with regard to the H2020 indicators – UNEP/MAP will support the ENPI-SEIS partner countries in developing and populating the agreed H2020 indicators by organising national workshops, data collection and missions to countries and there will be continuous coordination with MED POL to grant access to countries data delivery. Capacity-building activities and country specific support are to be organised on implementation of the country pilots, populating data for the indicators, trial delivery of data, specific development of a Mediterranean PRTR.

Regular data flows for the three priority areas based on various existing reporting obligations are planned to be established in the coming period, to the extent possible. The process for this was initiated by agreeing on the common indicators, and no delivery of data by the countries has been carried out so far. The implementation of a monitoring mechanism (across the region) to evaluate the country performance related to the regular priority data flows will follow after the first steps regarding indicator and data flow development have been set up.

## Area 3: SEIS-compliant national and regional environmental information system

Following the process initiated during the previous reporting period, EEA pursued the visits to Lebanon (25-26 October 2011) and Tunisia (1-2 November 2011). Following the Arab spring events, the organisation of the visit to Tunisia has been delayed several times, and finally took place just 1 week after the Nation's first free elections. These two visits followed the same process, with two days of discussions in workshop style, allowing to bring together the national and regional environmental and statistical networks. See table 2.

The current, transitional stage of Tunisia has been seen as an excellent starting point for SEIS development. Nevertheless, the visit clearly pointed out the fragility of the situation and that follow-up action will widely depend on the new political setting and the willingness of the new appointed stakeholders to endorse and support the process. The critical role of the NFPs to ensure coordination, communication, follow-up, dynamic within the national partners, endorsement of the action plan has been recalled and agreed by the participants.

The situation in Lebanon is difficult with almost no cooperation between the governmental institutions and little involvement at high level. During the two days, the EEA delegation did not meet any executives. On the technical level, the willingness for cooperation is there, but without the engagement of the political level, the results are questionable. It has been difficult to identify potential pilot actions and no actions has been proposed on indicators as usually the case in country visits, because the access and use of data is so fragmented that Lebanon needs to first consolidate these issues.

**Table 2.**Overview of the ENP South country visits outputs

| Country | National priorities and potential thematic issues for capacity building | Actions agreed within ENPI-SEIS project |
|---|---|---|
| Lebanon | Need to anchor the importance of coordination in data collection and clear data sharing processes; Involvement of key executives essential for the design of effective and efficient data collection tools and mechanisms Development of a PRTR; | Inform and engage executives on/in the SEIS process; Continue mapping of environmental information (subject to engagement of executives) ; Development of complete Water Accounts; |
| Tunisia | Development of new Environment Code; National information systems (including geo-spatial data /update of Corine LC); Water information system and waster accounting; Waste monitoring and waste information system; Air quality and health PRTR. | To identify how to translate the SEIS objectives within a legislative process; To give support to the National Environmental Information System, gradual development and implementation of ecosystem accounts. Will also support the structuration of the Information System on coastal zones, integration of water accounts and the SINEAU; Setting-up of a national register of pollutants, including waste; Setting-up of synergies between Air Quality and Public Health issues, in order to contribute to a better accessibility of the information, and it's use for cross-cutting decision making. To be linked with the development of a pollutant register. |

**Reports on the state-of-play of existing and planned environmental information systems**

Following the ENPI-SEIS country visits, Country Reports have been produced and finalised during the reported period. EEA has received and commented upon the drafts of all the reports, prepared by the NFPs with the support from the framework contractor. The finalisation of the reports has been considerably delayed in some countries, also due to the internal endorsement process of the reports, agreed during the visits. Currently, 6 reports from the 8 South countries (Morocco and Egypt still missing) visited are finalised and placed on the web portal. Morocco is requesting some additional time to further refine the report and endorse it with the key national partners. In the case of Egypt, the difficulty of cooperation between the EEAA and CAPMAS hampered greatly the preparation of the report and within the last few months we had a very low involvement and reaction from the NFPs (new nomination of the NFP in CAPMAS last month). The Regional Overview of the ENPI South is under development and will be finalised in the coming months and placed on the ENPI-SEIS Project web portal.

**Setting up of the Working Group on Information Technology (IT WG)**

With a view to facilitate the dialogue between the environmental and the statistical authorities at national and regional levels and to work together with the two networks for setting up a step-wise approach for SEIS implementation, based on the available data and information, the Working Group on Information Technology for ENP South was established in early 2012.

This Working Group, which was established through a formal nomination process, and in agreement with the Steering Committee, brings together high-level experts with good knowledge of national databases. The aim of the IT Working Group is to facilitate the future data flow, by working in close cooperation with the National Focal Points and the members of the Working group on Environmental Indicators. The IT Working Group is there to assess the situation in the countries, specify possible problems in accessing data necessary to provide the key set of H2020 indicators that are being developed and identified by the Working Group on Environmental Indicators and to agree and provide technical solutions for enabling access to data in a sustainable common structure and format in line with SEIS principles. All related documents, including the nominated Working Group members are available on the ENPI-SEIS web portal under the following link: http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/seis-infrastructure/.

The first meeting of the IT Working Group for the South region took place 22-23 May 2012 in Copenhagen focusing on options and issues in relation to data flow requirements, and assess possible gaps or accessibility problems on data flow and introduce participants to Reportnet and other relevant EEA tools in order to assist them in using these systems for future reporting.

As a conclusion, the participants of the meeting agreed to assist the work of the WG on Environmental Indicators by facilitating access to data. They asked for clear definitions of the indicators (indicator fact sheets) and highlighted the importance of regular cooperation between the NFPs, members of the WG on Environmental Indicators and themselves. In the coming period, the IT WG will build on the work of the WG on Environmental Indicators, presented in the previous section. Decision will be sought to harmonise the structures of the content to be reported to have comparable information in the region. The IT WG will have to propose the best regional solution for hosting data which is to be shared. Regular meetings of the IT WG are planned to be held – in 2013 it is planned to have a meeting back-to-back with the WG on Environmental Indicators and possibly one of the next meetings will be hosted by UNEP/MAP. Results of the meetings will be shared with WG on Environmental Indicators. Communication with IT WG members will continue through e-mails and discussions on specific topics amongst the WG members will be initiated on the project's website.

With a view of development of Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and Spatial Data Infrastructure in the neighbourhood countries, the ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points were invited to take part in a Training on Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and data policy organised in the framework of the "Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe" INSPIRE Conference 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey (25-26 June 2012).  During the two days, the country representatives had the chance to take part in the plenary sessions of the INSPIRE Conference (25-26 June morning sessions). On the first day, a dedicated session on Environmental Information Systems and Data Policy was organised. The session was split into three parts, starting with a general introduction for setting the scene and introducing INSPIRE and how it is linked to SEIS and GMES, then focusing on how to structure an Environmental Information System and introducing the Spatial Data Infrastructure and links between the two. The final session introduced participants to data policy and good practice examples of the process for advancing towards an open data policy were shown. In the afternoon session of the second day, the participants joined the meeting of the Eionet National Reference Centres on Environmental Information Systems and learned more about EEA activities and experiences in building SEIS and supporting INSPIRE, as well as about the second phase of a Shared European National State of the Environmental system (SENSE 2 project). Materials of the different sessions are available at http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/seis-infrastructure/2012-06-training-environmental-information-system-eis-and-data-policy-inspire/eionet-nrc-eis-workshop-2012/presentations. More information about the INSPIRE Conference: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2012.

**Guidance document on SEIS**

The first draft of the 'SEIS cookbook' - a guidance document aiming to gather the latest developments and initiatives in the field of access to and sharing of environmental information taking place at both national and international levels - was finalised during the reported period. It is envisaged that this guidance document will be to the benefit of various EEA stakeholders and will be kept as a living document with examples of SEIS implementation in EEA member, cooperating and ENPI-SEIS partner countries. A draft on-line version is available for comments at the following address: http://seiscookbook.net

The 'SEIS cookbook' is organised around different sections including introduction, background to the cookbook, history of the development of SEIS, explanation of the elements and structure of SEIS and practical examples on how to implement the concept of a Shared Environmental Information System. The bulk of the 'cookbook' is devoted to case studies which show national and international implementation of SEIS elements, including at the EEA. These examples are collectively used to identify an emerging set of common trends, methods, tools and lessons which have been integrated into the 'SEIS checklist'. The checklist can be used as a self-assessment tool to measure progress and identify areas that need further development. The 'SEIS cookbook' is an electronic, living document, which will be continuously updated with new examples as technology develops and new systems to support sharing of environmental information are introduced.

The draft Cookbook is open for review until end of October 2012 and following the review period an update is envisaged. The update will address several issues such as harmonisation of the design of graphics within the case studies, a possibility to search case studies, including additional case studies, update of the text if needed based on comments received. Once the updated version is available, the cookbook will be translated to French, Russian and Arabic.

**Cooperation with UNEP/MAP**

Close coordination with UNEP/MAP was developed on the infrastructure aspects especially in view of the further development of the MAP information system (Info MAP) and the support to the SEIS development with the ENP South countries. Based on the countries requirements (as recorded in the Country Reports) and the existing status of the Info MAP development, specific infrastructure activities have been included into the cooperation agreement between EEA and UNEP/MAP (see section 5) more specifically on the organisation of data flows i.e. the information and communication tools and means suitable for managing data flows and sharing data and information across the ENP South countries, the design and establishment of pilot PRTR system, and the support to the development of SEIS compliant national systems in the ENP South countries.

To ensure the necessary connection with MAP relevant networks, UNEP/MAP representatives will follow the work of the meetings of the ENPI-SEIS South working group on Information Technology.

## Area 4: Assessment of the progress of regional environmental initiatives

**Production of the next regional assessment report launched**

The major activity to report under this area is linked to the first steps of preparing an assessment report for the Mediterranean region, as part of a long term process towards the development of a reporting mechanism for measuring progress under the Horizon 2020 initiative.

With the identification and development of key H2020 indicators carried out with the support of the WG on Environmental indicators and the RMR sub-group (see area 1), and the overview of available data, reports and assessments published in national and regional state of the environment, statistical and other reports, a scoping exercise has been carried out to delineate this first assessment report. Based on the first discussion with the WG and the RMR, it has been proposed to develop an indicator based synthesis including more detailed country contribution (country profiles), reflecting the diversity of national situations and complementing the regional indicator based assessment. This approach, inspired by the process developed by the EEA for the Europe State and Outlook Report 2010, will also lead to support the integration of national State of the Environment assessment into regional and global reporting processes based on steps taken by the countries towards gradual development and establishment of SEIS compliant systems in the region. In this perspective, this first assessment report under H2020 will be part of the joint UNEP/MAP-EEA reporting activity. The synthesis report is scheduled to be finalised by mid-2013, then contributing to the mid-term review of the H2020 initiative.

This activity is supported by a service contract with ETC on Inland, Coastal and Marine Water (ICM) and the contribution agreement with UNEP/MAP.

Based on the indicator development, the outline of the report and the production process is under development and will be discussed at the October meeting of the WG on Environmental Indicators. The effective reporting process and underpinning data flows will then be closely coordinated with the WG on Information Technology, ensuring delivery and access of data and information needed for the elaboration of the report (see activity under area 3). The production of the country assessment are closely linked with the development of the pilots at national level, detailed guidance for the countries are under development, using existing experience with Eionet. In addition, and as specified in the contribution agreement with UNEP/MAP, specific support (training session, national workshops) will be provided by UNEP/MAP (e.g. Plan Bleu) to the countries to support this activity.

Over the reporting period, there was rather good involvement of the countries on this activity, nevertheless, it should be pointed out that this activity is conditional on the countries' commitments to make the relevant monitoring data flows available and to the production of a common set of indicators. Following the slow-down involvement of some countries (e.g. Egypt, Lebanon), the overall expectation as regards to the foreseen synthesis report may be adjusted to the effective access to data and information.

## 5. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES FOR ENPI EAST

Similar to the description of activities for ENPI South under section 4, the actions undertaken with respect to the ENPI East region are reported under the activity areas as outlined in the project ToR with the exception of areas 5 and 6, communication and management, which are elaborated in a sections 6 and 7 for both East and South regions.

The activities in the ENPI East linked to other on-going initiatives and processes in the region and built on the efforts made by EEA and other partners to date in promoting SEIS principles as basis for strengthening the environmental policies, improving data management and monitoring activities, as well as contributing to the further regional reporting.

### Area 1: Suitable environmental indicators and scorecards

During the period covered by this progress report, the main emphasis was to move the countries from monitoring/data collection and storage to development of indicators underpinning more regular dataflow based on the available data. This is one of the fundamental steps in the MDIAK (Monitoring, Data, Information, Assessment and Knowledge) assessment process. All events and capacity building activities were planned to support this process and support its gradual implementation in the cooperating countries

As already reported in the 1st progress report (Sept. 2011), EEA continued its work with the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (JTF) which was established in 2009, bringing together the environmental and statistical networks in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South East Europe (SEE) countries in order to encourage dialogue and cooperation towards the production of commonly agreed environmental indicators for producing state of environment reports. Details on the initial UNECE-EEA cooperation and joint meetings are described in section 3.1 of the first Progress Report.

In planning the process of indicator development for the ENPI East countries within the ENPI-SEIS project, EEA built on the work previously done together with UNECE. Similarly to the support provided to the UNECE Joint Task Force (JTF) on Environmental Indicators in 2011, the Agency made an agreement with the UNECE Secretariat to support two JTF meetings in July and October 2012, as well as to review the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (36 indicators in total), adopted by CEP in 2007 (envisaged for late 2012-early 2013).

During the reported period, the 4th Meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators was held in 18-20 October 2011 in Geneva, where the review of the Guidelines was done for six indicators in order to see the inconsistencies of data and fill in the gaps for producing a regional set of indicators. Background materials and conclusions of the meeting are available at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2011.10.environ.html. In the specific session where JTF participants discussed developments and plans for future work on the indicators under the ENPI-SEIS project, it was proposed to make a survey on how the indicators previously reviewed by the Joint Task Force meetings are being developed, and used in the countries for environmental reporting. In line with the Project objectives to map a suitable regional set of indicators, it was agreed that work on identifying suitable indicators to be compiled in an initial set of indicators, based on the review in the Joint Task Force, and would be a next step of the upcoming ENPI-SEIS project activities in 2012.

The selection of a regional set of indicators and development of a feasibility study for organisation of a regular, sustained data flow on an initial set of selected regional indicators was initiated after the 4th Meeting of the JTF in 2012 with the aim to be put forward in the upcoming meeting of the JTF. This work was based on outputs of the indicators reviewed by the UNECE

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and was carried out by EEA with the support from sub-contractor for the ENPI East region (ZOI Environment Network.).

Additionally, the 5th Meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators was held on 4-6 July 2012 in Geneva. The general objective of the meeting was to review additional six (out of 36) indicators covered by the Indicator Guidelines. Background materials and conclusions of the meeting are available at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.07.environ.html.

Similarly to the previous meetings during the 5th meeting of the JTF, a half-day session was dedicated to the ENPI-SEIS project, to discuss the establishment of a process for regular reporting/data sharing in line with SEIS principles. In this session, EEA presented the conclusions and recommendations[5] of the Working Group on Information Technology for the ENPI East region held in April 2012 (for further details look at following Area 3), and suggested to conduct a Metadata Survey and prepare a Feasibility Study based on results for selected indicators from the Guidelines. UNECE presented an initial set of eight indicators (see Annex 4) for the Metadata Survey based on their evaluation of previously circulated UNECE Questionnaires (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.33/2012/mtg2/ECE.CEP-CES.GE.12012.5.pdf). This work complements the mapping of regional set of indicators done within the project.

During the meeting, members of the Joint Task Force from the ENPI East countries agreed on a proposed regional core set of environmental indicators. Countries also agreed to participate to the Metadata Survey to help develop regular/sustained data flows for those indicators in question. The metadata survey was distributed to JTF members immediately after the 5th JTF Meeting for completion. The results of the metadata survey showed that:

- The selected datasets in most of the countries are free for use by any user with the acknowledgement of the source.
- Datasets as presented in the UNECE questionnaires are regularly assembled at the national level, in 50% of cases they are made available in the Internet.
- Made available in the Internet datasets are difficult to use at the ENPI-East regional or pan-European level due to
  - absence of a harmonised data structure/format:
    - different countries publish data at different aggregation levels and normalisation levels and in different formats (word, pdf, html, excel)
  - lack of reference metadata on the datasets
    - no information about the quality of the data, update periods, data providers, contact details
- Two data sets (total GHG emissions and emissions of Ozone depleting substances) are organised according to a prescribed data format and are regularly made available to the international organisations to fulfil international reporting requirements.
- Publishing of the data in a prescribed format is the most preferred option for making the data available to users.

Based on this first exercices, countries agreed to continue the metadata survey exercise for other indicators/datasets. The results of this first exrecises will be disseminated during the 6th JTF meeting taking place the 30 October-1 November 2012. This meeting will be held back-to-back with the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) meeting the 1-2 November 2012. In the 6th JTF meeting, the EEA plans to discuss with the its members the possible metadata structures based on the decisions and recommendations from the IT Working Group meeting in Skopje and come up with a proposal to establish a metadata flow

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[5] http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/seis-infrastructure/working-group-information-technology-east/2012-04-workshop-enpi-east-region-data-gaps-metadata-and-reportnet/draft-summary-of-meeting_finalen.pdf

that will lead to indicator development, and eventually complement the Astana process that emphasises the need for a regular process of environmental assessment, supported by a Shared Environmental Information System for the pan-European region Environment. Upcoming activities within the project, such as capacity building in data management, monitoring, and IT support will also be discussed.

For the next implementation phase, the EEA is envisaging to extend the support to the JTF for two more meetings in 2013 with a view to map additional indicators and implement the metadata survey results leading to a sustained data flows on the regional set of indicators for the ENPI East, linked to the revised EEA core set. This would be undertaken alongside with possible capacity building and expert training activities coordinated jointly with other stakeholders and relevant partners in the region.

### Area 2: Timely, relevant, reliable and coherent environmental data

Over the reporting period and according to the 2012 work plan for the ENPI East region, several workshops have been carried out in order to support the countries on indicator development and data delivery.

A workshop on Waste Statistics was organized by the UNECE on 11-13 April 2012, in Geneva, jointly with Eurostat and the EEA in close collaboration with the UNECE Statistical Division and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. Experts from international organisations and relevant institutions in the partner countries were invited to share experiences and broaden the exchange of knowledge and best practices in order to close gaps in country data and secure comparability and consistency for data flows as envisaged in Activity Area 2 of the project.

Group exercises and group discussions were beneficial for following country needs to identify and evaluate the relevant priority information flows in waste generation (more particularly on municipal waste generation) which has been suggested as one of the regional indicator for the project. It is envisaged that in the next phase of the project, work will focus on sharing experiences and build capacities in handling of the environmental data (production, management, processing, QA/QC, exchange, data integration etc.) in compliance with SEIS principles based on the available data and information in the countries.

A seminar on Water Statistics, organised by Eurostat, in cooperation with the EEA, 11-13 September 2012, Almaty, Kazakhstan, targeted improving capacities in one of the priority areas within the ENPI-SEIS project. The event brought together water experts and statisticians dealing with water reporting from ENP East region, Central Asia and Israel. The seminar contributed to the EEA cooperation with the ENPI East countries, aiming at identify country data needs and identify and evaluate the relevant priority data and information flows. In fact, it was observed that almost all countries present at the seminar had data sets and databases which can be used for indicator calculations, especially for the Water Exploitation Index (WEI), one of the promising indicators in water abstraction and use. EEA is considering discussing follow up activities, especially related to indicator development in the water area, during the region in the upcoming UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental indicators.

A workshop on Air Emission Inventories for the ENPI East region organized through the Air Quality Governance Project took place the 24-26 September 2012 (in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova). It aimed to present guidebook structure, default procedures for all the sources and pollutants countries are obliged to report under the protocols to the CLRTAP. This workshop contributed to EEA cooperation with ENPI East countries in assessing where the gaps on air emission reporting are and complements the process of sustained data flow for indicator development. In addition, this workshop enabled to identify the various possible problems in data accessibility, assess data availability in technical and institutional terms for the selected indicators and facilitated the regular reporting processes in line with SEIS principles in one of the ENPI SEIS project priority areas.

**Area 3: SEIS-compliant national and regional environmental information system**

During the reported period, two country visits were conducted to the ENPI East countries – namely to Ukraine (7-8 November 2011) and to Russia (9-11 November 2011).

The Ukraine workshop held in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) was attended by approximately 50 participants. Presentations covered priority issues of the national environmental policy in Ukraine, the state of environmental monitoring and interactions between the different institutions, use of environmental indicators, and national developments in the main priority areas as well as overview of SEIS relevant on-going projects and activities. The workshop saw active engagement in the discussions from all participants and their interest in further project implementation. During the second day, a number of bilateral meetings were held.

During the first day of the country visit to Russia, the team met with the EU Delegation to Russian Federation and visited Mosecomonitoring – an authorised organisation monitoring the ecological situation in the territory of Moscow. The following day, on 10 November, the workshop held in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology (MNRE) was attended by approximately 30 participants. The workshop had presentations on overview of EEA's role and mandate, the ENPI-SEIS project objectives, and the pan-European requirements for environmental observations and reporting (by UNECE). The second session comprised an overview of national perspectives for implementing SEIS at national level and a series of presentations around the three identified priorities: presentation by Rosprirodnadzor on the creation of joint system of ecological information in waste management in Russia, general presentation by Rosvodresursy structure on water information at a federal level and the current status of data and information infrastructure on GHG inventory in Russian Federation as well as a presentation on the state-of-play and perspectives on using environmental indicators in Russia.

Following the visits, Country Reports were prepared by the NFPs with the support from the framework contractor. As for the South region, the finalisation of the reports has been considerably delayed in some countries. The Country Reports for all East countries are approved at national level and published on the project website. A regional overwiew[6] of the concrete observations and conclusions of countries to move towards SEIS. This overview presents the countries expectations and needs for finding compatibility in their environmental information systems.

**Setting up a Working Group on Information Technology**

Similarly to the ENPI South process reported under section 4 above, the Working Group on Information Technology for ENPI East was established in early 2012 with a view to facilitate the dialogue between the environmental and the statistical authorities at national and regional levels and work together with the two networks for setting up a step-wise approach for SEIS implementation, based on the available data and information. This Working Group, established the same way as for the South region through a formal nomination process, brings together high level experts with good knowledge of national databases. The aim of the IT Working Group is to facilitate the future data flow, by working in close cooperation with the National Focal Points and the national representatives of the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. The IT Working Group is there to assess the situation in the countries, specify possible problems in accessing data necessary to provide the core set of indicators (CSI) that are being developed and identified by the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators and to agree and provide technical solutions for enabling access to data in a sustainable common structure and

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[6] Avalable: http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/country-report/country-report

format in line with SEIS principles. All related documents, including the nominated Working Group members are available on the ENPI-SEIS web portal.

The first meeting of the IT Working Group for the East region was held on 18-19 April 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark. The main objectives were to identify options and issues in relation to data flow requirements, to assess the national situation on possible gaps or accessibility problems arising from technical or institutional structures on data flow, and to give the participants an introduction to Reportnet and other relevant EEA tools - in order to assist them in using these systems for future reporting. The participants of the meeting agreed to support the indicator development process by assisting UNECE JTF members in filling in the on-line questionnaire on indicators to be reviewed at the coming UNECE Joint Task Force meeting. They also agreed to voluntarily test the use of the EEA Reportnet system. Further details are available at http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/seis-infrastructure/working-group-information-technology-east/2012-04-workshop-enpi-east-region-data-gaps-metadata-and-report.

The IT Working Group members agreed to support the indicator development process by assisting the national representatives in the UNECE JTF in filling in the questionnaire prepared by EEA and ZOI environmental network (sub-contractor) and approved and distributed by UNECE for data on the selected indicators. It was agreed that IT WG members would focus on the accessibility of data required for those specific indicators and provide relevant metadata information on the selected indicators.

ZOI environmental network is developing a feasibility study for the organisation of a regular, sustained data flow on a first set of selected regional indicators which have been approved by the UNECE Joint Task Force on environmental indicators. The IT Working Group will build on the results of the questionnaire prepared jointly by EEA and ZOI as a basis for the feasibility study. The results of the questionnaire are to be assessed at the next IT WG meeting and proposed steps for harmonising structures for data flows as well as best regional solution for hosting data to be shared will be presented at the upcoming UNECE JTF session on 31 October – 1 November 2012. Regular meetings of the IT WG are planned throughout the timeframe of the ENPI-SEIS project, with one meeting for 2013. Results of the meetings will be shared with UNECE Joint Task Force on environmental indicators.

As part of the process for the development of an Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and Spatial Data Infrastructure in the neighbourhood countries, the ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points were invited to take part in a Training on Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and data policy organised in the framework of the "Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe" INSPIRE Conference 2012" in Istanbul, Turkey. This meeting was organised for both South and East regions thus for more information please look at section 4.3.

**SEIS Cookbook** - The 'cookbook' is a document targeting various stakeholders and key EEA partners including ENPI East and South regions. For more information please look at section 4.3.


**Links to the 'Environment for Europe' process and Astana Conference**

At the seventh Ministerial 'Environment for Europe' conference held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 21-23 September 2011, the Ministers of Environment agreed to establish a regular process of environmental assessment underpinned by indicators and to develop the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the region. The EEA, the European Commission and Member States have been using the principles underpinning SEIS to gather data over the last 5 years for the Assessment of assessment report and Virtual Library presented at the Conference. The Astana Ministerial Declaration emphasises the need for a regular process of environmental assessment, supported by a Shared Environmental Information System for the pan-European region, covering 56 countries. In the Ministerial Declaration, the EEA was given the flagship role to support future environmental reporting in the pan-European region.

**Possible extension of SEIS to Central Asia**

The second meeting of the EU-Central Asia strategy for a new partnership took place in Almaty Kazakhstan on 13-14 September 2012, 2,5 years after the first meeting held in Brussels. High level representatives from the five Central Asian countries were meeting with EU officials (External Service of the EC, EU Delegation etc.) and other international bodies (EEA, WHO, UNECE, OECD, REC, CAREC) to discuss the regional priorities as basis for the new EU programming 2014-2020.

EEA was participating at the meeting and provided a comprehensive overview of the activities carried out post-Astana (one year after) SEIS related and aiming towards putting in place a regular pan-European reporting process.

All Central Asian countries highlighted the need for improving the environment information and knowledge exchange and sharing as basis for better policies and improved access to environmental information. This area is proposed as a priority area for further partnership between EU and CA countries, with EEA identified as key player and implementor. This proposal, alongside the other priorities for cooperation will be put forward for endorsement to the Ministerial meeting of CA countries to be held in Biskek (Kyrgyzstan) 10-11 December 2012. Areas such as water and related ecosystems, biodiversity, air pollution and climate change and desertification were identified as priority with SEIS gradually extended to the region in support to enhanced cooperation at both regional and international levels.

## Area 4: Assessment of the progress of regional environmental initiatives

The assessment activity will build on the work done in the above three areas and is envisaged to start at a later stage of the project implementation. Therefore, there was no budget expenditure to report under this area for the ENPI East region at this stage.

In the bilateral meeting on the cooperation with the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat organised 24-25 May 2012, the Black Sea Secretariat confirmed its interest in collaborating on an assessment part which could be a regional contribution to the EEA SoER2015. On the other hand, in terms of infrastructure development and technological coherence referred in Activity 2.3, the BSC PS showed interest in getting more familiar with the EEA systems (ReportNet) and tools used to underpin SEIS development in order to re-evaluate and improve its own reporting cycle. Cooperation with BSC would build up on the 'Diagnostic Report' funded by EEA (2009) targeting to identify the achievements and gaps in the existing BSIMAP (Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System) and BSIS (Black Sea Information System), to assess the suitability of data for calculation of BSC and EEA indicators, and the relevance of the monitoring system in the BS region.

Moreover, steps on strengthening and further improving the sustained data flows from the countries will eventually close the gaps in data production and utilisation in the region which is also a need for the Project (see section 7 coordination with Black Sea Commission).

## 6. AREA 6 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

**ENPI-SEIS Project web portal**

In order to provide regular information to the target groups in the ENPI partner countries, as well as to other partners and stakeholders in the region, the ENPI-SEIS project web portal (http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/) has been further developed and populated during the reported period. The portal contains information about the main partners, current work plan and project activities, related projects, calendar of upcoming events, as well as information materials produced (including agendas, lists of participants and presentations from the events and trainings organised). All deliverables within the project are being made available online.

The following tools of the web portal have also been used:
- Following the first meetings of the Working Group on Information Technology held in spring 2012, online discussion fora providing platform for dedicated discussions have been set up for both East and South regions.
- For the ENPI East, a survey on metadata linked to the pilot exercise for data collection on the regional set of indicators was posted on the web portal. This has allowed efficient use of resources in handling the data received.

From the ENPI-SEIS project website, links to the websites of other regional initiatives/projects, including Horizon 2020 portal, are maintained. A sitemap of the project portal can be viewed online at http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/sitemap_html.

Within the reported period the website had 5760 visits with 2535 unique visitors that stayed on the page about 6 minutes on average. 57,38% were returning visitors and 42,62% new visitors.

**ENPI-SEIS Newsletter**

In addition to the project web portal, the ENPI-SEIS project newsletter is a key communication product in the project, showcasing the activities and progress in the project and keeping the relevant partner countries and other stakeholders informed and involved in the activities. The practice is that the newsletter is disseminated to the main stakeholders and partners in the countries, other on-going projects, as well as relevant international organisations. It is envisaged that the newsletter would be published twice yearly for the duration of the project (usually around June and December). The newsletters are made available in English, French, Russian and Arabic. During the reported period, the second (December 2011) and third (June 2012) issue of the project newsletter were published and widely disseminated. As agreed with the Management Group, the June 2012 issue of the newsletter was of a more promotional nature in order to emphasise environmental protection and SEIS concept as a key element for future cooperation with the ENPI region.

In addition to the ENPI-SEIS Newsletter, the project team provides information/updates on progress in publications of international organisations/projects. Contributions to the February and July issues of the Horizon 2020 News Flashes were made, reflecting the activities in the first half of 2012. The H2020 News Flashes were translated into French and Arabic (http://www.h2020.net/en/news-and-events/h2020-news-flashes.html).

Contributions to the UNSD environment statistics newsletter, December 2011 and July 2012 issues were made in collaboration with UNSD- Environment Statistics Branch http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ENVIRONMENT/newsletters.htm;

In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the ENPI-SEIS project alongside the EEA work plan activities in the targeted areas as well as the involvement of the key thematic experts, the project coordination team is keeping a regular dialogue and information flow to the relevant colleagues in the Agency and Eionet.

To that end, update on the project progress was provided to the Eionet NFPs during their regular meetings in September 2011, March and June 2012, calling for their involvement in

sharing best practices and experiences in SEIS implementation to the ENPI region. Some twinning activities initiated in the past months with the ENPI countries have used the input from the Country Reports developed under the project (for example, EU Waste-Management twinning project implemented by Austria and Bulgaria was launched in early July 2012 with the Ministry of Environment of Georgia as the main beneficiary partner). Additional resources could be mobilised through instruments, such as TAIEX, expert missions to the countries, synergies and joint events with other on-going regional projects. These possibilities for strengthening local assistance would be taken into account in further planning and highlighted to the countries during upcoming meetings. To the extent possible, the involvement of experts from the ENPI countries is being ensured in various thematic workshops and expert meetings in the priority areas addressed within the project.

Regular communication and information flow is also maintained with the project NFPs as the key partners for the SEIS implementation in the ENPI countries. They have also been included in the EEA address database and receive all the Agency's publications and reports as part of the EEA main stakeholders.

In addition to the main partners for cooperation at the national level - the environmental and statistical organisations leading in the field of environmental information, the project is linking to relevant regional partners and projects in the ENPI area, as explained below in the separate sections for ENPI South and East.

## 7.   AREA 6 COORDINATION

**Activities within the Horizon2020 Initiative**

In order to keep an overview of the activities within the Horizon2020 Initiative, a regular stock-taking between the chairs of the H2020 sub-groups by the three working sub-groups (Investments for Pollution Reduction-PR; Capacity Building-CB and Review, Monitoring and Research-RMR) has been done through regular exchanges of information (e-mails, bilateral phone calls). Representatives of the CB sub-group also attended the RMR meeting in Copenhagen.

A teleconference call took place with the Capacity Building (CB/MEP) and Pollution Reduction (MEHSIP-PPIF) sub-group leaders on 7 November 2011 for updating each other on progress, as well as coordinating next steps and joint activities. The outcome of the exchanges and brainstorming between the chairs of the three sub-groups have contributed to the production of the "think paper" proposed by DG-ENV for discussion to the H2020 SG meeting in Barcelona in April 2012.

The next trilateral discussion should have taken place in June 2012 on the occasion of the 3rd RMR meeting, but it had to be postponed due to the fact that EIB (chair of the Pollution Reduction sub-group) could not attend it. The chairs have however agreed to maintain a regular discussion and stock-taking of activities within the different components.

**H2020 Review, Monitoring and Research (RMR) sub-group**

According to the TOR, the H2020 RMR sub-group shall meet once a year, with the last two meetings taking place in spring 2011 and 2012 respectively. Following approval of the Contracting Authority and coordination with the Capacity Building component of ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB/MEP), who is covering the costs for the organisation of meetings of the RMR sub-group, the third RMR meeting has been postponed to 4-5 June, leaving more time to prepare a technical meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Indicator to progress on the identification and selection of key H2020 indicators. This third meeting of the H2020 Review, Monitoring and Research subgroup gathered around 30 experts from the Southern Mediterranean and West Balkan partner countries and took stock of the latest developments made under the umbrella of the Horizon 2020 initiative, particularly on the different H2020 components. The RMR discussed further the indicator development process

and the outcomes of the ENP South Working Group on Environmental Indicators, illustrated by presentations of national experiences with some of the selected indicators. The RMR agreed to support the work of the WG on Environmental Indicators in assessing the data availability and the development of detailed indicator factsheets. The process towards preparation of the next regional assessment report (see area 4) was presented and discussed; it was agreed that a draft outline of the report will be further elaborated, based on progress made with indicator development, to be discussed at the next meeting of the WG on Environmental Indicators (scheduled for 10-11 October 2012, Copenhagen).

As regard to the research component of the RMR, following the conclusions of the H2020 Steering Group in April to establish a separate core group on research, it has been proposed by the RMR that this core group (to be lead by MIRA), with support from the European Commission, EU Member States and Mediterranean partner countries would draft and propose an Agenda for H2020 Research and Innovation program, by applying the principles of co-construction, co-funding, co-evaluation and co-ownership of research results in the region.

The summary record of the meeting, presentations and other documentation from the RMR subgroup meeting is available under the following link: http://coordination.h2020.net/rmr/meetings/2012-06-04-rmr-meeting.

**Cooperation with UNEP/MAP within the ENPI-SEIS project**

Based on the discussion initiated during the previous reporting period, EEA continued working with the MAP Coordination Unit to design a coordinated plan of activities for UNEP/MAP to support the expansion of SEIS development in the Mediterranean region. It is to be noted that the discussions have been substantially delayed by the fact that the Coordination Unit was fully occupied preparing the 16th meeting of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties *taking place in February 2012) and then encountered difficulty providing a continuous dialogue with the EEA on the preparation of this programme of work. The difficulty of coordination between the Coordination Unit and the different Regional Activity Centres hampered as well the smooth preparation of this programme of work.

Nevertheless, the negotiations on the agreement between EEA and UNEP/MAP were successfully concluded and following a coordination meeting held at the EEA on 2-3 July 2012 a contribution agreement was finalised and signed in first half of September 2012. The negotiations took much longer than envisaged initially and the delay in this process was regularly conveyed to the project Contracting Authority in EC DG DEVCO, now however it seems that UNEP/MAP is fully operational to support the ENPI-SEIS activities. The agreement covers the period until the end of 2013 and is in support of SEIS implementation in the Mediterranean region and as extension of the established UNEP/MAP cooperation with the target countries. In support to the South component of the ENPI-SEIS project, it is foreseen that UNEP/MAP will provide technical support to the key ENPI-SEIS priorities, particularly in the areas of indicator development, PRTR, data flows as well as national and regional information systems and capacity building.

**Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission Secretariat**

A bilateral meeting on cooperation with the Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSCPS) was organised in Istanbul on 24-25 May 2012. This meeting was seen as a first step to establish the basis for regular dialogue and future collaboration. These regular dialogues contribute to the Project Activity 3.6 which is aiming at liaising with regional organisations on SEIS infrastructure and reviewing and assessing the infrastructure coherence between the Project and other regional organisations. The meeting report is available at http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/project-documents/cooperation-black-sea-commission-permanent-secretariat/bilateral-meeting-between-eea-and-bsc-permanent-secretariat-within-framework.

**Synergies with other regional and national projects, initiatives and activities**

Seeking synergies with other regional and national EU-funded projects and other initiatives is also a key part of the project activities. In the ENPI South, the ENPI-SEIS team participated in/contributed to the following activities:

- Support to the USA/UNEP Cooperation project with Morocco (Kick-off meeting, 12-14 September 2011, Rabat; National seminar on Environmental Integrated Assessment, 21–23 February 2012, Rabat; Coordination meeting with UNEP and OTED, 12 September 2012);
- Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM) Launching Workshop and SWIM SM Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels, 7-8 December 2011 http://www.swim-sm.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=23&lang=en
- MIRA (Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action), supported by FP7;
- PERSEUS project (Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern EUropean Seas) under FP7 ;
- Contribution to the preparation of the World Water Forum held in Marseille in March 2012, via the working group on Target 7 related to the setting up of Water Information Systems of Transboundary nature;
- EEA participated in the awareness-raising event organised by the EU Delegation in Beirut, Lebanon 24 March 2012.

In the ENPI East, the ENPI-SEIS team participated in/contributed to the following activities:

- Eastern Partnership Platform 2, Panel on Environment and Climate Change, Brussels, Belgium, 29 September 2011.
- Air Quality Governance in ENPI East - Steering Committee Meeting, Kiev, Ukraine 26 October 2011;
- A representative of the ENPI Waste Governance project was invited to share experience and present best practices at the Waste Statistics Workshop organised jointly by EEA, UNECE and Eurostat on 11-13 April 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Upon countries' request, EEA has supported the participation of ENPI East experts to the annual meeting on the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections held on 14-15 May 2012 in Bern, Switzerland.
- DG ENV has launched project entitled MISIS, in the first quarter of 2012, which is expected to pick up on some of gaps in monitoring, data gathering and processing in Black Sea region. The MISIS project has been designed based on the outcomes of the EEA Black Sea Diagnostic Report and is expected to follow up on this work in the first instance by conducting a survey to re-evaluate conclusions and to set priorities for further work. It is therefore worthwhile that EEA and BSC engage to follow this project closely and promote SEIS principles to the extend needed.
- EEA participated in the EuroVillage "Save our planet" event held in Kiev, Ukraine on 5-6 June 2012 jointly with other regional projects, on the occasion of the Euro2012 football championship.

**Bilateral activities**

There are also a number of bilateral activities, in which the EEA has engaged in during the reported period. These visits and activities have enabled countries to receive support and guidance in specific topics according to their needs, while strengthening the overall cooperation.

- Within the MEDSTAT Energy component study visit from Lebanon to Denmark, a visit to EEA took place on 24 April 2012. While the experts' main interest was on the EU GHG emissions

monitoring mechanism and energy balances, they were also informed about the cooperation and partnerships established within the ENPI-SEIS framework.

- Environmental Performance Review (EPR) visit to Morocco planned initially for mid-September 2012 but now postponed to first half of November, in which Cecile Roddier-Quefelec from the project team would be involved as observer covering the cooperation and links to ENPI-SEIS;

- Visit to EEA from the Dr Sinaia Netanyahu, Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry on Environmental Protection took place on 6 June 2012.

- Visit of UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu Director on on climate change adaptation and development of a 'Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information  Platform' or 'MedICIP', 21 August 2012, EEA.

- Within the established EU-Russia dialogue on environmental monitoring and convergence, EEA had planned to host the next meeting following the country visit to Russia in November 2011 to take stock on the developments in the joint projects agreed, covering also SEIS. Initially planned for end of May, it had to be postponed to October-November (dates still to be coordinated with the Ministry of Natural Protection and Environment) due to on-going restructuring in the Russian administration after the Presidential elections in May.

- There was also a discussion with Eurostat about the EEA contribution to a dedicated workshop for Russia on environmental indicators around mid-October 2012.

## 8.   PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### Organisation of the work

As outlined in the ToR of the current contract, the overall project coordination is ensured by the Management Group (MG) and the Steering Committee (SC):

**Management Group**

As agreed, the ENPI-SEIS Management Group meeting took place in November 2011 – first part as a teleconference on 18 November 2011 in preparation of the Steering Committee meeting and the second part back-to-back to the Steering Committee at EEA on 24 November 2011. The minutes of the meeting are available on the project website http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/management-group-meetings/management-group-meeting/minutes-enpi-seis_management-group-meeting-web.pdf

Follow-up discussion with the ENPI-SEIS Management Group taking stock of progress in the project implementation to date took place as a teleconference on 26 May 2012 and was attended by representatives of DG DEVCO, DG RTD, Eurostat, JRC and EEA. Minutes are publicly available on the project website under http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/management-group/mg. During this meeting, DG EuropeAid advised that it is possible for Libya to join the ENPI-SEIS project. A contract addendum including Libya (No 1 ENPI/2009/210629 of 3 July 2012) has been prepared to take into account the new project coverage.

**Steering Committee**

As outlined in the ToR, the Steering Committee meetings will facilitate dialogue and communication with the ENPI countries on issues of common interests for the execution of the project and will, at the same time, bring the countries' perspective into the implementation process. The second annual ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee meeting with the partner countries and representatives of international partner organisations was held on 24-25 November 2011 in EEA

premises in Copenhagen. During the meeting the partner countries[7] took note of the developments and progress with the country visits undertaken in 2011, discussed the joint work plan with specific activities for 2012, and agreed on the next steps in the progress within the project. The materials of this meeting are available on the web portal under http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/steering-committee-meetings/2011-11-24-enpi-seis-steering-committee-meeting-and-regional-workshops

The activities agreed within the workplan 2012 that was endorsed by the partner countries following the Steering Committee meeting of November 2011, have been the basis for organising the workshops, technical meetings and events that were reported on in areas 1-4 for both ENPI East and ENPI South regions in the report.

Following agreement with the members of the Management Group and the partner countries, the third annual Steering Committee meeting will took place 21-22 November 2012 at the EEA in Copenhagen.

**Operational groups**

In regards to operational groups in the project implementation, in the ENPI South component of the project, the Horizon 2020 Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group (RMR) serves as the platform for regular dialogue and review of progress of the Horizon 2020 initiative with the countries. The costs for countries' participation in the 3rd RMR meeting held in June 2012 were covered by the Capacity Building component of the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (CB-MEP) as envisaged by the ToR. The EEA will seek approval from the Contracting Authority to call for the fourth RMR meeting in the first quarter of 2013.

In the ENPI East component of the project, the UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, established in 2009, has been the operational group regarding activities on indicator review within the project. This forum is being used for discussion and assessment of progress also under the Eastern Partnership initiative. Close links and information is also being maintained with UNECE/WGEMA group in order to streamline efforts and complement activities carried out in the East region.

In early 2012, dedicated Working groups on Environmental Indicators and on Information Technology (IT) were established for the ENPI South, and an IT Working Group was set up also for the ENPI East region (UNECE JTF being the platform for the work on environmental indicators) with a view to sharing specific knowledge and making progress in the development of environmental data, indicators, metadata standards and IT infrastructure. The ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points were asked to coordinate the nomination of the representatives for each of the Working Groups, including one participant from the statistical and one participant from the environmental community from each country. The Working Groups are expected to continue meeting regularly (approximately twice a year) and be of key importance in the further project implementation (see area 1).

**Dialogue with the Contracting Authority**

Throughout the implementation of the ENPI-SEIS project regular dialogue has been maintained with the Project Manager in the Contracting Authority – DG DEVCO on the project execution and various contractual and management issues. As agreed with DG DEVCO, prior approval was sought from the Project Manager on every sub-contracting agreement before its signature (see below).

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[7] As per the suspension of the cooperation with Syria, no Syrian representatives have been invited to the SC meeting.

**Risk management**

The successful project outcome links to a number of political, economic and social developments in the ENPI partner countries and related planned and on-going activities. The specificity of extending EEA cooperation to a wider geographical area touches upon some risks and assumptions, some of which were already included in the 1$^{st}$ Progress Report of September 2011.

Some key issues related to this, which should be considered in the overall project implementation cover:

- Further successful implementation/development of SEIS concept across EU/EEA members, also as part of the 'Environment for Europe' process in support of SEIS as agreed at the last Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2011;
- Conclusion of cooperation agreements with relevant international partners for joint activities, collecting and sharing of environmental data;
- Willingness and support from the partner country governments to cooperate and contribute to SEIS development through regional and national activities, including appointment of appropriate experts as project NFPs;
- Frequent changes in the administrations of the relevant organisations that have an impact on the NFPs nominations and hinder the continuity in the dialogue with the key partners in the ENPI countries;
- Establishing closer cooperation between the environmental and statistical networks on national level, as well as benefiting from other completed and/or on-going capacity building activities in ENPI regions;
- Complex, sensitive and unstable political situation in the ENPI regions, which shifts the focus away from the environmental problems;
- Ensuring consistency with and complementarity to other relevant initiatives/projects in the ENPI regions, particularly those linked to various reporting obligations;
- Continuity in staffing on the EEA Project Coordination Team.

All these issues are regularly reviewed and discussed with DG DEVCO and the rest of the Management Group as needed for the further smooth implementation and outcome of the project.

It is to be noted that in terms of project coverage, it has been decided that the cooperation in the ENPI South will be extended to Libya as well (amendment to the contract was signed by both parties in July 2012). There has been no change in the cooperation with Syria and the activities remain to be temporarily suspended until further notice from the Contracting Authority.

**Event organisation and management**

During the reported period, a number of project events have been organised. After the endorsement of the work plan 2012, a specific information sheet for each activity was developed and published on the project website.

The event management and coordination has been a key activity for the project coordination team. In order to adjust the content and delivery of the planned trainings and workshops, similarly structured feedback forms were introduced enabling the project managers to receive direct feedback from participants about the activities held (see template in Annex 5). After each event, relevant materials have been translated and put on the project website. Follow-up from the organised events is done systematically afterwards via emails, direct phone calls and the web portal. List of events organised during the reported period is in section 11 below.

One issue that should be mentioned about organising events in the partner countries, in Copenhagen and/or other locations has been the visa issuance, which has been taking a substantial amount of time to coordinate.

The activities table submitted to the Contracting Authority with the Inception report in January 2011 has been revised (Annex 1 covering January 2011-July 2014) in line with discussions during country visits, follow-up of activities conducted so far and identification of activities in the further project implementation. Timing of training and capacity building activities is tentative and would be further reframed following further discussions with the countries at the next Steering Committee meeting in November 2012.

**Staffing of the project team at EEA**

As of 15 September 2012, the project coordination team at EEA covers three Contract Agents (CAs – 2 Project Managers and 1 Project Officer) recruited under and covered by the ENPI-SEIS project budget, two Temporary Agents (TAs - Team Leader and Project Manager) covered by the EEA core budget, one National Expert (END) and an interimaire secretary.

Complete list of the EEA Project Coordination team with contacts is provided under section 9 below.

**Sub-contracting within the project in 2012**

Following an open tender process for awarding a Framework contract for support on implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (EEA/SES/10/001) that has taken place in early 2010, contracts were awarded in June 2010 to two international consortia led by:

- ZOI Environment network (Switzerland) – for SEIS support in ENPI East and Russia (Lot 1),

- Umweltbundesamt (UBA-Austria) – for SEIS support in ENPI South, Western Balkans and Turkey (Lot 2).

It is to be noted that the indicative budgets of the two lots in the above Framework contract was consumed in 2 rather than 4 years. Therefore, it has been decided to cease the Framework contract in June 2012 and in parallel to launch a new Framework Contract tendering procedure. This was brought to the attention of the Management Group during the teleconference in May 2012 and DG DEVCO has been invited to participate in the evaluation committee.

As a result from the evaluation, two contracts were awarded to the following consortia:

- ZOI Environment network (Switzerland) – for the ENPI East and Russia (Lot 1),

- Umweltbundesamt (UBA-Austria) – for the ENPI South and Western Balkans (Lot 2).

Within the provisions of the above-mentioned contractual arrangements, in planning further project activities, the EEA concluded the following specific contracts during the reported period:

- Specific contract No ENPI/2009/210-269 with UNECE: Supporting ENP East & Russia to participate in the work of the UNECE Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators in 2011;

- Specific contract No 3550/RO/B2012/EEA.54902 with UBA implementing Framework Contract EEA/SES/10/001 Lot 2: Organize and Facilitate ENPI-SEIS Expert Meetings and Related Workshops;

- Specific contract No 3540/ RO/B2012/EEA.54947 with ZOI implementing Framework Contract EEA/SES/10/001 Lot 1: To develop a feasibility study on data flows for selected indicators for ENPI East in the framework of the UNECE JTF;

- Specific contract No 3540/ RO/B2012/EEA.55016 with UBA implementing Framework Contract EEA/SES/10/001 Lot 2: Organising and facilitating ENPI-SEIS (East and South region) training, workshop and follow-up activities in support to the gradual implementation of the principles of a shared Environmental Information System (SEIS);

- Specific service contract No 3531/B2012/RO/EEA.55057 with ETC/ICM: Provision of technical support to ENPI-SEIS project in the development of H2020 indicators to be used towards regular reviews of the state of the environment of the Mediterranean Sea, and

the production of EEA-UNEP/MAP Mediterranean assessment report, including country assessment;

- Specific service contract No 3531/B2012/EEA.55069 with ETC/ACM: Provision of technical support to ENPI-SEIS project workshop being held as a joint activity between ENPI-SEIS project and the EU-funded Air Quality Governance (AQG) project; Contribution Agreement No. 3540/B2012/RO/EEA.55085 with UNEP/MAP: Providing technical support of UNEP/MAP to ENPI-SEIS project in the development of H2020 indicators, PRTR pilot exercise, SEIS development, production of EEA-UNEP/MAP Mediterranean assessment report, including country assessment; networking and communication.

The description of the specific activities undertaken within the above sub-contracts is presented in the activities under the specific areas in section 2 and 3 of the report.

In addition to these a number of contracts have been concluded to organise for the interpretation, technical equipment and related logistical facilities for meetings held in EEA premises in Copenhagen.

**Project monitoring**

In mid-June, the EEA has been informed that a consortium led by IBM Belgium has been awarded a Service contract for a 'Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system of the Implementation of Projects and Programmes of external aid financed by the European Union Lot 1 - ENPI'.

Within this framework the ENPI-SEIS project has been included for monitoring scheduled to take place in the 15 partner countries (excluding Syria) in July-August 2012. The main objective of the monitoring was to gather results-oriented information on projects in the field and to report on progresses in order to maintain and where possible improve the quality of external cooperation activities through timely, independent, well-targeted information on projects implementation.

The project team has informed all the project NFPs about the above and have requested their immediate assistance in supporting the monitors' missions to their countries, including organising relevant meetings with the key stakeholders involved in the project implementation at national level. To date, the EEA has not received any of the monitors' reports on the countries visited.

**Budget commitments and expenditure**

As of 15 September 2012, 63,7% of the total project budget (i.e. 3,663,636 of 5,746,500 EUR) has been committed, covering sub-contracting, salaries to staff and travel costs associated with missions to the countries. The payments made by 15 September 2011 come to 33.1% (i.e. 1,905,103.14 EUR) of the total budget.
Detailed overview of the budget expenditure is presented below.

Table 5.  Budget commitments, distributed per area and region (in EUR)

|  | ENP EAST | ENP SOUTH | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area 1. Indicators | 359,200 | 289,605 | 648,805 |
| Area 2. Data flows | 21,420 | 297,768 | 319,188 |
| Area 3. SEIS infrastructure | 403,927 | 646,306 | 1,050,233 |
| Area 4. Assessment | 0 | 165,000 | 165,000 |
| Area 5. Communication | 12,250 | 52,250 | 64,500 |
| Area 6. Networking and management | 688,775 | 727,135 | 1,415,910 |
|  | **1,485,572** | **2,178,064** | **3,663,636** |

Table 6.Budget payments, distributed per area and region (in Euro)

|  | ENP EAST | ENP SOUTH | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area 1. Indicators | 256,716.89 | 14,355.61 | 271,072.50 |
| Area 2. Data flows | 54,908.58 | 253.85 | 55,162.42 |
| Area 3. SEIS infrastructure | 344,609.05 | 273,414.90 | 618,023.94 |
| Area 4. Assessment | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Area 5. Communication | 32,451.30 | 27,673.00 | 60,214.30 |
| Area 6. Networking and management | 436,454.76 | 464,175.22 | 900,629.98 |
|  | **1,125,230.57** | **779,872.57** | **1,905,103.14** |

The commitments for the ENP South are higher than for the ENP East due to contribution agreement with UNEP/MAP that covers several activities until the end of 2013 in support of SEIS implementation in the Mediterranean area and the contract with ETC/ICM that covers the preparation of the assessment report for the Mediterranean. On the opposite, the payments are a bit higher for the East region due to the final payment of contracts with Zoi under the framework contract and with UNECE on the support to the JTF in 2011. With the new framework contract in place already in early September 2012 and the signed specific contracts with UNECE, UNEP/MAP and the ETC/ICM, it is expected that the payment schedule would be more balanced over the two regions.

## 9.  LIST OF EEA PROJECT COORDINATION TEAM

*(Status September 2012)*

**ENPI-SEIS Coordinator**

| *Name* | *Place* | *Contact details* |
|---|---|---|
| Gordon McInnes – *until 31 July 2012* | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Gordon.mcInnes@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3336 7137 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |
| Peder Jensen – *as of 1 August 2012* | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Peder.Jensen@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3336 7135 Fax: +45 3336 7128 |

**Key Staff**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Galina Georgieva Hristova – Team Leader | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Galina.Georgieva@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3336 7278 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |
| Dezsö Mikus – Project Manager | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Dezso.mikus@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3343 5964 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |
| Cécile Roddier-Quefelec – Project Manager | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Cecile.Roddier-Quefelec@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3343 5940 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |
| Erol Çavuş – Project Manager | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Erol.Cavus@eea.europa.eu Tel : +45 3343 5914 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |
| Saila Kumputie – Project Officer | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Saila.kumputie@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3343 5923 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |

**Interimaire secretary**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bokul Roy Chowdhury | European Environment Agency Kongens Nytorv 6 DK 1050 Copenhagen | Bokul.Chowdhury@eea.europa.eu Tel: +45 3343 5974 Fax: +45 3336 7197 |

## 10. LIST OF ENPI-SEIS MISSIONS AND MEETINGS

Below is a list of the conducted missions and meetings in the reported period by the ENPI-SEIS Project Coordination team and relevant EEA colleagues. Upcoming meetings and missions until the end of 2012 are also listed for completion.

**List of missions completed in the period 16 September 2011 – 15 September 2012**

| Date | Destination | Objective of the Mission | Name of the Attendee |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12-14 September 2011 | Rabat, Morocco | Kick-off of the US DOS/UNEP cooperation project with Morocco | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 21-23 September 2011 | Astana, Kazakhstan | 7th Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe | Jacqueline McGlade, Chris Steenmans, Katja Rosenbohm, Adriana Gheorghe, Arthur Girling, Elisabetta Scialanca, Ove Caspersen, Peter Kristensen, Stefan Ulrich Speck, Saila Kumputie, Svetlana Maenchen, Jana Tafi |
| 29 September 2011 | Brussels, Belgium | Eastern Partnership Platform 2, Panel on Environment and Climate Change | Galina Georgieva Hristova |
| 18-21 October 2011 | Geneva, Switzerland | Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators | Gordon McInnes, Galina Georgieva Hristova, Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, |
| 25-26 October 2011 | Beirut, Lebanon | ENPI-SEIS Country Visit | Ronan Uhel, Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Dezsö Gábor Mikus |
| 1-2 November 2011 | Tunis, Tunisia | ENPI-SEIS Country Visit | Ronan Uhel, Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Dezsö Gábor Mikus |
| 7-8 November 2011 | Kiev, Ukraine | ENPI-SEIS Country Visit | Gordon McInnes, Galina Georgieva Hristova, Milan Chrenko |
| 9-11 November 2011 | Moscow, Russia | ENPI-SEIS Country Visit | Gordon McInnes, Galina Georgieva Hristova, Nikolaj Bock |
| 28-30 November 2011 | Athens, Greece | UNEP/MAP Focal Point Meeting | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 7-8 December, 2011 | Brussels, Belgium | Kick Off and Steering Committee Sustainable Water Integrated Management Programme (SWIM) | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 21-23 February 2012 | Rabat, Morocco | Atelier national Evaluation Intégrée, US-DOS/UNEP Cooperation Project with Morocco | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 19-23 March 2012 | Beirut, Lebanon | ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Statistics and Accounts | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |

| Date | Location | Meeting | Participants |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11-13 April 2012 | Geneva, Switzerland | UNECE/EUROSTAT/EEA Workshop on Waste Statistics | Galina Georgieva Hristova, Erol Çavuş, Özgür Şaki |
| 18 April 2012 | Barcelona, Spain | ENPI-SEIS 1st meeting of Working Group on Environmental Indicators | Ronan Uhel, Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Claudette Spiteri (ETC) |
| 19 April 2012 | Barcelona, Spain | H2020 Steering Group meeting | Ronan Uhel, Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 14-15 May 2012 | Bern, Switzerland | Task Force on Emission Inventories & Projections (TFEIP), Bern | Gordon McInnes |
| 24-25 May 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey | Bilateral Meeting with Black Sea Commission | Galina Georgieva Hristova, Trine Christiansen, Erol Çavuş |
| 11-14 June 2012 | Athens | ENPI-SEIS/H2020 Capacity Building/MEP - Training Improving capacity for monitoring Industrial Emissions | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 23-27 June 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey | INSPIRE Conference – Side Event | Chris Steenmans, Darja Lihteneger, Dezsö Gábor Mikus, Erol Çavuş, Giacomo De'Liguori Carino, Peter Kjeld, Søren Roug, Stefan Jensen, Eugenija Schuren, Saila Kumputie |
| 4-6 July 2012 | Geneva, Switzerland | UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators | Gordon McInnes, Milan Chrenko, Erol Çavuş |
| 10 September 2012 | Rabat, Morocco | High level consultation meeting with Moroccan authorities on implementation of water accounts, UNSD, UNECA-North Africa Office | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 11-13 September 2012 | Rabat, Morocco | ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Accounts for French speaking countries | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 11-13 September 2012 | Almaty, Kazakhstan | EUROSTAT/ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Statistics | Erol Çavuş, Nihat Zal |

**List of ENPI-SEIS meetings held from 16 September 2011 – 15 September 2012**

| Date | Location | Meeting | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24-25 November 2011 | Copenhagen, Denmark | ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee Meeting | |
| 1 December 2011 | Copenhagen, Denmark | Workshop on Water Accounts derived from Water Accounts at EEA | |
| 19-23 March 2012 | Beirut, Lebanon | ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Statistics and Accounts | |
| 11-13 April 2012 | Geneva, Switzerland | UNECE/EUROSTAT/EEA Workshop on Waste Statistics | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 April 2012 | Barcelona, Spain | ENPI-SEIS South 1st meeting of Working Group on Environmental Indicators | |
| 18-19 April 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | ENPI-SEIS East workshop on Metadata and Reportnet of the Working Group on Information Technology | |
| 24 April | Copenhagen, Denmark | Study Tour MEDSTAT Energy to the European Environment Agency | |
| 22-23 May 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | ENPI-SEIS South workshop on Metadata and Reportnet of the Working Group on Information Technology | |
| 24-25 May 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey | Bilateral Meeting with Black Sea Commission | |
| 4-5 June 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | H2020 Review, Monitoring and Research Subgroup | |
| 6 June 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | Meeting with Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection | |
| 11-14 June 2012 | Athens | ENPI-SEIS/H2020 Capacity Building/MEP – Training Improving capacity for monitoring Industrial Emissions | |
| 23-27 June 2012 | Istanbul, Turkey | INSPIRE Conference – Side Event | |
| 2-3 July 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | Coordination meeting with UNEP/MAP | |
| 4-6 July 2012 | Geneva, Switzerland | UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators | |
| 10 September 2012 | Rabat, Morocco | High level consultation meeting with Moroccan authorities on implementation of water accounts, UNSD, UNECA-North Africa Office | |
| 11-13 September 2012 | Rabat, Morocco | ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Accounts for French speaking countries | |
| 11-13 September 2012 | Almaty, Kazakhstan | EUROSTAT/ENPI-SEIS Workshop on Water Statistics | |
| **Upcoming missions in the period 16 September 2012 – December 2012** | | | |
| 19-21 September 2012 | Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | ENPI-SEIS South and East Working Group on Information Technology - Workshop on Database Streamlining and Data Exchange formats | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Dezsö Gábor Mikus, Milan Chrenko |
| 24-26 September 2012 | Chisinau, Moldova | Training Workshop for ENPI East region on Emission Inventory organized in cooperation with Air Quality Governance Project | Erol Çavuş |

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| 2 October 2012 | Venice, Italy | International Conference securing competitiveness for the Mediterranean, UNESCO, Global Footprint Network | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |
| 29 October – 2 November 2012 | Geneva, Switzerland | 6th session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators; 13th session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; 2nd Workshop on Measuring Sustainable Development | Peder Jensen, Erol Çavuş |
| 17-18 October, 2012 | Brussels, Belgium | Steering Committee Sustainable Water Integrated Management Programme Support Mechanism (SWIM/SM) | Cécile Roddier-Quefelec |

## Upcoming meetings in the period 16 September 2012 – December 2012

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|---|---|---|
| 10-11 October | Copenhagen, Denmark | ENPI-SEIS South Working Group on Environmental Indicators |
| 21-22 November 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee Meeting |
| 20-22 November 2012 | Antalya, Turkey | Workshop on Ecosystem Services Assessment and Capital Accounting for Turkey, West Balkans and Caucasus Countries |

## Trainings 16 September 2011 – 15 September 2012

| Date | Destination | Objective of the Mission | Name of the Attendee |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30-31 January 2012 | Maastricht, The Netherlands | Project Proposal to Final Report : Formal Writing in English for Public Officials | Saila Kumputie |
| 28-30 March 2012 | Gyongyos, Hungary | The Use of State of the Art Remote Sensing and Geo-Locating Application in Practice | Dezsö Gábor Mikus |
| 14-15 May 2012 | Copenhagen, Denmark | Project Management for the ENPI-SEIS coordination team | Galina Georgieva Hristova; Cécile Roddier-Quefelec, Saila Kumputie, Dezsö Gábor Mikus, Erol Çavuş |