

## **ANNEX II: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

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

#### **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **1.1. Geographical area and target groups to be covered**

The geographical area covered by the project is laid out in regulation EC/1638/2006 establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), namely the following countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

Representatives from the Central Asian countries may also be invited to participate to regional and sub-regional events where there is clear added value in co-operation across the Neighbourhood/Central Asia border. However, funds from this contract cannot be used to cover the costs for their participation.

The target groups will be the ministries, government agencies and statistical offices responsible for the production, storage, and dissemination of environmental data and information.

##### **1.2. Contracting Authority**

The Contracting Authority is the European Commission, DG EuropeAid (AIDCO), Unit A.3 – Centralised Operations for Europe, the Mediterranean and Middle-East –, in close coordination with the concerned EC Delegations and Directorates General DG External Relations (RELEX), DG Environment (ENV), DG Eurostat (ESTAT), DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), DG Maritime Affairs (MARE), DG Research (RTD).

##### **1.3. Environmental protection within the European Neighbourhood Policy**

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. The European Neighbourhood Policy applies to the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea – Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine. Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, the relations are instead developed through a Strategic Partnership covering four “common spaces”.

The ENP builds upon existing bilateral agreements between the EU and the partner in question (Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, or Association Agreements in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) and on the regional Barcelona Process, launched by the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in 1995. The ENP was recently reinforced both in the South by launching the Union for the Mediterranean and in the East by launching the Eastern Partnership.

The EC assistance to the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy is provided by a single instrument – the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which replaced the former geographical programmes TACIS (for the Eastern neighbours and Russia) and MEDA (for

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the Mediterranean neighbours within the Barcelona process). Within the ENPI Eastern and Southern regional indicative programmes (RIP) 2007-2010, environmental protection is one of the key priorities. The two regions are facing common as well as distinct challenges. Key issues in the RIP East are water, forestry, climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, environmental awareness, and civil society cooperation. Environmental concerns within the Southern ENPI countries of the Barcelona process focus on pollution prevention and control (pollution of water by sewage/industrial effluents/marine transport, management of waste and chemicals), sustainable management of natural resources (water, biodiversity, land planning), and climate change.

Environmental issues stay on the agendas of both the Union for the Mediterranean with its aim to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020 and the Eastern Partnership, as part of which the European Commission suggested to promote good environmental governance as one of the six flagship initiatives.

Improving the availability of reliable environmental information by strengthening environmental monitoring and information management is critical for environmental policy-making at all levels, from local to global. It is also relevant for supporting policymaking in related policy areas (such as health and poverty alleviation), although linking environmental information to development information is a particular challenge. Indeed, improving the quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information is a critical factor for making progress in any environment strategy. Good and timely information is needed to support policy development and implementation across different policy areas, guide allocation of financial resources, support environmental democracy and raise environmental awareness, and to support international negotiations and implementation of international agreements dealing with transboundary issues. Improving environmental information is in itself a key commitment under multiple international processes. It is demanded by the Aarhus convention, but also in order to be able to fulfil reporting obligations to international agreements, such as the several Rio and UNECE conventions. Indeed, a weak environmental analytical and information base often acts as a barrier to achieving multilateral progress in dealing with global and regional environmental problems. Improving environmental information management also contributes to enhancing governance. Public access to quality environmental information helps to promote accountability of policy-makers and is a key tool for making related public services more responsive to user needs.<sup>1</sup>

Environmental information deals with the quality and quantity of environmental resources (the state of the environment), but also with human activities affecting the state of the environment (pressures), the impact of environmental degradation on human health, economic productivity and other variables affecting wellbeing (impacts), and societal responses, including government measures that try to improve environmental quality, reduce pressures on the environment, and cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used in environmental decision-making.

In line with this, environmental monitoring and information management was identified as one key objective and area for action in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) environment strategy adopted during the 5<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2003 and confirmed during the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in 2007 in Belgrade. It was also recognised by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo 2006 to be an integral part of the Horizon 2020 initiative<sup>2</sup> to reduce the most significant pollution sources focussing on industrial emissions, municipal waste and urban waste water, responsible for up to 80% of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. These political decisions are well reflected in the regional indicative programmes East and South which mention environmental monitoring and data and information management to be important tools where further action is needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): Policies for a better environment: Progress in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Paris, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2006) 475 final - Establishing an Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean.

## 1.4. Current state of affairs in environmental information

### 1.4.1. Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA)<sup>3</sup>

EECCA countries have a long history of collecting environmental data. These efforts involve a broad array of institutions – such as hydro-meteorological and geological services, environmental inspectorates, water and forestry committees, and health ministries. But institutional co-ordination is weak, at best, and often results in incompatible data. To start solving this problem, inter-agency monitoring commissions have been established in Belarus and Ukraine. Little co-ordination appears to be taking place in most other EECCA countries.

Little methodological work appears to have been carried out across the environmental information field, whether on valuing natural resources, assessing the environmental risk of economic activities or setting ambient standards (current ambient quality standards cannot be measured given the absence of automated stations). Chief methodological shortcomings, particularly in the area of monitoring, relate to sampling strategies and quality assurance and control procedures, often non-existent.

Overall, progress in environmental monitoring is mixed. There has been little progress in monitoring priority setting, with the exception of Belarus. Progress in harmonisation has also been slow – for example, air quality data generated by hydrometeorological services and ministries of health are still generally incompatible, since they use different equipment and methods. In most cases, existing observation networks have not been reviewed since their creation decades ago and do not meet the requirements of current national regulations. Some significant efforts are nonetheless being made. Armenia and Azerbaijan have developed, or are in the process of developing, monitoring plans. Armenia, Belarus, and the Russian Federation have installed a number of new air quality monitoring stations. Funding for monitoring has increased seven-fold in the Russian Federation, and Armenia has earmarked funds for air and water monitoring. Thanks to these efforts, monitoring of fine particulate matter (PM10) has started in the region – in Moscow since 2004 and in Minsk since 2006. In addition to collecting ambient data, collecting emissions data is crucial for the environmental information system to produce usable results. Some, but limited, progress, has been made in the area of self-monitoring and self-reporting by enterprises.

Significant environmental information gaps persist – chiefly in the areas of biodiversity, water discharges, energy balances, and transport-related emissions. No progress can be seen in establishing inventories for natural resources. Data storage and management are still a major issue. Environmental data are not always stored using electronic media, databases being incomplete and generally inaccessible.

Although in many but not all EECCA countries the publication of the national state-of-the-environment reports serve as a driver for environmental data co-ordination and exchange, this has not yet resulted in the creation of centralised electronic databases. Environmental statistics data are frequently published in statistical yearbooks and specialised environmental statistical compendiums. However, with few exceptions, these data are unavailable on the Internet. Lack of common data interpretation and exchange of results make performing full assessments difficult. For example, state-of-the-environment reports do not relate emissions to ambient concentrations. As a result, monitoring data are rarely used in developing policies and programmes. Although indicators exist, they are hardly used anywhere for policy analysis or linked to policy targets.

Efforts for environmental information communication are underway in several EECCA countries. Georgia has opened a communications department and many communications materials, such as brochures, are being produced – these efforts, however, are not always well directed. Aarhus centres, such as those in Baku, Minsk and Yerevan, appear to have performed rather well in the

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<sup>3</sup> The bases of this section are the findings of the OECD report published in 2007 as input to the Belgrade ministerial conference.

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area of information dissemination. There has been much progress in website based communications in EECCA region. Several countries in the region have developed websites to provide environmental information to the public. For example, Azerbaijan has launched an environmental electronic information centre where a state-of-the-environment bulletin is posted daily. Yet these websites are not fully used for communicating environmental information, such as statistical data, environmental analyses, strategies or programme implementation reports.

### 1.4.2. Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries<sup>4</sup>

The Mediterranean region exhibits important gaps of knowledge regarding reliable data on levels and loads of pollutants, information on issues of transboundary concern, inventories of specific ecosystems and hot spots and regional cooperation. Even though the information is collected from national diagnostic analysis reports, in most cases it comes from case studies and research programmes rather than comprehensive national monitoring programmes. Overall, the information about the environmental state, trends and pressures is rather poor in the Mediterranean region as compared to the North and Baltic Seas. In particular, information for the South and East Mediterranean is generated through scattered, inconsistent and sometimes unreliable investigation programmes.

Data on transfer of loads via air-sea interaction are not well addressed and when they are, the spatial coverage is very heterogeneous. For example, data on hazardous substances and nutrients in aerosols and rainwater exist for the north western Mediterranean since the late 1980s, as opposed to the South western Mediterranean where there is little information. Data on riverine discharges are very scarce. Most rivers, even though they are very important, are not adequately monitored for loads of organic and inorganic pollutants. This implies lack of long time-series data. As far as the urban-industrial discharges are concerned, the information so far collected is the result of an estimation programme based on emission factors in the framework of the preparation of the national diagnostic analysis reports of the impacts of land-based sources and the national baseline budget of releases from land-based point sources.. Nevertheless, the collection of input data from point sources is considered a breakthrough by the Mediterranean countries.

There is furthermore a need for baseline studies along with the archiving of the data in the form of inventories and data banks to assess biodiversity. The more sensitive coastal habitat types in the Mediterranean are defined and partly mapped (Spain, France, Italy and Greece). This could be accomplished for all Mediterranean countries if a protocol for rapid assessment surveys were developed and agreed upon. Based on the changes in habitat distribution of a few 'key species', a clear indication of environmental degradation could be discerned and quantified.

### 1.4.3. Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)<sup>5</sup> for EU<sup>6</sup> and beyond

Timely environmental information can make a difference for a good environmental governance and protection. Environmental challenges such as adapting to climate change, managing ecosystems and natural resources in a sustainable manner, protecting biodiversity, preventing and managing environmental crises such as floods, forest fires, and water scarcity depend on the assessment of data from a variety of sectors and sources.

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<sup>4</sup> The findings of this section are based on an EEA report published in 2006 in Copenhagen: 'Priority issues in the Mediterranean environment'.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2008) 46 Final - Communication from the Commission: Towards a Shared Environmental Information System. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0046:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>6</sup> See also EC web-site: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seis/index.htm>



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A major challenge in Europe and globally is to progressively organise the vast array of already collected environmental data and information in a coherent and integrated "system of systems" for environment information based on access, sharing and interoperability.

To address this challenge, the European Commission published in February 2008 the Communication "Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)".

SEIS is a concept based on a number of important principle:

- information should be managed as close as possible to its source;
- information is provided once and shared with others for many purposes;
- data and information should be readily accessible to end-users to enable them to access it timely;
- information should be made available to the public after due consideration of the appropriate level of aggregation, given possible confidentiality constraints, and at national level in the national language(s);

According to the SEIS concept, the proposed system will be a decentralized but integrated network of public information providers sharing environmental data and information. Environmentally-related data and information will be stored in electronic databases throughout the European Union and beyond. These databases would be interconnected virtually and be compatible with each other. SEIS will offer an efficient electronic system to fulfil their reporting obligations on EU environmental policies and legislation, avoiding the duplication, streamlining of data flows, and reducing monitoring and reporting costs. Member States and EU institutions will be able to dispose of more coherent environmental information and will be facilitated in drafting and implementing more effective environmental policies. European citizens will also take advantage of useful environmental information in their language and they will be enabled to make informed decisions on their environment and influence public policy.

SEIS will progressively be built on existing infrastructure and the experience with the implementation of the INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive<sup>7</sup>. Published in February 2007, INSPIRE is working on geospatial data interoperability, data sharing and data discovery, creating the conditions for certain kinds of spatial information to be collected, stored, manipulated and made available for wide public use in a more standardised computer-based environment. When fully implemented, it will enable data from one Member State to be seamlessly combined cross-border with data from all other States. This is particularly important for environmental activities such as spatial planning, pollution control, environmental protection (flood control, water management, extreme weather event planning and many others). While the SEIS Communication focuses primarily on developing SEIS within the EU, the above principles will also be promoted in the context of relations with third countries. In particular, efforts are made to ensure that SEIS will be open to participation from accession candidate and EU neighbouring countries.

As most environmental issues are of a transboundary nature and many have a global scope, they are most effectively addressed through cooperation and partnerships with organisations which have a global or regional outreach.

One of the goals of the European Commission and EEA's current efforts in building partnerships with UNEP and other relevant UN bodies and structures (UNDP, UNECE, UNGA, WCMC, etc.) is to expand SEIS elements and enlarge the cooperation network at regional scale. Beyond the clear benefits on Member States obligations to European legislation, SEIS will also have knock-on effects on national administrations reporting requirements to international conventions, many of which cover similar geographical areas as EU legislation (e.g. UNECE Convention on Long-range

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<sup>7</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007, establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

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Transboundary Air Pollution; Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; Barcelona Convention, etc).

The capability for environmental monitoring and assessment will be further supported through GMES<sup>8</sup> (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security). GMES is a European initiative for the implementation of information services dealing with environment and security. GMES is based on observation data received from Earth Observation satellites and ground based information. This information will be supplied by two types of services: the Core Services (Emergency response to natural, technological and humanitarian disasters, Land monitoring, Marine core services) providing data and information common to a broad range of policy-relevant application areas and the Downstream Services (wide range of commercial and industry inputs) tailored to specific applications at global or local levels.

A system like SEIS will contribute greatly to international initiatives and programmes for collecting, managing, and using environmental data and information such as GEOSS<sup>9</sup> (Global Earth Observation System of Systems), International Conventions, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP's Earth Watch, and others. It will be a useful tool in support to global environmental and sustainable development governance.

### 1.5. Related programmes and activities

#### 1.5.1. Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA)

Within the EfE process of UN-ECE, the EEA has already provided twice an extensive publication containing data and analysis of the state of the environment in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The first one was published in 2003 on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> EfE Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2003. For that purpose, a Working Group on Environmental Monitoring (WGEM) within the UN-ECE Committee on Environmental Policy was established. The objectives of this group are to strengthen existing networks of environmental monitoring and information in Europe, to promote coordination between these networks and, to build capacity for monitoring information in those countries where support is needed, particularly in EECCA.

A grant agreement was concluded in 2002 between the European Commission and EEA on strengthening environmental information and observation capacity in EECCA. To implement a part of this agreement, UNECE and EEA set up a project "Support to the activities of the UN-ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA)". In this framework work was initiated in the field of indicator development and streamlining for the EECCA region following the EEA model. Furthermore, the WGEMA network contributed to the preparation of the Kiev assessment. A follow-up project "Preparation of EECCA indicator guide and support to UNECE/WGEMA activity within the framework of the preparation of the fourth assessment Belgrade report" was implemented in 2006-2007. It was a part of a larger European Commission TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) project "Support to the European Environment Agency data collection in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries". This new project built on the previous results and helped finalise for the Belgrade conference, apart from the Belgrade assessment, a methodological guide for indicator production in

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<sup>8</sup> COM(2001) 609 Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Outline GMES EC Action Plan (Initial period: 2001-2003);

COM(2004) 65 Final - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Establishing a GMES capacity by 2008 - (Action plan 2004-2008)

COM(2005) 565 Final - Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: GMES: From concept to reality

COM(2007) 212 final (European Space Policy);

COM(2008) 748 final (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): we care for a safer planet)

<sup>9</sup> See "The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan" adopted 16 February 2005 [link: <http://www.earthobservations.org/documents.shtml> ]

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the EECCA region<sup>10</sup> complemented by a trial compendium<sup>11</sup>. In January 2009, the UNECE Committee for Environmental Policy endorsed the proposal put forward jointly by WGEMA and the Conference of European Statisticians to set up a Joint intersectoral task force on environmental indicators. The aim is to further build on the work done and assist countries from the EECCA region in the production and usage of the indicators endorsed in Belgrade at national and regional levels.

### 1.5.2. Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries

Within the Horizon 2020 initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea, a steering group and three thematic sub-groups were established, one on review, monitoring, and research coordinated by EEA. Its three main tasks are to coordinate the actions of the research component of Horizon 2020, to develop a coherent scorecard and indicator process for Horizon 2020, and to coordinate the work of the EEA, Eurostat, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) etc. toward improving knowledge regarding the Mediterranean environment.

Continuous monitoring of the state of the Mediterranean environment as part of MAP under the auspices of UNEP is one of the four objectives of the regional activity centre (RAC) Plan Bleu in Sophia Antipolis within its intervention framework 2007-2015. More precisely, Plan Bleu aims to identify, collect, and process on a permanent basis and in a continuous manner environmental data as well as economic and social information useful to stakeholders and decision makers. Moreover, the RAC for monitoring and research of marine pollution (MEDPOL) in Athens collects data on natural – oceanographic, chemical, and biological parameters. An important role is played also by PAP/RAC (Priority Actions Programme – Regional Activity Centre), the Centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan based in Croatia, dedicated to advocating and implementing the ICZM<sup>12</sup> approach in the Mediterranean. For over 30 years PAP/RAC has advised regional countries on ICZM, and has helped them in establishing the legal and institutional basis for the implementation of ICZM at the national and local levels. After the adoption of the ICZM protocol, PAP/RAC has the responsibility of its implementation for the Mediterranean region.

All these actions are in line with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted by the parties of the Barcelona Convention in 2005. MAP has proposed to establish a shared environmental and sustainable development information system for the Mediterranean region, InfoMAP. It will be based on the SEIS concept and will make use of tools and technologies which already exist at the European level and can be customised.

Under the EU Marine Strategy (EMS) and the later adopted directive, a working group led by the EEA was set up (EMMA = European Marine Monitoring and Assessment) which aims at fostering the development of a coherent framework for monitoring and reporting. Marine waters under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of EU Member States of the European Union include waters in the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean, including the waters surrounding the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands. Members of the working group come mostly from the EU Member States, European and international institutions.

The Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) was established in 1992 as an inter-governmental organization with diplomatic status. Its strategic objective is to build a qualified and responsible human resource base, capable of addressing the complex array of environmental challenges and concerns, as a commitment to a sustainable future through collective action, reform and renewal.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2007/ece/ece.belgrade.conf.2007.inf.6.e.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> [http://ims.eionet.europa.eu/IMS/ISpecs/list\\_content?listtype=ISpecification&filter\\_code=EECCA](http://ims.eionet.europa.eu/IMS/ISpecs/list_content?listtype=ISpecification&filter_code=EECCA)

<sup>12</sup> ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management protocol). The ICZM protocol under the Barcelona Convention was adopted and signed by the Contracting Parties in January 2008.

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SMAP RMSU CH - Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme, Regional Management and Support Unit Clearing House, was launched in 1997 as a regional environmental project in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The Clearing House (CH) is a project in the SMAP framework for providing an open access, web-based information system designed to facilitate access to and exchange of environmental information in the Mediterranean region. The project ended in December 2008.

The Euro-Mediterranean programme for statistical cooperation MEDSTAT II covers nine thematic areas among which one is on environmental statistics. MEDSTAT II focussed on environmental statistical data, typical monitoring data were only exceptionally dealt with (publication on biodiversity). MEDSTAT II has worked considerably on environmental accounts and water accounts. The latter was based on works of UNSD and Australia and concentrated on water quantity with the result that water data networks in the nine ENP South countries were created. Other activities addressed country-specific issues, for example the estimation of air emissions, the development of sustainable development indicators, and a pilot study on water and tourism. In general, MEDSTAT II put a strong emphasis on creating synergies by bringing together the relevant people from the concerned statistical offices, ministries, and agencies in the partner countries. Within the project, a list of variables containing data to be exchanged with Eurostat was agreed upon. Some countries recently signed memoranda of understanding with Eurostat on a continuing exchange of data after the end of the programme (in April 2009). As part of the IT component of the programme, a Management and Information System (MIS) on the basis of Eurostat's SAM tool (Statistical Administration and Management) was provided. MIS/SAM is supposed to replace the older ECHEMS system. SAM is owned by the Commission and freeware, but not open source. SAM is not SEIS compliant. MEDSTAT II ends in September 2009 and the follow-up project MEDSTAT III is expected to start in early 2010. It will focus on a reduced number of thematic areas: agriculture, energy, migration, social statistics, trade in goods and services/balance of payments, transport.

### 1.5.3. Western and Central Europe

Overall, the European capacity to access and manage the wide range of information and services required for environmental management is still fragmented and suffers from considerable heterogeneity in terms of organisation, system architecture, technical implementation and data structure as well as data access policy. The challenge is to interconnect the many information sources and to build an integrated and dynamic information system for environmental management. Currently, activities regarding integrated assessment and reporting on the state and outlook of the environment increasingly rely on spatial information, including remote sensing data. Current technology allows to build integrated information systems where environmental institutions and service providers can share data and information without barriers, irrespective of the issue (e.g. water, air, soil, climate change), mandate (local, sub-regional, regional, or global), technology (in situ or satellite monitoring), language or location.

In dialogue with the Member States, the EU has recently agreed upon the concept of a Shared Environmental Information System for Europe (SEIS). The scope of SEIS is to establish an integrated and sustained environmental information system to improve the sharing of data within EU and beyond. Such an information system should lead to an improvement in both the quality of environmental data and information, and in its management access, use and dissemination.<sup>13</sup> Among the several hundred environmental indicators identified by EEA/EIONET, the EEA management board approved a core set of indicators (CSI) in March 2004.<sup>14</sup> The set has been established for three main purposes: to provide a manageable and stable basis for indicator-based reporting by the EEA; to prioritise improvements in the quality and geographical coverage of data

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<sup>13</sup> European Environment Agency (EEA): Europe's environment: The fourth assessment. Copenhagen, 2007.

<sup>14</sup> <http://themes.eea.europa.eu/IMS/CSI>

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flows, especially EIONET (European environment information and observation network) priority data flows; and, to streamline EEA/EIONET's contributions to other European and global indicator initiatives, for example, EU structural indicators, EU sustainable development indicators and OECD environment indicators.

On 1 February 2008, the European Commission published a Communication on a Shared Environmental information System (SEIS) for Europe<sup>5</sup>. The EEA has a crucial role to play in implementing SEIS. The Commission has committed to draw up with Member States and the EEA during 2008 a detailed implementation plan for achieving the objectives outlined in the Communication. This implementation plan will provide details on how SEIS will be put in place, taking into account its associated costs and benefits. In addition to more technical aspects, this plan will also cover issues of a legal, financial, organisational, and procedural nature. EU financial support to complement national and regional financing to implement SEIS will come from the Research Framework Programmes, the LIFE Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the Structural Funds. In July 2008 under the Union for Mediterranean process, EU adopted a Communication<sup>15</sup> where SEIS extension to the Mediterranean region is clearly mentioned<sup>16</sup>.

### 1.6. EEA cooperation with Neighbours<sup>17</sup>

#### 1.6.1. Eastern Neighbours

The ENP East partner countries have a long tradition of monitoring and collecting environmental data and information and also a long-standing cooperation with the EEA, stemming in particular from the preparation of four pan-European assessment reports within the context of the UNECE-led “Environment for Europe” process. However, major challenges still exist regarding the management of these data and information.

To this end, the development and gradual implementation of SEIS for the region, in line with the EU approach, is regarded as desirable and appropriate. This can facilitate the establishment of relevant data flows and enable the production and maintenance of a core set of environmental indicators (CSI) for the region, which is comparable and compatible with the CSI of the EEA and its member countries. The indicator work could be based on the EECCA methodological guides, which were developed with the support of UNECE and UNEP within the TACIS framework. A former EEA project funded through the TACIS programme provided technical assistance in the field of data collection and reporting (“Support to the EEA Data Collection in EECCA”).

The improvement of capacities in data management at national level requires a broad collaboration among the national competent authorities, and particularly with national statistical offices. The establishment of an environmental information system for the region in line with the European approach (SEIS) could provide reliable data and information and indicators as a basis for evaluating progress of the state of the environment at various levels (from regional to pan-European) and for supporting the implementation of various national and international commitments and targets. A report on the state of the environment in the East ENP region is envisaged, linked to the EEA’s five-year assessment process (The European Environment: State and Outlook).

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<sup>15</sup> COM (2008) 318 final - [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/euromed/docs/com08\\_319\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/docs/com08_319_en.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Three main components will be developed: support to the implementation of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and Promotion of Sound Environmental Governance, support to pollution reduction investments and set up a Mediterranean Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

<sup>17</sup> Including Central Asia

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### **1.6.2. Southern Neighbours**

Within the H2020 initiative, the EEA has been called upon to support the development of a sustainable Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism (MERM-MED), in line with the concept and principles of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), focussing on three priority areas: municipal waste, wastewater treatment and industrial emissions. EEA has been requested to design, in cooperation with relevant partners and based on existing ongoing initiatives, a coherent data flow, indicator and assessment process as well as a framework for regular indicator-based analyses, including a “scorecard”, to compare and measure progress across the region.

To make coherent assessments of pollution levels in the region and to track trends, it is necessary to streamline the existing data flows and network infrastructures. In this respect, a close cooperation with regional bodies and particularly with UNEP/MAP is crucial, also considering its experience in working with indicators developed within the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

As for the East, data, information and indicators will be the basis for an assessment of the state of the environment across the region and of progress made by the partner countries within the H2020 framework. They will also serve to support the implementation of various national, regional and international commitments and targets, in particular the Barcelona Convention.

Based on a regional cooperation, a first biennial synthesis progress report on the Horizon 2020 priorities is already planned. A broader assessment process could be developed and linked to the EEA’s five-year regular assessment process (The European Environment: State and Outlook).

### **1.7. EEA cooperation with Eurostat**

The present project is contributing to the gradual development of a SEIS compliant system in the ENP regions by bringing and linking together in a joint partnership (in a limited number of thematic areas) the environmental and statistical networks, as key holders of the environmental data and information. EEA has a long experience in working with environmental data and information provided through the environmental networks in EEA member countries. Gradually, and on a project basis EEA extended these activities to South Eastern Europe countries and to a lesser extend to the former EECCA region under the TACIS support programme. In the field of environmental statistics, Eurostat plays a key role at the Community level. Some key activities in this area have been gradually and partially extended to South Eastern Europe (SEE) and ENP regions with the assistance of various EU funding instruments. Among the most relevant long-term activities carried out in the ENP region the Medstat programme (I and II, with a dedicated environmental component) played an important role in building capacities, developing networks, sharing and promoting common methodologies and guidelines for data collection and reporting and facilitating statistical data exchange. Since this work will be concluded this year and in order to retain and build further some key elements of the work done, a close cooperation between EEA and Eurostat is envisaged. Furthermore, in ENP East regions, Eurostat was also involved over the years in capacity building activities and support to the national statistics. Having a clear overview of the work done, institutional networks involved and key results achieved, especially in relation with key transboundary issues (such as air, water, waste, etc.) will ensure a more targeted approach towards the tasks foreseen under the present project.

## **2. OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE & EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **2.1. Overall objective**

The overall objective of the project is to promote the protection of the environment in the countries of the ENP area. In order to achieve this overall objective, the project will aim towards a set of measurable and specific objectives as described below.

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### 2.2. Purpose

The specific objectives of this project covering the ENP regions (East and South) are as follows:

1. to 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. to 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. to set up national and regional environmental information systems in the countries of the ENP area that are in line with the EU Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), and
4. to track progress of the regional environmental initiatives (ENP, Eastern Partnership, Horizon 2020).

### 2.3. Activities and Results to be achieved

The table below summarises the activities and expected results which are described in detail under point 55 and 66.

Main activity areas	Timing	Expected Outputs ENP SOUTH	Expected Outputs ENP EAST
1 INDICATORS	Annual update on line via EEA IMS (see objective 1)	Regionally agreed lists of indicators for the priority areas of H2020 (CSI for H2020)	Updated and refined CSI
2 DATA FLOWS	Annual reporting following EEA priority data flows (see objective 2)	Regular data flows in place for the three priority areas of H2020	Regular data flows established for a selected number of topics
3 SEIS	Entire project period with several milestones (see objective 3).	Building SEIS through gradual integration of existing data and information systems	Building SEIS through gradual integration of existing data and information systems
4 ASSESSMENT	Deliverables according to well-defined policy milestones (see objective 4)	Trained experts in the field of environmental reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methods and tools  Biennial synthesis progress report  5-year progress report under H2020.	Trained experts in the field of environmental reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methods and tools  Reporting contribution covering the identified priority areas as part of EEA reporting cycle
5 COMMUNICATION	Continuous (see	Newsletters	Newsletters

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	objective 5)	Indicators and reports produced available on line	Indicators and reports produced available on line
6 COORDINATION	Continuous	Environment and statistics networks engaged Improved partnerships with regional and international institutions and bodies	Environment and statistics networks engaged Improved partnerships with regional and international institutions and bodies

### 3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

#### 3.1. Assumptions underlying the project intervention

##### General

- The prerequisite for reaching the project objectives is a strong and continuous political support from the partner countries governments at regional, national, and local level. This furthermore requires good coordination between the different regional, national, and local institutions and partners involved, especially between the environmental and statistical networks.

##### For South, specifically:

- support from international partners leading actors with legal responsibility in collecting and disseminating environmental information at the regional level (e.g. UNEP/MAP)
- good coordination and clear division of tasks between various/complementary initiatives in the region (various reporting activities)

##### Support from Eurostat by providing:

- advice and assistance within the framework of the project management group and Steering committee;
- expert advice, whenever relevant to capacity building activities organised in the ENP regions (in particular related to indicator and data – areas 1 and 2);
- information on the statistical networks (institutions, relevant contacts etc.) previously involved in capacity building activities in the ENP regions such as MEDSTAT;
- access to the data and indicators produced for the ENP countries or regions in the thematic areas covered by the present project activities.

#### 3.2. Risks

Lack of political stability and possible tensions between the countries of the region may negatively affect and possibly jeopardise the satisfactory implementation of the activities.

The cooperation and sharing of information among various institutional partners at national level is relatively weak with risks of efforts' duplication, restricted access to the available data and information or competing interests. Furthermore, potential risks or difficulties can be also encountered in the use of available or provided data due to confidentiality or security reasons. In case that the data are available and accessible for the purpose of the project, the data accountability



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rests with the data holders. The risk that the data accountability is not ensured by the data holders needs to be seriously considered.

There is also a lack of financial resources in environmental monitoring and information management, for example for upgrading monitoring equipment and computer networks.

Cultural barriers pose an additional risk. These can include attitudes that see information only as an instrument of power, requiring secrecy, so that the administration is not willing to share information with the public.

Lack of demand for environmental information from policy-makers is a major issue. Information is not always considered to be a management tool. There is a latent conflict between “monitors” (who focus on collecting data for research and databases) and “communicators” (who put the emphasis on getting information that is truly useful).

### 4. STAKEHOLDERS AND POSSIBLE PARTNERS

The target groups will be the ministries, government agencies and statistical offices responsible for the production, storage, and dissemination of environmental data. In particular the work will be carried out together with:

- the ministries of environment and their related institutions responsible for data collection, assessment and reporting (in particular those holding data relevant for international/regional compliance under various agreements or of transboundary nature);
- the national statistical institutes and environmental data providers of the Partner Countries (previously involved in environmental statistics work including capacity building under various EU funding mechanisms)

**Partners in the implementation of the project are as follows:**

#### 1) For the management and steering of the project

- **Group of Four** (DG ENV, Eurostat, JRC and EEA) for the overall coordination and steering of the project based on the tasks and responsibilities of each partner in relation to environmental and statistical information, networks, thematic responsibilities (data centers) etc. The Group of Four members alongside other relevant Commission services and the EEA will be part of the management group of the project (see section 10.3).

#### 2) For the effective execution of the various project components

- **UNEP/MAP (United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan<sup>18</sup>) and its operational structures.** The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is a Regional Seas Programme under UNEP's umbrella. MAP activities are carried out in cooperation with 7 Regional Activity Centres<sup>19</sup>. UNEP/MAP is expected to be a key partner in the execution of the ENP/South component as key holder of the environmental information in the region related to the H2020 initiative priority areas.

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<sup>18</sup> Since UNEP/MAP does not have legal personality, possible contracts will be made through UNEP. DG AIDCO and EEA will jointly identify the best legal ways to ensure a simplified procedure for UN bodies' involvement in the execution of the project.

<sup>19</sup> Regional Activity Centres (RACs): MEDPOL, Athens; Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), France; Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia; Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Tunisia; Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta; INFO/RAC, Italy; Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC), Spain;

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- **UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)**, in particular through the work of the Joint intersectoral task force between Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment – WGEMA and the European conference of statisticians. The task force created this year will work on indicator production for the EECCA region building on the previous EEA and UNECE/WGEMA work. Within the scope of the present project strong cooperation will be ensured with UNECE for the execution of ENP/East component. To the extent possible and considering the ENP project geographical coverage (not all EECCA countries will be part of the present project), cooperation links will be also maintained with UNECE/WGEMA and its activities in the field of indicators and assessments. Furthermore, EEA will investigate with UNECE concrete possibilities for cooperation with relevant UNECE conventions' secretariats (e.g. Transboundary water convention and environmental and health protocol, LRTAP, etc.).
- Consortia (coordinators/partners thereof) running the **European Topic Centers** (extended thematic structures without legal personality belonging to EIONET which is steered by EEA<sup>20</sup>) **are expected** to play a role in providing technical assistance to both East and South ENP regions in thematic areas such as water and waste water, air/emissions and climate change, waste, marine etc. Based on specific country needs, ETCs will provide specific support and technical assistance in data management, data exchange, data handling, including whenever necessary support in the legal compliance with various reporting requirements, indicator development, use of tools and methodologies etc.

### Potential partners in the execution of the various components could be as follows:

- **Regional Environmental Centres in ENP/East region** – for networking, regional and country-based support in the organisation of various project activities, translation and dissemination, communication and access to information etc.
- **CEDARE** – The Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, for networking and broader stakeholder participation in the ENP/South region. Additional contributions will be investigated in the field of reporting, translation and dissemination etc.
- **MEDSTAT III** – Statistical cooperation in the Mediterranean Region - phase 3, project to be launched in early 2010 – for coordination of activities (will be partly ensured by AIDCO and Eurostat), for possible joint activities in thematic sectors related to environment, and for exchange of data and information.
- **MEP** – Mediterranean Environment Programme, project to be launched in autumn 2009 – for coordination of activities within the Horizon 2020 initiative, especially regarding the organisation of the Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group meetings.

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<sup>20</sup> The existing contractual links between the EEA and the consortia running the European Topic Centers are Framework Partnership Agreements implemented through (mostly annual) Specific Agreements (all agreements are of the grant type and based on co-financing). To the extent necessary and appropriate and within their operational time frame the EEA will conclude service contracts with ETC consortium coordinators/partners.

## 5. ACTIVITIES, INPUTS, AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS FOR ENP SOUTH

To achieve the results foreseen under point 2.3 in the Southern neighbours, activities shall be carried out in six areas:

### 5.1. Area 1: Suitable environmental indicators and scorecards

This activity aims to identify a list of potential indicators, based on available data and information in the ENP South countries and linked to the relevant policy questions, to measure the progress made under the Horizon 2020 initiative. Top priorities of the initiative are 3 main sources of pollution: municipal waste, urban waste water, industrial emissions. This activity is closely linked to activity 2, which aims to identify and verify the availability of the underlying data sets. Furthermore, a set of agreed indicators is required for the production of the first biennial synthesis progress report as mentioned under activity 3.

#### 5.1.1. Activities

In cooperation with the stakeholders (see point 4), identify suitable environmental indicators. The selection criteria shall include policy relevance, data availability, simplicity, and representativity for the respective countries. The indicators shall furthermore include the three priority areas of the Horizon 2020 initiative allowing monitoring its progress. The indicators shall be as much as possible consistent with the CSI used in the EU and the EECCA countries. A strong contribution in the execution of this task is expected to be provided by the statistical offices in the ENP countries since most of the environmental data are collected and processed by these organisations.

In parallel with the production of the selected indicators, work will be carried out for the development of indicator-based scorecards allowing comparisons between countries (Graphic visualisation of performance could be also considered).

Particularly the following steps are envisaged<sup>21</sup>:

- (i) identify a selection of meaningful and measurable indicators for the three priority areas (CSI for H2020);
- (ii) build capacities through regional workshops for the production and use of indicators at national and regional level;
- (iii) develop a common methodology for the production of an indicator-based scorecard (country based analyses on selected indicators) for all neighbours. Scorecards for South will be focused on the three main H2020 priority areas;
- (iv) populate the EEA Indicator Management System with the data and assessment related to each H2020 indicator

#### 5.1.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Regional workshops <sup>22</sup> indicator production and development	

<sup>21</sup> Based on the specific needs of the countries the share of the proposed activities can be amended so to be able to respond to the demands. A regular monitoring of the implementation is foreseen for all tasks along the entire execution of the project.

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Development of indicators (including preparation of regional workshops)	
Development of scorecard methodology	
IMS population with indicators and assessment (annual update)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>240.000</b>

### 5.1.3. Expected outputs

- List of indicators (CSI for H2020) produced and updated
- Methodology available for the production of an indicator scorecard
- Development of a regular indicator process under H2020
- Produced indicators available on line

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

To establish regular data and information flows under H2020 initiative able to ensure the production of the selected indicators, and assist in fulfilling the related national and international reporting obligations.

The aim of this task is to assist the participating countries in establishing reliable, comparable and timely data and information flows to feed the production of the selected Horizon 2020 indicators (further made available and shared through a SEIS compliant system). This task will equally involve relevant regional organisations aiming to strengthen their capacity of exchanging, processing, storing, quality checking and validating the national data as basis for regional aggregation and reporting. As in the previous task a key role in this activity is expected to be played by the statistical offices, as holders of most of the environmental data. In working together with both environmental and statistical networks under this objective, a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various national players can be achieved, as well as an improved cooperation into the future. To reinforce the relationship between the two networks, joint capacity building activities (workshops, country visits etc.), both at national and regional levels, will be organized, focusing on data production and exchange methods as well as on data management and integration.

Data collection for environmental assessment and reporting is an essential process but implies extensive time and resources. Environmental data and information are stored in different repositories. Therefore, in order to be used, they need first to be identified, validated, organized and made accessible in a structured and coherent way.

One of the aims of the present project is to use the existing available data and information (from many different sources, including monitoring and research activities), and to make them available for environmental assessment and management purposes.

The project will provide capacity building and technical assistance (including ad-hoc support and short term experts) both at national and regional level, to increase competence and enhance technical cooperation in the following fields:

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<sup>22</sup> All workshops/seminars /meetings planned in the context of this project will involve both environmental and statistical networks. The aim is to stimulate working together and sharing the information available as well as to strengthen the existing capacities in the beneficiary countries.

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- **Data availability, production and handling:** the ENP South countries' needs will be identified and a gap analysis will be made during the inception period (preferably together with UNEP/MAP)
- **Data management, including quality assurance and quality control:** together with the countries the needs for training in data management, quality assurance and quality control will be identified. The existing regional data holders could be assisted in becoming SEIS compliant nodes and in further assisting the countries in QA/QC procedures.
- **Data exchange, integration, review and reporting:** based on the specific countries, needs - strengthen the national capacities in the field of data management, including data exchange, data analysis and communication (mainly through regional and national workshops as well as country visits)

### 5.2.1. Activities

- identify existing monitoring activities and reporting tools in the Mediterranean partner countries and related organisations;
- Identify and evaluate the existing data and information flows in view of their comparability and consistency across countries, particularly focusing on the three H2020 priority areas;
- organize regional workshops to share experience and build capacities in handling of the environmental data (collection and exchange, processing, QA/QC, data integration etc.)
- provide training to local staff on data reporting techniques based on MED-Reportnet, including on the delivery of data and information to the various reporting obligations;
- consider the implementation of a monitoring mechanism (across the region) to evaluate the country performance related to the regular priority data flows;
- establish cooperation with other relevant initiatives and bodies in order to streamline the data and information flows for the 3 priority areas (e.g. UNEP/MAP RACs, Group of 4, CEDARE, etc.).

### 5.2.2. Input

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Regional workshops (including Statistical offices)	
Support in the first data reporting exercise and establishment of criteria for monitoring performance including training local staff	
<b><i>Support covering the activities planned under 5.1 and 5.2 – see time table</i></b>	
IT support (adjustment of relevant Reportnet tools)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>350.000</b>

### 5.2.3. Expected outputs

- Regular data flows (annual) for the three priority areas based on various existing reporting obligations;
- Gap analysis in relation to the data flows needed for producing the H2020 indicators (see area 1);
- Trained local staff in data reporting techniques, included MED-Reportnet, and in the use of EEA/ETC tools, infrastructures and methods;

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- Improved cooperation between the statistical and environmental networks in the field of data exchange and reporting;

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

Gradually develop elements for a Mediterranean Shared environmental information system in line with the EU approach. The purpose of this objective is to connect existing national/regional systems and to facilitate data and information sharing at various levels using existing systems and initiatives and based on the general SEIS principles.

#### 5.3.1. Activities

- Missions to each partner country to assess the current state-of-play of existing and planned national environmental information systems and to promote the basic principle of SEIS, the benefits of establishing a shared system and identify country specific issues and relevant data flows ;
- Facilitate the dialogue between the environment and the statistical authorities at national level and work together with the two networks for setting up a step-wise approach for SEIS implementation, based on the available data and information;
- Facilitate the sharing of experience and good practice between the experts and institutions from the South region and other relevant regional networks in the field of information sharing (e.g. Network of SIS - NESIS);
- Identify existing initiatives for setting up a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in the Southern countries and jointly implement an SDI for the Southern neighbours compatible with the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) and Inspire;
- Support the access to and sharing of basic reference data (e.g. administrative boundaries, hydrography, elevation, land cover) and web based information systems;
- Identify and/or liaise with the appropriate organisations responsible for (hosting) the management and quality assurance of transboundary data and information from the South neighbours (e.g. UNEP, UNEP/MAP coordinating unit for obligation under Barcelona convention etc.)
- Facilitate agreements on a common data policy for information exchange;
- Evaluate and promote the use of GMES/GEOSS for monitoring regional environmental issues.

#### 5.3.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Country visits assessing needs and promoting SEIS	
Regional workshop MED-SEIS (incl. statistical offices)	
Linkage to other relevant networks (including preparation of specific/thematic contributions)	
Building SEIS infrastructure (Consultancy support together with national entities). this will cover:	

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1. State of play report env. Inf. Systems 2. Basic reference data (foundation data) 3. Tools and infrastructure (metadata, Reportnet, SDI, IMS, GMES services) 4. Data policy and networking with organisations	
Support contract transboundary data management hosting organisation	
<b>Total</b>	<b>815.000</b>

### 5.3.3. Expected outputs

- Report on the state-of-play of existing and planned environmental information systems
- Capacity building and experts trained in managing and sharing available data and information
- Reporting capabilities and timeliness to national, regional and international commitments streamlined and improved
- Partnerships between various data and information holders at national level improved
- SDI for the South neighbours gradually established
- SDI with metadata of existing data sources and services established
- Metadata, Reportnet, IMS tools and systems adjusted to respond to local conditions of ENP neighbours/South available;
- Data policy in place for the selected data flows;
- Improved allocation of tasks and responsibilities in the field of management of regional environmental information.
- Integration of SEIS developments for the South region in the overall EU SEIS implementation plan (an additional part could be foreseen for both East and South neighbours)
- Information service available for H2020 priority data flows (available online).

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

Develop a regular reporting process on the state of the environment for the South neighbours. The production of a biennial synthesis progress report (indicator-based) is part of a long-term process towards the development of a reporting mechanism for measuring progress under the Horizon 2020 initiative. It is expected that the first trial reporting contribution under H2020 will be available in late 2009, possibly as part of the EEA or UNEP/MAP regular reporting activities. Building on this experience, on the regular update of H2020 indicators, and on the gradual development of a SEIS compliant system in the region, the basis for a 5 year reporting process will be created. Consequently, the main features of the 5-year progress report under H2020 will be gradually designed under the present objective. The environment and statistical networks from the region will be fully involved in this process building on the results achieved under data and indicator activities presented above (area 1 and 2). In this exercise, EEA alongside other relevant partners in the region will also contribute to building capacities at national level in the field of assessment and effectively support the preparation of the first trial report.

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### 5.4.1. Activities

- Define in the framework of the RMR sub-group the outline of the trial indicator report/reporting contribution based on the data and indicators produced under activities 1 and 2;
- Produce the first biennial synthesis progress report/reporting contribution in consultation with the participating countries/networks (and other stakeholders such as UNEP/MAP, CEDARE, NGOs);
- Development of the 5-year reporting outline and the key data and information needs using the SEIS system;
- Produce an overview of the available data, analyses and assessments, including outlooks and scenario studies from national & regional state of environment, statistical and other reports as basis for the preparation of the report) and make it available online using EEA tools (similar with EEA SERIES);
- Produce the draft 5-year report in consultation and partnership with all stakeholders (including NGOs) and other relevant reporting initiatives in the region as part of the EEA reporting cycle;
- Translation of the 5-year reporting contribution into French, Arabic<sup>23</sup>;
- Publication and dissemination of the reports/reporting contributions (the electronic production and dissemination will be encouraged).

### 5.4.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>	
Biennial synthesis progress report (including scorecard)		
Preparation of a SERIES type overview as input to the report		
Preparation of the 5 year report		
Small contracts local experts input		
Consultation meeting with NGOs and similar organisations		
Consultation meeting for the scorecard		
IT portal for consultation		
Editing		
Translation French and Arabic and quality assurance		
Publication and dissemination		
<b>Total</b>		<b>480.500</b>

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<sup>23</sup> The full translation into Arabic is subject to further discussion based on price level at the time of production. Pending on money availability translation of relevant parts can be foreseen as alternative.



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### 5.4.3. Expected outputs

- Trained experts in the field of environment reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methods and tools;
- A network of experts at national and regional level (environment and statistics) working together and sharing knowledge and information;
- Consultation portal available ;
- Trial biennial synthesis progress report/reporting contribution potentially available in 2010 <sup>24</sup>;
- 5-year report/reporting contribution on the state of the Mediterranean Sea available (end 2013) as part of the EEA reporting cycle
- Final product on-line and/or disseminated to the ENP South countries

### 5.5. Area 5: Communication and dissemination

An important element during the whole implementation period will be the regular update of the countries/relevant networks about the project implementation, outputs, relevant contacts or events. The choice of the communication tools has to be discussed and agreed upon with the countries so relevant target groups can be properly informed and possibly engaged in the process. Particular attention has to be paid to the statistical network which is rather new in this partnership and is not so aware about EEA/EIONET/SEIS/REPORTNET. A more focussed information campaign oriented towards statistical networks can be considered, after discussing the possible options with the two involved networks. The project outputs will be presented, whenever possible, to major international events relevant for the region (e.g. Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial meeting scheduled for October 2009).

#### 5.5.1. Activities

A wide range of communication products can be foreseen including the publication of the report electronically via EEA - UNEP/MAP websites. For this particular project the only pre-condition will be to make all materials available in English, French and Arabic in order to reach all relevant and interested audiences especially in the South neighbouring countries. In principle it is expected that EEA with strong input from the experts recruited to coordinate this activity will produce most of the information materials. However, the results of each project component should be made available to the beneficiary countries and there should be regular information on the progress as well as on problems encountered.

To support the work of the Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group, a web tool will be available to promote a close cooperation between the RMR members and facilitate the establishment of a core team on which to build the entire process. Internal guidelines will be prepared for its utilization (EEA).

#### 5.5.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Newsletter	25
System maintenance of H2020 portal and SMAP Clearing House	
H2020 portal - RMR sub-	26

<sup>24</sup> Pending signature of the contract and agreement with UNEP/MAP for partnership cooperation.

<sup>25</sup> Under EEA coordination input will be provided by EEA, UNEP/ MAP, beneficiary countries, Steering Committee members etc.

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group content update	
Web presentation of the final report/reporting contributions and indicators for the region	
Total	<b>80.000</b>

### 5.5.3. Expected outputs

- Review Monitoring and Research sub-group communications improved and streamlined through the web platform H2020;
- Regular information to target groups in the South countries leading to more active participation through newsletter, articles;
- Enhanced visibility of EEA and EU work;
- Improved visibility of the local good practices and experiences in areas related to the project scope through articles.
- Support in streamlining relevant initiatives in the region;

### 5.6. Area 6: Management and coordination

Support to the EEA and the beneficiary countries in the coordination and execution of the activities under the Horizon 2020 initiative.

In order to support the implementation of the tasks, coordinate the implementation of the various components and to provide expert support, it is proposed to recruit one expert from the region to work full time in EEA (for the duration of the project). Secretarial support (shared with the East component) will also be recruited and assist the implementation of the work in the area.

According to the Terms of Reference approved by the H2020 Steering Committee, a sub-group will be created, accompanying the implementation of the Review, Monitoring and Research component of the initiative. The group will consist of approx. 20 representatives from the Mediterranean partner countries. The tasks will cover: review and analysis, content input and institutional facilitation, peer-review etc. along the various project phases. The group will also examine the existing data flows as well as the quality of the data delivered from the national level and make proposals for improvement.

The Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group will meet in principle once a year (first meeting of RMR was held in October 2008). Back to back meetings with thematic workshops under the project would be also considered. Costs for the organisation of meetings of the RMR sub-group will be covered by the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP) (see points 4 and 12).

#### 5.6.1. Activities

- Management of the project implementation and its various components across EEA and in relation to the countries and other partners involved;
- Network development and facilitation of contacts and dialogue at all levels
- Contribution to major EEA products and processes covering the ENP neighbours and their environmental priorities
- Regular information dissemination on project outcomes across all networks involved

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<sup>26</sup> EEA contribution

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- Regular reporting to DG AIDCO and to the Steering Committee on the project execution

### 5.6.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Meetings of Monitoring, Review and Research sub-group	27
In house staff support from the region (including recruitment costs)	28
Mission ENP/South recruited staff	
Phone, fax, mail add staff	
General EEA costs	
Total	<b>906.000</b>

### 5.6.3. Expected outputs

- Timely and consistent execution/implementation of the project, including regular monitoring and adjustment based on the needs of the ENP South countries
- Timely delivery of the various outputs
- Good management of financial resources
- DG AIDCO and the Steering Committee fully informed on the project execution
- Regular information dissemination to the beneficiary countries on the ongoing activities, planned outputs etc.

## 6. ACTIVITIES, INPUTS, AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS FOR ENP EAST

To achieve the project results in the Eastern ENP countries, as described under point 2.3, activities will be carried out in the following six areas:

### 6.1. Area 1: Suitable environmental indicators and scorecards

Further develop and implement a Core Set of Indicators (CSI) for the East neighbours<sup>29</sup> based on the previous work carried out under the TACIS programme and in line with the EEA CSI and other relevant indicator processes in the EU. UNECE/WGEMA together with the Conference of European Statisticians established in January 2009 a joint intersectoral task force on environmental indicators to continue the work previously carried out in EECCA and SEE regions. The cooperation is foreseen to continue for the coming two years with regional workshops involving all these countries and aiming to build capacities at national level for the production and use of the CSI. In order to streamline the work and enhance the support provided to the ENP East countries, EEA will closely liaise with this initiative and support this work. All activities expected to be carried out will

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<sup>27</sup> The costs for the organization of the RMR meetings will be covered by the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP).

<sup>28</sup> The cost of the secretarial support is shared with the ENP South component (see also 6.6 - management ENP South component). In this amount the partial cost of a national expert for the South component is included (see 8.1.1 Key expert 2 for details)

<sup>29</sup> The work will cover the six ENP East countries and Russia

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involve the statistical offices in the ENP East countries as well as the regional statistical entities existing with responsibility in collecting environmental data (e.g. CISTAT).

### 6.1.1. Activities

In cooperation with the stakeholders and relevant partners, update and refine the CSI in line with EU developments and regional needs. Furthermore, assist the countries in the effective production and use of the indicators as important policy tools. Develop indicator-based scorecards allowing comparisons between countries. Particularly the following steps are envisaged:

- (i) Work together with the Eastern neighbours (including Russia) and key partners for the identification of the relevant data and information flows for the production of key indicators;
- (ii) Capacity building activities (jointly with other partners whenever possible) for the production and the use of the EECCA/Eastern European CSI involving both the environmental and the statistical networks;
- (iii) Develop a common scorecard methodology for all neighbours (see point 5.1.3, task iii) of ENP South);
- (iv) Assist the countries in the annual update of the indicators;
- (v) Population of the Indicator Management System (IMS) with the East indicators produced and ensure their public visibility online;

### 6.1.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Capacity building missions in each country in the indicator production	
Consultancy support indicator production including scorecard (including preparation of national missions)	
Populate the IMS and annual update (EN and RU)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>220.000</b>

### 6.1.3. Expected outputs

- Updated and refined CSI for the East region (including the assessment part)
- Further development of the CSI for the East region alongside the development of the EEA CSI
- ENP East indicators produced and available online on the IMS (English and Russian)
- Scorecard methodology available for indicator-based country benchmarking (output link with the correspondent one for ENP South)
- Capacity building and experts trained in the field of indicator production and use
- Improved cooperation and partnerships between various networks at national level dealing with environmental data, information and indicators.

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

Establish regular data and information flows to feed the production of the CSI indicators, and for fulfilling the national reporting needs as well as compliance with the key environmental agreements. This objective is strongly linked with the previous one and aims to identify, establish or activate existing data and information flows to serve the various reporting needs (at national and regional/international levels). At the same time, the sustainable production and use of the selected indicators from CSI are very much dependent on a stable, regular and comparable data flow system across the East region and compatible with the EU system. Capacity building activities will be carried out at both country and regional levels for cross-fertilisation, exchange of experience and streamlining. A particular attention will be given to strengthen national capacities in the beneficiary countries in the field of data production and exchange, data management and integration through national and regional workshops, country visits involving the existing environmental and statistical networks.

Whenever possible the work will be linked with the activities of the Joint intersectoral task force of UNECE and will bring together the environment and the statistical networks.

Data collection for environmental assessment and reporting is an essential process but implies extensive time and resources. Environmental data and information are stored in different repositories. Therefore, in order to be used, they need first to be identified, validated, organized and made accessible in a structured and coherent way.

One of the aims of the present project is to use the existing available data and information (from many different sources, including monitoring and research activities), and to make them available for the production of relevant indicators identified in the EECCA methodological as well as for environmental assessment and compliance purposes.

The project will provide capacity building and technical assistance (including ad-hoc support and short term experts) both at national and regional level, in order to increase competences and enhance technical cooperation in the following fields:

- **Data availability, production and handling:** the ENP East countries' needs and legal obligations (related mainly to the production of indicators) will be identified and a gap analysis will be made during the inception period (preferably together with the joint task force UNECE/European Committee of Statisticians and UNSD).
- **Data management, including quality assurance and quality control:** together with the countries the needs for training in data management, quality assurance and quality control will be identified. The existing regional data holders (such as CISTAT) could be assisted in becoming SEIS compliant nodes and in further assisting the countries in QA/QC procedures.
- **Data exchange, integration, review and reporting:** based on the specific countries' needs - strengthen the national capacities in the field of data management, including data exchange, data analysis and communication (mainly by promoting EEA data exchange tools and system through regional and national workshops as well as country visits)

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### 6.2.1. Activities

- (i) Support missions to the countries for identifying the existing monitoring activities and reporting tools and for testing the possible implementation of the Reportnet tools;
- (ii) Partnership with other relevant initiatives and bodies in order to streamline the data and information flows for the selected thematic areas (WGEMA, EUWI, LRTAP secretariat, UNECE water convention) - (joint missions possible);
- (iii) Testing and gradually implementing selected priority data flows based on the existing reporting obligations and serving the production of the CSI;
- (iv) Capacity building and training on data collection and exchange, data processing, QA/QC, data integration, use of Reportnet tools for delivery of data and information to the various reporting obligations;
- (v) Recommendations for the implementation of a monitoring mechanism (across the region) to evaluate the country performance related to the regular priority data flows implemented (in terms of quality, timeliness, completeness, consistency, setting up criteria for evaluating performance, etc.)

### 6.2.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Regional workshops <sup>30</sup>	
Expert support in the first data reporting exercise (QC/QA included) and establishment of criteria for monitoring performance	
IT support (adjustment of relevant Reportnet tools)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>400.000</b>

### 6.2.3. Expected outputs

- Regular data flows established for a selected number of topics identify as priority issues at regional and pan-European level, feeding into the regular production of the CSI
- Capacity building and trained local experts staff in data reporting techniques, if possible using EEA/ETC tools, infrastructures and methods
- Trained experts in QA/QC and data reporting in fulfilling legal reporting commitments at bilateral, regional and global level.

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

Gradually integrate the available data and information nodes of the East neighbours into the extended shared environmental information system

### 6.3.1. Activities

- Organize country visits (including national workshops ) to assess the current state-of-play of existing and planned national environmental information systems and to present the basic

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<sup>30</sup> The workshop participants will represent the environmental and statistical networks with responsibilities in collecting and processing environmental data at national and regional level

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- principles of SEIS, as well as the benefits of establishing a shared system and identify country specific issues and relevant data and information flows ;
- Facilitate the dialogue between the environment and the statistical authorities at national level and work together with the two networks for setting up a step-wise approach for SEIS implementation, based on the available data and information;
  - Promote and facilitate the sharing of experience and good practice between the experts and institutions from the East region and other relevant European networks in the field of information sharing (e.g. Network of SIS - NESIS);
  - Identify existing initiatives for setting up a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in the East countries and jointly implement an SDI for the East neighbours compatible with the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) and Inspire;
  - Support the access to and sharing of basic reference data (e.g. administrative boundaries, hydrography, elevation, land cover) and web based information systems;
  - Identify and/or liaise with the appropriate organisations responsible for (hosting) the management and quality assurance of transboundary data and information from the East neighbours (e.g. UNECE, UNECE convention secretariats: water, LRTAP, CISSTAT, etc.);
  - Facilitate agreement on a common data policy for information exchange;
  - Evaluate and promote the use of GMES/GEOSS for monitoring transboundary environmental issues.

### 6.3.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Country visits (missions experts EEA) and local organisation	
Annual steering group meetings <sup>31</sup> /workshops (including statistical offices)	
Linkage to other relevant networks (including preparation of specific/thematic contributions)	
Building SEIS infrastructure (Consultancy support together with national entities). This will cover: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State of play report Env. Inf. Systems</li> <li>2. Basic reference data (foundation data)</li> <li>3. Tools and infrastructure (metadata, Reportnet, SDI, IMS, GMES services)</li> <li>4. Data policy and networking with organisations</li> </ol>	

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<sup>31</sup> WGEMA might be an option but all former EECCA countries are members which might create problems in working only with part of the old EECCA region. A WGEMA task force can also be considered in order to keep anyhow UNECE involved in this process.

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Support contract transboundary data management hosting organisation	
Total	<b>820.000</b>

### 6.3.3. Expected outputs

- Report on the state-of-play of existing and planned environmental information systems
- Experts trained and institutional capacities built in the management and sharing of available data and information (environment and statistics)
- Reporting capabilities streamlined and timeliness improved to national, regional and international commitments
- Partnerships between various data and information holders at national level improved
- SDI for the East region gradually set up
- SDI with metadata of existing data sources and services established
- Metadata, Reportnet, IMS tools and systems tuned to local conditions of ENP/East neighbours available
- Data policy in place for the selected data flows;
- Responsibilities and tasks allocation improved in the field of management of transboundary environmental information
- SEIS developments for the East region integrated into the overall SEIS implementation plan (an additional part could be foreseen for both East and South neighbours)

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

Produce a reporting contribution on the state of the environment in the East neighbours as part of the EEA reporting cycle and in line with EU and international policy demands (e.g. ENP and the Eastern Partnership, Astana conference, SOER2010 etc.).

#### 6.4.1. Activities

- Identify, through consultation with the countries and in line with the relevant documents of the ENP and the Eastern Partnership, the priority areas to be covered by the ENP East reporting contribution;
- Collect and compile country relevant information to serve as a basis for the country profile part and/or indicators;
- Prepare in consultation with the ENP East countries (and other stakeholders such as WGEMA, transboundary water and LRTAP secretariats, RECs in the region, NGOs) the outline of the reporting contribution;
- Prepare the draft chapters of the reporting contribution;
- Organize broad consultation on the draft contribution via Internet (the model used for Belgrade report can be replicated) as part of EEA consultation process for key major reports;
- Finalise the reporting contribution and produce a short summary (or contribute to the summary of a key EEA report, such as SOER2010 for the ENP East region);
- Translation of the reporting piece into Russian;
- Publication and dissemination using preferably Internet tools).

#### 6.4.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Support contract for writing	



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the reporting contribution	
Various contributions (case studies) and improved assessments	
Consultation meeting NGOs/RECs	
IT portal for consultation	
Editing (English and Russian)	
Translation to Russian <sup>32</sup> and quality assurance	
Printing and dissemination	
Total	<b>430.000</b>

### 6.4.3. Expected outputs

- Capacity building and trained experts in the field of environmental reporting and indicators in line with EU/EEA methodology and tools
- Trained network of experts in the field of data, indicators and assessments at national level (environment and statistics) working together and sharing knowledge and information
- Reporting contribution covering the priority areas identified for the East region (in English and Russian) as part of EEA reporting cycle
- Summary of the reporting contribution (in English and Russian) as part of EEA reporting cycle

### 6.5. Area 5: Communication and dissemination

An important element during the whole implementation period will be the regular information of the countries about the process as well as about the outputs. The choice of the communication tools has to be discussed and agreed upon with the countries so relevant target groups can be properly addressed and possibly engaged in the process. Particular attention has to be paid to the statistical network which is new in this partnership and therefore not so much aware about EEA and its network (EIONET) as well as its main systems and tools (SEIS, REPORTNET etc.)

#### 6.5.1. Activities

A wide range of communication products can be foreseen including the publication of the report electronically via EEA /UNECE websites.

All communication materials will be available in both English and Russian in order to reach the relevant and interested audiences, especially in the East neighbouring countries. In principle, it is expected that EEA with strong input from the experts recruited will coordinate this work and produce most of the information materials. The project outputs will be presented, whenever possible, to major international events relevant for the region (e.g. Astana Ministerial conference September/October 2011, as part of the launch campaign for EEA SOER 2010 etc.).

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<sup>32</sup> Depending on the costs at the time of production, full or partial translation of the reporting contribution in Russian language will be made

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### 6.5.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
Newsletter	33
Update of web pages for ENP East component (including presentation of the final reporting piece/indicators for the region)	
Translation into Russian of the communication materials	
<b>Total</b>	<b>85.000</b>

### 6.5.3. Expected outputs

- Regular information services/materials to stimulate interest and increase participation in the work;
- Key outputs of the ENP project available via Internet
- Other promotional and/or educational materials disseminated to the region (newsletter, articles, video-clips).

## 6.6. Area 6: Management and coordination

In order to support the execution of the tasks, to coordinate the implementation of the various components and to provide expert support it is proposed to combine options by:

- the recruitment of one in-house expert from the region to work full time in EEA (for the duration of the project); complemented by:
- part-time secretarial support (shared with the South component); and
- ad-hoc support, thematically driven whenever necessary for the execution of the various tasks<sup>34</sup>

### 6.6.1. Activities

- Management of the project and various components
- Support in the implementation of various activities and connecting with relevant networks in the ENP East region as well as with other regional and international partners
- Regular reporting to DG AIDCO on project implementation

### 6.6.2. Inputs

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Estimated budget</i>
In house staff support (including recruitment) <sup>35</sup>	
Mission ENP/East recruited	

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<sup>33</sup> EEA in house contribution

<sup>34</sup> As part of EEA contribution (and in addition to the EU funding) it is planned for EEA to allocate two man/year for the entire duration of the project.

<sup>35</sup> The expert and part time assistance support are included under this item.

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staff)	
Phone, fax, mail additional staff costs	
General EEA costs	
Total	<b>920.000</b>

### 6.6.3. Expected outputs

- Timely and consistent execution/implementation of the project including regular monitoring and possible project adjustment according to the countries' specific needs.
- Timely delivery of the various outputs
- Good management of financial resources
- Regular reporting to DG AIDCO on the execution of the project
- Regular information dissemination to the beneficiary countries on the ongoing activities, planned outputs etc.

## 7. LOGISTICS AND TIMING

### 7.1. Location

The management of the project will be performed in EEA within its premises in Copenhagen. Subject to further agreement with the potential partners some of the project components can be performed outside (in UNEP/MAP, UNECE, RECs ) in their locations. Most of the capacity building activities (workshops, seminars, country visits etc.) will take place in the ENP beneficiary countries and regions so an increased number of local experts could benefit.

### 7.2. Commencement date & Period of execution

The intended commencement date is 1 October 2009 and the period of implementation of the contract will be 54 months from this date. Please refer to Articles 4 and 5 of the Special Conditions for the actual commencement date and period of implementation.

### 7.3. Inception phase

At the start of the project a period between 3-6 months is expected to be allocated to the concrete identification of the ENP countries specific needs in relation to the objectives of the project. During this period a number of activities will be carried out helping EEA to better understand the specific conditions and needs of each ENP region (East and South) in relation to the various activities planned and results to be achieved. .

These activities will cover:

- an inventory of available information, materials, reports, indicators related to the project which can serve as basis for further work;
- identification of relevant networks (institutions and experts) in the ENP countries to be involved in the implementation of the various project components;
- the organization of regional workshops with the aim to investigate the current status of indicator development and related data flows as basis for further improvement, targeted capacity building and extension of SEIS elements to the EU neighbours (strong link to areas 1, 2 and 3 in particular);

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- participation in relevant international events relevant for the project activities<sup>36</sup> and involving the ENP countries in order to assess the status of development and present the main objectives of the new project;
- Extensive dialogue with various EU (DG Eurostat and DG ENV in particular) and with international partners (UNEP, UNEP/MAP and its structures, UNECE and its relevant conventions' secretariats, RECs, OECD etc.), in order to understand the overall context of the work and all related activities of relevance for the project currently going

The main findings of the inception phase as well as the main conclusions will be summarized in an inception report and discussed in the project Steering Committee in order to better shape each project component according to the effective needs of the beneficiary countries. The inception report will also include an updated timetable and the revised logframe with progress indicators.

## 8. REQUIREMENTS

### 8.1. Personnel

#### 8.1.1. Key experts

All experts who have a crucial role in implementing the contract are referred to as key experts. The profiles of the key experts for this contract are as follows:

#### **Key expert 1: Project manager - Implementation ENP East activities under the framework of ENP project - Contract agent<sup>37</sup>**

##### **Functions and duties:**

- Coordinate the implementation of the ENP assistance project in relation to ENP East neighbours (with focus on indicators and assessment part, including regular reporting obligations to DG AIDCO) for the period 2010-2014;.
- Ensure the timely and high quality delivery of all expected project outputs ;
- Develop synergies, partnerships with other regional or bilateral activities and projects carried out in the region (by EIONET member countries, international organizations UNEP, UNECE, RECs, or initiatives such EUWI etc)
- Develop partnerships at national level with and between relevant networks in the ENP region, in particular environment and statistics and involve them jointly in all project activities
- Facilitate the further development and production of key environmental indicators for the region in partnership with UNECE, UNSD and relevant networks in the ENP region and building on the previous work on EEA CSI and EECCA CSI.
- Ensure the improvement of the reporting obligations and data flows in response to national and international obligations.
- Provide concrete alternatives/proposals for further assistance steps building on the results achieved during the implementation and taking into consideration the identified needs.

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<sup>36</sup> Concrete examples in this context are: Steering Committee H2020 (tentative July 2009). Euro-Med Environment Ministerial Meeting (tentative October 2009), Conference of the parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP16) (4-7 November 2009).

<sup>37</sup> Key expert 1 is expected to be recruited during the first six months of the project

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### Range of professional experience and skills:

- Extensive experience in implementing national and/or regional cooperation projects/programmes preferably in Eastern Europe (or former EECCA region);
- Good knowledge of the region and its environmental priorities, of the current environmental initiatives and key networks and players;
- Good knowledge of the use of environmental assessment tools (indicators, scorecards, integrated assessment etc.);
- Very good knowledge of English. Good knowledge of Russian is a strong asset.

### Key expert 2<sup>38</sup> : Project manager - Implementation ENP South activities under the framework of ENP project - Detached National Expert

Tasks similar to those envisaged for Key expert 1 are expected for the ENP South Component during the period 2010-2014. Fluency in English and French is required.

### Key expert 3: Project manager - Extension of EU Shared Environment Information System to ENP countries<sup>39</sup> - Contract agent<sup>40</sup>

#### Functions and duties:

- Coordinate the gradual extension of SEIS implementation to ENP countries in support to regular data and information exchange and to better compliance with international obligations in close collaboration with the Group of 4 (DG ENV, JRC, ESTAT, EEA) and EIONET.
- Facilitate access to available data and information sources in ENP countries as basis for assessment and reporting work, at national, regional and pan-European levels;
- Identify and consolidate existing networks of data and information providers to become future nodes in SEIS information network;
- Participate in the assessment of the national information systems available in these regions and in the gradual extension of SEIS elements to the EU/South-East neighbours.
- Establish close partnerships with and encourage active participation of relevant networks (including statistical ones) and organisations from the ENP countries in this work;
- Communicate and maintain good working relations with the ENP countries, Eionet members, European Commission (including Eurostat and JRC), and, NGOs, international organisations and relevant expert institutes and scientific bodies.

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<sup>38</sup> This position is not part of the ENP service contract and is to be ensured by EEA through detached national experts currently available in house. At the end of the assignment and for continuity reasons EEA will seek the possibility of recruiting a new national expert for this position for the remaining part of the project. The ENP project funds pending the situation could be used to cover the later period (budget allocation foreseen for 2 years/or 440 man/days). An overlap period of at least 3 months is envisaged for the smooth continuation of the work.

<sup>39</sup> The work will cover all European Neighbourhood Countries and Russian Federation

<sup>40</sup> Key expert 3 is expected to be recruited during the first six months of the project

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### Range of professional experience and skills:

- Experience in environmental data management, quality assurance and quality control,
- Good understanding of information and communication technology, data policy as well as recent developments for ensuring interoperability i.e. open standards; INSPIRE, GMES/GEOSS
- Knowledge and understanding of existing environmental information systems;
- Good networking, interpersonal, communication and presentation skills; very good knowledge of , English. Knowledge of French and/or Russian will represent an asset;

### Key expert 4: Project manager – Environment statistics in ENP countries - Contract agent

#### Functions and duties:

- To evaluate the existing environmental data and information flows, specifically for priority issues under Horizon 2020 and in support to implementation of legal environmental commitments and targets of relevance for East neighbours, in terms of quality, timeliness, completeness, and consistency. Set up criteria for quality assurance in view of their comparability and consistency across countries. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with the national statistics institutes in neighbouring region responsible for the production, storage, and dissemination of environmental data.
- To contribute to strengthening environmental statistic flow and information systems in the EU neighbouring countries, jointly with the national statistical systems and the main environmental authorities, with the aim of establishing SEIS-compliant national and regional environmental information systems.
- To coordinate the production of environmental indicators and scorecards; particularly contribute to the future development and production of relevant indicators for the East neighbours, and identify and produce key indicators for the priority areas of Horizon 2020 for the South neighbours.
- To expand the partnership with environmental institutions and statistical offices, strengthening links with environmental statistics, as well as with international bodies in the region (especially UNEP/MAP, UNECE, WHO, OECD, UNSD, CISTAT).
- To contribute to the implementation of EEA assistance project including cooperation and linkages with Eurostat, covering ENP regions for the period 2010-2014.

#### Range of professional experience and skills:

- Extensive experience in implementing national or regional cooperation projects/programmes in EU neighboring countries in the field of environment statistics, at both national and regional levels;
- good understanding of EU priorities in the field of environment statistics toward the EU neighbors;
- familiarity with the production and use of indicators and scorecard as tools for monitoring environmental progress;
- previous experience in managing programmes for statistical cooperation preferably under EU financial mechanisms;
- knowledge of data-sharing mechanisms between organizations at national and regional levels;
- very good knowledge of English. Knowledge of French and/or Russian will be an asset;

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- good networking, interpersonal, communication and presentation skills; proven skills in communicating with policy-makers, regional organizations and other relevant players.

### **Key expert 5: Project assistant - regional assessments and networking under the ENP South/East initiative - Contract agent**

#### **Function and duties:**

- Support the execution of the ENP project, including contributing to regular financial and progress reporting;
- Maintain regular contacts with contact partners in the South and East countries and contributors to the forthcoming assessments covering the ENP Southern and Eastern regions for the state of the environment report; ensure a regular exchange of information and communication;
- Ensure the linkage between EEA experts and the ENP networks involved in the project implementation (primarily environment and statistical networks)
- Maintain the project information on the Internet/Intranet in cooperation with all partners involved in the project;
- Support the project in all phases of implementation (data flows, indicators, SEIS, assessment and communication), by keeping track of progress and regular contacts with the countries;
- Organisation of missions and meetings, and other administrative tasks.

#### **Range of professional experience and skills:**

- Previous experience in secretarial activities at international level or in a multicultural, multidisciplinary environment ;
- Good organisational and communication skills
- Very good knowledge of English and French. Knowledge of Russian would represent an asset;

### **8.2. Equipment**

No equipment is to be purchased on behalf of the Contracting Authority / beneficiary country as part of this service contract or transferred to the Contracting Authority / beneficiary country at the end of this contract. Any equipment related to this contract which is to be acquired by the beneficiary country must be purchased by means of a separate supply tender procedure.

### **8.3. Other provisions**

Any subsistence allowances to be paid for missions undertaken as part of this contract must not exceed the per diem rates published on the Web site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/index_en.htm) at the start of each such mission.

However, for experts hired by the EEA, the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission including its provisions for mission allowances applies.

## **9. VISIBILITY**

Please refer to Article 12.1 of the Special Conditions.

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1. Reporting requirements**

Please refer to Article 26 of the General Conditions. An inception report must be prepared at the end of the inception phase (see point 7.3). Interim progress reports must be prepared after 18, 30, and 42 months of execution of the contract. Interim progress reports must be provided along with the corresponding invoice. A final report together with a final invoice must be provided at the end of the period of execution. The draft final report must be submitted at least one month before the end of the period of execution of the contract.

Each report shall consist of a narrative and a financial part. The format of the report must be approved by the Contracting Authority.

### **10.2. Submission & approval**

An electronic version of the reports referred to above (10.1 see point 10.1) must be submitted to the Project Manager identified in the contract. The reports must be written in English. The Project Manager is responsible for approving the reports.

## **11. COORDINATION, STEERING AND MONITORING**

### **11.1. Definition of indicators**

Progress indicators shall be identified during the inception phase and included in the revised log frame.

### **11.2. Operational Coordination**

With the aim to ensure coherence and coordination between related programmes, projects and activities (in particular those falling under the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean), the partners will keep each other informed at operational level of relevant developments and progress, and exchange relevant related documents, meeting and mission reports etc. The EEA will also submit to DG AIDCO, for final prompt confirmation, documents destined to be sent to countries as a basis for their commitment.

On its side DG AIDCO will provide regular updates on the developments taking place in other relevant activities related to the ENPI region including the above-mentioned initiatives.

### **11.3. Management Group and Steering Committee**

The overall project coordination will be ensured by a Management Group (MG), bringing together nominated representatives from relevant EC services (AIDCO, RELEX, ENV, ESTAT, MARE, JRC and RTD) and EEA project coordination team. The MG is expected to assess annually the status of the project implementation, to discuss the main challenges and difficulties encountered and to advise on the way forward. Furthermore the MG should help EEA in the project



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implementation by facilitating the necessary links with other relevant Commission projects and initiatives as well as by promoting the project results in various EU or international settings. The MG members need to inform EEA about new EU policy developments, partnerships or cooperation agreements in such a way that the project outcomes are policy relevant and able to contribute to these demands. The Management Group is expected to meet 1-2 times per year. The preparation of the annual Steering Committee meetings (where the beneficiary countries are invited) represents also a responsibility of the MG.

In the context of the project implementation it is also foreseen to set up a Steering Committee bringing together the Management Group members and the beneficiary ENP countries<sup>41</sup>. The SC is expected to meet once per year, preferably back to back with a MG meeting. The SC meetings will facilitate the dialogue and communication with the ENP countries on issues of common interests for the execution of the project and will, at the same time bring the countries' perspective in the implementation process. SC is expected to have an active role in the identification of priorities to be addressed, in mobilising the national capacities in the project execution as well as in commenting and endorsing the various outcomes so they better respond to the country specific needs.

Concerning the ENP South component of the project, the Review Monitoring and Research sub-group will serve as the platform for the annual dialogue and review with the countries. The costs of the RMR meetings however, will be covered by the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP).

Concerning the ENP East component of the project, EEA will identify together with UNECE/Committee of Environment Policy the relevant institutional forum which can be used for the annual discussion and assessment of progress under the project. Close links will be also maintained with UNECE/WGEMA group in order to streamline efforts and complement the activities carried out in the region.

## 12. LINKS WITH OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

EEA will ensure a close linkage between the activities foreseen under the present contract and other relevant projects and activities under implementation in the Agency. In this respect synergies and mutual enhancement will be seek with the EEA IPA funded project *Preparatory measures for the participation of candidates and potential candidates in Community Agencies: Specific project for the participation of West Balkan Countries in the work of the European Environment Agency 2009-2010*. Concretely, support to Western Balkan countries in taking part in the work under Horizon 2020 initiative will be facilitated under the IPA project complementing geographically the work in the ENP South region (for indicator development and coverage in the assessment activities). This cooperation will also try to facilitate the participation of West Balkan countries in relevant marine related activities under the Union for the Mediterranean<sup>42</sup> (UfM).

Secondly, strong links will be ensured between the Horizon 2020 initiative and the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP) in the implementation of the activities. Concretely, the MEP will enhance the organisation of RMR meetings and the communication component planned under the SEIS project. Synergies and coordination of work will be also seek between the two project in relation to capacity building activities planned for the region in the three priority areas of H2020 and with respect to the development and implementation of a comprehensive communication and visibility plan for Horizon 2020 activities.

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<sup>41</sup> Considering the fact that there are two distinct ENP regions with similar but not identical priorities and activity list, it is proposed to hold two Steering Committee meeting per year, one for ENP East component and one for ENP South. The two SC meetings are expected to take place back to back to the MG meetings.

<sup>42</sup> COM (2008)319/4 of 20 May 2008, Commission Communication on Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean

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Thirdly, where appropriate, links will be ensured for ENP South component with the Pollution Reduction part under the responsibility of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the work of the “Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility” (MeHSIP-PPIF), supervised by DG ENV, EIB, UNEP and World Bank.

Fourthly, synergies will be found, as appropriate, with the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem - led by UNEP and the World Bank, and involving other relevant international cooperation agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors.

Last, as regards the ENP East countries, past and present results/output and achievement in the water sector will be used from DABLAS<sup>43</sup> and the EU Water Initiative<sup>44</sup> will be taken into account, as well as other relevant activities covered under the Black Sea Synergy<sup>45</sup> and the Eastern Partnership<sup>46</sup> and its related environment components.

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<sup>43</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/dablas/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/dablas/index_en.htm)

<sup>44</sup> [www.euwi.net](http://www.euwi.net)

<sup>45</sup> COM (2007) 160 of 11 April 2007, Commission Communication on Black Sea Synergy- A New Regional Cooperative

<sup>46</sup> COM (2008) 823 of 3 December 2008, Commission Communication on Eastern Partnership

### **13. TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES**

**13.1. ENP South component – Estimate time table for project implementation per activities**

(See table A3 attached)

**13.2. ENP East component – Estimate time table for project implementation per activities**

(See table A3 attached)

## 14. ABBREVIATION LIST

2007 Belgrade report	Fourth pan-European assessment report for the Belgrade Conference in 2007
CEDARE	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
CISTAT	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
CP/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production
CRLTAP	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
EEA - CSI	Core Set Indicators (EEA)
DABLAS	Danube and Black Sea Task Force
DG ESTAT	European Commission - DG Eurostat
DG MARE	European Commission - DG Maritime Affairs
DG ENV	European Commission - Direction General Environment
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)
EfE	Environment for Europe process
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ETC	European Topic Centre
EU	European Union
EUWI	EUWI - European Water Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook
GEO	Global Earth Observation

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GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
H2020	Horizon 2020
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMS	Indicator Management Service (EEA)
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
JRC	European Joint Research Centre
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MED	Mediterranean region
MEDPOL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Region
MEHSIP	Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme
MEHSIP-PPIF	Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme - Project Preparation & Implementation Facility
MSSD	Mediterranean Sustainable Strategy of Development
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAP/RAC	Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Centre
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
SEIS	Shared Environment Information System
RAC/SPA	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
TACIS	EU assistance programme Technical Assistance Community of Independent States
ToR	Terms of Reference
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean

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UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WB	World Bank
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WGEMA	Working Group for Environment Monitoring and Assessment
WSSD Johannesburg	The World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002

## **15. PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS**

### **15.1. Minutes of the preparatory meeting held on 27 February 2009 in Brussels**

*Omissis*

## 15.2. Logframes from the project preparation

### 15.2.1. ENPI South: MERM MED (Mediterranean Environment Reporting Mechanism)

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	To set up a Euro-Mediterranean shared environmental information system in line with the European approach	Data for environmental harmonised indicators are available and accessible	MERM MED Website and Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political willingness of strengthening the environment statistical system and sharing the information</li> <li>- Good coordination between institutions and organisations in charge of data collection, validation and dissemination at country level</li> </ul>
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>1</b> To strengthen the data flow and network infrastructure in the region, including the national statistical systems of the partner countries in the field of environment with the aim of establishing a Mediterranean Environmental Information System in line with the European approach			- the organisations in charge of environmental data production, validation and dissemination accept to coordinate and share information
	<b>2</b> To develop an indicator process and a scorecard to measure progress made in the implementation of H2020 and the environment quality evolution and publish the related results.			
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>1.1.</b> The organisations involved in collection and	-% of data effectively	Publications available at	



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	validation of environment related data and information have the capacities to produce the required data and information at the regional level.	collected and transmitted	regional level	
	<b>1.2</b> The integration into a SEIS-compliant structure of the relevant data and information from countries in the Mediterranean region, including from non-EEA countries is effective.	- degree of harmonisation with European standards	Publications available at regional level	
	<b>1.3.</b> Indicators and scorecard are developed	- number of indicators covered by the scorecard	scorecard	
	<b>2.1.</b> Indicator process and framework to deliver indicator-based report are designed	- number of relevant harmonised indicators for each priority area of H2020	List of selected indicators	
	<b>2.2.</b> Results are assessed and country comparisons using the scorecard is produced	- number of countries and sectors/ subsectors covered		
	<b>2.3.</b> First biennial report (2008/2009) and first five-yearly report are published in close cooperation with countries in the Mediterranean region, including non-EEA countries.	- number of copies disseminated		Willingness of the partners to built on the achievements of previous programmes in the region

**15.2.2. ENPI East: Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data**

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective</b>	to reduce environmental risks and pollution, and promote more sustainable use of natural resources with partner states in the region.	Reduced environmental risks and pollution. A more sustainable use of natural resources in the region.	Regional statistics and reports	- Availability of and access to local statistics and reports - Good collaboration with national, regional

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				and local authorities
<b>Specific objectives</b>	to improve capacities on indicator-based monitoring, assessment and reporting of environmental data with particular emphasis on the national statistics institutes and to set up a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacities on indicator-based monitoring</li> <li>- Capacities on assessment</li> <li>- Capacities on reporting at national statistics institutes</li> <li>- A Shared Environmental Information System put in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring methodology</li> <li>- Assessment methodology</li> <li>- Reporting methods by national statistics institutes</li> <li>- Regional information networks (SEIS)</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<p>1. improved quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information in the ENP East Partner Countries in order to support policy development and implementation across different policy areas, guide allocation of financial resources, support environmental democracy and raise environmental awareness, and to support international negotiations and implementation of international agreements dealing with transboundary issues.</p> <p>2. progress made towards a shared environmental information system (SEIS) in the ENP East countries in line with European standards as appropriate. This will facilitate the establishment of relevant data flows and the production and maintenance of a core set of environmental indicators (CSI) and Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI) for the region, which is comparable and compatible with the CSI for the European Environment Agency (EEA) member countries. The information and indicators will serve as a basis for both evaluating progress of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information in the partner countries</li> </ul>		

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	<p>the state of the environment at various levels (from regional to pan-European), as well as for supporting the implementation of various national and international commitments and targets.</p>			
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgrade the national systems for environmental data collection and distribution.</li> <li>- capacity building of the national statistics institutes regarding the data flows underpinning the production of environmental indicators, as well as data sharing and reporting mechanisms, focusing in to begin with on air, water and land cover</li> <li>- capacity building at national level to develop and implement a shared environmental information system to be used for national, regional and international reporting, assessment and benchmarking</li> <li>- Integration of data and information collected in ENP East countries into a SEIS-compliant system</li> <li>- development and production of comparable indicators based on the EECCA methodological guide and compendium (developed with UNECE and UNEP support)</li> <li>- Analysis and assessment of the available data, information and indicators (environment and sustainable development) produced</li> <li>- preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> assessment report to be presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment (Astana Conference) under the EfE process planned to take place in 2011.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Means</b></p> <p>technical assistance team in each country working directly with the relevant administrations</p>	<p><b>Costs</b></p> <p><b>€2,5 M</b></p>	