ENPI-SEIS project partners

The main project partners are the national environmental and statistical organisations leading in the field of environmental information within the ENPI area: ministries, agencies and statistical offices responsible for collecting, producing, storing and disseminating environmental data and information.

Each country has nominated two national ENPI-SEIS focal points for this process — high level officials, representing the environmental and statistical organisations respectively and responsible for managing and developing the environmental information system in the countries.

The project is implemented in close cooperation with UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention, UNECE and EEA member and cooperating countries. There are also close linkages envisaged with other relevant EU-funded projects in the region.

The implementation of the project is supported by two contractors involving international consortia with strong regional networks, led by Zoï environment network (Geneva) for the countries of the ENP East region and the Russian Federation and by Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Vienna) for the countries of the ENP South region.

The project involves the following partners:

ENP Southern partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria * and Tunisia

ENP Eastern partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Strategic partnership: Russian Federation *

* Collaboration is temporarily suspended.

Geographical coverage

EEA and ENPI-SEIS project coverage

- EEA member countries
- EEA cooperating countries
- ENP East
- ENP South
- Strategic partnership

The map does not imply any opinion from EEA concerning the legal status of any country or territory, its area of authority or the delination of its frontiers and boundaries.

* Collaboration is temporally suspended

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

THE ENPI-SEIS PROJECT

European Environment Agency

The Shared Environmental Information System

The Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) is a European Union initiative to modernise and simplify the collection, exchange and use of the data and information required for designing and implementing environmental policy.

SEIS is based on the following 'principles':
Information should be

1. managed as close as possible to its source;

2. collected once, and shared with others for many purposes;

3. readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations;

4. easily accessible to all users;

5. accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale, and citizen participation;

6. fully available to the general public, and at the national level in the relevant national language(s);

7. supported through common, free open software standards.

ENPI-SEIS project

The project was launched to promote the protection of the environment in the European Neighbourhood region through the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The project is being implemented by the European Environment Agency (EEA) together with the partner countries in the period 2010–2014. The project is financed through a service contract managed by DG EuropeAid. The overall project coordination is ensured by the Management Group, bringing together nominated representatives from relevant EC services: DG EuropeAid, DG Environment, EEAS, DG Research, Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre.

This project will help to develop the capacities of the relevant authorities in the areas of cooperation, networking, monitoring, data management, assessment and indicator-based reporting on the environment. It will also provide a long-term and sustainable perspective for cooperation with the partner countries. These are issues on the agendas of both the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean.

The main outcomes of the ENPI-SEIS project will address the three SEIS components — cooperation, content and infrastructure — through enhanced networking with the national capacities on environmental information. Furthermore, it will promote open, public access to information through compatible and freely available exchange tools.

The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment by providing timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policymaking agents and the public. Currently, the EEA has 32 member countries and seven cooperating countries, all represented in the European environment information and observation network (Eionet).

Project objectives and themes

The overall objective of the project is to promote the protection of the environment in the countries of the ENPI area. In order to achieve this, the project has identified a set of measurable and specific objectives:

- to identify and develop data and information flows and environmental indicators suitable for the design and review of environmental policies, supporting the monitoring and compliance with various national, regional and international obligations and targets;

- 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;

- to set up national and regional environmental information systems in the countries of the ENP area that are in line with the principles of the EU Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); and

- to track progress of the regional environmental initiatives (ENP, Eastern Partnership, Strategic Partnership, Horizon 2020).

The priority themes identified during the first consultation meeting with the countries to start the cooperation are:

- for the East and Russian Federation: water, particularly freshwater, both in terms of quality and quantity (with the Black Sea as a first example of marine water); municipal/household waste; as well as air emissions, climate change, and eventually air quality;

- for the South: urban waste water; municipal waste; industrial emissions as well as fresh and marine water, both in terms of quality and quantity.