



## **Towards a Shared Environmental Information System ENPI-SEIS Project**

**Biannual Newsletter  
No.2/2011**

**The newsletter is available in English, and will be translated to French, Russian & Arabic**

### **Contents**

#### **Welcome**

#### **I ENPI-SEIS PROJECT**

#### **II RECENT EVENTS**

##### **II.1 Country visits**

**ENP South: Israel, Lebanon, Tunisia**

**ENPI East: Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia**

##### **II.2 Ministerial Conference on 'Environment for Europe' process, Astana, Kazakhstan**

##### **II.3 ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee Meeting and Regional Workshops**

##### **II.4 Relevant meetings and events attended in 2011**

#### **III SEIS COOKBOOK**

#### **IV CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present you the second issue of the ENPI-SEIS newsletter. It is distributed electronically two times a year around June and December. We hope you will find it useful and share with your colleagues. Should you have ideas, comments or proposals for items to be covered by this newsletter in further issues, we will be happy to hear from you.

### **I. ENPI-SEIS PROJECT**

The project 'Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood' was launched in December 2009 to promote the protection of the environment in the European Neighbourhood region through the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

The project is implemented by the European Environment Agency (EEA) together with partner countries in the ENP South, ENP East and the Russian Federation, bringing together national environmental and statistical organisations leading in the field of environmental information. It will provide a long-term and sustainable perspective for cooperation with the partner countries, as part of the cooperation within the policy framework of the Eastern Partnership, Union for the Mediterranean, Horizon2020 etc. The project is financed through a service contract managed by DG EuropeAid and is envisaged to run until June 2014.

For more information on the project partners and objectives, please refer to the leaflet which is available in English, Russian and French at the project website: <http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/communication/read-leaflet>

## II. RECENT EVENTS

### II.1 Country visits

The first round of ENPI-SEIS country visits to the ENPI South and East regions was held in 2011. In the first half of 2011 visits were conducted to Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan and Palestinian Authority, while in the second half of 2011 Belarus, Israel, Moldova, Lebanon, Tunisia, Ukraine and Russia were visited.

The purpose of these two-day visits organised by the two National Focal Points was to bring together existing country networks which manage environmental information, to identify country-specific elements and needs related to the three SEIS components (content, infrastructure, institutional cooperation), and to obtain feedback on country specific needs and readiness for SEIS implementation in the priority areas identified.

Following the country visits, the National Focal Points of each country are now working together with the EEA on the finalisation of the Country Reports and detailed work plans, which will serve as a basis for project activities in 2012 and further work in the coming years.

The country reports will be made available on the project website once finalised (in the next couple of months). Presentations made during the country visits, agendas and lists of participants are available under the following link: <http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/country-folders>

Below you will find short summaries from the country visits conducted during the second half of 2011.

#### Country visit to Israel 5-6 July 2011 (Jerusalem)

The ENPI-SEIS country visit to Israel was jointly arranged by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) and the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel (ICBS). The two-day meeting was chaired and facilitated by Dr. Sinaia Netanyahu, Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Mr Ronan Uhel, Head of Programme (EEA).

The first day at the Ministry of Environment Protection was opened by Ms Alona Sheaffer, Director General and focused first on EEA and SEIS and was followed by presentations on the environmental indicators and environmental legislation in Israel as well as presentations on thematic sessions on industrial emissions and waste. Approximately 20 participants from different sections of the Ministry of Environment were present during the first day.

The second day at the Central Bureau of Statistics, welcomed by Dr Shlomo Yitzaki, State Statistician included presentations and discussions on environmental statistics in Israel. The day was organised around thematic sessions on water, urban wastewater, marine environment and GIS. The second day gathered about 14 participants from the Central Bureau of Statistics and other relevant partner organisations.

The agreed actions are in the areas of indicator development, water accounting and data harmonisation.



#### Country visit to Lebanon 25-26 October 2011 (Beirut)

The ENPI-SEIS country visit to Lebanon consisted of two days of workshops, attended by around 30 participants from the different environment departments and partner institutions. Opened by Ms Sanaa Al Sairawan, the National Focal Point of the Ministry of Environment, the first meeting day started with EEA presentation on the role and mandate of EEA, SEIS principles and benefits and the ENPI-SEIS project after which representatives of the Ministry of Environment gave presentations on institutional cooperation, legal framework, indicator development and GIS application as well as a presentation from the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) on the status of environmental statistics in Lebanon. The rest of the first day was dedicated to thematic session on industrial emissions.

During the second day thematic areas of water and urban waste water as well as waste were presented and discussed. Sessions comprised a series of presentations by various thematic experts from the MoE, Ministry of Industry (Mol), CAS, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) and National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS).

During the discussions, the following areas were highlighted as priorities for Lebanon: support on the implementation of an Emission and Pollution Register including waste, water information systems, organisation of data flows, facilitation of the development of water accounts, organising a specific session on SEIS for executives/decision makers, consolidation of views, updating the inventory of “who does what” and development of a functional inventory targeted to emissions and pollution register, waste and water accounting.as concrete cases.



### Country visit to Tunisia 1-2 November 2011 (Tunis)

The two day workshop was opened by Mr Salem Hamdi, the State Secretary for Environment, the General Directors of the National Agency of Environment Protection (ANPE), the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the National Sanitation Utility (ONAS) Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies and Mr Ronan Uhel, EEA Head of Programme. After welcoming and short tour de table introductions, EEA presented the role and mandate of the EEA, SEIS principles and benefits and the ENPI-SEIS project, Ms Habiba Oueslati, NFP of the Ministry of Environment, presented the State of Play in Tunisia as regards legal framework, indicator development and GIS application, and Mr Mohamed Chiha, NFP/Statistics, presented the status of environmental statistics in Tunisia. This was followed by a series of very detailed and informative presentations from the various thematic stakeholders on industrial emissions, water and wastewater, marine environment and waste. There were approximately 40 participants present during the two days.

Following the two-days discussions, the following lines of action were agreed of: Integration of existing information systems, interoperability, harmonisation of classifications; participation of the civil society in the data and information production and dissemination process; water accounts; data harmonisation, QA/QC.



### Country visit to Moldova 6-7 September 2011 (Chisinau)

The ENPI-SEIS workshop on 6 September in Chisinau attended by around 60 participants from various institutions was opened by Deputy Minister of Environment of Republic of Moldova, Lazar Chirica, and Deputy Director of EEA, Gordon McInnes.

The day started with presentations on EEA and ENPI-SEIS project by EEA, followed by a presentation from UNECE on environmental reporting requirements and the current compliance status of Moldova. The national focal point from Ministry of Environment, Maria Nagornii, introduced the state of play in Moldova and the statistical NFP, Elena Orlova, reviewed the cooperation between Statistical Office and the Ministry of Environment. The rest of the workshop saw presentations and discussions from several Moldovan representatives on national data/infrastructure for air pollution, water quality and management, and waste as well as on administrative-statistical information flows. The workshop had a very good representation of national actors and brought lively discussions.

As part of the country visit, bilateral meetings were held with the Deputy Minister of Environment Lazar Chirica, and staff from various agencies within the Ministry, Deputy Director of the National Bureau of Statistics, Mr Oleg Cara, State Hydrometeorological Service, Mr. Ilie Boian, Director and key staff of the E-Government Center of Republic of Moldova.



### Country visit to Belarus 13-14 September 2011 (Minsk)

Approximately 50 participants took part in the ENPI-SEIS workshop in Minsk. The workshop was chaired by Aleksandr Rachevsky, Head of International Co-operation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MNREP), by Gordon McInnes, EEA Deputy Director, and by Llewellyn Edwards, Head of Operations in the EU Delegation to Belarus. The day continued with presentations on EEA and SEIS in general; work of UNECE in the region; the ENPI SEIS project: and a national example of SEIS developments and working with EEA from a member country perspective, by a team member from Eionet Poland.

The afternoon session comprised a series of presentations from the ENPI-SEIS NFPs on environment (Elena Penyz) and statistics (Irina Poleshchuk), various thematic experts from the MNREP, the Main Information-Analytical Centre of National Environmental Monitoring, research institutes, National Academy of Science, etc.

On the second day, bilateral meetings were held with the Director and Heads of Department of the Main Information-Analytical Center of National Environmental Monitoring System, Belorussian Research Center "Ecology"; First Deputy Chairman of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus; Deputy Head of the Republican Center of Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring and experts responsible monitoring of air quality, surface water and radiation control.

Belarus expressed willingness to have training/expert exchanges on adaptation of their systems to modern standards on air (especially GHG inventories), then water and waste.



### Country visit to Ukraine 7-8 November 2011 (Kiev)

The workshop held in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) of Ukraine, attended by approximately 50 participants, was opened by Dmytro Mornul, Deputy Minister of MENR and by Gordon McInnes, EEA Deputy Director. During the day, presentations covered priority issues of the national environmental policy in Ukraine, the state of environmental monitoring and interactions between the different institutions, use of environmental indicators, national developments in the main priority areas as well as overview of SEIS relevant on-going projects and activities. The workshop saw active engagement in the discussions from all participants and their interest in further project implementation.

During the second day, bilateral meetings were held with Dmytro Mornul, MENR Deputy Minister, and Dmytro Averin, ENPI-SEIS NFP environment; Nataliya Vlasenko, Deputy Director of the State Statistical Service of Ukraine, and Oleg Prokopenko, statistical NFP; and with the EU Delegation to Ukraine.



Among the priority needs on national level were highlighted: training and capacity building activities in streamlining systems and development of web-services, including GIS; expert support on GHG and air pollution inventories; as well as study visits of Ukrainian experts to environment agencies in EU Member States to build capacity and exchange information on adaptation to EU legislation and standards.

### Country visit to Russia 9-11 November 2011 (Moscow)

During the first day of the visit, the team met with the EU Delegation to Russian Federation and visited Mosecomonitoring – an authorised organisation monitoring the ecological situation in the territory of Moscow. The following day, on 10 November, the workshop held in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology (MNRE) was attended by approximately 30 participants.

The workshop was opened by Irina Borisovna Fominukh, Director of Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, and by Gordon McInnes, EEA Deputy Director. These were followed by presentations on overview of EEA role and mandate, the ENPI-SEIS project objectives, and the pan-European requirements for environmental observations and reporting (by UNECE).

The second session comprised an overview of national perspectives for implementing SEIS at national level (Irina Limonova) and a series of presentations around the three identified priorities: presentation by Rosprirodnadzor on the creation of joint system of ecological information in waste management in Russia, general presentation by Rosvodresursy structure on water information at a federal level and the current status of data and information infrastructure on GHG inventory in Russian Federation. The statistical project NFP, Natalia Shashlova from Rosstat, gave presentation on the state-of-play and perspectives on using environmental indicators in Russia. In addition, there was a presentation on a pilot introducing PRTR on a regional level in Volgograd.

The discussions highlighted Russia's interest to collaborate on all three priority areas in the following order: waste, air and water. Training and capacity building activities were mentioned in the area of waste, and more specifically on municipal waste, air pollution classification covering PM10 and ozone measurement, as well as mobile source emissions. The interest in preparing joint Russia-EU publications and further workshops (i.e. on environmental accounting) was also mentioned.



## II.2 Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan, 21-23 September 2011

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

## II.3 ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee Meeting and Regional Workshops 24-25 November 2011

The second meeting of the ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee that was held on 24-25 November 2011 in EEA premises in Copenhagen gathered more than 50 experts from the partner countries in East and South, as well as representatives from the European Commission, UNEP/MAP and UNECE.



This meeting was aimed at taking stock of activities in the ENPI-SEIS project in 2011, progress towards SEIS implementation in the neighbourhood regions, agreeing on a work plan for 2012 for both ENPI East and South countries and present examples of EEA/EIONET tools and systems in support of SEIS development in the neighbourhood. During the meeting participants took note of the latest SEIS developments, provided feedback on the process of organising the country visits and their impact on national level, as well as discussed options for the way forward and the draft work plan for 2012.

Organised around three plenary and two regional workshop sessions, the meeting came out with several practical next steps; in particular on the work plan activities for 2012. For the ENPI South region, the work plan will be organised around the implementation of specific pilot activities for Horizon 2020 review mechanism, supported with regional workshops and training on water and water accounts, as well as on waste statistics (to be implemented jointly with UNEP/MAP, Eurostat, UNSD), also training and workshops on metadata, environmental database harmonisation, data, management and QA/QC procedures.

For the ENPI East region the proposed regional activities include workshops and training on GHG and air pollution inventories, as well as on water statistics in support to the implementation of Water Framework Directive (to be jointly organised with Eurostat), as well as a possible waste statistics workshop following the discussion at the October meeting of the UNECE Joint Task Force. Similarly to the South, capacity building and expert support activities are envisaged for the ENPI East region - training and workshops on metadata, in environmental database harmonisation, data, management and QA/QC procedures, including setting up of a working group on IT.

The final version of the work plan will be available in January 2012, after the consultation period. Detailed minutes of the meeting are still under preparation, while other documentation is available on the project [website \(http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/steering-committee-meetings/2011-11-24-enpi-seis-steering-committee-meeting-and-regional-workshops\)](http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-governance/steering-committee-meetings/2011-11-24-enpi-seis-steering-committee-meeting-and-regional-workshops)

#### II.4 Relevant events and meetings attended in 2011

##### Partner projects:

TAIEX seminar on environment accounting, Rabat, Morocco, 25-26 May 2011 [link](#)

International cooperation projects in support to research and innovation policies and competence building, organised by DG RTD, Brussels, 16 June 2011 [link](#)

Kick-off of a US State Department project implemented by UNEP-ROWA to support the National Environment Observatory in the development of their national information system and the implementation of an integrated environment assessment process, Rabat, Morocco, 12-14 September 2011

Air Quality Governance in ENPI East - Steering Committee Meeting, Ukraine 26 October 2011 [link](#)

UNEP/MAP Focal Point meeting, Athens, 28 November-1 December 2011 [link](#)

Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM) Launching Workshop and SWIM SM Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels, 7-8 December 2011 [link](#)

##### Participation of National Experts to following EEA/Eoinet meetings:

COPERT4 Training Workshop, 20-21 October 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark

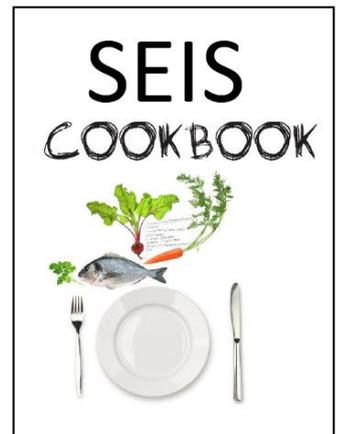
Brainstorming Workshop on Water accounting and water indicators, 1 December 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark

#### Guidance document on SEIS

A guidance document on SEIS (so called 'SEIS cookbook') bringing together good practices and examples of developing and implementing Shared Environmental Information System on the country level is currently under preparation, based on the experience and working progress on SEIS in the EEA/EIONET member and cooperating countries. ENPI countries underlined the usefulness of such a document during the country visits made.

The 'SEIS cookbook' will be organised around different sections, including a general overview of SEIS structured around the three main components (Content, Infrastructure and Institutional cooperation). The other sections will provide a collection of good practice examples illustrating SEIS principles on the basis of the three components emerging from EEA cooperation with EEA member countries, cooperating countries in the West Balkans, ENPI East, ENPI South and various International organisations.

The 'SEIS cookbook' will be an electronic document and it is expected that the first version will be ready by January 2012. It is to be noted that the 'SEIS cookbook' will be a living document, translated into different languages, and will be continuously updated with new examples as technology develops and new systems to support sharing of environmental information are introduced.



#### III CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

A detailed ENPI-SEIS work plan will be available in January 2012, after the consultation period

The following key events will be organised within the next semester: dates and venues are still to be confirmed:

- H2020 Review Monitoring and Research Sub-Group Meeting,
- Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. Meeting in Geneva
- Regional workshops on water accounts, waste statistics, water statistics etc.
- All the events to be organised within the H2020 Initiative are listed here: [H2020 Event list](#)

Project is financed by the EU  
For further information please contact: [enpi-seis@eea.europa.eu](mailto:enpi-seis@eea.europa.eu)