



European Environment Agency



ENPI-SEIS project
Update of the Country Report - LEBANON
Overview of activities for 2015-2020
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Summary

This report aims to identify the changes that took place since the publication of the last country report in 2012, in terms of inter-institutional cooperation, content and infrastructure, and to report on progress made in the implementation of the activities agreed and identified in the [country report](#).

The implementation of the below mentioned pilot projects for demonstration of the shared environment information principles, agreed during the country visit in 2011, encountered some delays. Whereas the mapping of the information have been finalized, engaging the executives and conducting systematic data collection (including the development of complete Water Accounts) have not progressed on the Lebanon SEIS Agenda.

- ❖ Inform and engage executives on/in the SEIS process
- ❖ Mapping of information
- ❖ Development of complete Water Accounts

The major difficulties faced by the Ministry of Environment can be summarized in the lack of human capacities and financial resources. Currently, the follow-up of the SEIS cooperation is undertaken over by the H2020 Focal Point at the Ministry given the very close linkages between these processes. So far, and with respect to the reporting made on the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea, data collection was taken on through personal efforts and not by mandate. The current focal point of the project is the Minister's office. For the purpose of data collection and management, for SEIS and beyond, it is essential to create a body comprising of different Ministries' representatives to be involved in the implementation. Until presently there have been only two persons involved in the project even if it was not part of their mandate.

Not only the lack of human resources but also absence of a common platform or organised committee to share data among the different stakeholders is challenging. The data provided to EEA for the regional assessment report was based on data collected through personal efforts (for example, contact with the Ministry of Energy and Water), no data exchange formats nor questionnaire were designed for this purpose that could have been taken into consideration in an eventual second phase of the project.

Taking into account the difficulties mentioned above, the priorities for the implementation of SEIS need to be redefined (see further below under implementation of SEIS in 2015-2020).

Inter-institutional cooperation

The cooperation remains weak as the collection of the data is done formally through official correspondence between the Ministry of Environment and other institutions on demand. The cooperation with CAS remains difficult, despite their official mandate to collect and share required data at national level.

Content

Industrial emissions

To enable the Ministry of Environment to carry out this environmental audit and ensure the effectiveness of self-environmental control, the decree No. 8471 of 2012 (Decree on Environmental Compliance of Establishments) was issued requiring all establishments currently operating or which will potentially operate, to report their emissions and other impacts on the environment on yearly basis, among other provisions (self-reporting and reporting by third party). In line with these specific provisions, reporting under SEIS would benefit indirectly from this mechanism, whereby emissions are integrated under SEIS and PRTR reporting schemes.

Waste management

Due to the lack of space in the landfills, amounts of waste are being disposed in dump sites. According to the new CoM strategy issued in January 2015, only 25% of waste can be landfilled until 2020 the rest should be treated and recycled by private sector operators (waste companies).

Within the ongoing “Support to Reforms – Environmental Governance in Lebanon” Project (StREG), a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the waste management sector is being conducted. This report will help the Ministry to develop an environmentally-sound approach for waste management in Lebanon. Furthermore, and as part of the recently approved Council of Minister Strategy, it was decided that monitoring contracts will be tendered and managed by the Ministry of Environment. New Terms of Reference (ToRs) are currently being laid down for this task by the MoE and SEIS indicators (among others) will be taken into account to ensure proper reporting of waste streams at the national level. This is envisaged to facilitate data flows between operators, consultants and the Ministry of Environment.

Implementation of SEIS in 2015-2020

Data needs assessment

For the implementation of SEIS, the identification of data requirements in the different MoE departments is a crucial step. The Ministry of Environment needs data for policy making, planning and for state of environment reporting as well as reporting to international conventions but does not need all the data produced by other stakeholders. Therefore, and due to lack of resources as mentioned above, the MoE needs the technical support of a national consultant who will be preparing and prioritising a list of indicators in line with internal needs as well as with policy and planning development requirements. Such a consultant will examine the organisational goals, the national and international reporting obligations and establish the list of data needed (actual needs vs. perceived needs) and this step will help identify potential data gaps. The indicators produced under the Lebanese Environment and Development Observatory (LEDO) would be used as a basis for this work, still requiring a revision and prioritisation of existing indicators.

Data exchange formats and protocols for exchanging data among stakeholders

Once the data needs are identified, the consultant would be required to set a common platform for the development of data exchange formats and protocols for exchanging data among stakeholders in a systematic way reducing the level of effort implicated in this activity. This would be achieved by contacting all data producers (CAS, Ministry of energy and water, Ministry of industry, municipalities, etc.) and agreeing on the data exchange formats. Protocols and conventions for exchanging data will be drafted if deemed necessary. Protocols for exchanging data and information will guaranty a sustainability and avoid sending several data requests. In this future system the quality of the data will be responsibility of the producer.

Inform and engage executives on/in the SEIS process

As there is no data policy in place and all interactions among stakeholders are based on a formalistic official requests, it would be necessary to inform and keep in close contact with key persons for the project, its objectives, and - most importantly - its benefits at the national level (this could be done as second step before data exchange formats). A meeting with high-level executives from different ministries will give an opportunity to present the future exchange platform. Another possibility would be to inform the involved institutions through the National Council for the Environment (NCE) established by decree in 2012 to, among other, mainstream environmental topics into policies, strategies, master plans, etc. This body includes 7 representatives from the public sector, namely the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Work and Transport, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, in addition to the Ministry of Environment. It is worthwhile noting that academic institutions, private companies and NGOs are also members of the NCE and can eventually contribute to improving data production and collection at the regional and/or national levels.

Mapping of data and information

The activities above will help to complete the data mapping activity initiated by MoE.

Infrastructure

Study tour to EU MS country

Under the StREG project, the Ministry of Environment is currently looking to improve its Information Technology platform. It is therefore essential to coordinate the development of the data infrastructure in line with the tools available and to assist the Ministry in designing the appropriate structure for data collection and management taking into account existing resources. Accordingly, a study visit to an EU member country could be envisaged to integrate the experience of EU partners in developing relevant information systems (such as on water, waste, etc.).

Training needs

In order to increase local knowledge on data generation, in particular with respect to industrial emissions, it would be essential to generate local emission factors, taking into account technologies used in Lebanon. This is necessary to address the lack of monitoring at the industry-level, which requires the computation and estimation of emissions based on technological and historical data.