ENPI-SEIS South Workplan 2013-14

Draft document for consultation - December 2012

European Environment Agency

ENPI-SEIS – South
Project activities 2013-2014

Based on the activity area agreed by the ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee, this document complements the time table overview (Excel table) with a description of the aim of each particular group of activities, the status, the specific tasks to be implemented to reach the aims, as well as some key milestones highlighting what is expected and where we expect to be in the process.

Area 1 Data and indicators - Development of H2020 indicators

Within the framework of H2020, the ENPI-SEIS project, in cooperation with relevant partners and based on existing on-going initiatives, is supporting the design of coherent data flows, an indicator and assessment process as well as a framework for regular indicator-based analyses to compare and measure progress across the region. In order to support the above process and assess progress on Mediterranean environment and facilitate the production of country assessments in the three H2020 priority areas, a set of relevant indicators in line with the EEA Core Set of Indicators (CSIs) and other existing regional sets of indicators, in particular those developed under the Ecosystem Approach of the Barcelona Convention, has been identified.

In this framework, two ENPI-SEIS Working Groups (WG), with two representatives per partner country, have been set-up in order to support more specifically the work on indicators and on technical infrastructure.

The **WG on Environmental Indicators** aims i) to identify a list of potential indicators to provide a consistent baseline of information from across the region to measure and compare progress made under the Horizon 2020 initiative and to support the process of regular reporting on the Mediterranean, and ii) to support the supply of information, which allows a greater variety and depth of information, experiences and good (and bad) practices to be shared (e.g. development of country profiles).

The **WG on Information Technology** is identifying the various possible problems in data accessibility; assessing the data availability in technical and institutional terms for the selected indicators developed by the WG on Environmental Indicators. The objective is to lead to the set-up of a common meta-database, to facilitate and make technically possible the regular reporting processes and to make steps towards sharing environmental information.

The two Working Groups are contributing to support the implementation of the pilot actions identified by the country. For the next implementation phase 2013-2014, the focus will be given to the production of the selected indicators through agreed data flows.

1.1 – Develop methodological guide for the selected H2020 indicators

1.1.1   Finalise indicator factsheets

Based on the EEA and UNEP/MAP template for indicator factsheets, draft factsheets have been elaborated by the WG on Indicators with the support of the relevant ETC and UNEP/MAP. The October 2012 meeting of the WG identified areas where additional inputs from the countries were needed to complement the factsheets (methodology, data references, gap filling, etc). The factsheets will continue to be further developed with the country inputs (geographical coverage data references, gap filling and uncertainties), taking into account the outcome of the populating exercise at national level. In light of the populating exercise, a review and adjustment of the factsheets will be performed.

This activity will be supported by the WG on Environmental Indicators and is intended to be completed by mid-January for a review of progress during the **meeting of this Working Group** foreseen beginning of March (tentative date 6-7 March).

As a key milestone in the process, the meeting of the WG on Environmental Indicators beginning of March will aim i) to take stock of progress in populating the indicators and establishing the related data flows ii) to share and discuss the first draft of the regional report, with a particular focus on the country level assessment (see point 5). It is expected to hold a joint session with the WG on IT.

This meeting of the WGs will be organize in parallel to the First Eye on Earth User Conference taking place in Dublin on 4-6 March 2013, in association with the Irish EU Presidency. The next Eionet/NFP meeting will also take place in Dublin in parallel to the Eye on Earth Conference.

1.1.2   Translation of the factsheet specification into French and Arabic

The indicator specification of the factsheets will be translated into French and Arabic for use at country level by a large number of experts taking into account that reporting on the progress of the implementation of H2020 will be a continuous process.

1.2 Populating the H2020 indicators

On the basis of the agreed factsheets, countries will work on populating the selected indicators. The key objective of this activity is for each country to produce the selected indicators.

The relevant ETC and UNEP/MAP will provide support to the countries in developing and populating the agreed H2020 indicators.

This support will be organised via national workshops, data collection and missions to countries. This will create opportunities for the countries to document the implementation of the approach (H2020 review mechanism) taking into account the 3 pillars of SEIS and provide the foundation for the preparation of the country level assessment (see point 5). On this basis, the H2020 indicators will be populated and the methodology/factsheets validated.

The **direct support to countries in indicator development** and data handing will be ensured by UNEP/MAP and organised with the NFPs during the 1st quarter of 2013. The dates, Terms of References of the national workshop are to be discussed and agreed with UNEP/MAP beforehand.

The workshops will involve key stakeholders at national and local levels, as appropriate, involved in the indicator development and population process. Missions to countries may be necessary to support countries in populating indicators and explaining the methodology and supporting the establishment of appropriate IT systems. The national workshops will be organised by the countries themselves (sharing of responsibilities to be coordinated among the NFPs). The countries will be responsible for mobilising national partners for the collection of available data and establishment of sustainable data flows. For this purpose, the funds related to the organisation of national workshops and collecting data from available national sources will be given to the countries in accordance with UNEP/MAP practice and UN rules and regulations.

The whole process at national level will also be supported by infrastructure governance activities (see activities under area 4) to ensure sustainability of regular data flows and agree with the countries to give access and deliver these data by developing a regional governance tool for sharing data.

1.3 Development of indicator assessment

As datasets are made available through the population exercise and the establishment of the related data flows, based on the indicator specifications developed through the factsheets (see point 1.1), the EEA aims to produce regional level indicators that will support the production of the assessment of H2020 progress. In view of the publication of the regional report mid-2013, this phase will be run in parallel to the population exercise. It is important to highlight, as discussed during the last Steering Committee meeting, that countries have the responsibility for producing national level indicators, while the EEA deals with regional level analysis. Success for this exercise fully depends on having access to harmonized datasets following the agreed indicator specifications.

Final indicators will then be published in the EEA Indicator Management System (IMS).

Area 2 - Thematic support – Data/statistics development

Following the priorities identified in the Country Reports, thematic support has been developed in the three H2020 priority themes to support and enhance capacities in the countries in indicator and data production. It is proposed to continue this support in close coordination with other projects and initiatives (e.g. Capacity Building component of H2020, SWIM project, EMWIS, UfM, UNSD, Eurostat, UNEP, etc) to ensure complementarity and appropriate benefit for the partner countries.

2.1 Water accounts

Following the workshops organized in 2012, countries elaborated road-maps for the implementation of water accounts. It is proposed to ensure a follow-up of this activity and support countries in the implementation of their road-map, making appropriate linkages

between the development of the accounting framework and the production of relevant data and indicators. This activity will be closely coordinated with UNSD.
- A joint regional workshop with UNSD to exchange and disseminate results, lessons learned is envisaged in 2013 (2nd semester 2013).

2.2 Waste statistics

It appears that one of the key support activities to be provided within the regional context remains in the area of waste, allowing sharing of experiences and good practices in waste management and waste inventories, including data collection methodologies, setting-up of appropriate information systems and relation with existing waste management plans and strategies.

- The joint **EEA-Eurostat workshop on waste** which was initially foreseen in the 2012 work plan will be postponed to 2013, then supporting the development of the selected waste indicators and assessment.
- Synergies and complementarity with the capacity building activities to be implemented by the Capacity Building component of H2020 (CB/MEP project) over the period 2013-2014 both at regional/sub-regional and national level will be strengthened.

2.3 Industrial emissions - support to establishment of national PRTR

The Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) is in important means for government to track generation, release and the fate of various pollutants over time in support of the requirements of H2020 and of the Land Based Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. The SEIS state of play report and discussions during the country visits recognised the design and development of PRTR as a key activity to support data collection and sharing from industrial point sources.

This support will be provided by UNEP/MAP. UNEP/MAP has developed several tools, including software for supporting countries to establish PRTR. The PRTR exercise will focus on the H2020 indicators for industrial pollution and will help to enhance the coherence between reporting under the LBS protocol with reporting under H2020. The PRTR exercise will fully take into account the need for interoperability with other reporting systems in place, as appropriate.

In close coordination with the MEDPOL Focal Points, UNEP/MAP will confirm with the countries in December 2012 interest in the establishment of PRTR, and jointly develop relevant action plan for implementation.

2.3.1. **Support online PRTR**, establishing national teams in ENPI South countries in setting up a PRTR system for the H2020 indicators on industrial pollution. This will include support to countries with training, missions as well as ensuring the necessary software and other elements needed for PRTR to be established effectively. Missions to countries will be undertaken by UNEP/MAP to support the process.

2.3.2. **Regional workshop** to exchange and disseminate lessons learnt and to promote replication. This regional workshop would ideally be scheduled for a one day meeting back to back with MEDPOL Focal Point meeting in May 2013.

2.3.3. **Development of SEIS infrastructure for PRTR**; It is proposed to support the development of a cloud service to facilitate the on-line reporting of industrial pollutants from the ENPI/South Countries. Use will be made of the experience and outcome of the work carried out so far including the use of the existing MEDPOL/UNIDO PRTR software. Particular attention will be paid to make sure that the PRTR established in countries will allow for the inter-operability with other reporting systems including in particular the National Baseline Budgets (NBBs) of the Medpol Info system and other reporting systems, as appropriate. This activity includes also missions to countries of ICT experts to support the national workshops on PRTR and their establishment and assess the needs of the respective countries.

Area 3 – Data flows - SEIS Infrastructure

Activities under this area aim to support the establishment of data flows for the selected H2020 indicators and the development of appropriate information and communication tools and means suitable for managing data flows and sharing data and information in the region. Different time perspectives have to be considered when working on the establishment of data flows (as identified by the WG on Information Technology in Skopje), leading to different parallel activities. On a short term, activities will aim to put in place the necessary data flows to support the production of the first H2020 assessment report (mid-2013), then in parallel supporting the implementation of the country pilot action, testing and demonstrating what can be achieved in a medium term on the 3 SEIS pillars.

3.1. Set-up H2020 reporting mechanism

As agreed by the WG on IT, Reportnet will be used as the reporting tool for this first exercise, making use of the existing Mediterranean Data Repository (MDR) already available on Reportnet. This does not mean that the EEA is to be a final repository for such datasets, but rather that the EEA reporting mechanism and established routines are to be used to advance the establishment of H2020 data flows.

The use of Reportnet for H2020 reporting implies a set of tasks for the EEA and the countries. Based on the selected H2020 Indicators, EEA will create reporting obligations linked to H2020 to Reportnet's Reporting Obligation Database and produce the relevant data dictionary (technical specification for data flows). Specific guidance on how to use Reportnet will be developed by EEA and disseminate to the NFPs.

In parallel, the National Focal Points will be asked to identify the institution and person responsible for managing the country folder within the Mediterranean Data Repository (MDR) and start populating the Directory (or upload links to existing online datasets).

Key milestone for this activity are:
- Inclusion of H2020 reporting obligations to the Reporting Obligation Database;
- Reportnet guidance;
- Countries to identify the institutions and persons responsible for managing country folders and their roles in the reporting chain;
- Meeting of the WG on Environmental Indicators, March 2013, Dublin

3.2. Data structure definition and design, incl. QA/QC

For datasets already included in international reporting obligations (i.e. Barcelona Convention) or international statistical requests (i.e. UNSD questionnaire, MEDSTAT questionnaire), the structure and data specifications are already well established and documented and made available through reporting guidelines by the specific Convention Secretariats and International organisations. When available, data sets delivered to international organisations will be used to populate the H2020 indicators, when not available, support to countries will be provided to gather these data and deliver them following a harmonised structure (See area 3.3).

This activity aims to identify and describe the relevant data items into existing reporting structures (e.g. UNEP/MAP meta data catalogue for the marine related indicators and Eurostat specification for waste indicators) and set up the data structure for the H2020 reporting allowing delivery of data using common and harmonised structures.

Key milestones for this activity are:
- Identification of relevant data items in existing reporting structures (EEA)
- Set up full data dictionary for the H2020 reporting (EEA, WG on IT);
- National workshops to be held with the support of UNEP/MAP over January-March 2013;

3.3. Populating data sets in an agreed structure

In complement to the development of the indicators (see area 1.2), countries are encouraged to progressively populate the underpinning data sets following the agreed structure. When available, data sets delivered to international organisations will be used to populate the H2020 indicators, when not available, countries will use the data specification developed. Progress and experiences in populating the required data sets will be presented and discussed by the WG on IT (March 2013, Dublin), then adjusted if needed to allow necessary data sets delivery for the production of the H2020 assessment report.

This activity will be supported by the WG on IT and UNEP/MAP.

3.4 Data delivery - upload to Reportnet

The person identified for managing the country folder (see area 3.1) will be responsible to upload, within the set deadline the requested data sets to the country folder under the Mediterranean Data Repository (MDR). For this first exercise, the deadline to report H2020 data sets is **Friday 25 April 2013**.

Based on the experience of this first exercise, the deadline for reporting H2020 data may be adjusted later.

EEA will provide countries with specific guidance on how to upload to Reportnet.

3.5 Data processing

Automatic consistency checks will be performed on the delivered data sets; nevertheless, countries are responsible for the validation of the data. If inconsistencies, suspected errors and/or outliers are spotted by the EEA during the processing of data, the appropriate country representative will be notified. The EEA does not, and will not, edit any data values submitted by the countries.

Area 4 – Country-level support towards advancing SEIS Principles

The objective of this activity is to support countries advancing SEIS principles while implementing regional activities and country pilots, as identified in the Country Report.

4.1 Elaborate detailed per-country plan of action

Dialogue will be initiated with all National Focal Points of the ENPI-South countries in December 2012/January 2013 to follow-up on the Country Reports, and in particular to evaluate how the identified key actions and pilots can be translated into a realistic plan of action for each of the SEIS pillars, taking into account regional activities and specific support to be provided by UNEP/MAP. The outcome of this country-level dialogue exercise will lead to integrated national plans of actions, and identification of additional capacity development needs for the practical implementation.

4.2 Support implementation of per-country plan of action

A regular follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the country plan of action will be ensured by the EEA with the support of Framework Contractor (UBA Vienna).

According to the country specific plan of action and in addition to the indicator and PRTR support, UNEP/MAP will provide specific technical assistance and training, including technical guidelines and assistance on developing data infrastructure and remote helpdesk for running and fine tuning systems, populate metadata on geo-referenced data sets, trial data delivery for IMS population with first H2020.

Key milestones for this activity are:
- National workshops to be held with the support of UNEP/MAP over January-March 2013;
- Meeting of the IT and Environmental Indicators WG, March 2013, Dublin

Area 5 – Assessment

Activities under this area aim to support the elaboration of the first regional report of progress of the H2020 initiative using the agreed indicators and including country assessment on the three H2020 priority areas as defined by the WG on Environmental indicators in October

2012. It is foreseen to have the draft report ready mid-2013, then contributing to the mid-term review of the Horizon 2020 initiative.

5.1 Preparation of draft H2020 regional report by mid-2013

Using the available data and indicators delivered by the countries, the provision of country level assessments and regular follow-up of the implementation of the country plan of action, EEA and UNEP/MAP will produce a first regional report on H2020 progress.

The key milestones in the production of the H2020 regional report are:
- Full concept and outline of the report (January 2013);
- Produced a first draft to be reviewed and discussed by WG on Environmental Indicators (March 2013);
- Consultation with key partners, stakeholders on the draft report, RMR sub-group meeting, May 2013 (tentatively back-to-back with relevant RAC PFs meetings);
- Release of the report in June 2013

5.2 Development of country level assessments

This aim of this activity is to support the development of country level assessments, then contributing to the draft regional report.

EEA is developing specific guidance to support countries in preparing country assessments for each of the three priority areas. The development and review process of these assessments will be done through the online forum (web service/information exchange platform through which countries can provide their feedback and comments electronically).

This activity will be supported by the WG on Indicators and EEA/ETC.

5.3 – 5.4 Translation and dissemination

EEA will ensure the appropriate translation into French and Arabic of the report and organize with the support of the NFPs the dissemination of the report and key messages.

Key events organised in the framework of H2020 (e.g. Steering Group meeting), and by UNEP/MAP and other projects and initiatives will be used as a platform to discuss this first review of H2020 progress following the proposed structure of the H2020 report. As agreed by the WG on Environmental Indicators, only the regional synthesis of the report will be produced. The H2020 report will be translated into French and Arabic.

Area 6 – Communication

Highlights of the 2013 Communication Strategy are to be sent to National Focal Points in January 2013.

Area 7 – Network and management

7.1. 2013 Steering Committee Meeting

The next project Steering Committee meeting is being planned tentatively for the week of 16-20 September 2013.

7.2 National networks

The importance of national networks (i.e. inter-institutional cooperation) for the collection, organisation, management, re-use and sharing of environmental data and information was reiterated at the 2012 Steering Committee meeting. Several countries have expressed in their country reports the desire for further guidance and support on how such national networks could be set up.

As highlighted by the European Commission during the Steering committee meeting, dialogue between the EU and the ENP countries has started for defining the 3 priority sectors of the 2014-2020 work programme. It is important that the ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points liaise with their governments to strengthen the case to have "the environment" as a priority sector for bilateral aid and to include SEIS as a key action in the national country plans.