

Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Country maturity report: Ukraine

Executive summary

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Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries (ENI SEIS II East)

Legal notice

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This report was produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers as part of the project for developing a roadmap and identify feasible and practical means for integrating environmental information in national e-governance/open data processes and platforms. This action is done in the context of the ENI SEIS II East project 2016-2020. The report was built in 2018 and updated throughout 2019, including a review in March 2019 after the first regional meeting in Kiev, and a second review after the roundtable in November 2019. The report was reviewed by public authorities in Ukraine in January 2020.

This report contains information obtained or derived from a variety of publicly available sources described within the report in more detail and does not intend to be a comprehensive analysis of environmental information, open data and e-government in the country but a collection of the main elements shaping the national environmental information landscape.



Executive summary

The methodology followed to prepare the present report is based on the 2018 and 2019 European Union report on open data maturity in Europe. Some adjustments were made to accommodate the specific situation of Eastern Partnership countries as well as the focus on environmental information.

The report was prepared and updated between 2018 and 2020 as part of the EU-funded project implemented by EEA - 'Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries' (ENI SEIS II East). The national input in the preparation of the report was ensured through broad dialogue and consultation with various institutions in Ukraine, in particular those related to the environment and statistics. In addition, experts across various policy domains, including IT and e-government, have been involved through participation in national and regional events. These activities allowed for the exchange of views on the future of the e-government and open data in the cross-cutting domain of the environment in Ukraine. As a result, the document presents an overview of the national e-government framework, the maturity level of open data and dissemination of environmental information in Ukraine. The analysis included the following:

- the policy framework was reviewed to identify existing strategic directions and available tools for the dissemination of environmental information using open data and e-government solutions;
- the legal framework was reviewed to determine the requirements related to e-government, open data, and dissemination of environmental data and information;
- technological solutions were assessed to determine the existing technical capabilities and improvements needed in the future.

Based on the above, the document proposes a roadmap that includes measures focusing on the development of e-government and open data frameworks, which would greatly support the environmental domain and even beyond. The road map is intended to be a living document throughout the implementation process and serve as a benchmark in assessing progress at various stages of development.

E-government

Ukraine has adopted several legal acts to strengthen its e-government legal framework. The Digital Agenda for Ukraine was adopted in 2018, stating the main goals up to 2020. Its main pillars are based on the EU Digital Strategy and EU Digital Single Market Strategy, and they include: information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, digital skills, e-market, digital governance, innovations and R&D, trust and cybersecurity, and benefits from ICT for society and the economy. As the strategic objectives were planned up to 2020, there is an urgent need to evaluate the progress achieved in the area of e-government and, based on existing objectives, introduce an action plan to be implemented from 2021 onwards.



Ukraine could benefit from formalising the interoperability framework by regulating responsibilities, procedures and standards for data exchange at the national level. However, some tools for data exchange are already in place and used by governmental institutions. For example, in 2019 Ukraine developed and introduced the “Trembita” data exchange system for state electronic information resources. The system enables data exchange between government information systems. It is recommended to use “Trembita” for environmental data and information exchange.

Open data

In recent years, Ukraine has developed legislation that supports public access to information and open data. However, legislation covering the procedures for open data preparation, update, quality control and dissemination are still to be developed.

There are around 30 000 datasets available on the Open Data Portal of Ukraine, which puts Ukraine in a leading position among ENI countries and the top 10 countries in Europe¹. The Open Data Portal is automatically harvested by the European Data Portal. However, the quality of open data sets should be further improved to provide valuable and reusable data. In addition, only about 40 per cent of datasets are available in machine-readable formats.

In Ukraine open data initiatives are supported also by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – for example, the Open Data Portal was developed as a result of close cooperation between PO SocialBoost and the Government of Ukraine.

Environmental information sharing and dissemination

Ukraine’s environmental legislation consists of more than 300 acts that cover a broad area of environmental protection and natural resource management. However, the overall legislative framework could benefit from better alignment and a more coordinated approach.

The institutional framework has changed rather often as the responsibility for state policy in the field of environment has shifted between institutions. The changes planned in the nearest future in the government organisational structure in the environmental domain represent both a challenge and also an opportunity to better assign and clarify responsibilities in the area of environmental data management and dissemination.

Ukraine has developed multiple environmental information management portals. Currently, the ambitious Open Environment portal is being developed. It is intended as a national, automated, informational-analytical system in the field of environmental protection, rational use and protection of natural resources. In addition, there are plans to provide a single and free point of access to environmental information in Ukraine.

Suggested recommendations

Following the analysis of the current situation, a proposed roadmap outlines key areas for future development in the field of e-government, open data and dissemination of environmental

¹ <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/data/datasets>



information and provides concrete measures for improvement. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the implementation of the roadmap, a number of examples and practical recommendations are additionally provided and summarised in the report “Open data and e-government good practices for fostering environmental information sharing and dissemination”.

The success and rapid advancement of the country in this challenging domain remain strongly dependent on clear priority-setting, multidisciplinary teamwork and regular monitoring of progress. Furthermore, once progress is made in one or several areas proposed for consideration, readjustments and amendments of the roadmap will be needed to keep it relevant and focus on the key priorities for the country.

The measures recommended for Ukraine in the context of the roadmap are grouped into the following categories: policy-related, legal and technical measures. These cover, in particular, the following issues:

- Policy measures refer to, *inter alia*, the update of Digital Agenda for Ukraine and open data policy, and supporting practical arrangements for open data collection, update, quality assurance/quality control and dissemination.
- Legal measures refer to, *inter alia*, clear definition of responsibilities for public authorities in the area of the environmental data management and dissemination. In addition, the need to develop specific legal acts concerning interoperability and metadata description to be compatible with international standards;
- Technical measures refer to, *inter alia*, the development of an integrated information system and a single access point for environmental information, updating licencing terms and conditions, preparation of metadata description and enhancing the multilingual aspect of web portals and websites in the area of the environment.

All of the measures need to be seen as strongly interacting with and interdependent of each other and the impact of their gradual implementation closely monitored, as it may bring systemic changes across the whole data and information chain.

To address these measures a multidisciplinary team should be set up to address and oversee the implementation of all the above-presented measures.

A specific recommendation for Ukraine is to improve data quality aspect. In practice this recommendation could be achieved by implementing relevant actions set out in the roadmap and summarised below:

- Specific policy measures refer primarily to implementing procedures and practical tools to ensure data quality control at organisational and national levels;
- Specific legal measures could look into regulating organisational responsibilities and obligations of institutions with regards to data quality;
- Specific technical measures could address the development of software solutions to enhance data quality also.



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The present report depicts the current status of e-government, open data and environmental information management and dissemination in Ukraine. Given the exponential development of this area and its recognition as a top policy priority for the near future a regular update and analysis of the situation is strongly recommended.

