Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries

Steering Committee meeting
29-30 November 2016
THE HOTEL, Brussels

Presentation of the Project:
ENI SEIS II East – Waste

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ENPI-SEIS: key lessons learnt

General

- The SEIS concept is generally well-accepted by relevant stakeholders in the six EPCs
- Inadequate exchange mechanisms for env. information
- Inconsistencies of env. data and information with intern. standards
- Gaps in administrative and technical capacities for maintaining monitoring and information systems.
- Cooperation between national authorities collecting and managing information in a number of environmental thematic areas, must be improved.
  - Practical ways to achieve this:
  - Linking strategies for achieving SEIS objectives at national level with existing frameworks such as the implementation plans for the Aarhus Convention
  - Demonstrating benefits of SEIS principles at national and local levels through pilot projects (e.g. the Armenian development of SEIS for Lake Sevan)

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ENPI-SEIS: key lessons learnt

MSW indicator

- Development of data sets on municipal/household waste is improving, although it remains a major challenge across the region.

- Differences in the methodology, scope, quality and geographic coverage of reporting.
  - ➢ undermine the comparability of data among countries

- Lack of a sound format to report in a consistent manner.

- A few key issues:
  - ‣ Population coverage of waste collection services: varies significantly among the countries.
  - ‣ Not all countries have a systematic data collection system in place (but may however conduct waste inventories or pilot studies).
  - ‣ All countries measure waste by volume, but use different conversion rates to convert volume figures into weight.
  - ‣ Variations in definition; however some countries have introduced EU definitionsand are adjusting their data collection accordingly.

ENI SEIS II East – Waste

Project context: ENI-SEIS II East ("the project")

- "Implementation of the SEIS principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries"
  - ➢ building upon the activities undertaken within the ENPI-SEIS project
- **Focus**: to address organisational, administrative and technical aspects related to the annual production of an agreed set of indicators.
  - ‣ Basis = set of 36 env. indicators (agreed within the UNECE-JTFEI)
- **Implementation**:
  - Horizontal & Air, Water, Biodiversity: the EEA (2016-2020)
  - Waste: implemented by Eurostat, in 2016-17
- **Funding**: EU (€290 000 for Waste)

Project Objectives & Outcomes

- Overall objective: to further mainstream waste information into knowledge-based policy-making and good governance in waste management.

- Specific objective: to provide methodological support for the regular production of waste statistics, in compliance with the SEIS principles.

- Outcomes:
  ‣ Improved capacities in national administrations to produce, manage and use waste data, information and statistics in decision-making, in line with EU best practices.
  ‣ Improved quality of waste information and statistics, available to and accessible for decision-makers, civil society, and other national and international stakeholders.
  ‣ Improved comparability of waste data and indicators from the 6 EaP countries.
  ‣ Improved implementation of international commitments (Basel Convention, SEIS cooperation) related to environmental reporting in line with EU best practices.

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National project steering

- a National Waste Statistics Coordinator (NC): the primary contact for the Project.
  - ➤ To be agreed upon (between the statistical office and the ministry responsible for municipal waste management ?)
  - ‣ the NC should liaise with the National Focal Points under the ENI SEIS II East project (implemented by the EEA).

- Role: to ensure inter-institutional coordination and cooperation.
  - ➤ Possibly through the establishment of a National Implementation Team (NIT), with officials from the organisations involved in waste statistics and management.

Project focus

- Waste, and in particular municipal waste (MW) statistics:
  - *Waste generation and management*: the amount of municipal waste generated in a country per year
    - In total (including in areas not covered by a municipal waste collection scheme)
      - ➢ one of the 8 core indicators under the ENPI-SEIS project.
    - By method of treatment (as a share - %- of the total waste in the country)
      - Recycling
      - Composting
      - Incineration (with and without energy recovery or use as a fuel)
      - Landfilling on controlled/non-controlled site, other disposal
      - Other disposal

- But country requests on hazardous waste and industrial waste statistics will also be addressed by the Project.

- The Project provides support for content, not for (IT) infrastructure.
  - ‣ but there is an ENPI-SEIS Working Group on Information Technology.

Project Activities and Outputs

1. Baseline review: a review of the existing situation, to support the TA activities.

The Project will undertake the following TA activities:

1. Two Regional Workshops (RWS)
2. TA Desk
3. Pilot data sharing exercise
4. Country visits
5. Guidance on the production of waste statistics

1. Baseline Review

- **Objective**: to describe the existing situation in the countries
  - ➢ to extent that is needed to allow to identify the country needs for support
- **Output**: Country Fact Sheets (CFS), with an overview of the:
  - Current waste statistics situation in the six EaP countries.
  - Key constraints & opportunities for improvement.
  - Potential support measures.
- **Approach**: Summary of information from the following sources:
  - Minutes of 1st RWS, with the specific needs expressed by the countries
  - Documents, provided by international and national stakeholders.
  - 1st SC meeting in Brussels
  - Information provided during the country visits
  - Validation of UNSD questionnaires.
- **Planning**:
  - ‣ Draft CFS, to be prepared prior to each country visit.
  - ‣ Draft final CFS, to be included in the draft Final Report (November 2017)

2. Two Regional Workshops (RWS)

- **1st workshop**, organised in Batumi, June 2016

- **2nd workshop**:
  - ‣ Objective: to present and to discuss:
    - ▪ lessons learned & areas of improvement for all six EaP countries
    - ▪ the draft Waste Statistics Guidance
  - ‣ Planning: October 2017
  - ‣ Location: to be decided

3. Technical Assistance Desk

- **Objective**: to provide targeted support on an ongoing basis, in response to country requests.

- **Approach**:
  - ‣ The National Waste Statistics Coordinator (NC) submits requests for support to the Project TL
  - ‣ The Project TL ensures a reply from the Project Team, Eurostat or the EEA.

- **Planning**: till December 2017

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4. Pilot data sharing exercise

- **Objectives:**
  - To collect data for the production of statistics and indicators.
  - To identify the key data quality issues in the countries
    - such that they can be addressed in the Guidance that will be developed under the Project, on the basis of existing guidance documents.

- **Output: Data Validation report:**
  - Validation framework
  - Country chapters:
    - Key findings and issues, with respect to data quality
    - Conclusions and recommendations for improvement
  - Regional chapter:
    - A comparative tabular presentation of the country waste data
    - Common key findings and issues
    - Common conclusions and recommendations for improvement.

- **Planning**:
  - Validation of UNSD questionnaires: prior to each country visit
  - Validation report: July 2017

5. Country visits

- **Objectives**:
  - ‣ to provide TA
  - ‣ to deepen the Project's understanding of the existing situation
  - ‣ to identify the needs for support

- **Organisation**: in close cooperation with the NC

- **Duration**: 3 days per country

- **Planning**: to be agreed upon with the NC
  - ‣ Georgia: 23-27 January (week 4),
  - ‣ Ukraine, Moldova: February-March
  - ‣ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus: May-July

6. Waste Statistics Guidance

- **Objective**: to provide guidance on the:
  - ‣ collection and validation of data
  - ‣ production of waste statistics and indicators.
- **Output:** A guidance document
- **Focus**: issues reported on in the Country Fact Sheets, and identified during the:
  - ‣ 1st RWS,
  - ‣ country visits
  - ‣ pilot data sharing exercise (i.e. validation of UNDS questionnaire)
  - ‣ TA Desk activities.

6. Waste Statistics Guidance

- **Priority issues** that will be addressed will include among other:
  - ‣ Alignment of the definitions, standards and data collection tools (reporting forms, survey questionnaires) applied in the 6 EaP countries, with those of the EU/EEA. Better alignment is a prerequisite for better comparison and sharing across the wider European region
  - ‣ Estimation of amounts of waste generated in areas not covered by regular waste collection.
  - ‣ Conversion factors: waste statistics in EaP countries often rely on the conversion from volume (m³) into mass (tonnes). Hence, the validity of the conversion factors for data accuracy is crucial.

- **Approach**: tailoring and compilation of existing international (EU/EAA/UNECE) guidance documents.

- **Planning**: draft Guidance presented at the 2nd RWS (October 2017)

Questions

- All project activities are clear ?

- National Waste Statistics Coordinator ?

- The UNSD questionnaire:
  ‣ Which official is mainly responsible ?
  ‣ Planning of submission ?

- Country visits: planning ?

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Thank you for your attention!