# Sharing and disseminating environmental information 

National roundtable in Armenia
September 2019

## Project background information and organisation

Sharing environmental information through national e-governance and open data frameworks based on SEIS principles should be further underpinned with clearly developed visions and comprehensive road maps for this specific area.

EaP countries have undertaken several international obligations and commitments to collect, update, share and disseminate environmental information as set out in:

- Article 5 of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and decision $\mathrm{VI} / 1$ of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on promoting effective access to information.
- The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs).
- The Batumi Declaration "Greener, cleaner, smarter!" adopted by Ministers of the UNECE region calling to have SEIS in place in support to regular assessment in countries of UNECE region by 2021.
- The Declaration on cooperation on Environment and Climate Change in Eastern Partnership (Luxemburg 2016).
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key objectives of project:

- Support governmental policies and actions in environment and related areas, the transition towards green economy, innovations, compliance with various reporting obligations as well as the implementation of various sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Streamline efforts and reduce the reporting burden for the national bodies.
- Exchanging ideas, experiences and good practices between countries and institutions, seek advice and receive targeted assistance to make progress smoother and steadier.
Out of scope: environmental system architecture, detailed legal analysis, provision of framework/methodologies/APIs, detailed analysis of environmental monitoring systems and related organisations, financing mechanisms.

European Environment Agency

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by the European Environment Agency

## Project steps

Country maturity report for environmental information sharing and dissemination


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## Approach and methodology for the draft maturity report



Analysis based on publicly available material

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by the European Environment Agency

## Objective of the roundtable

The roundtable aim to identify concrete steps to advance in terms of legal, organisational, technical conditions to ensure that environmental information is integrated/aligned with national e-government and open data initiatives at country level and in line with SEIS principles.

A key objective in this process is to raise awareness on the benefits of sharing environmental information and knowledge at all levels. For the implementation of this component, close links need to be established, among others, with key international partners, such as UNECE WGEMA, Aarhus Convention/PRTR Protocol Secretariat, OSCE/Aarhus Centres, RECs, NGOs, etc. In this regard, the national roundtable audience consists of a mix of environment, e-government, open data, and international experts.

A finalised road-map/set of actions for improving the dissemination and sharing of environmental data through e-governance and open data initiatives.

Input to relevant processes impacting the further development of SEIS in the European Neighbourhood East region, the pan-European assessment processes based on SEIS or/and the Aarhus-related meetings such as the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information.

Final remarks on the country maturity report, to be gathered during the discussions.

A set of measures for continuing the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, Protocol on PRTRs (as applicable), SEIS principles and other international commitments

[^0]
## Main outcome from the regional meeting in Kiev

The regional meeting in Kiev provided a lot of insights regarding the achieved and ongoing initiatives in the EaP countries. For Armenia, it was made clear that real progress is being made in the area of e-government, and that organisational changes are ongoing regarding the environment. In general, the following points were identified:

- Governance: set up the right governance model and embed stakeholders from Open Data, e-government, health, statistics and the environment.
- Necessity to provide a single web-access point for environmental information.
- Necessity to develop/adopt metadata standards for environmental information.
- Necessity for licensing norms for Open Data and dissemination of environmental information.
- Importance of interoperability between information systems for exchanging environmental information.
- Data governance: necessity to define environmental data quality from a monitoring and publication perspective, necessity to manage confidentiality and data privacy, and managing consistency of data published on various platforms.
- Necessity to defined the granularity of environmental data published according to clear rules.



## Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Report highlights
(2)


## E-government and Open Data International rankings of EaP countries for e-government

E-Government Development Index

| Year | EaP Avg. | EU Avg. | UA | BY | GE | AZ | AM | MD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2014 | 0,57 | 0,73 | 0,50 | 0,60 | 0,60 | $\mathbf{0 , 5 5}$ | 0,59 | 0.56 |
| 2016 | 0,60 | 0,76 | 0,61 | 0,66 | 0,61 | $\mathbf{0 , 6 3}$ | 0,52 | 0,6 |
| 2018 | 0,66 | 0,80 | 0,62 | 0,76 | 0,69 | $\mathbf{0 , 6 6}$ | 0,59 | 0,66 |

## Key findings:

No Open Data portal
Key development of a series of e-government modules (e.g. registries, e-signature, etc.)
The EIF can be used to foster the Interoperability Framework Program in Armenia.
$\qquad$

## Key challenges:

- Categorization of e-services
- Exchange of information between environmental, statistical, geospatial and health information systems
- Digitalisation of public institutions and services
- Enhance multilingual support for public authorities websites (including metadata where applicable)
- Leverage on e-government initiatives for fostering environmental information monitoring, sharing and dissemination
- Raising awareness for implementing e-government solutions and for Open Data


## E-government and Open Data International rankings of EaP countries for Open Data

Open Data Inventory (ODIN)

|  | AM | AZ | BY | GE | MD | UA | Avg. |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Overall | 53 | 51 | 48 | 55 | 67 | 42 | 53 |
| Coverage | 51 | 59 | 58 | 53 | 54 | 47 | 53 |
| Openness | 56 | 43 | 40 | 57 | 80 | 37 | 52 |

## Key challenges:

- Build an Open Data portal
- Develop procedures and define responsibilities for Open Data
- Define standards for the provision of Open Data and the definition of eservices
- Enhance the e-government portal


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European Union and is implemented

## Environmental information availability Main reports published

| Type of Report | AM |
| :--- | :--- |
| National environmental reports |  |
| Specialised reports - climate (national communications to |  |
| UNFCCC) |  |
| Specialised reports - air |  |
| Specialised reports - water |  |
| Specialised reports - biodiversity |  |
| Specialised reports - waste |  |
| Indicator-based reports |  |
| National Statistical Yearbook |  |
| National Statistical Yearbook on environment |  |

## Key challenges:

- User feedback for environmental information published.
- Frequency of reporting.
- Improve the timely availability of reports.
- Make use of geospatial information.
- Implement environmental indicators.


## Good practice example

The EEA indicators are the basis of the reports, which are produced by the EEA.
The Core Set of Indicators (CSI) cover such thematic categories as climate
change, energy, biodiversity and other. The main function of the indicators is to aid in the process of policy making by providing information on which environmental issues are demanding immediate attention and solutions and evaluate the progress made, since the current policies have been enabled.
These indicators contain a lot of metadata, a history and an analysis.

To be improved
Available

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## Portals for environmental information dissemination Main platforms maturity level

|  | AM |
| :---: | :---: |
| Availability of information on a central portal |  |
| Publication of environmental data on the Open Data portal |  |
| Description of environmental data according to metadata standards |  |
| Availability of environmental data in machine-readable format (excl. indicators) |  |
| User-friendliness of main environmental portals |  |
| Publication of time-series indicators |  |
| Publication of environmental data on geoportal |  |
| Licence available for Open Data Portal |  |
| Not available/unknown To be improved Available |  |
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## Key challenges in:

- Need for Open Data portal.
- Many platforms for dissemination of environmental information.
- Lack of metadata descriptions.
- Improving multilingual aspect (on various public portals) and usability of websites.
- Development of GIS (data, user friendliness, multilingual aspects, etc.).


## Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Good practices


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## How to read the good practices document?

|  | 3.2 Environmental im | emen | tation roadmap |
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## Environmental information sharing and dissemination

 Good practices: Content

Provide mechanisms for enforcing dissemination of environmental information and ensure responsibilities are clearly defined

Publish environmental data and
reports frequently



Define metadata standards for dissemination of environmental information


Disseminate environmental data in machine-readable format


Define licences for re-use of data published


Perform regular "awareness campaign"


Evaluate the impact of environmental data published (economic, social, political and environmental)


Provide multilingual support \& user friendly portals
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## Environmental information sharing and dissemination

 Good practices: infrastructure

Provision of methods and tools for environmental information sharing


Adopt a simple governance model


Integrate environmental sharing interoperability in e-government strategy


Build interoperability standards (i.e. organisational and technical, provision of building blocks)


Align publication of information across platforms (i.e. environmental portals, Open Data portal)


Leverage on e-government and technology


Limit the amount of portals but keep specificities (e.g. Open Data, Geoportal and Eco-portal)


Leverage on geoportal and publish environmental data on it

## Portals for environmental information dissemination

## Good practices: cooperation



Build user-friendly portals


Provide a user-friendly statistical system for data visualisation


Provide automatic multilingual support (as appropriate, taking into consideration confidentiality)


Leverage on international and regional experience (e.g. Joinup platform in the EU)


Build user community and gather their feedback


Continuously develop skills and ensure availability of resources

## Sharing and dissemination of environmental information



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## Examples of implementation of good practices



## E-government portal



```
Government Decrees
Prime Minister's Decrees
Deputy Prime Ministers' Decrees
Protocols - minutes
Government Session Agenda
Follow up the Govergen
F}\begin{array}{l}{\mathrm{ Follow up the }}\\{\mathrm{ expenditures}}
Single source procurement
SNCO financing disclosure
Registers and tables
The outcomes of the supervison
    cctivites realised by the Control.
    Chamber of the Republic of Armen
Online broadcast of procuremen
appeals board sessions
Business trip reports
```

a Electronic Tax Filing System
co Fill your intellectual property
-
Information Search System of the
Intellectual Property Agency
Intellectual Property
g Get your entry visa
Electronic auction system of the
compulsory enforcement service
-

- Legal information system of the
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- Unified website for publication of
legal acts drafts
© State Electronic Payment System
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- National Gallery of Am
Collection datatabase

I Register business on-line
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a Judicial information system
a Unifed portal for online
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The portal is not structured as a usual e-government portal. It misses:

- Clear structure of public services and e-services
- Standard description of services
- Life events


## E-government portal of Lithuania

E-Government Gateway
Administrative and public e-services portal

Services of important life events


Service categories


## Example of good practices

## Providing environmental reporting metadata (1/2)

WATER RESOURCES

Water use and disposal
In 2016, the water abstraction conprised 3181.9 mln . cub. m, water use -2469.9 mln . cub. $\mathrm{m}(89.7 \%$ - agriculture, fish breeding and forestry, $5.9 \%-$ industry, communal and construction, $4.4 \%$ - drinking).
Water losses during transit comprised 712.0 mln . cub. m or $22.4 \%$ of water abstraction. In 2016 the volume of discharged waste water comprised 769.7 mln. cub. m.
Water abstraction by RA marzes and Yerevan city, 2016, mln. cub. m

|  | Water abstraction |
| :--- | :---: |
| Yerevan city | 177.0 |
| Aragatsotn | 383.3 |
| Ararat | 749.1 |
| Armavir | 571.2 |
| Gegharkunik | 46.0 |
| T ari | 110 |

Very short summary Outdated information Missing standard description of reports (metadata)

## Environmental information dissemination - duplication?



## Example of good practices

## Providing environmental reporting metadata (2/2)

## Emissions

Emissions of hazardous substances from stationary sources


Emissions in 2013
In 2013 the quantity of hazardous substances emitted into atmosphere from vehicles comprised 141.7 thousand t . A la carbon oxide 102.6 thousand t . or $72.4 \%$ of total emissions, volatile organic compounds- 23.3 thousand t . or $16.4 \%$ nitr 10.8\%.

Calculation of Grid Emission Factor for the Electricity System of the Republic of Armenia for the Year 2011 POLLUTION (see Armenian version)

The sampling points for the monitoring of surface water and air pool Map.
The data of air pool pollution by "Environmental Effect Monitoring Center" SNCO 2017 (see Armenian version)
May.
April
March
February
January


| Title | Air pollution, implementation report for the year 2018 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Description | This report provides insight into the air pollution level in Yerevan between 2009 and 2018. |
| Time coverage | February 2019 |
| Space coverage | Yerevan, Armenia |
| Distribution | Report in pdf: http://reportinpdf.pdf <br> Report in Word format: http://reportinword.docx <br> Data in Excel: http://excelrawdata.xlsx <br> Alternative link: http:/xyz.md/aarhus2019.pdf |
| Publisher | Ministry Of Environment of the Republic Of Armenia |
| Contact person | Mr. XYZ |
| Contact email | xyz@abc.by |
| Contact person phone number | +xxxxxxx |
| Theme | Air pollution, air statistics, air indicator |
| Release date | 03.03.2019 |
| Language | Russian, English |
| Keyword | Air pollution, February 2019 |

## Example of good practices

Environment indicators (1/2)
ArmStatBank
Choose table ArmstatBank

1. Economy and finances
2. Population and social processes
3. Industry (including Energy), construction, trade and services
4. Transport and tourism
5. Foreign trade
6. Agriculture, forestry and fishing
7. Food Security
8. Environment
8.1 Environment
(A) Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air
(B) Climate change
(C) Water resources
(D) Biodiversity
(E,F) Land and Agriculture
(H) Transport
(I) Waste
(J) Environmental financing
Mining of solid minerals by indicators and years 回 比
Environmental economic accounts

## Example of good practices

 Environment indicators (2/2)


Key messages
= The trends in chlorophyll concentrations show improvements in the eutrophication status in some of Europe's seas, due to the successful implementation of nutrient management strategies.

- The highest chlorophyll concentrations are generally observed in transitional and coastal waters of the marine (sub)regions, in response to elevated nutrient concentrations in those waters.
- Decreasing chlorophyll concentrations were observed in the southwestern Baltic Sea and along the continental coast of the Greater North Sea (including Kattegat), showing the effects of measures to reduce nutrient inputs (OSPAR 2017, HELCOM 2018). - For the other marine (sub)regions, only a few time series were available. In general, those time series did not show significant trends.

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## Example of good practice Managing Open Data licences

Setting licences enables setting limits for re-using Open Data. It also enables commercial use of data - the Open Data portal can also be used to share commercial data on request.


## Licensing Assistant

Data which is shared with a licence becomes Open Data. There are many licences available. The licence assistant provides a description of the available licences. It also gives an overview of how to apply licences as re-publisher/distributor of Open Data and how to combine multiple licences.

Please find a licence by selecting the preferred licence terms below:

- Weighted filtering


## $\$$ Advanced settings





CC BY 3.0 Austria

CC-BY 4.0

| Obligation: Notice | Permission: Distribution | Obligation: Attribution | Pemission: Reproduction |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | Permission: Derivative Works

 | Permission: Reproduction | Pemission: Derivative Works |
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CC-BY 3.0 NL

## Example of good practice

## Open Data quality measurement and impact assessment

Open Data in Europe

A series of indicators have been selected to measure Open Data maturity across Europe. These indicators cover the level of development of national policies promoting Open Data, an assessment of the features made available A series of indicators have been selected to measure Open Data maturity
on national data portals as well as the expected impact of Open Data.

Jump to section


Download Country Scores 2018
Overview


## Example of good practice

Establish a single access-point for sharing environmental information


The environment portal of Ireland contains information about:

- Licensing and permitting
- Enforcement - Law
- Monitoring \& Assessment
- Research \& Education
- Publications and Downloads

For each environment theme (air, water, etc.), a specific portal is available and provides access to data and analysis. The portal also provides access to real-time data.

[^1][^2] PwC

## Sharing and disseminating of environmental information

Proposed actions for discussion


## Common key initiatives Content

| Revision of legal framework to promote accessibility and re-use of <br> non-sensitive public sector information (PSI) online |
| :--- |
| Definition of metadata description standard for all environmental <br> information |
| Build an electronic registry of public environmental information |
| Improve accessibility and use of available environmental data and <br> information by improving the multi-lingual and user friendliness <br> aspects |
| Build an Open Data portal |
| Establish procedures for the publication of Open Data |



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## Common key initiatives <br> Infrastructure

Update/adopt interoperability standards for environmental systems and establishment of norms regarding inter-institutional data flow exchange/sharing, its format and improvement of the management of data collected.

Continue to enhance an integrated system for environmental information management, including environmental information in accordance with international commitments

Continue to develop a single and user-friendly web-access point for environmental information

Develop applications to engage citizens in environmental protection through technology, especially extending the scope of existing widely used one regarding meteo forecasts or citizens engagement tools


# Common key initiatives <br> Institutional Cooperation (Network) 

Promote international and regional cooperation on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the points of this roadmap

Establish a collaborative institutional framework for the implementation of an Open Data concept

Inventory, re-engineering and publication of public services as eservices

Continuously ensure availability of adequate capabilities for handling environmental and open data issues


## Group discussion: content

The goal of these group discussions is to look at the initiatives proposed in the roadmap and to see how relevant they are at a national level, and how they could practically be implemented. Where possible, discuss how existing initiatives can be leveraged to address these points.

1. Reflect on the proposed national roadmap, and see how measures are relevant / applicable. Discuss potential responsibilities for the implementation of initiatives. (30 min discussion)
2. Present your initiatives to all participants ( $\sim 5$-10min per group)

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## Project next steps

Our objective is to provide you with a sound as-is analysis, practical measures, and good practices for disseminating and sharing environmental information. It is up to you to decide which measure you would like to implement at a national level; the results of this project should help you to pinpoint key challenges and concrete measures.

The following steps will be:

- Review of draft reports to integrate/discuss the last comments: please provide your comments by end of September
- Update the roadmap taking into consideration the output of the meeting: please provide your comments by end of September.
- Finalisation of best practices for key issues raised in the field of e-government, Open Data and environmental information sharing and dissemination taking into consideration the output of the event.
- Second regional meeting (2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ October 2019).

And the journey should not end here.

## Thank you


[^0]:    Sharing and disseminating environmental information - Round-table in Armenia - $27^{\text {th }}$ August 2019

[^1]:    https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/

[^2]:    Sharing and disseminating environmental information - Round-table in Armenia - $27^{\text {th }}$ August 2019

