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.

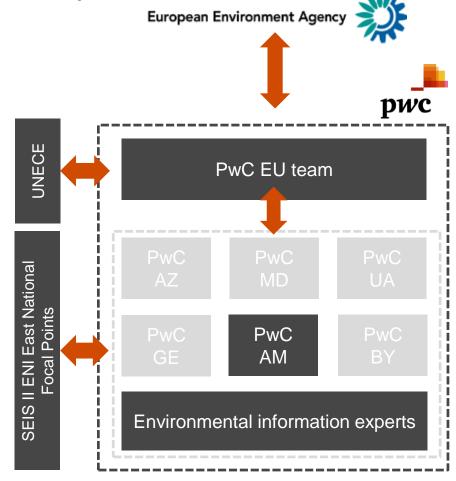
EaP countries have undertaken several international obligations and commitments to collect, update, share and disseminate environmental information as set out in:

- 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 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.



Project steps



Country maturity report for environmental information sharing and dissemination

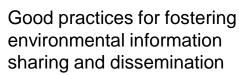


Proposition of concrete measures: roadmap

Assessment of environmental information sharing and dissemination maturity and redaction of draft country maturity report



Finalisation of national roadmap and country maturity report















First regional meeting **Kiev March** 2019

Second regional meeting (place and date tbd)

Continuation of selected measures at a national level



Approach and methodology for the draft maturity report



Dissemination and sharing of environmental information in EaP countries

Draft country maturity reports

Environmental information readiness

- E-government
- Open Data and environmental information legal and institutional framework
- Environmental data flows
- Progress so far

Technology enablers for environmental information sharing

- Portals
- Portal maturity for environmental data

Achieving a high level of maturity for environmental information management

- Main challenges
- Roadmap

Analysis based on publicly available material



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



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.
- Importance of considering user feedback and ad hoc request for information.
- Lack of "story" to support environmental indicators (assessments).



Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Report highlights







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

E-Government Development Index

Year	EaP Avg.	EU Avg.	UA	ВҮ	GE	ΑZ	АМ	MD
2014	0,57	0,73	0,50	0,60	0,60	0,55	0,59	0.56
2016	0,60	0,76	0,61	0,66	0,61	0,63	0,52	0,6
2018	0,66	0,80	0,62	0,76	0,69	0,66	0,59	0,66



No Open Data portal

Key development of a series of e-government modules (e.g. registries, e-signature, etc.)

Good practice example



The European Interoperability Framework provides guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services by offering recommendations on the improvement of governance of interoperability activities, establish crossorganisational relationships, streamline processes supporting end-to-end digital services, and ensuring that both existing and new legislation do not compromise interoperability efforts. The four layers of interoperability are: legal, organisational, semantic, and technical.

The EIF can be used to foster the Interoperability Framework Program in Armenia.

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)

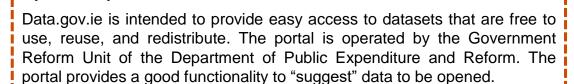
	АМ	ΑZ	BY	GE	MD	UA	Avg.
Overall	53	51	48	55	67	42	53
Coverage	51	59	58	53	54	47	53
Openness	56	43	40	57	80	37	52

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

Good practice example

Open Data portal in Ireland



Good practice example

Open Data potential in Kyiv

The research is prepared by Kyiv School of Economics jointly with Open Data Institute within USAID/ UK aid Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services program /TAPAS and with the support of the State Agency for eGovernance of Ukraine.

In Ukraine, they estimated that Open Data could contribute up to USD 1.4 billion to the Ukrainian economy by 2025, representing 0.92% of Ukrainian GDP, through a combination of direct and indirect benefits.

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		
Report on sustainable development		

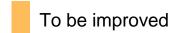
Key challenges:

- 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.





Available





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**

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.).

Good practice example



Ireland has developed Environmental Protection Agency portal, which provides information on various environmental dimensions: licensing, such as IE or IPC licensing and its enforcement, as well as environmental legislation, reports on various sectors, such as drinking water, urban waste water and landfills. In addition, new research and publications on the current state of the environment are available. Maps with air quality index, sewage treatment and others are accessible to the user. Also, the portal promotes news and events on various environmental topics.





Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Good practices







How to read the good practices document?

3.2 Environmental implementation roadmap

This section presents key areas ¹³⁶ of development for the Republic of Moldova. It is to be noted that these initiatives should be undertaken taking into account regional and international collaboration. In particular, initiatives which were undertaken in other countries could be leveraged. In addition, the development of national standards would benefit if developed regionally and/or aligned to international standards. This especially is true for the design of information systems, metadata standards, portals and interoperability standards.

3.2.1 Content

Measure	Priority	Description
Revision of legal framework to promote accessibility and reuse of non-sensitive public sector information (PSI) online	Priority High	Pescription Review of the legal framework for data governance related to environmental monitoring, decision-making and control, natural resources, ecosystems and pollution inventories and environmental assessments, in accordance with the Aarhus Convention, the Protocol on PRTRs (as appropriate). This can include: • improving environmental information system(s) by defining themes, sources (lists, registers, databases, funds, etc.), formats, metadata and interoperability requirements in accordance with the Aarhus Convention, Protocol on PRTRs, ECE environmental indicators and other international commitments and the e-government/open data framework • improving procedures for environmental data collection in electronic forms • improving procedures for environmental data update, quality assurance, reporting, online
		dissemination and other means of dissemination proving public participation in the design, use and update of the environmental information system(s) of the and taking on citizens science and citizens engagement initiatives division of responsibilities of the public authorities at all levels and across the sectors to ensure their clear roles and coordination reviewing the application of the exceptions in disclosure of environmental information and establishing a clear and predictable legal framework to ensure the legitimate application of these exceptions and the disclosure of information on emissions in accordance with the Convention





Environmental information sharing and dissemination

Good practices: Content



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



Define metadata standards for dissemination of environmental information



Define licences for re-use of data published



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



Publish environmental data and reports frequently



Disseminate environmental data in machine-readable format



Perform regular "awareness campaign"



Provide multilingual support & user friendly portals

Environmental information sharing and dissemination

Good practices: infrastructure



Provision of methods and tools for environmental information sharing



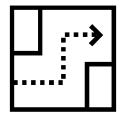
Integrate environmental sharing interoperability in e-government strategy



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



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



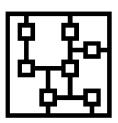
Adopt a simple governance model



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



Leverage on e-government and technology



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



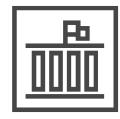
Provide automatic multilingual support (as appropriate, taking into consideration confidentiality)



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

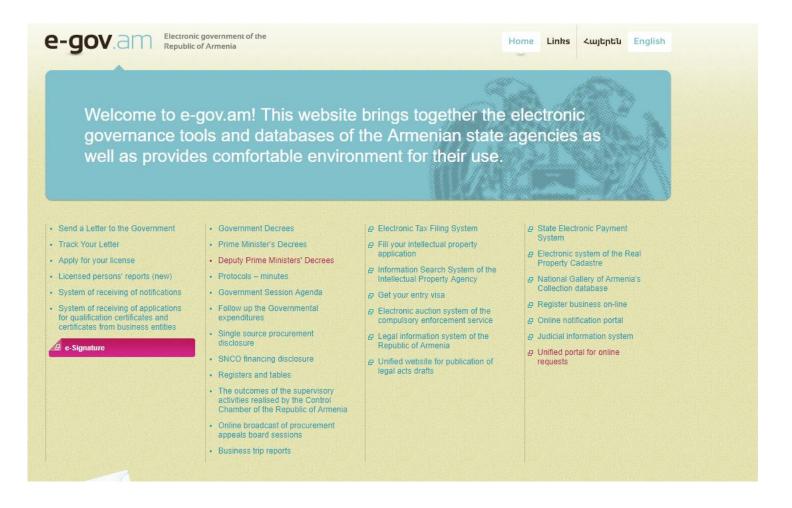
Examples of implementation of good practices







E-government portal



The portal is not structured as a usual e-government portal. It misses:

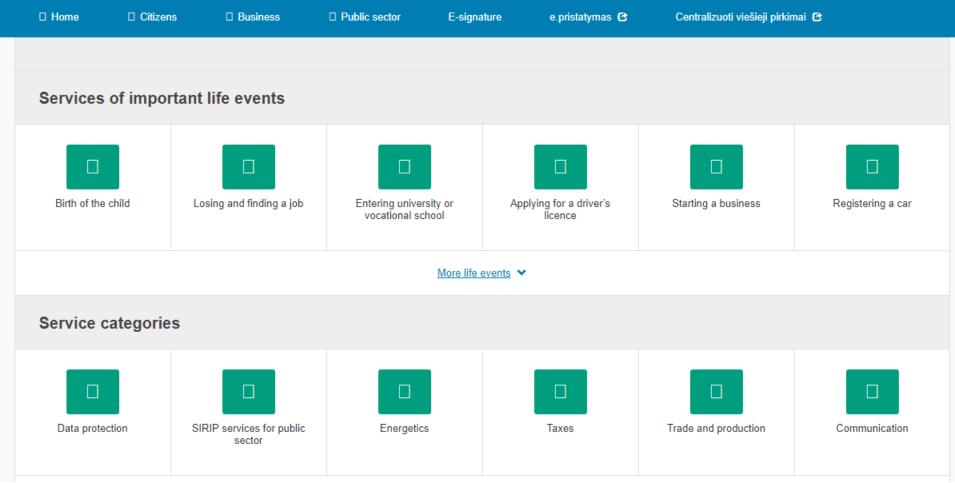
- Clear structure of public services and e-services
- Standard description of services
- Life events



E-government portal of Lithuania



LT EN
Login



Example of good practices

Providing environmental reporting metadata (1/2)

WATER RESOURCES

Water use and disposal

In 2016, the water abstraction comprised 3 181.9 mln. cub. m, water use -2 469.9 mln. cub. 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
Lori	/11 Q

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

Environmental information dissemination – duplication?

Publications

http://www.wrma.am



Duplication of information? Lack of metadata Miss interactive geodata



Water Resources Atlas of Armenia

Within the framework of the USAID funded "Program for Institutional and Regulatory Strengthening of Water Management in Armenia", the water resources atlas was prepared in 2008. The latter contains maps of water resources of the Republic of Armenia, developed by Geographic Information System, which are also a spatial component of the State Water Cadaster Information System.



Water Resources Management in Armenia

The objective of the booklet "Water Resources Management in Armenia" is to present major reforms of the recent 5 years in the water resources management and protection in Armenia, as well as the work of the Water Resources Management Agency of the Staff of the RA Ministry of Nature Protection.



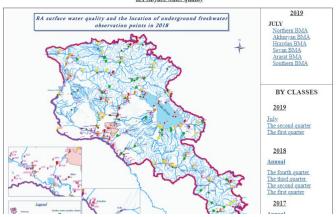
http://armmonitoring.am/page/33

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING Atmosphere Surface water Underground freshwater Waste Soil Maps Observation points Indicators

Surface water

Surface water monitoring network consists of 131 observation points of water objects of (rivers, reservoirs, Arpa-Sevan tunnel and Lake Sevan) 6 basin management areas (Northern, Akhuryan, Hrazdan, Sevan, Araratyan, Southern). Water quality is described by up to 45 physicochemical indicators (major anions and cations, nutrients, heavy metals, primary organic pollutants) with a frequency of 5-12 times per year. Water quality assessment is supervised according to RA Government N75-N decree (January 27, 2011).

RA surface water quality



http://www.mnp.am/en/pages/155

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Losi	41.0



Example of good practices

Providing environmental reporting metadata (2/2)

Emissions

Emissions of hazardous substances from stationary sources

Emissions in 2013

In 2013 emissions of hazardow prances into atmosphere comprised 261.4 thousand t., 54.2% of which fell to share vehicles, 45.8 sources of emissions. The quality of noxious substances at the property of the

The quantity of volatile organic compounds in the atmospheric emissions compa

Atmospheric emissions from vehicles

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)

<u>May</u>

April March

February

January

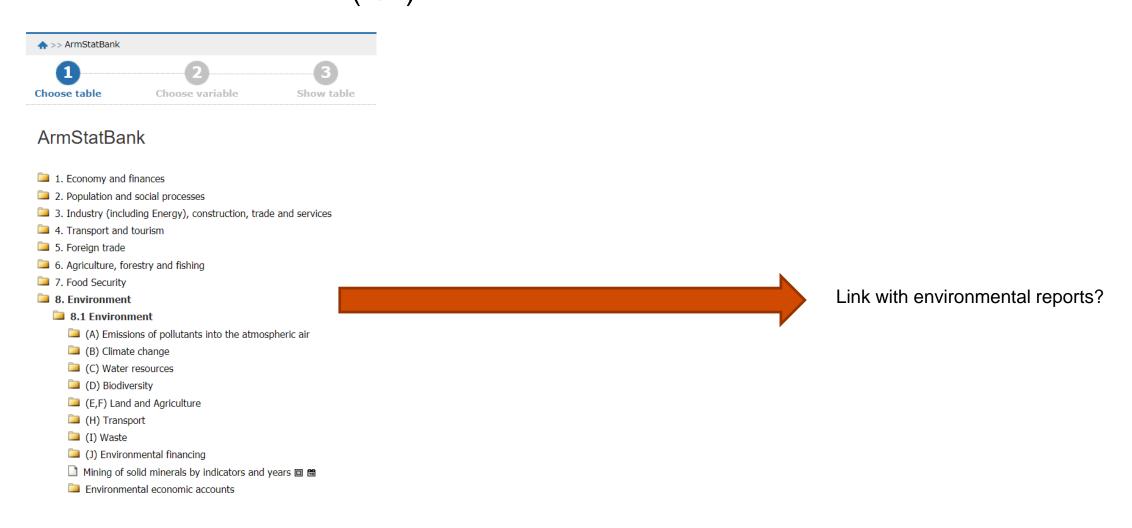
Poor metadata

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				
	Report in Word format: http://reportinword.docx				
	Data in Excel: http://excelrawdata.xlsx				
	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	+XXXXXXX				
phone number					
Theme	Air pollution, air statistics, air indicator				
Release date	03.03.2019				
Language	Russian, English				
Keyword	Air pollution, February 2019				

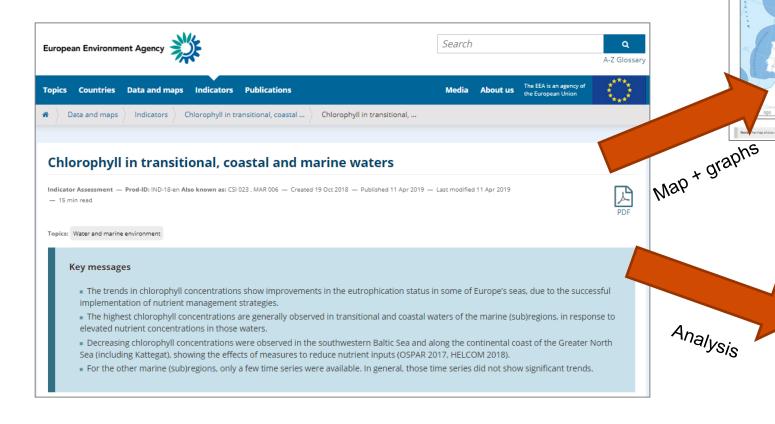


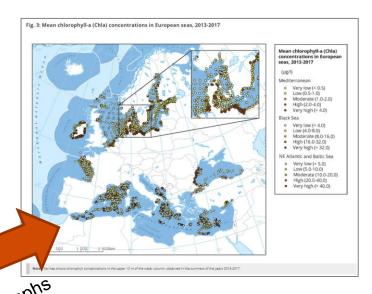


Example of good practices Environment indicators (1/2)



Example of good practices Environment indicators (2/2)





Baltic Sea

Eutrophication is still a large-scale problem in the Baltic Sea, a fact acknowledged by most, if not all, of the bordering countries (EEA, 2019)

The highest measured summer chlorophyll-a concentrations in the 2013-2017 period were found in coastal and transitional waters along the German coast and in the Gulf of Gdansk. Low concentrations were predominantly observed in the open waters of the Baltic Sea (Figure 3).

Most of the stations (86 %) did not show a significant change in chlorophyll concentration in the period 1990-2017. Overall, statistically significant decreasing trends were evident in 9 % of the Baltic Sea stations (Figure 2), which were in the southwestern part of the Baltic Sea. Chlorophyll concentrations increased at 5 % of the stations, mainly in coastal waters of the Bothnian Bay and the Bothnian Sea, and at some stations in the Baltic Proper and the Gulf of Finland (Figure 1).

Greater North Sea

Eutrophication is a problem in parts of the Northeast Atlantic. River discharges are the main sources of elevated nutrient levels caused by human activities (EEA, 2019).

In the North Sea, the highest chlorophyll concentrations were found in coastal and transitional waters along the continental coast from Belgium to Denmark.

Decreasing trends were found in transitional, coastal and offshore waters of the Kattegat and at some stations along the continental North Sea coast.

Atlantic waters: Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay and the Iberian coast

In the Celtic Seas, only data on chlorophyll concentrations were available for transitional and coastal waters of Ireland. The concentrations generally show a decreasing gradient from inshore to offshore. In 2 % of the cases, the time series showed an increasing trend, while in all other cases there was no significant trend.

in the Bay of Biscay and iberian coast, oxygen concentrations along the French coast were low in general (<10 µg/l). There were few time series available, none of which showed a significant trend.

Mediterranean Sea

Mediterranean Sea is probably the regional seas with fewest eutrophication problem areas. This is partly related to the fact that the offshore parts of the Mediterranenan Sea are characterized by very low nutrient concentrations (EEA, 2019).

Data for the western Mediterranean Sea mainly cover offshore waters where concentrations are low. Data for the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea show

There were few time series available. Only 1 out of 12 available series showed a significant increasing trend.

Black Sea

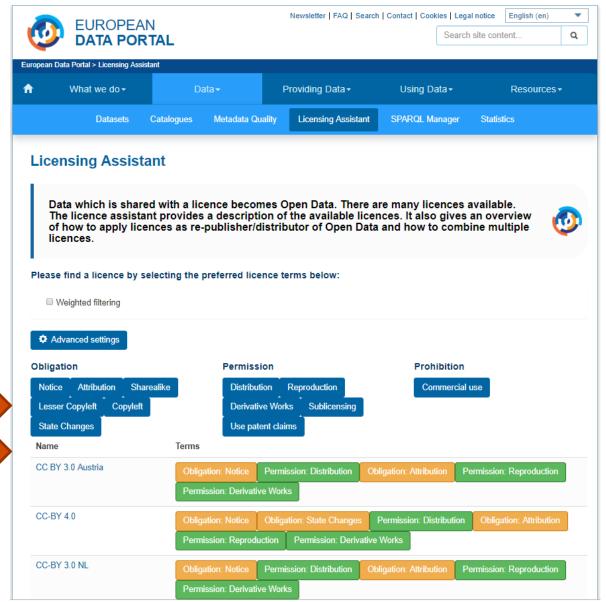
More reductions in nutrient inputs are required to restore the Black Sea to being unaffected by eutrophication (EEA, 2019).



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.







Example of good practice

Open Data quality measurement and impact assessment



Example of good practice

Establish a single access-point for sharing environmental information



generating stations and industry. Nitrogen dioxide can affect the throat and lung. The main effects are

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.

https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/

Sharing and disseminating of environmental information

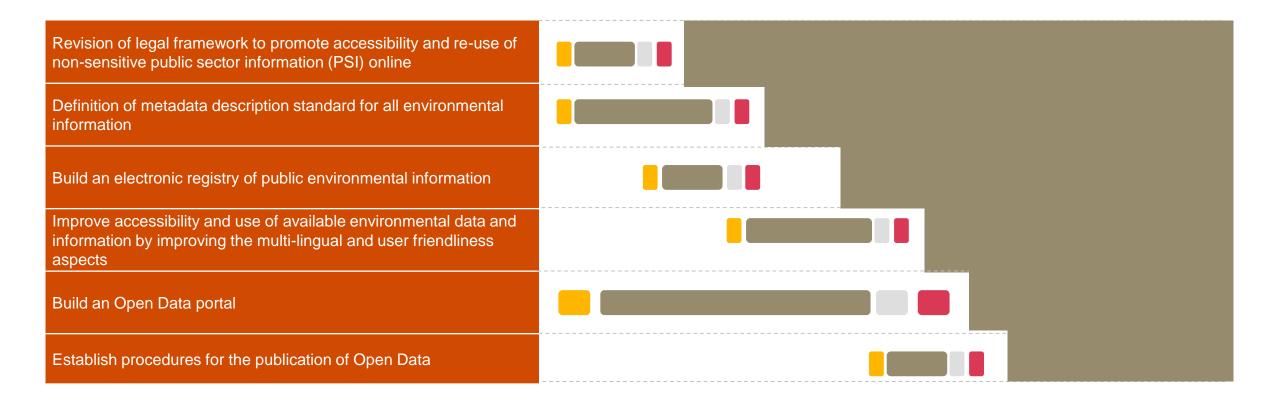
Proposed actions for discussion







Common key initiatives Content



Common key initiatives 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 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 (~5-10min per group)

Group discussion: infrastructure

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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 (2nd October 2019).

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And the journey should not end here.

Thank you

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