# Sharing and disseminating environmental information

National roundtable in Georgia

June 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.

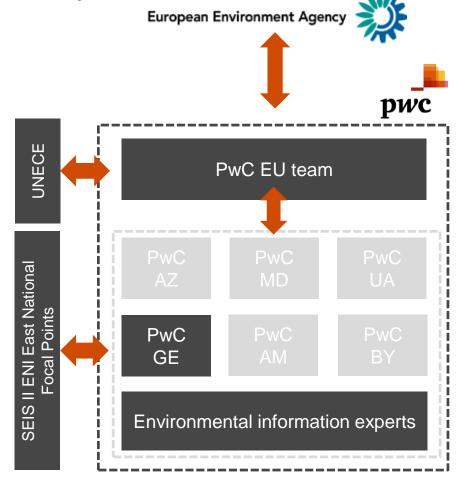
EaP countries have undertaken several international obligations and commitments to collect, update, share and disseminate environmental information as set out in:

- 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

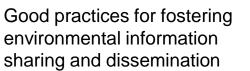


Proposition of concrete measures: roadmap

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



















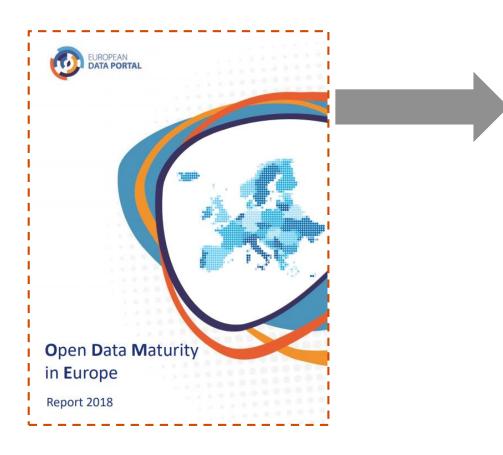
First regional meeting Kiev March 2019

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.

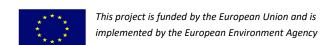
A key objective in this process is to raise awareness on the benefits of sharing environmental information and knowledge at all levels. For the implementation of this component, close links need to be established, among others, with key international partners, such as UNECE WGEMA, Aarhus Convention/PRTR 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 the Republic of Moldova, 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).



# Good practices for sharing and disseminating environmental information





## How to read the good practices document?

### 3.2 Environmental implementation roadmap

This section presents key areas <sup>136</sup> 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
Measure  Revision of legal framework to promote accessibility and reuse of non-sensitive public sector information (PSI) online	Priority High	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  • 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





# Sharing and dissemination of environmental information

Good practices





# Environmental information sharing and dissemination

Good practices: Content



Provide mechanisms for enforcing dissemination of environmental information



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"

**European Environment Agence** 



Provide multilingual support & user friendly portals

# Environmental information sharing and dissemination

### Good practices: infrastructure



Ensure responsibilities for monitoring are clearly defined and provision of tools and methods for environmental monitoring



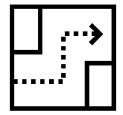
Integrate environmental sharing interoperability in e-government strategy



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)



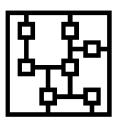
Adopt a simple governance model



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 an advanced statistical system for data visualisation



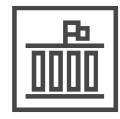
Provide automatic multilingual support (as appropriate, taking into consideration confidentiality)



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





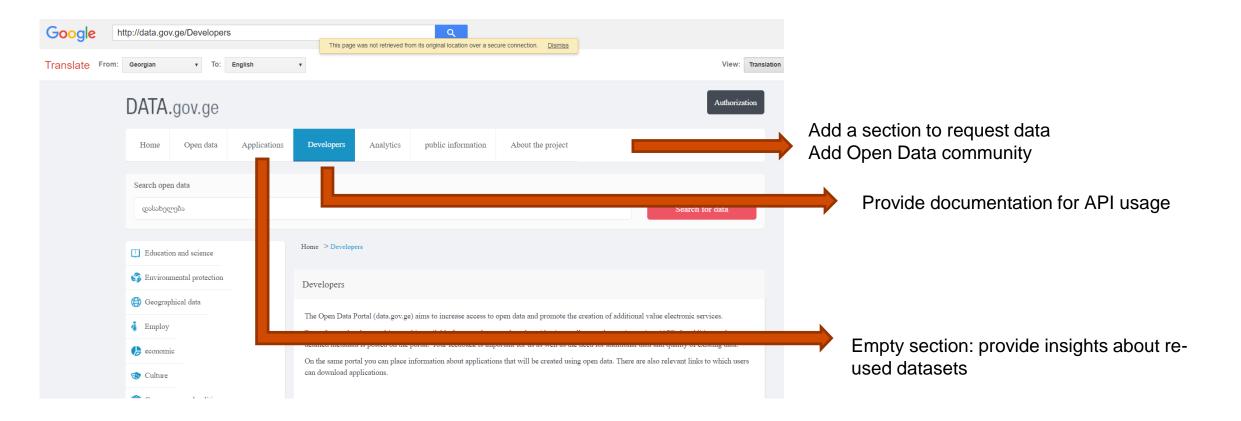
# Example of good practices

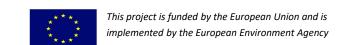
### Defining metadata for environmental information, as for Open Data



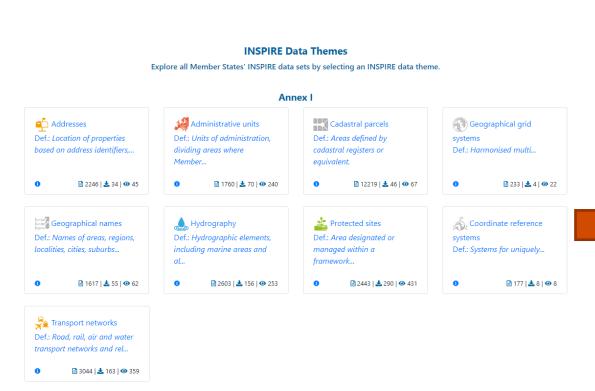
# Example of good practices

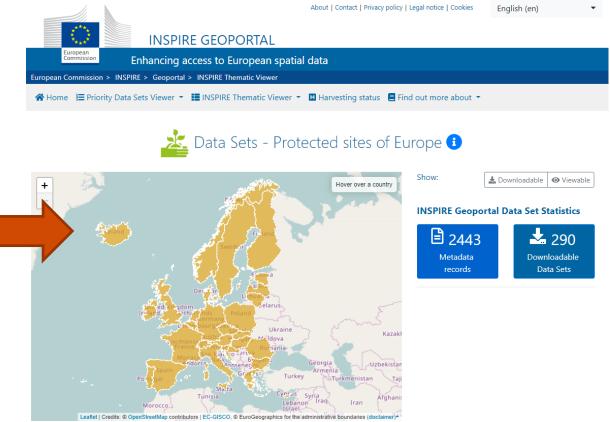
### Categorisation of datasets, and highlighting environmental information

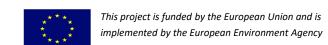




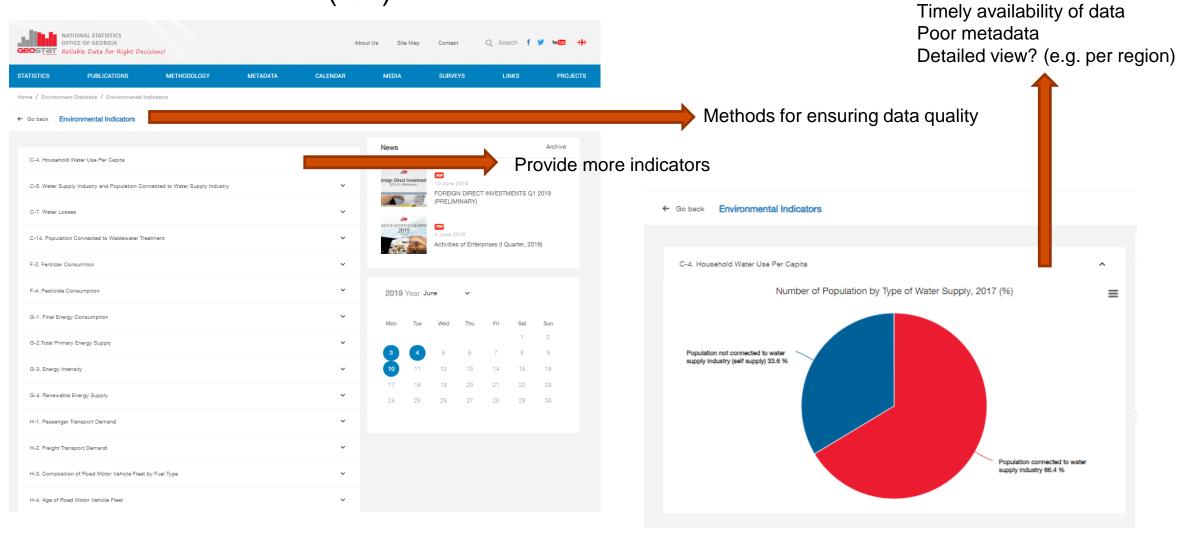
# Example of good practices Access to geospatial information







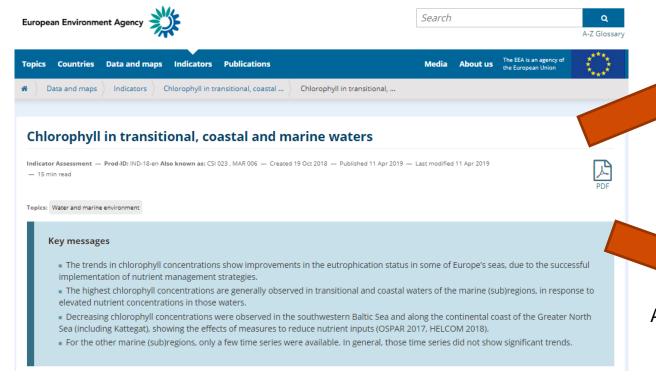
# Example of good practices Environment indicators (1/2)

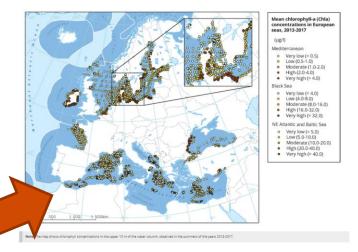


No story

# Example of good practices Environment indicators (2/2)

Sharing and disseminating environmental information – Round-table in Georgia – 13th June 2019





Map + graphs

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).

Eutrophication is a problem in parts of the Northeast Atlantic. River discharges are the main sources of elevated nutrient levels caused by human

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

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

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,

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.

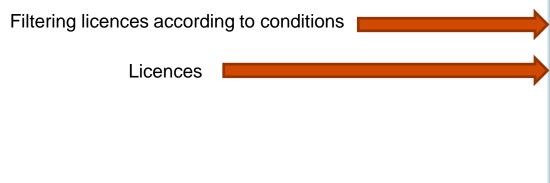
More reductions in nutrient inputs are required to restore the Black Sea to being unaffected by eutrophication (EEA, 2019).

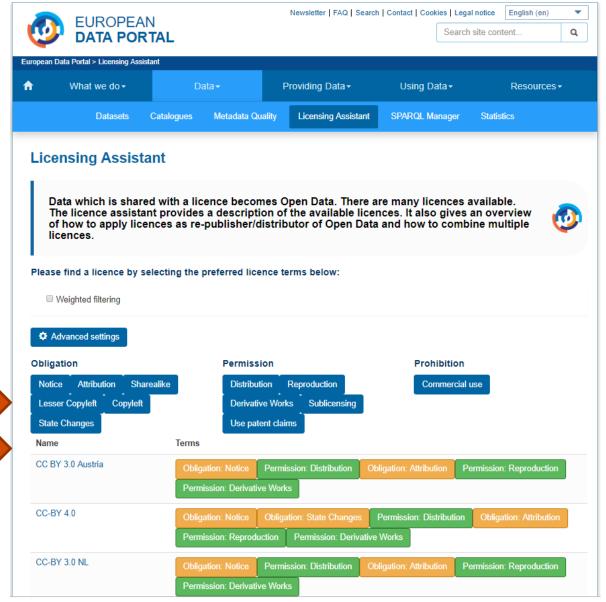


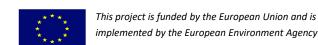


# Example of good practice Managing Open Data licences

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



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 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	BY	GE	ΑZ	AM	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



Strong development of e-services and e-government portal

Initiatives such as Open Data portal, one-stop-shop for citizens, Electronic System of Doc flow, portal my.gov.ge

### Key challenges:

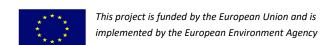
- Interoperability standards for exchange of information between information systems, especially between environmental, statistical, geospatial and health.
- Enhance multilingual support for public authorities websites (including metadata where applicable).
- Leverage on e-government initiatives for fostering environmental information monitoring, sharing and dissemination.
- Development of ICT skills in public institutions and raising awareness for implementing e-government solutions.

### **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 Georgia.



# 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:**

- Provision of standard metadata for datasets published (and if appropriate compatibility with the EU DCAT-AP).
- Enhance metadata quality and provision of multilingual metadata.
- Continue to provision of datasets in machine-readable format.
- Provision of well documented APIs and Open Data community.

### **Good practice example**

### Open Data portal in Ireland

Data.gov.ie is intended to provide easy access to datasets that are free to use, reuse, and redistribute. The portal is operated by the Government Reform Unit of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The portal provides a good functionality to "suggest" data to be opened.

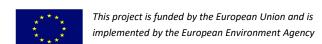
### **Good practice example**



### 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

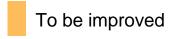
Type of Report	GE	
National environmental reports		
Specialised reports - climate (national communications to UNFCCC)		
Specialised reports - air		
Specialised reports - water		
Specialised reports - biodiversity		
Specialised reports - waste		
Indicator-based reports		
National Statistical Yearbook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

### Key challenges:

- Small amount of datasets published.
- Improve the availability of reports on waste.
- Make environmental data available faster.
- Continue implementing national (or adopt international) indicators.
- Improve the tools for visualising, downloading and analysing the indicators

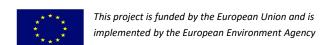
# Good practice example

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.









# Portals for environmental information dissemination

## Main platforms maturity level

GE 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

### Key challenges in:

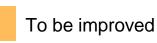
- Lack of metadata descriptions.
- Absence of metadata standard for the reports.
- Need for mechanisms for the enforcement of the legal framework.
- · Improving multingual aspect.
- Availability of time series for environmental data.



### **Good practice example**

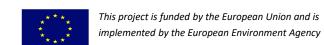
Ireland has developed Environmental Protection Agency portal, which provides information on various environmental dimensions: licensing, such as IE or IPC licensing and its enforcement, as well as environmental legislation, reports on various sectors, such as drinking water, urban waste water and landfills. 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 disseminating of environmental information

Proposed actions for discussion





# Common key initiatives Content

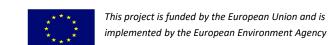
Revision of legal framework to promote accessibility and re-use of non-sensitive public sector information (PSI) online

Definition of metadata description standard for all environmental information

Build an electronic registry of public environmental information

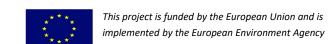
Improve accessibility and use of available environmental data and information by improving the multi-lingual and user friendliness aspects

Carry out Open Data impact analysis framework (as appropriate)



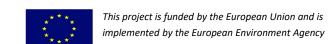
# Common key initiatives Infrastructure

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. Develop and/or 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

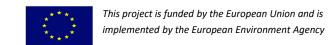
Our objective is to provide you with a sound as-is analysis, practical measures, and good practices for disseminating and sharing environmental information. It is up to you to decide which measure you would like to implement at a national level; the results of this project should help you to pinpoint 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 30/07/2019.
- Update the roadmap taking into consideration the output of the meeting: please provide your comments by 30/07/2019.
- 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 (October 2019?).

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And the journey should not end here.



# Thank you

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