

CONCEPT NOTE FOR NATIONAL EVENTS ON OPEN DATA AND E-GOVERNMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Conclusion of a road map to modernise sharing and dissemination of environmental information in the Eastern Partnership countries

BACKGROUND

The series of national roundtable discussions are part of a dedicated component under the framework of ENI SEIS II East, and implemented by the European Environment Agency with the support from PwC (and branches in ENI East countries) as contractor. The project aims to assist the future implementation of the Shared Environment Information System principles in the six ENI East countries by improving the sharing and dissemination of environment information between various institutions at national level and beyond, as defined by the Aarhus Convention on access to environment information.

The open data component of the project aims to connect the current work with other environmental information sharing and dissemination activities at both national and European level. In particular, it covers the thematic work undertaken within the ENI SEIS II East areas of work, activities overseen by the Aarhus Convention, as well as with current initiatives taking place in the European Union on open data, and streamline reporting and improving the access to environment information.

The national roundtable discussions follow the first regional workshop held on 5-6 March 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The regional workshop highlighted the need for the right governance model, legal and licensing framework, and interoperability mechanisms for enabling sharing and dissemination of environmental information on Open Data and “eco-” Portals. In addition, it pointed the necessity to work on the development of environmental information systems, metadata and information/data sharing standards, while increasing awareness in both public institutions and among citizens. The presentations and minutes of the regional event are available here:

<https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/communication/events/project-related-events/regional-event-on-open-data-and-e-government-for-environment-in-the-eni-east-countries>

The second regional workshop is foreseen to take place during the second half of 2019, potentially back-to-back with the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information scheduled for the 2-4 October 2019 in Geneva.



OBJECTIVE

The roundtables aim to identify concrete steps to advance in terms of legal, organisational, technical conditions to ensure that environmental information is integrated with national e-government and open data initiatives at country level 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 will consist in a mix of environment, e-government, open data, and international experts.

The expected outcomes of the roundtables are:

- A finalised road-map/set of actions for improving the dissemination and sharing of environmental data through e-governance and open data initiatives that could be disseminated for further public consultations and approval.
- A set of measures for continuing the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, Protocol on PRTRs (as applicable), SEIS principles and other international commitments.
- Final remarks on the country maturity report, to be gathered during the discussions.
- 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.

It is to be noted that it is expected that the actions emerging from the national and regional events will continue forward at national level within the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, Protocol on PRTRs (as applicable), SEIS principles and other international commitments

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

It is expected from participants to be familiar with:

- The Batumi Declaration;
- The Decision VI/1 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention “Promoting effective access to information”;
- The draft country maturity report;
- The roadmap;
- The outcome of the regional meeting (Kyiv; 5-6 March 2019)¹

¹ Material and results available on the project page : <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/communication/events/project-related-events/regional-event-on-open-data-and-e-government-for-environment-in-the-eni-east-countries>



LOGISTICS

It is suggested to organise the national event in the Ministry of Environment of the country, as listed here below. If not possible, it is possible to alternatively organise the event in the PwC local offices.

Countries	Suggested hosts
Ukraine	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Republic of Moldova	Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
Georgia	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
Belarus	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Azerbaijan	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
Armenia	Ministry of Nature Protection

The invitations are to be sent by the national Ministry of Environment. The venue, if possible, is to be provided by the national Ministry of Environment and it is expected from the Ministry to communicate on the availability of technical equipment.

Before the national event, an updated version of the roadmap will be translated and communicated to the countries. Registration, badges, name plates, translation and catering services will be provided.

DURATION

1 day (9:00-17:00)

PARTICIPANTS

It is estimated to have up-to 15-20 participants per meeting (not counting PwC, EEA, UNDP, World Bank, and OSCE).

Participants will be a combination of the regional meeting audience, together with additional national partners (e-governance, open data, statistics office, and environmental information providers/users) and external experts. Participants will be invited by the national Ministries of Environment on the basis of the list provided below and national priorities.



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The following table indicates the preliminary audience in the roundtables per country:

Country	Public officials from	Indicated number of participants
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (National focal points for the ENI SEIS II East Project, Aarhus and PRTRs national focal points) 	Up to 4 main representatives covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management environment information sharing and dissemination environment indicators and reporting environment information systems 1 representative for the “Open Environment” concept
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aarhus Centre Kyiv 	Up to 2 representatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Statistics Office 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Agency for Electronic Governance 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography & Cadastre 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from State Forest Resources Agency State Water Agency National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine 	1 representative per institution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from key NGOs suggested by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and its subordinated agencies: 	Up to 4 main representatives covering:



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Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Ecological Inspectorate ○ State Hydrometeorological Service ○ Agency of Geology and Mineral Resources ○ Agency for Regulation of Nuclear and Radiological Activities ○ Environmental Protection Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management ● environment information sharing and dissemination ● environment indicators and reporting ● environment information systems 1 representative per subordinated institution listed here
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aarhus Centre Chisinau 	Up to 2 representatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Bureau of Statistics 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E-governance Agency 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Institute of Ecology and Geography 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives from the Representatives from ApeleMoldovei 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre of Moldova 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Agency MOLDSILVA 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from key NGOs suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (e.g. INQUA-Moldova, Eco-Tiras, Ecological Movement of Moldova)
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (ENI SEIS II East Project, Aarhus, PRTRs) 	Up to 4 main representatives covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management ● environment information sharing and dissemination ● environment indicators and reporting ● environment information systems



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Exchange Agency ○ National Agency of Public Registry: GIS workgroup 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data) 1 representative from Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice 1 representation for spatial data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Information and Education Centre 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from suggested NGOs by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REC Caucasus 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Agency, Agency of Protected Areas 	1 representative per agency
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and National focal points (ENI SEIS II East Project, Aarhus, PRTRs) 	Up to 4 main representatives covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management • environment information sharing and dissemination • environment indicators and reporting • environment information systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aarhus Centre of the Republic of Belarus 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Communications and Informatisation 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Forestry 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Committee on Property (geospatial) 	1 representative



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from NGOs suggested by the Ministry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State institution National Centre for Analytical Monitoring in the Area of Environmental Protection 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Unitary Enterprise “Belarusian State Geological Centre” 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development Enterprise “BeINITs Ekologiya” 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Institution “National Centre for Hydrometeorology, Radiation Control and Environmental Monitoring “Belhydromet” 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Production Centre for Geology 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and Analytical Centre for Atmospheric Air Monitoring 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State institution National Centre for Analytical Monitoring in the Area of Environmental Protection 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific and Practical Centre of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on Bioresources 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional: representative from Centre of international environmental projects, certification and audit “EKOLOGIYAINVEST” 	1 representative
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and National focal points (ENI SEIS II East Project, Aarhus, PRTRs) 	Up to 4 main representatives covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management environment information sharing and dissemination environment indicators and reporting environment information systems 1 representative for geo spatial data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aarhus Centre Baku 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies – Data Processing Centre 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Healthcare 	1 representative



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REC Caucasus 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from selected NGOs (e.g. Ruzgar)
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Nature Protection and National focal points (ENI SEIS II East Project, Aarhus, PRTRs) • Subordinated agencies form the Ministry of Nature Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Monitoring and Information Centre ○ Waste and Atmosphere Emissions Management Agency ○ Water Resources Management Agency ○ State Environmental Inspectorate ○ Bio Resources Management Agency ○ Forest Committee (Hayantar) 	Up to 4 main representatives covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environment information gathering (monitoring) and quality management • environment information sharing and dissemination • environment indicators and reporting • environment information systems 1 representative per subordinate agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Emergency situation: Armenian State Hydro-Meteorological and Monitoring Service 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Environmental Information Aarhus Centres 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistical Service/Agriculture Statistics Division 	Up to 3 representatives (environmental information reporting, quality management and statistics and information system)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies - Information Technology and Information Management Department 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy: E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit 	Up to 3 representatives (e-services, interoperability, and open data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Estate Cadastre Committee 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenian National Agrarian University: Chair of Land Management and Land Cadastre 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health: centre for disease control and prevention 	1 representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs 	Up to 2 representatives from NGOs suggested by the Ministry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REC Caucasus 	1 representative

Countries are free to propose additional or alternative participants.



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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Time	Topic
9:00-9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opening of the meeting and welcoming remarks (Ministry of the Environment, EEA, UNECE (remotely), EU Delegation)- Tour de table
9:30-10:30	Setting the scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of the project context, key objectives of the project and of the meeting - PwC- Advancing collection and dissemination of environmental information in accordance with international commitments (Aarhus, PRTRs and/or SEIS NFPs) and presentation of key results from the meeting in Kiev (by participant from regional meeting in Kyiv) - NFPs- Presentation of key initiatives and best practice of open data, e-government and environmental information sharing and dissemination in the region and in the EU – PwC
10:45-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promoting dissemination of environmental information and interoperability (case studies of e-Government/Open Data frameworks, statistical, geospatial, digital health domains) – 5 minutes for each domain, presentation by nominated participants- Presentation of user experience from Aarhus Centre or NGO- Presentation of the findings from the country maturity report and the road map: findings in areas of e-government, open data and environmental information - PwC
13:30 – 15:30	Group discussion about the nationalisation of roadmaps and the way forward: clarification of scope, key objectives, timing, responsible, public consultations, approval, and evaluation of further international technical assistance needed.
15:45-17:00	Presentation of results by group of participants Summary of the outcomes, next steps and remaining points for clarification

