Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries:
ENI SEIS II East – Waste

Project Overview

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Implementation of the SEIS principles and practices

- Two implementation phases:
  - ‣ SEIS I: 2010-2015.
    - ➢ covering the ENP East and South regions
  - ‣ SEIS II East ("the Project") & South: 2016-2020.
    - ➢ 2 separate projects; 1 for each region.
- **Focus**: to address organisational, administrative and technical aspects related to the annual production of a set of indicators.
  - ‣ Basis = set of 36 env. indicators (agreed within the UNECE-JTF)
- **Implementation**:
  - Horizontal & Air, Water, Biodiversity: EEA (2016-2020)
  - Waste: Eurostat, with ADE as its contractor (2016-17)
- **Funding**: the EU's European Neighbourhood Initiative

Project Objectives

- **Overall objective**:

To further mainstream waste information into knowledge-based policy-making and good governance in waste management.

- **Specific objective**:

To provide methodological support for the regular production of waste statistics in the 6 EaP countries
  - in compliance with SEIS principles & in line with EU best practices.

Project outcomes

- Improved capacities in national administrations to produce, manage and use waste statistics in decision-making.

- Improved quality of waste statistics, available to and accessible for decision-makers, civil society, and other national and international stakeholders.

- Improved comparability of waste statistics and indicators

- Improved implementation of international commitments (in particular SEIS cooperation, UNSD/UNEP) related to environmental reporting.

Project Contacts

- **European Commission – Eurostat,** Luxembourg

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Project focus

- Waste, and in particular municipal waste (MW) statistics:
  - *Waste generation and management*: the amount of municipal waste generated in a country per year
    - In total (including in areas not covered by a municipal waste collection scheme)
      - ➢ one of the 8 core indicators under the ENPI-SEIS project.
    - By method of treatment (as a share - %- of the total waste in the country)
      - Recycling
      - Composting
      - Incineration (with and without energy recovery or use as a fuel)
      - Landfilling on controlled/non-controlled site
      - Other disposal
  - ➢But country requests on hazardous waste and industrial waste statistics were also addressed by the Project.
- The Project provided support for content, not for (IT) infrastructure.
  - ‣ but there is an ENPI-SEIS Working Group on Information Technology.

Project Activities and Outputs

The Project has undertaken the following TA activities:

1. Review of the existing situation
2. Two Regional Workshops (RWS)
3. TA Desk
4. Pilot data sharing exercise
5. Country visits
6. Waste Statistics Guidance

1. Review of the existing situation

- **Objective**: to describe the existing situation in the EaP countries
  - ➤ to extent that is needed to allow to identify the country needs for support.

- **Approach**: Summary of information from the following sources:
  - Minutes of 1st RWS, with the specific needs expressed by the countries
  - Documents, provided by international and national stakeholders.
  - 1st SC meeting in Brussels
  - Information discussed during and following the country visits
  - Pilot Data Sharing exercise: validation of UNSD/UNEP questionnaires.
  - ➤ All countries have commented on the drafts.

1. Review of the existing situation: outputs

- Country Fact Sheets (CFS), with an overview of the:
    - Current waste statistics situation in the six EaP countries.
    - Key constraints & opportunities for improvement.

- Increased country capacity, as the discussions between the Project and the countries on the national systems:
    - revealed strengths & weaknesses
    - provided an opportunity to share international experience with the countries.

2. Two Regional Workshops (RWS)

- **1ˢᵗ workshop**, in Batumi, June 2016
- **2ⁿᵈ workshop,** in Kiev, 11-12 October 2017:
  - Objectives: to present and to discuss:
    - Pilot Data Sharing Exercise (Data Validation Report)
    - Review of the existing situation (Country Factsheets)
    - Areas for improvement and potential support actions
- **Outputs**:
  - Workshop reports, with improvement areas and future support actions identified.
  - Increased country capacity, through sharing of national and international practices and knowledge.
  - Country commitment to continued improvement of data quality
  - Improved Project Reports (CFS and DVRs)

3. Technical Assistance Desk

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

- **Approach**:
  - ‣ The National Focal points or other country officials submit requests for support to the Project TL
  - ‣ The Project TL ensures a reply from the Project Team, Eurostat and/or the EEA.

- **Output:** Only 1 specific country request (outside the other activities): Georgia on their waste management information system under development.

4. Pilot data sharing exercise

- **Objectives:**
  - To collect data for the production of statistics and indicators.
  - To identify the key data quality issues in the countries.
  - To support the identification of areas for improvement and potential support actions.

- **Cooperation** between the Project and the UNSD.
  - Efficient: use of the existing UNSD/UNEP questionnaire, that the countries were already familiar with.
    - Addition of information requests to the questionnaire, for the Project's purposes
  - Effective: the Project cooperated intensively with the 6 countries during validation, with several rounds of comments by the Project and subsequent revisions of the completed questionnaires by the countries.

4. Pilot data sharing exercise: outputs

- 5 Country Data Validation Reports (DVR), with key findings and issues, with respect to data quality
- Regional DVR:
  ‣ A comparative tabular and graphical presentation of the country waste data.
  ‣ Common key findings and issues.
- Increased capacity to report internationally (to the UNSD)
- Improved quality of waste statistics, available to and accessible for decision-makers, civil society, and other national and international stakeholders.
- Improved comparability of waste statistics
➢ not only for the 2016 reporting exercise, but also for future reporting to the UNSD.
  ➢ Countries will apply the lessons learnt from the 2016 exercise in the future.

5. Country visits

- **Objectives**:
  - ‣ To describe the waste statistics situation
  - ‣ To identify actions that could be undertaken to support the countries (during or after the Project).
  - ‣ To build capacity by providing targeted technical assistance, by discussing:
    - ▪ The requests for clarification from the project experts, regarding the completed UNSD/UNEP questionnaire on waste.
    - ▪ The results of the validation of the completed UNSD/UNEP questionnaire.
    - ▪ Any questions from the countries on good EU waste statistics practices.
- **Duration**: 2 days for meetings per country
- **Outputs:**
  - ‣ Improved CFS and DVRs, providing an understanding of the country situation and capacity
  - ‣ Enhanced capacity of the countries to produce waste statistics.
- **Follow-up:**
  - ‣ The countries have commented on the draft Country Factsheets and Data Validation Reports.
  - ‣ TA request from Georgia, for comments on key concepts of their WMIS under development.

5: Country visits: planning

Country	Meetings in 2017
Ukraine	24-25 April
Belarus	27-28 April
Moldova	22-23 May
Armenia	10-11 July.
Georgia	13-14 July
Azerbaijan	18-19 July

6. Waste Statistics Guidance (WSG)

- **Objective**: to provide guidance on the production of waste statistics.
- **Output:** A guidance document, with two components:
  1. Guidance on the estimation of MW generation in areas not covered by a municipal collection service ("uncollected waste")
  2. A Waste Management Glossary, based on existing EU legislation and guidance documents:
     - *Guidelines on the interpretation of key provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste*, European Commission, DG Environment, June 2012 (WFD Guidance).
     - *Manual on waste statistics - A handbook for data collection on waste generation and treatment*, Eurostat, 2013. (Waste Statistics Manual).
     - *Guidance on municipal waste data collection*, Eurostat, 2017.

6. WM Glossary – scope: Waste

- Waste / By-product

- Hazardous waste

- Non-hazardous waste

- Municipal waste

6. WM Glossary – scope: WM operations

- Waste management

- Waste hierarchy

- Waste storage

- Collection and Separate collection

- Preparation prior to recovery or disposal

- Treatment: recovery and disposal

- Recovery

  - Preparing for re-use

  - Recycling

  - Organic recycling

  - Other recovery:
    - Incineration with efficient energy generation
    - Processing of fuels
    - Backfilling

- Disposal: Incineration & Landfill

6. WM glossary

- **Objective:**
  - ‣ To enable a common understanding of key waste management terms
  - ‣ that are essential to produce comparable waste statistics, in line with the provisions of the Waste Statistics Regulation.

- **Methodological issues:**
  - ‣ No existing EU glossary/No 100% common understanding in the EU of some key terms
  - ‣ The mere definition of a term in the glossary is not always sufficient to ensure a common understanding.
    - ➢ Detailed guidance may be required to avoid misunderstandings, but how detailed?

- **Country comments** on the following aspects:
  - ‣ Scope: are there any key terms missing that are currently not commonly understood and lead to misunderstandings?
  - ‣ Clarity: are all definitions clear?

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6. Guidance on the estimation of uncollected waste

- **Objective**: To define a methodology to estimate MW generation in "areas not covered by official waste collection schemes", in an efficient and effective manner.
  - "Efficient" means that the estimate can be produced in a relatively simple manner, without significant efforts.
  - "Effective" means that the estimate will be relatively precise and in any case sufficiently precise to produce an indicator that is appropriate for statistical and policy purposes.
- The methodology must allow to produce an approximate figure on waste generation per capita (which then can be multiplied by the number of population not served by a regular collection service).
- **Approach:** Not one standard approach, but an approach with different options, for the countries to choose from.
- **Output:** a method that is not only applicable in the 6 EaP countries, but in any country.

6. Guidance on the estimation of uncollected waste: approach to the development

- 1. Literature review, with the following conclusions:
  - ‣ A large number of varying models to estimate waste generation (per capita) exist.
  - ‣ Most models result from research projects and aim for exact figures.
  - ‣ None of these models are applied by statistical offices or policy makers.
    - ➢ this may be because they are not user-friendly enough.
  - ‣ Conclusion: no internationally, widely accepted and applied model.
- 2. Review of the approaches of countries that report to Eurostat, based on a review of their Quality Reports (QRs) submitted to Eurostat and on the overview of waste collection coverage.
- 3. Development of a draft methodology, for consultation with the 6 EaP countries on the following 3 aspects:
  - ‣ Clarity: is the method clear or should further guidance be added ?
  - ‣ Effectiveness: can the method achieve its objectives or should certain aspects of the methods be improved?
  - ‣ Applicability in the EaP countries: can the method be applied in the 6 EaP countries, or should certain aspects of the method be tailored to the situation in the countries?

Potential follow-up activities: priority topics.

- Good waste management practices in the EU and the role of waste statistics in improving existing practices in the EaP countries.
- Further guidance on waste management terms and definitions.
- Guidance on the application of waste classifications.
- Identification and support of reporting units.
- Improvement of existing reporting formats.
- Development of a methodology for the preparation and application of volume-to-weight conversion factors for municipal waste.
- Data validation, incl. development of a country validation plan, with clearly defined responsibilities at each level of the data collection process and a set of checks.
- Development of methodologies for the collection of data, which the countries identified as key for the policy makers, but which are currently missing
  - ➢E.g. on specific waste streams (e.g. household hazardous waste) and specific waste management operations (in particular landfills/dumpsites).
- Quality reporting, including a template for a data quality report and guidance to completing the data quality report, to encourage self-assessment.
- Assistance to develop systems for online reporting.

Project dissemination

- Eurostat has kindly created a page on the website of the project *ENI SEIS II East- Implementation of the Shared Enviromental Information System (SEIS) principles and practices in the ENP East region,* dedicated to the thematic area of waste (https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/data/waste).

- All Project Reports and Powerpoint presentations, that were delivered at the 2nd Regional Project Workshop, will be posted on this webpage, to enhance the dissemination of the Project's results.

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Thank you for your attention!