Area 3
Assessment and Accounting
Plan

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1. Introduction

The work in this activity area is guided by the assessment and accounting Project Work Plan to support activities of result 3 Preparation of regular State and Outlook on the Environment Report (SOER) and indicator-based assessments in line with EU/EEA best practices.

The project activities objective is a regular assessment reporting on state of the environment based on SEIS principles. (As per description of action).

Area 3.1: National training and expert assistance on SOER production, based on SEIS-compliant data at regional and national levels.

Area 3.2: Methodological support for production of indicator-based assessments.

2. Action Plan

The ENI countries need to establish their regular national assessments and reporting process in order to provide the necessary information to feed national, regional and global policy requests (SDG, UNEP GEO,). According to the EEA desk study on availability of environmental reports and indicators run in January-February 2017 a majority ENI countries:
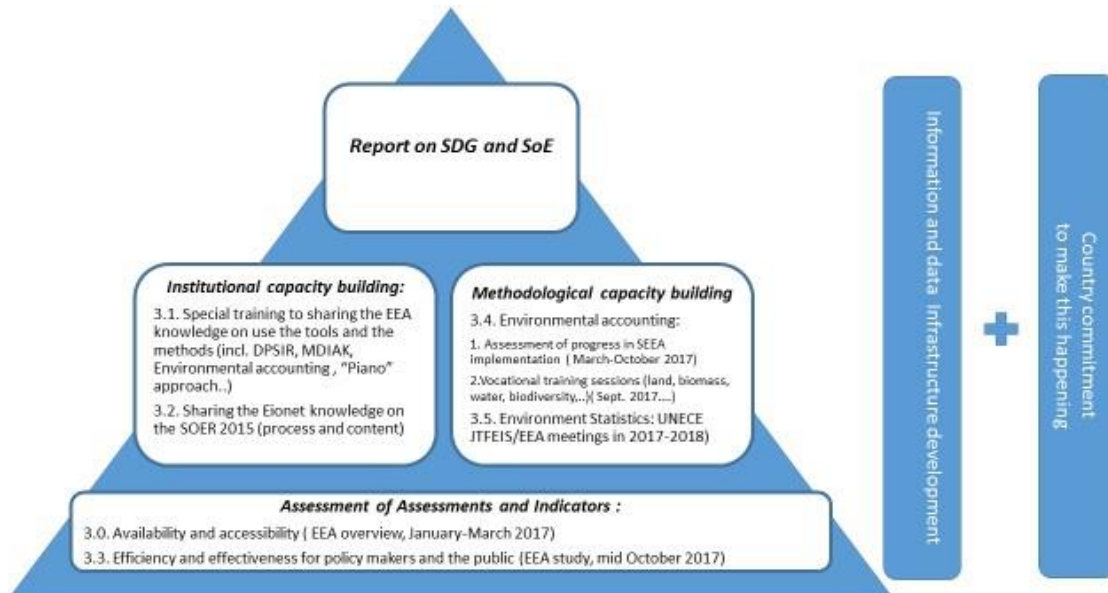
- ➢ Publish national State of Environment report (SoE)
- ➢ Produce key data for assessments and indicators and disseminate them on their official websites in e-Data base and/or e-Statistical Yearbook formats
- ➢ Have data, indicators and SoE reports available 'online data'
- ➢ Have good performance in producing the UNECE commonly agreed environmental indicators
- ➢ Remain descriptive and limited, irregular or delayed their national assessment reports.

Activities within the ENI SEIS II East project will built on expertise of the EEA and on Eionet best practices, particularly outcome and work undertaken previously under the ENPI-SEIS and InSEIS project.

The activities of the Assessment component Nr. 3 are developed alongside the "M-D-I-A-K reporting chain" and the DPSIR framework include:

3.1. Training on SOER and SoE type of reporting-to be developed and merged with the 3.2. Activity;

3.2 Sharing knowledge on environmental assessments on the basis of EEA country example;

3.3. Study of efficiency and effectiveness of the recent environmental SoE and assessments reports;

3.4. Environmental accounting as a tool for integrated assessments;

3.5. Bridging to the UNECE/WGEMA indicators and indicator based assessments.

The activities will assist to put in place a regular reporting on environment based on Shared environmental information system principles. The outlines of the activities are presented in figure below:

3.1. Specific training on SOER and SoE type of reporting

The training will be designed to assist with implementation of the EEA tools and their applications for integrated assessments. The programme of training will be designed and developed at the EEA. It will cover the theoretical and practical aspects of environmental assessments and place them into the overall public policy framework. Examples will be drawn from the EEA experience. Information resources will be discussed and will be explored in practical workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to share their national experiences.

The application of indicators, assessments, outlooks, tools and methodologies used by the EEA and EEA member countries will be promoted and implemented according to ENI counties interest:

- "piano approach" based on the Delphi method
- environmental accounting as a tool for integrated assessments
- the EEA Method tool kit (Global Mega Trends at national level)
- SoE online on national websites.

3.2 Sharing knowledge on environmental assessments on the basis of EEA country example.

The Ministry of environment of Slovakia have declared their interest to cooperate with the ENI countries on this Assessment component.

The objective is to share their experiences in applying the EEA related SoE methodologies and tools:

- present their experiences and challenges in preparing the data and indicators and in executing the various steps;
- provide feedback on materials provided, and share experiences on how to deal with gaps.

3.3. Study of efficiency and effectiveness of the recent environmental SoE and assessments reports in the six ENI east countries will start in April 2017. The output will be summarised in six national reports and consolidated in a regional report by end of October 2017.

- The study will set up a baseline for development of environmental assessments in a consistent and sustainable way.
- The evaluation of the SOER 2015 process and outcome at the EEA is the methodological background.
- The method used for the review is by interviews.
- The target audience is composed of the potential users of environmental assessments from policy making and communication to the general public.

3.4. Environmental accounting as a tool for integrated assessments. At the 1st regional Steering Committee meeting in November 2016, ENI East countries have identified this to be highly relevant and of priority (). The 2017 programme will include an assessment with an analysis of the situation to structure capacity building and respective activities, a first cycle of training on SEEA methodologies and a participation in a UNECE seminar:

- Assessment of SEEA progress in the six countries will take place. The method used is by interview. Target audience is composed of producers and users of environmental accounts. The Output will be summarized in a report by end 2017.
- Training on SEEA first cycle (introduction to SEEA concepts and to land accounts, discussion on environment accounts for policy making).
- Participation in the UNECE Seminar on SEEA (2017-2018).

3.5. Bridging to the UNECE/WGEMA indicators and indicator based assessments. It includes:

- The EEA desk study on the Availability of the UNECE environmental indicators and assessments online in the ENI countries.
- National Data and Indicator Catalogues made available.
- The reviewing and updating process of the core set of environmental indicators in response to the pan-European "Environment for Europe" process requirement, as well as the SDG reporting (under UNECE lead).
- Participation in the UNECE Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators and UNECE/WGEMA meetings.

Activities 3.4 and 3.5 will contribute to the institutional capacity building and application of the internationally accepted methodologies and statistical standards in SEIS data production, such as the UN SEEA and UN FDES 2013.

Achieving the outcomes above means that following the SIES principles future assessments and other reporting processes will result in better use of existing information for assessments. This would **reduce duplication, improve consistency and enhance the confidence in assessments rooted in national information.**

What is important here is a better understanding of the current and future challenges that decision makers have to respond to for ensuring that integrated assessments remain relevant and knowledge based.

3.   Activities vs Expected result

Table below summarises deliverables during the reporting period against the deliverables as per description of action.

Activity 3.1		
	Deliverable as per DoA	**Results during reporting period**
1	Guidance documents on the production of SOE reports in line with EEA/Eionet best practices	Assessment and accounting plan is in place and is updated on the regular basis: https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/work-plans/regional-work-plan-eni-seis-ii-east-2017-2020/view EEA and Slovak Environment Agency cooperation programme to support the production of SoE reports in line with the EEA and Eionet best practices and drafted the guidance "Experience in creating and drawing up the State of the Environment Report in The Slovak Republic" https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/Indicators%20and%20Assessments/GuideonSOER_Slovakcooperationprogramme.pdf Guidance on Catalogue of environmental Indicators drafted to support the comparability and compatibility of environmental indicators with the international and EU standards and based on the methodology of the European Environmental Indicators Catalogue. https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/areas-of-work/Indicators%20and%20Assessments/Annex_EU_Environmentalindicatorcatalogue_version24May2017.pdf
2	National SOE report(s) regularly produced by the countries according to international standards, incorporating conceptual and structural elements from the SOER2015 model and available tools.	2017 Study of the effectiveness and relevance for policymaking and public information of recent environmental assessments in the ENI East region set up baseline for SoE state and a road map for development. https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/governance/project-documents/evaluation-of-recent-national-enivronmental-assessments-synthesis-eng 2017, Assessment of self-assessments of SEEA progress available on the project website https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/governance/project-documents/assessment-of-self-assessments-of-the-seea-progress-in-the-eastern-partnership-countries. The assessment is a summary of two surveys based on interview face-to-face approach. Target audience - user and producer of environmental accounts. Planned for 2017-2018 together with the countries 1. Assessment of online availability of environmental information in form of indicators and assessment reports in countries

		2. information on UNECE Environmental Indicators and Environmental Assessment reports into Country pages including: https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/armenia https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/azerbaijan https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/belarus https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/georgia https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/moldova https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/ukraine

Activity 3.2		
	Deliverable as per DoA	Results during reporting period
1	Development of a suite of derived products of different nature (printed, online) – produced by the countries - or related to the SDGs, from the existing assessments (Executive Summary, policy relevant thematic briefings, key messages, etc.) using institutions and networks in the partner countries (including Aarhus Centres, RECs) and involving the civil society (NGOs and their Eco Forum network).	Country NFPs has participated in the EEA NFP meeting in May 2017 during project mid-year review meeting in Copenhagen. Regional Workshop on SOER development organised for national experts in environmental assessments. The event was organised by the EEA and SEA, November 2017, Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia. Financing of participation of national experts to UNECE WGEMA, UNECE JTFESI and UNECE Seminar on SEEA, 2017-2018 Vocational training on SEEA EEA applications of the EEA products for national experts involved in environmental accounting, August 2017, Montpellier, France. This event was organised by the EEA and CIRAD. Two survey carried out by the EEA on the SEEA progress in the six Eastern Partnership countries. The outcomes are summarised into a working paper. This paper contains information on state of play and future for SEEA implementation. Around the key messages and national priorities in implementation of SEEA was build a regional road map. This road map is based on SEIS principles and outline a strong need to build integrated data platform with spatial approach.

| 2 | Improved traceability of data and indicators used in national websites and reports using available EEA tools and methodologies (SOER 2015 model) | Planned for 2017-2018 together with the countries
1. Assessment of online availability of environmental information in form of indicators and assessment reports in countries
2. information on UNECE Environmental Indicators and Environmental Assessment reports into Country pages including:
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/armenia
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/azerbaijan
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/belarus
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/georgia
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/moldova
https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/countries/ukraine |

4. Activities for 2018 –2019

Table below summarises deliverables during the reporting period against the deliverables as per description of action.

Activity 3.1		
	Deliverable as per DoA	Planned activities for 2018-2019
1	Experts visits/missions to the ENP East partner countries in line with the identified needs;	Ongoing
2	National events organised related to development of appropriate tools and information for SOER production, and online presentation on national sites, as appropriate	Planned for 2018 and 2019 together with the countries (see activity 3.1.)
3	2 regional events on assessments/SOER methodology in line with EEA guidance.	2019 October, Regional Workshop on SOER, Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia. Organised the EEA and SEA
Activity 3.2		
	Deliverable as per DoA	Planned activities for 2018-2019
1	Expert assistance at national level (upon agreement of national work plans)	Ongoing Bilateral meetings on assessment and accounting with the countries and from the findings from the study on effectiveness and efficiency of environmental assessments in the region identified key areas for development for SOER. The outcome of the study will contribute to national road.

		2018 -2019 country visits of the EEA and SEA experts will provide their experience and hands-on training.
		The EEA and the Slovak experts will share experience in preparing data, indicators and assessment reports, starting from coordination of reporting process to collection of monitoring and statistical data, handling data and computing indicators. Demonstration and application of EU and EEA methodologies to SoE integration is aimed to assist further development of national reporting process, supported by case studies from the Slovak national experience.
		All six Eastern Partnership countries have already nominated their communication experts on SOER and Environmental accounting.
2	2 regional events per year on indicator-based assessment methodologies	2019 October, Regional Workshop on SOER, Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia. Organised the EEA and SEA
3.	2 regional events per year for IT-related expert network (aspects related to development of online products/services on national sites), also in connection to the activities under	2019 October, Regional Workshop on SOER, Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia. Organised the EEA and SEA

Annex

Activities supporting result 3: Preparation of regular State and Outlook on the Environment Report (SOER) and indicator-based assessments in line with EU/EEA best practices:

Activites	2018				2019				Implementation		Deliverable
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	EEA	Partenrship	
Activity 3.1: National training and expert assistance on SOER production, based on SEIS-compliant data											
Specific training programmes									EEA	Eionet	event/people
Specific training programmes (attandance and partcipation in traning programmes of the EEAcademy)			August				August		EEA	Eionet	visit/people
Specific training programmes (expert technical assistance and country visits with EIONET)									EEA	Eionet/Slovak Environment Agency	visit/people/ data, indicators, report online
Ukraine				October							
Moldova						April					
Belarus		April									
Georgia		May									
Armenia						May					
Azerbaijan			July								
Technical assistance via the Eionet helpdsek								October	EEA	Eionet/Slovak Environment Agency	data,indicators, report online
Activity 3.2: Methodological support for production of indicator-based assessments											
Overview avaliability of the UNECE environmental indicators and assessments online									EEA	NFPs	Information online
UNECE Environmental indicators reviewing process and updating of the core set of Environmental indicators									EEA	UNECE	input
Participation in meetings of the UNECE Joint Task Force on environmental statistics and indicators			October						EEA	UNECE	event/people
Participation in meetings of the UNECE WGEMA				September					EEA	UNECE	event/people
Expert technical assistance and visits to the countries									EEA	Eionet/Slovak Environment Agency	event/people/information
Ukraine				October							
Moldova						April					
Belarus		April									
Georgia		May									
Armenia						May					
Azerbaijan			July								
Road maps for SOER development							September		EEA	Eionet/Slovak Environment Agency	guidance/reports
Environmental accounting											
Self Assessment of environmental accounting progress									EEA	UNECE	report online
Training on environmental accounting	January								EEA	UNECE/Statistics Netherlands?CIRAD	event/people
Participation in seminar the UNECE on SEEA-CF and SEEA-EEA	February				February				EEA	UNECE	event/people