

Action Plan of Assessment component ENI SEIS II East project

"It's not enough to just be better. In addressing global problems, we need to make the numbers add up." - Brechtje Spoorenberg, KPN

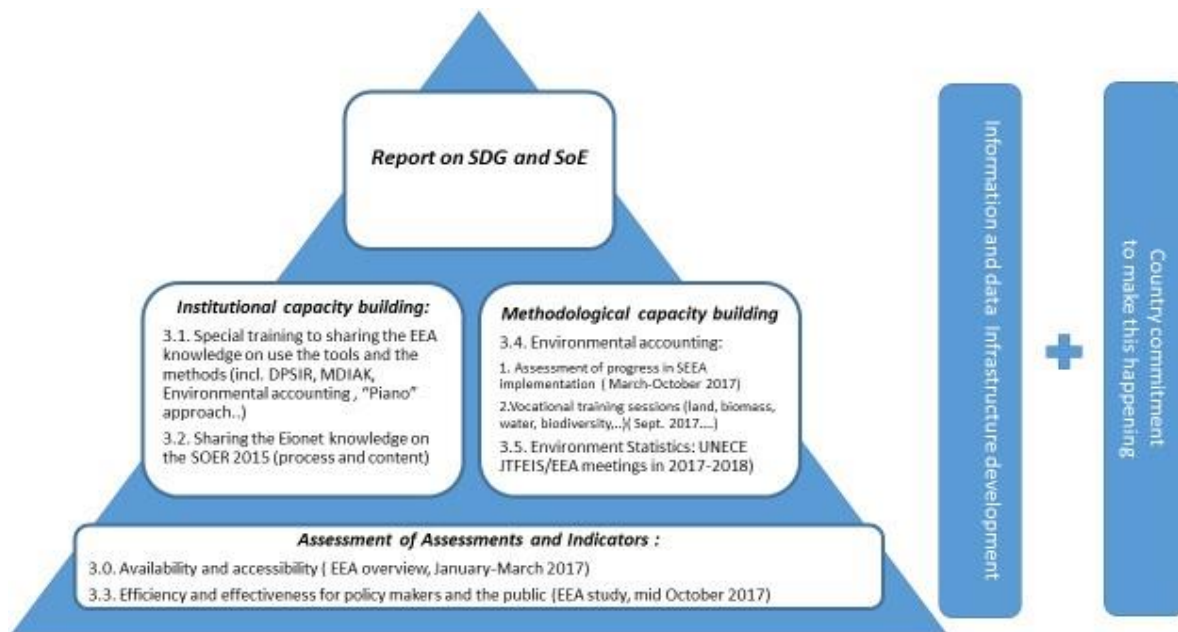
The ENI countries need to establish their regular national assessments and reporting process in order to provide the necessary information to feed national, regional and global policy requests (SDG, UNEP GEO,). According to the EEA desk study on availability of environmental reports and indicators run 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
- 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 countries 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 Romania and 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/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 (October 2017).

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 meeting.

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.