European Environment Agency

ENPI-SEIS project

Update of the Country Report – ISRAEL

Overview of activities for 2015-2020

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Author:

Sabah Nait

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA **umwelt**bundesamt

Contributors:

Ministry of Environmental Protection; Central Bureau of Statistics Isreael

Ministry of Environmental Protection

הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה
Central Bureau of Statistics
دائرة الإحصاء المركزية

Summary

The present paper gives an overview of the activities that took place since the publication of the last country report published in June 2012. The report aims to show progress made in terms of inter institutional cooperation, content and infrastructure and report on progress made in the implementation of the activities agreed and identified in the last country report.

The implementation of pilot projects for demonstration of the shared environment information principles agreed during the country visit in 2011 were fully implemented as described below.

- ❖ Implementation of PRTR: the system is now fully functional and 500 facilities are already reporting. The PRTR system was established under the Israel's 2012 Environmental Protection Law. The guidelines for the system were set in the Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which Israel acceded in January 2013 (more details below).

- ❖ Study visit to institutions with the relevant experience on waste information for data producers and users for this purpose a study visit was organised in Vienna, June 2014. The visit was an opportunity to exchange experience and practices in the field of waste management and the adequate IT tools for a good waste management information system.

Israel will continue reporting the data on the agreed indicators to EEA on regular basis. The difficulties faced by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and ICBS were mainly related to the lack of human resources for the compilation of the different required reports (country level assessment, country report) and time constraints putting the data in the right format in order to be uploaded on Reportnet.

A bilateral cooperation was initiated by Israel in order to increase the cooperation with the European Environment Agency and make progress in building an environmental information system at the national level according to SEIS principles and share knowledge and experience with EU member states. This cooperation is implemented by the INSEIS project which provides support to Israel on topics that have been identified at national level (climate change adaptation, water accounts).

Inter-institutional cooperation

In Israel, exchange of data and information among different institutions is regulated partially by the law and partially by cooperation.

Content

Industrial emissions

The launch of Israel's PRTR was facilitated by international developments: the country's commitments to the OECD and its accession to the UNECE Kiev Protocol in January 2013 and local development: the enactment of the Environmental Protection (Releases and Transfers to the Environment –Reporting and Registering Obligations) Law in April 2012. The law requires facilities with significant impact on the environment to report on their emissions of 114 pollutants – 88 pollutants emitted to air and 94 pollutants emitted to water, sea and soil, as well as on their transfers of waste.

Israel's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register was officially launched in December 2013. For the first time, data on 114 pollutants released to air, water, sea and soil or transferred offsite for treatment and disposal of waste and waste-water, were published on a dedicated website (in Hebrew) http://www.sviva.gov.il/PRTRIsrael/Pages/default.aspx. The information is available online. The register contributes to transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making.

The data are based on reports received from 500 facilities, including industrial plants in the energy, chemistry, metals, food and beverages, minerals and other sectors, landfills and transfer stations, wastewater treatment plants, and intensive agricultural facilities.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has the obligation to submit an annual report to the Knesset (Parliament) that includes a summary and analysis of the PRTR data reported that year as well as an inventory of information on releases and transfers once every seven years. The first inventory was published January, 2015.

The Central Bureau of Statistics is conducting a survey in the manufacturing and electricity industries. In this survey ICBS has included questions on the quantities of waste and wastewater, on treatment methods of waste and wastewater and pollutants released into wastewater. Also included are questions on fuel consumption. The PRTR data is transferred to ICBS on yearly basis (comprising data that is not published online). The data reported on PRTR and collected by ICBS helps in completing the full picture.

Implementation of SEIS in the period 2015-2020

Improve data quality

Organise workshop for data providers and data users at national level to address how to organise, use and improve data quality. This activity will enhance cooperation among different institutions and stakeholders.

Study visit to EU member state- waste streams: a study visit to an EU member country to share experience with regard to the estimation of the different waste streams such as packaging, electronics, construction etc.

Organise workshop on the consumption of raw materials in the manufacturing industry. This workshop can help compliment data received within ICBS survey and form the basis for environmental productivity indices.

Compilation of environmental accounts - Support ICBS in compilation of Environmental accounts more specifically waste accounts using SEAA framework. The accounts will provide insights on how the economy growth (GDP increase, larger labour force, use of energy) is affecting the natural resources and analyse the effect of economic policy measures. Even if at the time being no country in Europe is compiling waste accounts and it is mainly pilots in some interested countries, support can be provided at the later stage of the project second period (only in case expertise can be provided by Eionet).

Workshop on marine statistics - Marine pollution is a new topic for ICBS and is important in order to better understand the progress made in depolluting the Mediterranean Sea. A workshop on marine pollution statistics will provide the required knowledge.

All the activities mentioned above will tackle on the one hand the data quality and provide support on how to deal with data gaps.

Infrastructure

Open source training:

The Ministry of Environmental protection is building up an information system with different applications in order to comply with the different reporting obligations (e.g. emission data reported by PRTR as mentioned above). Further applications are in the conception phase such as application for permits to compliant with different environment related laws and with IPPC and IED. The objective of the system is to create legal certainty among all stakeholders (industries and institutions). The future system will also help in conducting the environmental inspections more efficiently and with fewer human resources. For this purpose training on the use of open source is needed (see details in annex 1).

Additional infrastructure issues:

- ✓ SDMX training (ICBS and Ministry)
- ✓ Learn more about Xml data files (ICBS)

IT tool:

Support in establishing IT tool that will allow different stakeholders to submit and share data on regular basis. In the first phase we suggest pilot that will focus on climate change adaptation indicators. Such platform should go beyond just the adaptation indicators, and will serve for data and information that are required for the state of environment report and for reporting to the international organisations.

State of Israel

Ministry of Environmental Protection
Information Technology Division

Annex 1

Proposal for main points to cover during Open source seminar

Introduction:

 What is open source, samples of infrastructure and application in Europe

Infrastructure:

 Operating systems

 Data bases (traditional and non SQL)

Development environment:

Development code language (client & server)	*Unit testing*
Configuration management	*Test management*
Source control	*Project management*
Requirements management	*Bug tracking*

 Business platforms:

 Business process management system (ex. Hazardous material permit process)

 Application servers

 Mail server

 CMS+ document management

 Code libraries

 Debugging tools

 Build tools

 Release management

Maintenance & support:

 Code libraries/platforms updates – who and how

 How much customization is "too much"?

 Documentation

 Maintenance efforts

Integration:

 Between open source systems & components

 Open source an Microsoft (severs & clients)

Security & compliance:

 Open source & legislation

 Accountability for "bugs" in code libraries/platforms

Financial aspects:

    Open source cost model

    Support costs

    Open source cost/benefit analysis

System roadshow:

    Permitting system

    Hazard materials permit system

    PRTR

    Agency to business interface system (forms, api's ctc.)

    Inspection &enforcement systems

    (Please note that we are interested in the internal office systems as well as public interface)