Workshop on Water Accounts and Statistics for the Mediterranean Countries
Beirut, 20-22 March 2012

‘Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood’
links with water accounts

European Environment Agency

Cecile RODDIER-QUEFELEC,
Mediterranean Area Cooperation, Governance and Networks Programme
Overall objective:
• Promote the protection of the environment in the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy area
ENPI-SEIS project objectives

**Specific objectives:**

- Identify / further develop environmental indicators
- Improve capacities in the field of monitoring, collection, storage, assessment, and reporting of environmental data
- Promote the setting up of national and regional environmental information systems in line with SEIS principles
- Track progress of the regional environmental initiatives (European Neighbourhood Policy, Eastern Partnership, Horizon 2020, etc.)
A wealth of information is collected but:

- Fragmented reporting systems
- Shortcomings in relation to timeliness, availability, reliability, relevance of information
- Shortcomings in ability to turn data into policy-relevant information
- Underexploited opportunities offered by modern technologies
- Many initiatives and processes in the right direction, but inadequate co-ordination
What SEIS about?

Data and information services
Monitoring, Reportnet, ICT, Inspire...

Content
Air
Climate Change
Land use
Biodiversity
Water
Soil
Forests
Waste
Integrated prod.
Natural resources
...

Infrastructure
Networking, Eionet, Ministries,
Statistical Offices, EPAs,
Conventions, Agreements

Institutional cooperation
Monitoring, Reportnet, ICT, Inspire...
Information should be

- managed as close as possible to its source;
- collected once, and shared with others for many purposes;
- readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations;
- easily accessible to all users.
- accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale, and citizen participation;
- fully available to the general public, and at the national level in the relevant national language(s).
- Supported through common, free open software standards
Information for policy making and implementation – Developing the Information Pyramid through SEIS

**Information Pyramid**

**Bottom-up**
- Reports
- Indicator management, Factsheets
- Databases data warehouses
- Guidelines manuals repositories - CDR

**Top-down**
- Access, dissemination, GEMET, EoE
- Integrated environmental assessments
- Frameworks
- DEMs

**Knowledge**
- **Assessment**
- **Indicators**
- **Data**
- **Monitoring**
Information should be

- Collected **once**, and shared with others for many purposes;

- Re-use data in various applications (UNSD questionnaire, I...)

- Share national messages on SoE
Information should be

- Readily available and easy accessible

> e.g. supporting Aarhus convention pillar free access and public participation

> Improve data and information reporting
Information should be

- Accessible to enable users to make comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale

> Provide information electronically, engage in harmonisation
> Develop spatial data infrastructures (SDI’s)
Information should be

- Fully available to the general **public** at national level in the relevant **national language(s)**

> Feel allowed to use your national language
> Provide interface for translations
**Information should be**

- Supported through common, free **open** software standards

> Use ISO/OGC/W3C standards related to data quality; service design and provision and web publishing

> Strengthen and implement the environment component in INSPIRE
Building communities for data sharing

Welcome to EYEonEARTH

Eye on Earth is a website for sharing data from diverse sources.

Eye on Earth lets you discover new information with interactive data tools.

Eye on Earth is the result of a public-private partnership joining expertise from industry and public organisations.

Launch: 12th December

The newest watch:

The watch for noise

Launch: 1. December

Forum

YouTube
ENPI-SEIS activities

- Country visits => Country reports => Proposals/Plans for 2012

**Data&indicators**
- Working Group on Env. Indicator (H2020 indicators)
- Trial delivery of identified indicators
- Pilots (e.g. PRTR, discharge at sea)
- Regional WS/training (water accounts, marine, PRTR, etc)

**Infrastructure**
- IT working group (national Inf. System)
- Regional WS/training (data policy, INSPIRE, SDI, etc)
- Preparation of SEIS ‘Cookbook’
- Links to relevant regional projects and identification of synergy activities

**Communication activities**
- ENPI-SEIS newsletters twice yearly, ENPI-SEIS portal
• Water, priority theme (H2020)
• Build-up on the progress and efforts made in the framework of MEDSTAT, UN-ESCWA
• Concrete implementation of the SEIS principles
  • Inter-institutional coordination
  • Content development (harmonisation, terminology, indicator development)
  • Integration of existing databases/IS (water information system, metadata, standards forms, interoperability)

• => PILOT ACTIVITY
Sharing is everything!

Thank you for your attention!

http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/