

Winter 2012/2013

European Environment Agency



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Interview with Peder Jensen

New Head of Governance and Network Programme at the European Environment Agency

You became Head of Governance and Network programme in autumn last year and started working closely with the ENP region. What in your view is the most important element of the SEIS implementation in the neighbourhood countries?

P: When working with such diverse countries, building trust between all the partners is the key element. Sharing the available data implies that the countries are sharing knowledge about the state of play within their own borders. This is where the trust is being built. Being more open to the neighbours, of course, allows having a better internal view on the state of the environment. But in some cases, the countries already have a fairly good view of the environmental situation, maybe not as detailed as they wish, but a fairly good one. Yet, the trust building between the countries is probably in the long run the most important element of the SEIS implementation process.

Has your perception of what are the main ENPI-SEIS components changed since then and if yes, in what direction?

P: Recently, I have come to realise the significance of the networking element, and here I mean the linkages between people. I used to take for granted the fact that people could talk and work together as long as they had a shared view of the outcomes of their work. Never have I thought about how important it is to build a network. It is easier to agree on a common indicator or on a common infrastructure, than to ensure that there is a living network of people in place, which in order to function will require continuous nurturing.

What in your opinion was the most significant event in recent months contributing to the firm establishment of SEIS in Europe and beyond?

P: I will not point at any particular event as such, because again, I see the implementation of SEIS as a process. In this process we are gradually shifting from dealing with the issues of what we could consider as a common content we would like to share, towards saying, "Well, how do we actually share?" and then acting upon the decision. So for me the real change that has happened recently is that we have shifted from discussions to the actual preparation for actions. The process is still in its infancy and there are many things that need to happen before we can achieve tangible outcomes.



Peder Jensen speaking at the
First Eye on Earth User
Conference in Dublin, March
2013

If we are to look beyond the current project period, what are your priorities for the ENP cooperation after mid-2014?

P: I think it is important to see SEIS implementation as not just a project, but precisely as a process. The Agency has been working on establishing a similar type of relationship for almost twenty years with the EEA member countries, and this relationship is still evolving. The dynamics of the SEIS implementation process for the neighborhood countries are the same. Data sharing should be perceived as a process, as we gradually become better at sharing, get a better understanding of the needs, better at describing the existing problems and better at addressing these problems. Besides, such process is in need of constant reinforcement of both ability and willingness to share data. The willingness of course has to come from the countries. The ability is something that EEA can assist with, by offering country and region specific capacity building activities.

Changes in the ENPI-SEIS team



Towards a regular review mechanism of Horizon2020 – preparation of the first assessment report

Complementarities between the Horizon 2020 Review, Monitoring and Research (RMR) sub-group and the ENPI-SEIS project

As a part of a long term process towards the development of a reporting mechanism for measuring progress under the Horizon 2020 Initiative, the late 2012 and early 2013 focused on the development of the H2020 indicators and the preparation of the first assessment report of H2020 progress as called by the road-map of the Cairo declaration.

To support this process, a selection of six key indicators was made by the ENPI-SEIS Working Group on Indicators early in 2012 and detailed indicator factsheets was developed (<http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/data-and-indicators/working-group-environmental-indicators-south/factsheet-consultation>). These indicators are currently being populated by the partner countries supporting the production of the regional indicator based analysis of the H2020 priority areas. National workshops initialised by the ENPI-SEIS NFPs are currently being organized jointly with UNEP/MAP and are taking place in each the ENP-South partner country over the period March-May 2013 (<http://enpi-seis.ew.eea.europa.eu/project-activities/data-and-indicators/egypt-indicators-national-workshop>). These workshops aim at supporting the development of these indicators and their corresponding data flows, and at strengthening the coordination of the different data providers and thematic experts. A specific country level assistance on indicator development is ensured by UNEP-MAP (Plan Bleu/MEDPOL) in the framework of a contribution agreement with the EEA to support SEIS implementation in the Mediterranean region.



Find out more about the initiative on the official website: www.h2020.net

Or on the website of [the European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu)

As validated by the H2020 Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group the first H2020 Regional Report will consist of 3 main parts: a synthesis, summarising the H2020 priority areas, state of the environment, cross-cutting issues, reflections on policy implications and overarching conclusions; an indicator-based thematic assessment using the selected H2020 indicators and a country level assessment compiled on the basis of the information provided by the ENP South countries, which will cover the H2020 priority areas as well as specific country situations.

The next RMR meeting (planned 11-12 June 2013) will look at the first draft of the report, and review progress achieved so far in setting-up a regular reporting mechanism of H2020 Initiative.

The EEA is undertaking this first reporting exercise jointly with UNEP/MAP and in close coordination with the two other H2020 components (Capacity Building and Pollution Reduction) and the UfM Secretariat ensuring a proper streamlining of efforts while assessing progress of the H2020 Initiative.

“Reportnet” as the reporting mechanism for Horizon 2020 Initiative

As agreed with the countries during the Steering Committee meeting in November 2012 (read more p.5), data identified for the development of the selected H2020 indicator will be reported by the ENP-South partner countries via the European Environment Agency’s reporting tool “Reportnet,” which allows easy sharing of the datasets. Specific data descriptions based on international standards and classifications were produced for the datasets needed for the first four indicators to give clear guidance on the data needed and how to structure them. These data descriptions together with table templates are placed in Reportnet and are made available to ENP-South Partner countries (Wastewater collection and treatment / Municipal waste generation, collection and treatment / Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system) to support the preparation of the data in an harmonised way. For data related to industrial emissions, more guidance is under development with UNEP/MAP to make use of the existing reporting mechanism under the Barcelona Convention. This first reporting exercise is coordinated at national level by the ENPI-SEIS National Focal Points and supported by the setting-up of a national network of thematic expertise.



Ecosystem Services Assessment Workshop

The European Environment Agency has been working on developing ecosystem capital accounts for Europe for several years and provided input to the formal statistical revision of the UN-SEEA (System of Economic and Environment Accounts). The EEA is about to complete a pilot activity on the “Fast track implementation of ecosystem accounting for Europe,” which will cover organic carbon/biomass, water quantity, and land use/landscape ecological potential. The work on ecosystem capital accounts supports the development of input to policy processes linked to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, the EU Resource Efficiency Roadmap and Green Economy policy discussions.

In this context, the EEA jointly with the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and General Directorate of Forestry has organised a three-day meeting on 20-23 November 2012 in Antalya, Turkey. In addition to the participants from Turkey, experts from the West Balkans were invited to share knowledge and experiences in this area. Representatives from the Caucasus countries (AR, AZ, GE) have also attended in order to identify possibilities for sub-regional cooperation in implementing ecosystem accounting.

In the workshop the scope of ecosystem services assessment and capital accounting was discussed. The EEA experts identified the general framework of the Ecosystem Capital Accounting including water accounts and case studies from Bulgaria, Slovakia and Turkey. The need for further cooperation on the issue was confirmed and the host country suggested an action plan including bilateral and multilateral activities in the region.



ENPI – SEIS Steering Committee Meeting 2012

The annual ENPI-SEIS Steering Committee meeting was held on 21-22 November 2012 in the EEA premises in Copenhagen. The East and South NFPs, the representatives from the European Commission and other partners gathered to prepare the work plan for 2013 - 2014.

During the two day deliberations, the participants not only took stock of project activities, but also presented the country-level progress towards SEIS implementation, discussed the infrastructure component, as well as drafted the work plan for the remaining period of the project.

For the ENPI South, the work plan will be organised around very specific activities such as producing the agreed indicators, filling the identified gaps and preparing the country level assessments. The first step towards such development should be a finalised guidance on how to populate the core set of indicators. Besides, significant time was spent with the countries on content updates around implementation of the country pilots.

The NFPs of the ENPI East region have reached an agreement on establishing data flows for a pilot dataset. At the same time the countries expressed a need for a bilateral dialogue on the basis of earlier provided country reports, and asked to make more guideline documentation available in Russian.

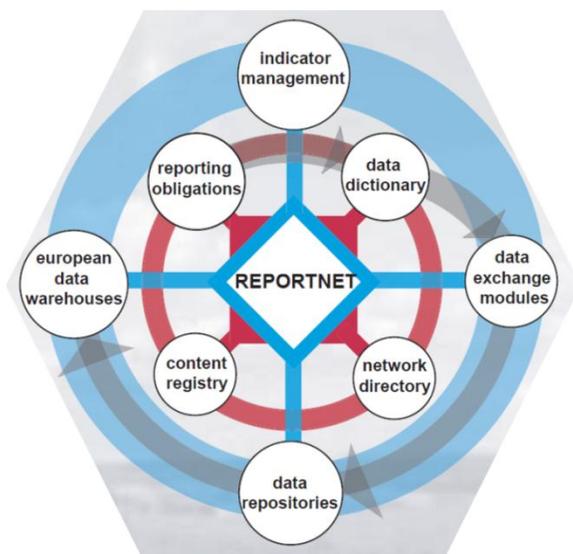
The discussions were wrapped up with a number of concrete decisions about further work. The NFPs of both regions recognised the usefulness of Reportnet, a reporting mechanism organised and maintained by the EEA, as the main tool, which can ensure a sustainable data sharing process.

Following the Steering Committee meeting the final draft of the work plan was sent to countries for consultation. While the ENP-South has agreed on the work plan, there are still some discussions around the work plan for the ENP-East. It is expected that they will be finalised during the regional workshop on 9-10 April 2013 in Copenhagen.

The detailed minutes of the Steering Committee meeting and other documentation are available on the project website.

The First Eye on Earth User Conference

Reportnet – a tool for sharing data on regular basis



This year on 4-6 March the European Environment Agency organised one of its biggest events: the [First Eye on Earth User Conference](#), which focused on the importance of public access to environmental data and information both in European and global context.

As the conference was opened by Phil Hogan, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government for Ireland, and the Executive Director of the EEA, Jacqueline McGlade, both stressed that Eye on Earth can play a major role in the development of a global understanding of the Earth. During the first day, discussions outside of the plenary and parallel sessions were thick with talk of a future governance structure for the networking, content and infrastructure of Eye on Earth.

The second day discussions focused on regional and global responsibility of data sharing. Monika MacDevette from the United Nations Environment Programme discussed UNEP-live as a part of a new era of environmental assessments.

Costis Toregas from the Eye on Earth Summit Special Initiatives looked at Eye on Earth's place in this new era. Later Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director of the Global Earth Observation (GEO) underlined the importance of infrastructure, but not an end in itself, rather as a means for regional input to play into.

As the conference was coming to its successful conclusion, the floor was given to the players in new technologies. Representatives from Microsoft, Geospatial Information Office at the United States Environment Protection Agency and the Eye on Earth partner and leading mapping software developer, Esri talked about the way in which high tech solution could support good decision-making. The User Conference was also honoured to count Her Excellency Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi among its presenters. H.E. Razan underlined the importance of partnerships in this work, saying that they were essential to change the way data flows work.

Many of the presented eye opening ideas would not become reality without the structures in place to ensure the future of Eye on Earth. An agreement in form of the Dublin Statement has been reached at the end of the conference, a text that established the Eye on Earth Alliance to help foster participation and networking across the Eye on Earth Network, was welcomed by all the communities participating in the conference.

Visit conference archive at www.eyeonearth.org to view the recordings of the plenary sessions.



H.E. Razan and Jacqueline McGlade arriving at the CCD

The third meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators, ENP-South

For the ENP South the third meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Environmental Indicators was held back-to-back with the First Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin. Based on previous requests and due to technical nature of some discussions one member of the IT Working Group from each country was also invited to take part in the meeting. Following the discussion and the acknowledgement of the current delays in the implementation of the activities, the EEA revised the ENPI-SEIS South Work plan for 2013. In line with the foreseen adjustments of the overall work plan for the South, it became critically important to move ahead and hold the National Workshops, which are organised with the support of UNEP/MAP-Plan Bleu (see more details in the events calendar).

Data and indicator preparation

As the countries continued to discuss the preparation for the first assessment, the participants were asked to submit completed indicator factsheets, where data is focused on the specific H2020 geographical coverage (coastal cities and hydrological coastal regions).

Establishment of the data flows and data delivery

In the preparation to establish data flows, the countries were asked to identify and nominate relevant thematic experts who will be responsible for the provision of the official national data needed to populate the selected indicators.

With the support of the IT Working Group, the Agency will further develop the approach for data sharing. Specific instructions for the exchange of data to support the indicators are available in Russian, French and English on the project's website together with guidelines on the thematic assessment part of the H2020 report.

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
11-13 SEPTEMBER 2012

Seminar for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries (EECCA)
on Water Statistics

A seminar on Water Statistics for the ENP-East

A seminar on Water Statistics, organised by Eurostat, in cooperation with the EEA on 11-13 September 2012 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, targeted improving capacities in one of the priority areas within the ENPI-SEIS project. The event brought together water experts and statisticians dealing with water reporting from the ENP East, Central Asia and Israel. The seminar contributed to the EEA cooperation with the ENPI East countries, aiming at identifying country data needs and evaluating the relevant priority data and information flows. It was observed that almost all countries present at the seminar had data sets and databases which can be used for indicator calculations, especially for the Water Exploitation Index (WEI), one of the most interesting indicators in water abstraction and use. The EEA is considering discussing follow up activities, especially related to indicator development in the water area in the upcoming UNECE Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators. You can find all the presentation on the official website of [the event](#).

Workshop on Air Emission Inventories for ENP-East

A workshop on Air Emission Inventories for the ENPI East region organized jointly with the Air Quality Governance Project took place on 24-26 September 2012 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. It aimed to present guidebook structure, default procedures for all the sources and pollutants countries are obliged to report under the protocols to the CLRTAP.

This workshop contributed to the EEA cooperation with the ENPI East countries in assessing where the gaps on air emission reporting are and complement the process of sustained data flow for indicator development. In addition, this workshop enabled to identify the various possible problems in data accessibility, assess data availability in technical and institutional terms for the selected indicators, matters which will be further addressed by the Air Governance project and the further process of developing SEIS in the region.

Read more on the website of the [Air-Governance project](#).

Upcoming Events

A detailed ENPI-SEIS work plan is available from January 2013, after the consultation period.

The following key events will be organised within the next semester: dates and venues for some of them are still to be confirmed

Egypt – National Workshop on Indicators	27 March
ENPI-East Workshop to support the implementation of the ENPI-SEIS work plan	9-10 April
Palestine – National Workshop on Indicators	8-9 April
Israel – National Workshop on Indicators	29-30 April
Lebanon – National Workshop on Indicators	16 April
Jordan – National Workshop on Indicators	18 April
Algeria – National Workshop on Indicators	14-15 May
Tunisia – National Workshop on Indicators	21-23 May
Morocco – National Workshop on Indicators	28-30 May
4th RMR meeting	11-12 June



The project is funded by the European Union

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