

## SEIS Lot 2 (ENPI South)

Data working group 11-13 November (Cairo)

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## Why SEIS?

- **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**

## SEIS Principles

- 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

## Country visits: objectives

- Presentation of SEIS principles and overall project goals to national experts and executives
- Identification of country-specific elements related to SEIS components
- Identification of relevant stakeholders
- Overview of the state of play in the countries
- Identification of country-specific gaps and needs
- Identification of existing data flows
- Elaboration of country reports on SEIS implementation
- Identification of needed follow-up assistance

## Country visits: organisation

- ❖ Strong involvement of Focal Points:
  - ❖ Agenda
  - ❖ Logistics
  - ❖ Invitations
- ❖ Preparation of briefing notes for EEA prior to each country visit
- ❖ Regular communication with the EEA

## Findings: general (I)

- ❖ All high-level representatives met expressed their willingness to provide the necessary political support for the project and the development of env. inf. systems based on SEIS principles
- ❖ National priorities and existing information system are different
- ❖ Development of a shared environmental information system has a high priority in all countries
- ❖ Some countries intend to allocate human resources and budget for the year 2012



## Findings: general (II)

- ❖ Communication platforms and formal business rules needed
- ❖ Technical standards and harmonization of semantics and classifications needed
- ❖ Fragmentation of data and information
- ❖ Mechanisms to collect existing data are missing
- ❖ Overlapping activities of different institutions
- ❖ Lack of cooperation between environmental authorities and NSIs in regard of exchange and sharing data
- ❖ Limited access to data, „overprotection“ of datasets

## Findings: inter-institutional cooperation

- Cooperation between environmental authorities can be based on
  - ad hoc requests
  - Gentleman's agreements
  - Formal cooperation in the context of a particular project
  - Access to data through personal contacts
- → legally binding and sustainable cooperation is the exception
- Ad-hoc inter-institutional committees related to facilitate data exchange exist in some countries
- In some cases websites are used for data harvesting from another institution

## Findings: content

- A great deal of data is generated, but:
  - Mechanisms to share data in a systematic way are missing
  - is not adequately streamlined, exchanged, valorized and used to support the decision making processes
  - Data generation is often done project-based
  - Funding is often done by donors
- Environmental authorities and NSIs are users and producers of data
- The research community plays an important role as data producers

## Findings: infrastructure

- Monitoring systems air quality and marine water in place in most of the countries
  - Including business rules for data management, QA/QC etc
  - Including technical infrastructure for electronic data data processing
- Industrial emissions (air, water, waste) often are not monitored systematically:
  - Weak permitting systems
  - Lack of legal basis for monitoring and reporting
  - Weak enforcement
  - Paper reports instead of systematic electronic reporting
  - Some data is collected by NSIs via industry surveys
- GIS as desktop tool often used, data exchange (e.g. via portals) is the exception

## Content/expectations on future SEIS

- National priorities are:
  - Water quantity (resources, use by industries and households)
  - Water quality and water pollution (industrial and urban)
  - Air pollution (industrial) and air quality
  - Waste generation and waste management
- Reporting under international conventions (UNFCCC, Barcelona, Basel, etc) to be covered:
  - Currently some of the reports are financed by GEF and other donors
  - In some cases reporting obligations are ignored
- Environmental indicators and information base for environmental assessments
  - E.g. for national SoE reports
  - E.g. for regional/international needs (UNEP/ROWA, Arab League, EEA etc).

# Recommendations and proposed follow-up actions

- Recommendations:
  - Pilot actions in the coming years as „proof of concept“
  - Facilitating institutional cooperation
  - Concrete steps towards SEIS
- Actions:
  - ePRTR
  - Water accounts / environmental accounts
  - Environment information system - pilot project
  - SEIS training for executives
- Further possible implementation steps and work on capacity building e.g in the frame of Twinning

# Country reports

## ■ Purpose of country reports:

- The country report gives an overview on the state of play and an overview on what needs to be achieved. It will serve as road map for the coming years

## ■ Process:

- Template has been sent to all focal points
- Draft report has been sent to all focal points
- Ad hoc support is provided by UBA via email and phone
- Almost all of the countries have sent huge documents and the reports are being partly compiled on their behalf
- Difficulty: we have noticed that the focal points struggle to provide all the information needed

## Set of indicators

- Context:
- Working Group on Environmental Indicators
- Result of the horizon 2020 RMR subgroup meeting in March 2011
- Output of ENPI-SEIS country visits
- Identify and develop a list of indicators
- Support process of regular reporting on the Mediterranean
- Measure and compare progress under H2020 Initiative
- Focus on 3 priority areas:
  - a)Municipal waste
  - b)Water (fresh and waste water, inland and marine)
  - c)Industrial emissions (to water, air and soil)



## Key Policy Questions

### ■ What is the problem?

- What are the main pollution sources?
- What are the levels and trends?

### ■ What has been done?

- Which actions, projects have been carried out to tackle these pollution sources?

### ■ Did it work?

- Can we measure the effectiveness of these actions?
- Were these actions successful?
- What is the comparative performance of these actions

### ■ What are the next steps?

- What are lessons learnt?
- What can we do better?
- How much would that cost?
- Which other sources of pollution are becoming important?

# Indicator proposal

- Total production of household waste in coastal cities
- Collection rate of household waste (coastal)
- Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural)
- Share of waste water collected and treated by the public sanitation system
- Nutrient concentrations in coastal waters
- Release of toxic substances and nutrients from industrial sites

**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**

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