

# The European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

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# Outline presentation

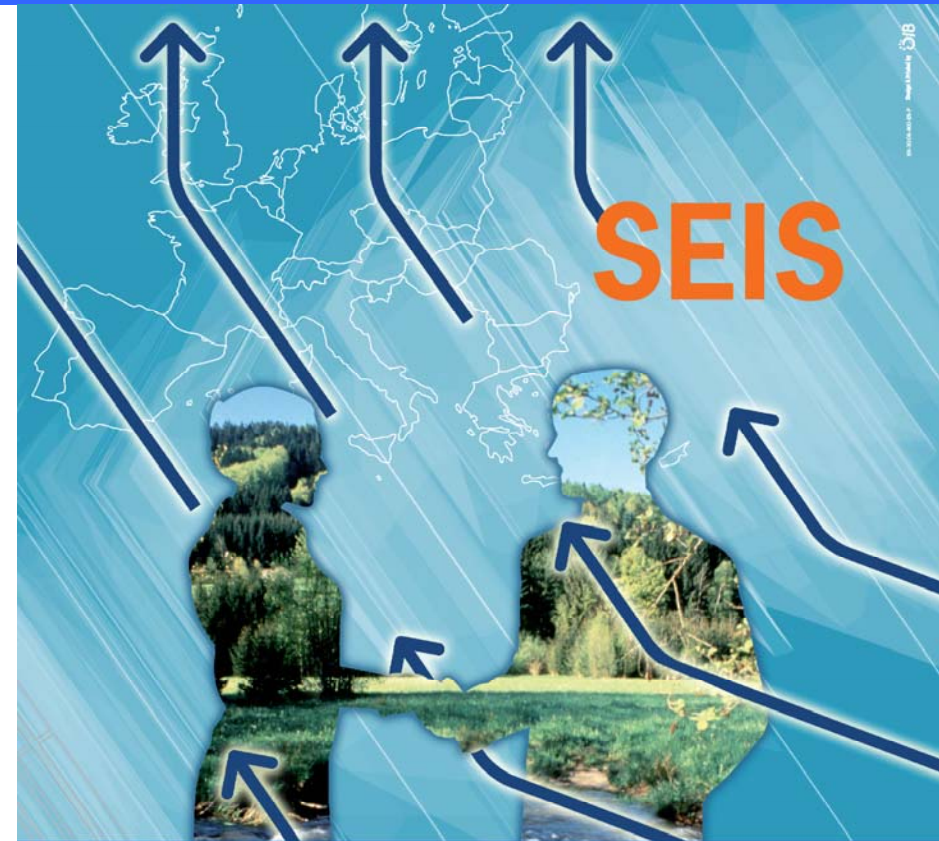
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- What is the SEIS?
- Why SEIS?
- Scope of the SEIS
- Benefits
- How is SEIS being built?
- SEIS principles: the SEIS Communication (February 2008)
- Towards a European SEIS Implementation Plan
- Communicating SEIS and Establishment of an eEnvironment Community in Europe



# What is SEIS?

- ✓ **A collaborative initiative** of the European Commission, EEA and MSs
- ✓ Aiming at a modern system for organising environmental information, based on INSPIRE/SEIS principles:
  - “Data stored as close to source as possible”;
  - “Produce once, use many times”.
- ✓ **Overall objective:** improve knowledge base for environmental policy; reduce administrative burden



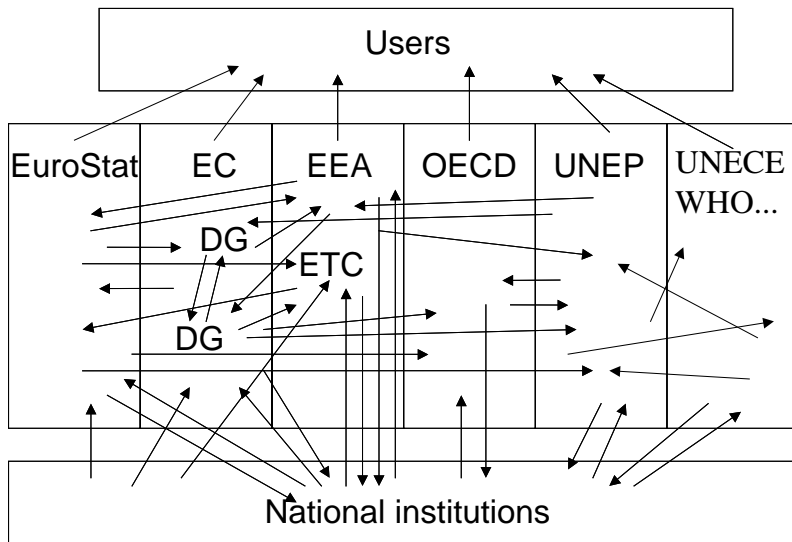
Shared Environmental Information System for Europe

Connecting systems, Connecting people  
for a better environment

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seis/index.htm>

# Why SEIS is needed?

- ✓ International Conventions and EU Env legislation: main drive for collection of environmental data
- ✓ 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



# Commission Communication Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

*“Better decisions from local to European level need better and more timely information, based on more efficient monitoring and reporting systems”*



S Dimas, Feb 2008

# What does it depend on?

- Widespread consensus and commitment
- Appropriate legislative and non-legislative measures (horizontal + thematic)
- An implementation plan outlining in detail what needs to be done and who will do it

# What benefits will SEIS bring?

- *An initiative for a pan-European eGovernment -system of systems- for Environment Information*
- *A system where the public authorities are the providers but also the main end-users and beneficiaries*

👍 Better regulation, better policy

👍 Empowering citizens

👍 Simplification and Efficiency

👍 Promoting Europe globally

👍 Boosting Innovation and Intelligent eServices: eEurope, eGovernment, eEnvironment

*According to the World Economic Forum: Countries that score high on public-sector openness, efficiency and e-government delivery also top economic performance and competitiveness`*

ONLY ONE EARTH



SEIS: Good decisions need the right information at the right time

# What will it cost?

- Increased political and administrative attention to relevant processes (such as INSPIRE implementation)
- Review and revision of organisational and business models for data collection and processing
- Reinforced efforts to streamline and update legislative requirements to enable interoperable distributed system
- Better alignment and prioritisation of data collection (monitoring, modelling, surveys)
- Increased investment in system infrastructure



# Priorities for SEIS Implementation: key elements (1)

- Political commitment by a wide range of stakeholders
- INSPIRE/GMES: ensure environmental policy objectives are met; INSPIRE/GMES/SEIS to be mutually supportive
- Legislative / non-legislative actions to reform environmental reporting
- Accompanying streamlining/modernisation efforts in thematic environmental legislation
- Promote streamlining/modernisation/co-ordination with international reporting obligations

# Priorities for SEIS Implementation: key elements (2)

- Improve prioritisation of data/information needs;
- SEIS Centrepiece of EEA strategy (country visits...)
- Assessment of feasibility of harmonisation/co-ordination of monitoring systems
- Adequate use of existing financial instruments (e.g. Research, LIFE+, CIP)
- Promoting SEIS in third countries
- Addressing business model / data policy aspects

# A legal proposal on eReporting?

## Objectives and Scope

- Embody legal commitment to SEIS principles
- Connect existing fragmented reporting mechanisms/systems ..towards eReporting based on the SEIS
- Ensure timely availability of information and data
- Repeal/streamline obsolete/overlapping requirements
- Exploit opportunities offered by ICT and maximise cost-effectiveness of information-related investments
- **Scope:** information provided by Member States under Community environmental legislation

# Expected benefits

- Opportunity for simplification: streamlining of data flows
- Cost savings through automatisation of information flows (in return for one-off investments to set up organisational and technical systems)
- Increased flexibility and greater use of data
- MSs keep the information in their own structures

# Current state of play

Further work on impact assessment has revealed need for

- more extensive analysis of alternative options
- further consultation and fine-tuning
- Better impact analysis (costs / benefits)

## Next steps

- impact assessment work will continue, looking at wider range of legislative / non-legislative options
- Underpinned by this analysis, further elaboration of SEIS implementation plan
- Progress at technical level to develop eReporting (pilot project)