The European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

Peter Wicks
European Commission DG Environment
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Outline presentation

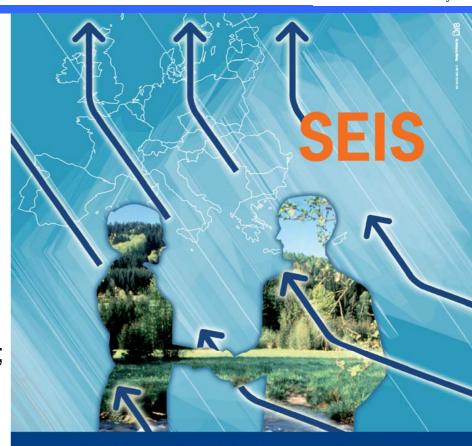
- What is the SEIS?
- Why SEIS?
- Scope of the SEIS
- Benefits
- How is SEIS being built?
- SEIS principles: the SEIS Communication (February 2008)
- Towards a European SEIS Implementation Plan
- Communicating SEIS and Establishment of an eEnvironment Community in Europe



What is SEIS?

SEIS ***
Shared environmental information sustem

- ✓ 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



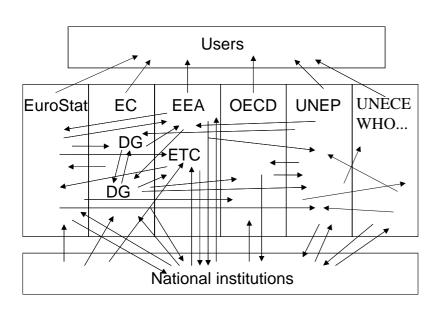




Why SEIS is needed?



- ✓ 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

 ONLY ONE FARTH
- Better regulation, better policy
- **Empowering citizens**
- Simplification and Efficiency
- Promoting Europe globally



'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`





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/streamlinine obsolete/overlapping requirements
- Exploit opportunities offered by ICT and maximise costeffectiveness 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 automisation 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 assessment work will continue, looking at wider ranger of legislative / non-legislative options
- Underpinned by this analysis, further elaboration of SEIS implementation plan
- Progress at technical level to develop eReporting (pilot project)