

Access to Environmental Information in a Shared Environmental Information System

-

Survey on the Implementation of Directive 2003/4/EC

Thomas Pick

WS ICT-ENSURE

Towards eEnvironment Prague Conference 2009

Environmental Information is

X-Domain

Nature

Energy

Structure

Health

Transport

Local

Regional

National

Global

Environmental Information as an Element of Democracy

Timely and innovative EI is the basis for raising environmental awareness, for active involvement of citizens in environmental measures and thus an element of democracy.

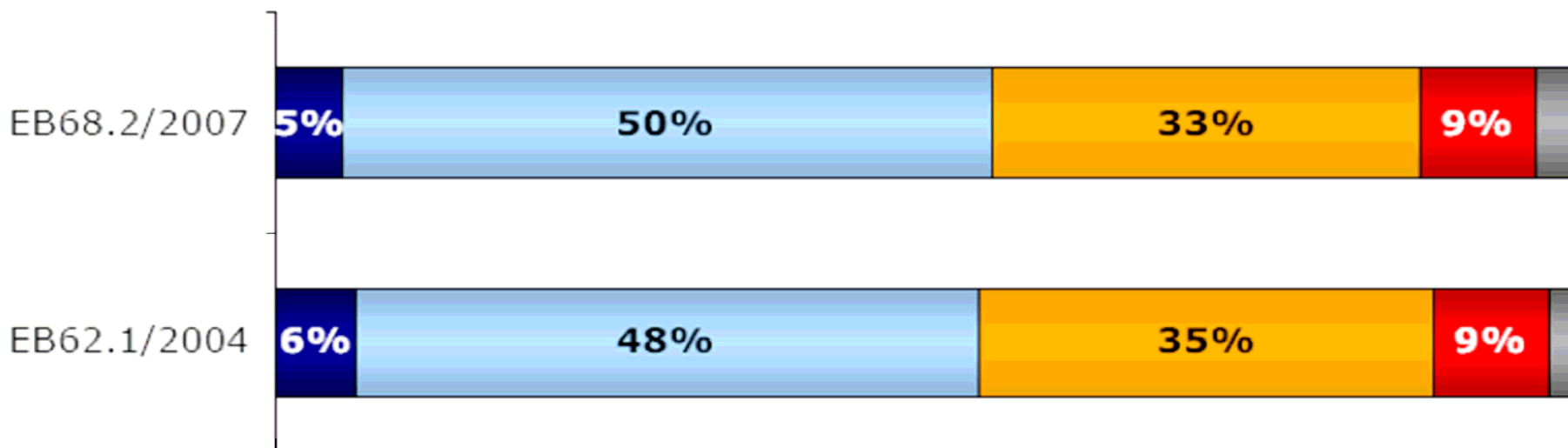
The right of access to relevant data increases transparency and enhances public participation in decisions taken by the public authorities. Access to EI is thus a step towards participation and democratisation of environmental law.

However, Information is a keystone in the policy making process (DPSIR)

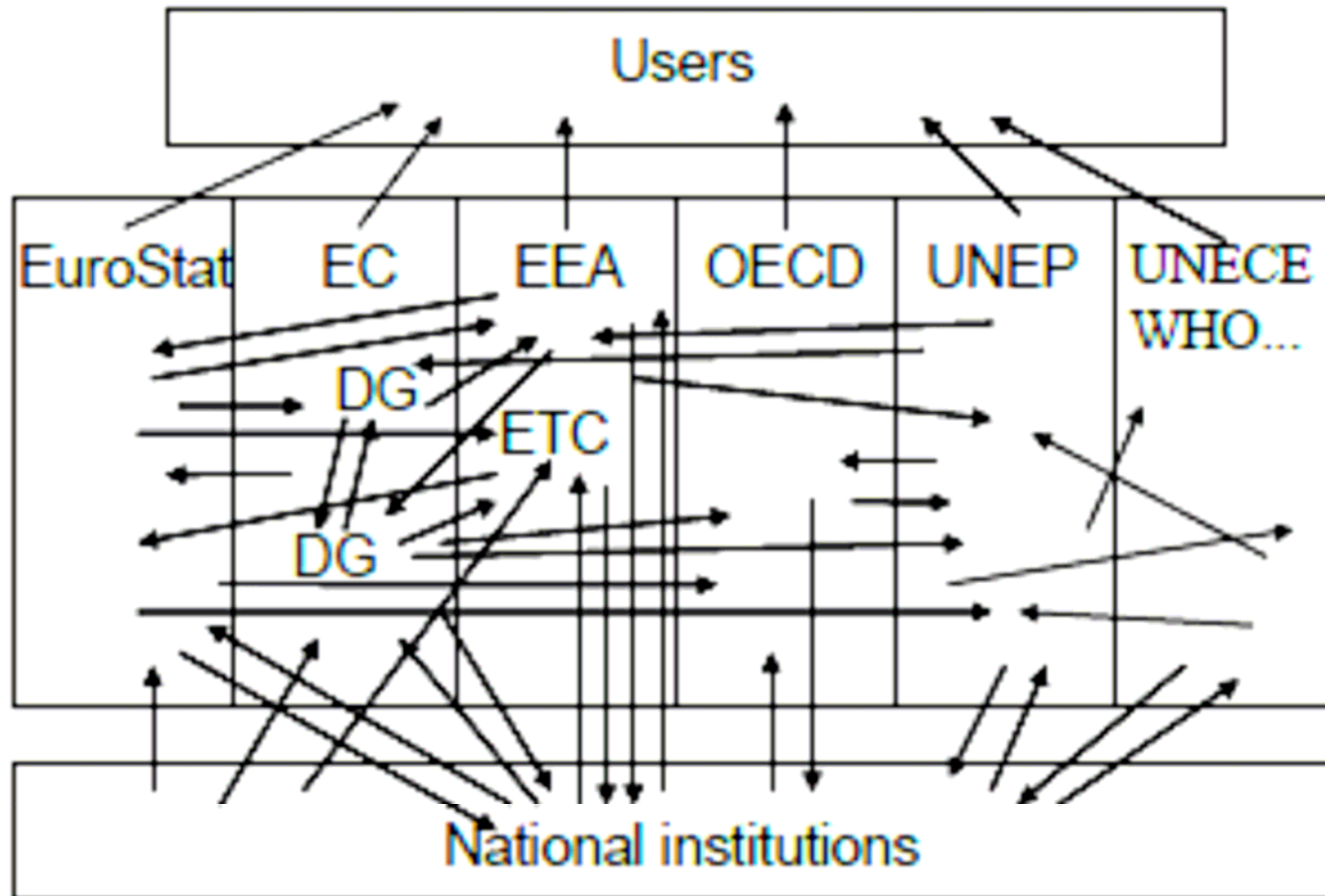
42 % of EU citizens feel poorly informed about environmental issues

QF4 In general, how informed do you feel about environmental issues? - EU

■ Very well informed ■ Fairly well informed ■ Fairly badly informed
■ Very badly informed ■ DK



Europe's Roadmap to Reporting



What are the SEIS Principles

- Information should be available from a single source;
- Information should be available for many purposes for
- Information should be available and
- Information should be available primarily public
- Information should be available from to
- Information should be available effectively he
- Information should be available both
- Information should be available in a format and
- Information should be available after due
- Information should be available subject to
- Information should be available in the
- Information should be available in relevant national language(s), and
- Information sharing and processing should be supported through common, free open source software tools.

A⁴ - Model

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Accuracy

What SEIS is about...

1. Sharing (organisation)

Political commitment (legal framework)

Partnership (win-win)

Networking (connecting)

2. Environmental Information (content)

Horizontal integration (thematic)

Vertical integration (local to global)

Online access - real time

Multi-purpose (policy makers, public, research)

3. System (infrastructure and services)

Tools for interoperability

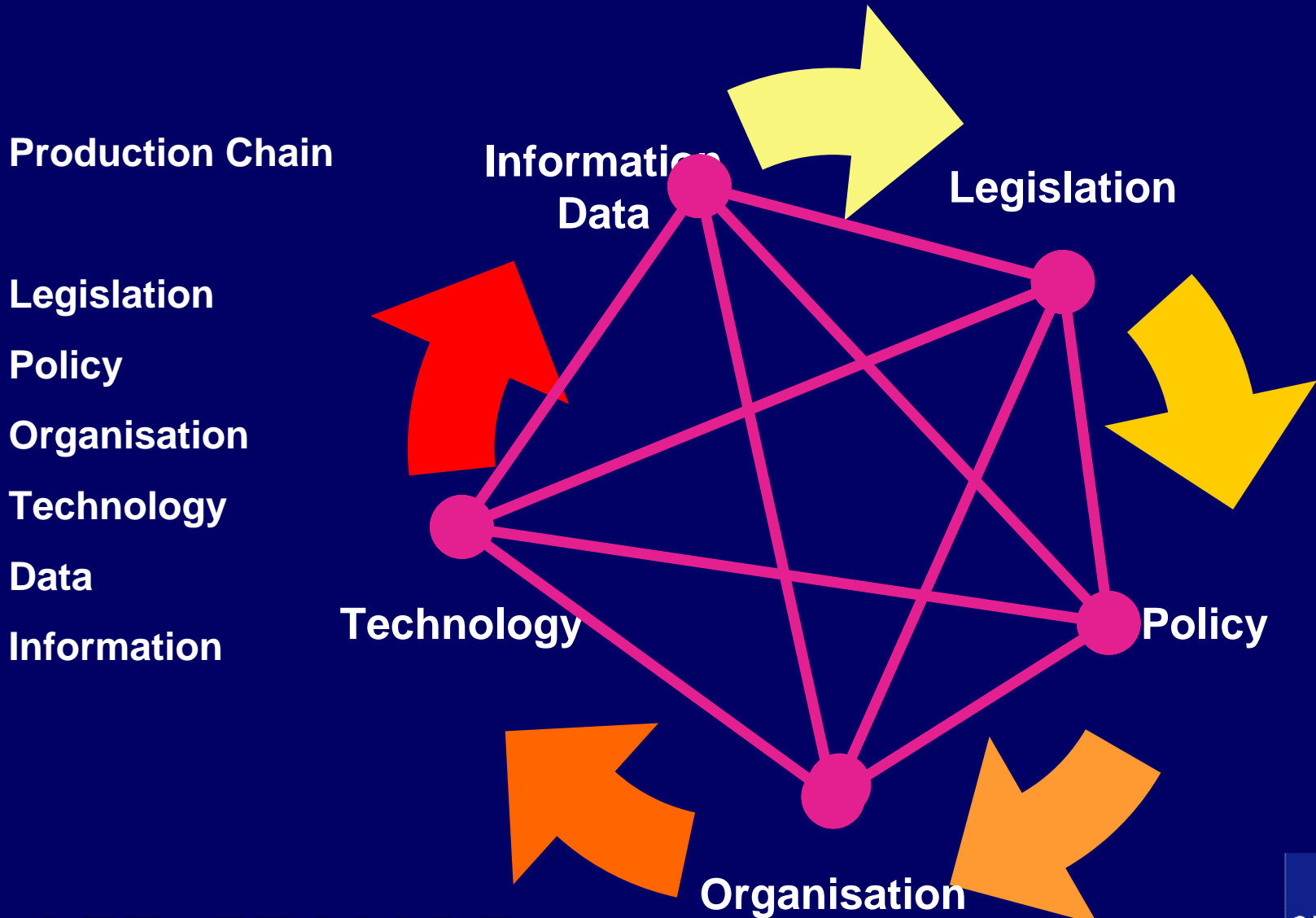
Mainly existing ICT Infrastructure

Inspire, Reportnet, GMES,...

New e-Services for environment

From Chris Steenmanns, EEA

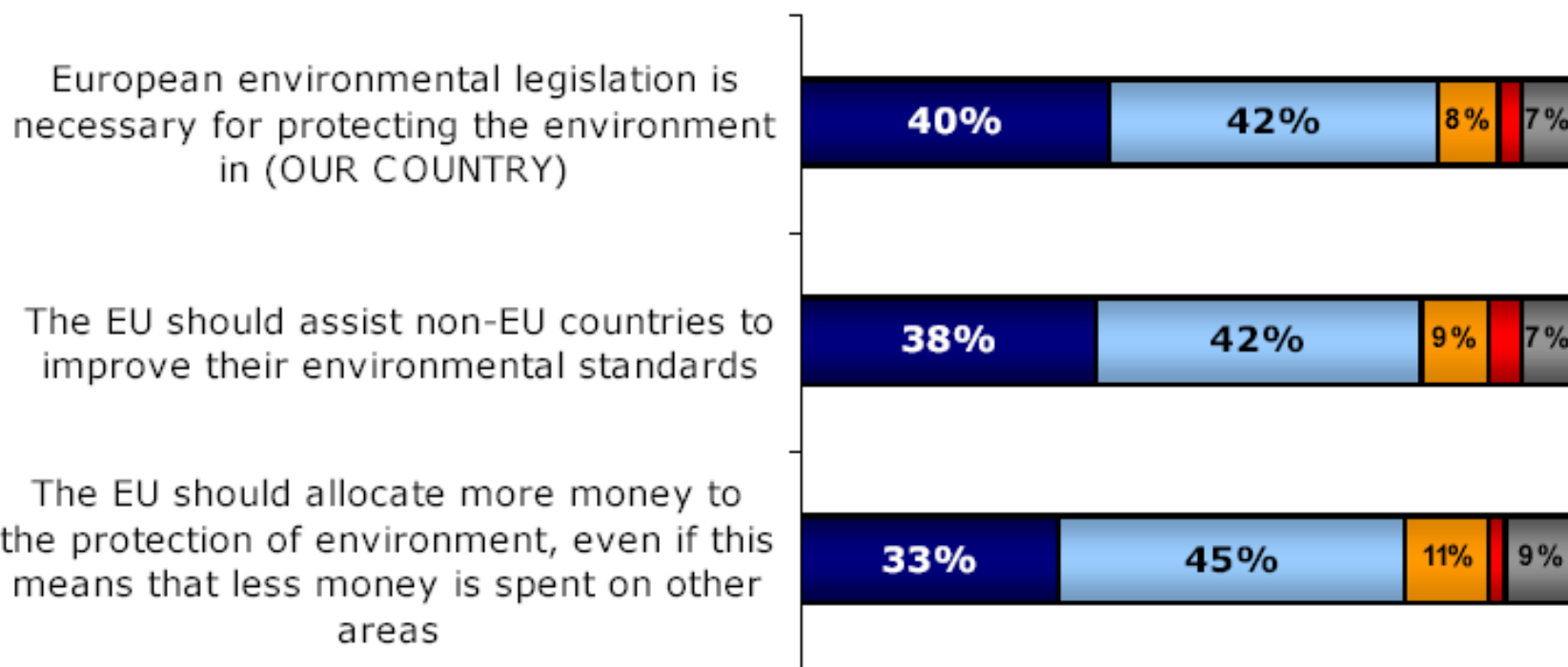
SEIS - SISE Dimensions



Legal Space

QF20 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree...? - EU 27

■ Totally agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Totally disagree ■ DK



Eurobarometer 2008



SEIS Communication, 2008

INSPIRE Directive, 2007

Directive on Public Participation, 2003

**Directive on Reuse of Public Sector
Information, 2003**

**Directive on Public Access to Environmental
Information, 2003**

**Declaration of the UN Stockholm Conference
on the Human Environment, 16 June 1972**

Aarhus-Convention, 1998

**Rio Declaration on Environment and
Development, June 1992**

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

Directive 2003/4/EC

- Published on January 28.01.2003
- Implementation Deadline 14.02.2005
- Evaluation every 4 years
- Currently reports are being prepared

Scope of Survey - What

- ICT-Ensure - WP Workpackage 7.1. :
Survey of the state of implementation of the Environmental Information Directive in the member states - not a scientific study
- Focus on 2003/4/EC - not INSPIRE

Scope of Survey - How

- Internetstudy
 - Webpages of MS Ministries and Agencies
- Compilation and Distribution of Reporting Cards
- Telephone Recall
- Writing of Report

Sol of Directive 2003/4/EC Member State Report Card



State of Implementation of Directive 2003/4/EC¹
Member State Report Card²

Reporting Country³:



CZ-Czech Republic

Date of Report⁴:

19.01.2009

Legislative Act implementing Directive 2003/4/EC⁵:

ACT ON FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

106/1999 Coll. Act of 11 May, 1999 on free access to information

Date of Implementation⁶:

May 11, 1999

Link to Legal Document (URL)⁷:

<http://www.otevrete.cz./index.php?akce=clanek&id=642>

Comments¹¹:

Access to information is regulated in the Act No. 123/1998 Coll. on the Right for Information on the Environment, as amended. Although the Act implements directly the requirements of article 4 of the Aarhus convention, in practice information is often asked for on the basis of the Act No. 106/1999 Coll. on Free Access to Information, and the obligated organizations do provide it on the basis of this Act. This is why it is important to mention this legal regulation and its application consequences as well.

Legislative Act implementing Directive 2003/4/EC⁵:

The Freedom of Information Act with signed changes by Amendment from 2006 -

Act of 11 May 1999 n. 106/1999 Coll. on free access to information

Date of Implementation⁶:

January 1, 2000

MS responses

Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Greece

Germany

Hungary

Ireland

Italy

Latvia

Lithuania

Luxemburg

Malta

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

The Netherlands

United Kingdom

Legal Implementation 2003/4/EC in MS

Austria	✓	2005	Latvia	⇒	2004
Belgium	✓	2005	Lithuania	⇒	1999
Bulgaria	✓	2005	Luxemburg	✓	2005
Cyprus	✓	2004	Malta	✓	2005
Czech Republic	✓	2005	Poland	✓	2006
Denmark	✓	2005	Portugal	⇒	1999
Estonia	✓	2004	Romania	✓	2005
Finland	✓	2005	Slovakia	✓	2005
France	✓	2005	Slovenia	✓	2006
Greece	✓	2005	Spain	✓	2006
Germany	✓	2005	Sweden	No Info	
Hungary	✓	2005	The Netherlands	✓	2005
Ireland	✓	2005	United Kingdom	✓	2005
Italy	✓	2005			

Preliminary Results

- Database on Ministries of Environment
 - Incl. Contact-addresses
- Record on EID relevant legislation in MS (legislation information systems are not common)
- Distribution of information mainly through web-site (mostly bilingual)
- Only two countries use special tools for implementation of 2003/4/EC
- Many tools for thematic problems (Domainspecific Portals, often connected to GIS)
- Often connected to GIS

Next Steps

- Email reminder
- Telephone call back
- Analysis of Reports
- Writing of Report
- Publication of Results

Look OUT!

Thomas.Pick@mu.niedersachsen.de