

UNECE

Guidelines on the
Shared Environmental Information System
reporting mechanism



UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

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FOREWORD

The Environment for Europe process has – since 1991 – provided a framework for countries in the pan-European region to work together to improve environmental protection and to promote sustainable development throughout the region. In this context, Ministers of the Environment have continuously highlighted the importance of environmental information for policymaking and public awareness.

At the Seventh Environment for Europe Conference in 2011, Ministers requested that a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) be developed to underpin a regular environment assessment process across the pan-European region. More recently, at the Eighth Environment for Europe Conference in 2016, Ministers welcomed progress in developing SEIS, but reiterated the need for countries to continue their efforts and to develop further their national information systems to have SEIS in place in the countries of Europe and Central Asia by 2021.

As an integral part of this process, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment has been engaged in efforts to make environmental monitoring an effective instrument in policymaking and, in particular, to assist countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In doing so, the Working Group has cooperated closely with the European Environment Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme – as the three organizations have agreed on a common approach to support national and regional reporting on the state of the environment – and other relevant partners.

UNECE member States, with the support of the three organizations, have made significant progress in establishing SEIS, and there is a strengthened momentum for environmental monitoring and assessment following the Batumi Environment for Europe Conference and in the lead up to the next Ministerial Conference, expected in 2021 or 2022.

I trust that this publication will provide guidance to governments and other stakeholders engaged in establishing SEIS in Europe and Central Asia so that the aspiration of the Ministers can be realized.



Olga Algayerova

Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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ACRONYMS

BOD ₅	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand
EEA	European Environment Agency
Eionet	European Information and Observation Network
ENI SEIS II East	Second European Union project on implementation of the principles and practices of the shared environmental information system in the Eastern Partnership countries funded by the European neighbourhood instrument
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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