UNECE

Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 9-10 November 2020

Committee on Environmental Policy

Agenda Item 5: Environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

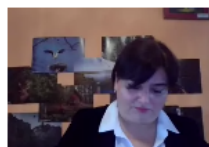# Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

22nd session, 27 October 2020

- Two main substantive topics:
    - Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System
    - Regular pan-European environmental assessment
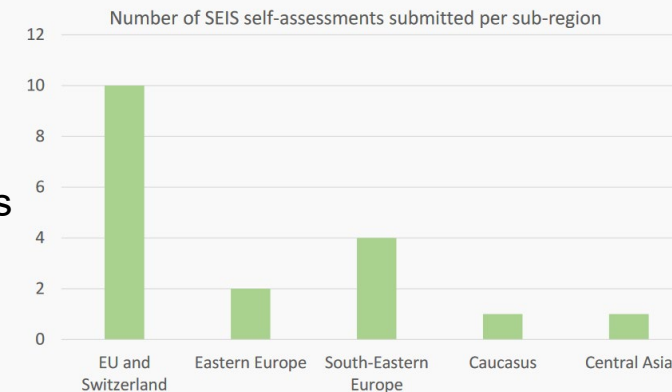
(focusing on these two items)

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

ENVIRONMENT

Reporting on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) to support a regular process of environmental assessment

- Working Group adopted the revised outline of the final review report on establishment of SEIS – basically same as for mid-term review

- Final review more thorough: 22 data flows underlying 18 UNECE core environmental indicators and 9 environmental themes

- Only 18 out of 53 member States in pan-European region reported; 15 covered all 9 themes

- Cannot confirm full SEIS establishment in region

- Many positive signs, such as:
  - Majority of data flows (79%) used for many purposes
  - Majority (61 %) of reporting countries regularly produce indicator-based national state-of-the-environment reports
  - Nearly all 22 data flows are published regularly (87%)
  - 76% of the 22 data flows readily available & accessible for users on national platforms

Number of SEIS self-assessments submitted per sub-region

3

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Reporting on SEIS to support a regular process of environmental assessment

- Working Group requested all member States to submit their self-assessments by 15 December 2020 at the latest to the secretariat through use of SEIS online tool

- Working Group invited the Committee's support in mobilizing member States to submit their self-assessments

- Working Group also
  - Took note of the revised timeline, due to the limited number of self-assessments submitted, for the SEIS final progress review
  - Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee of the outcomes of the Working Group's discussion
  - Requested the secretariat to prepare a revised version of the "Draft final progress review report on the establishment of SEIS", based on additional self-assessments submitted by member States, for the Working Group's next session

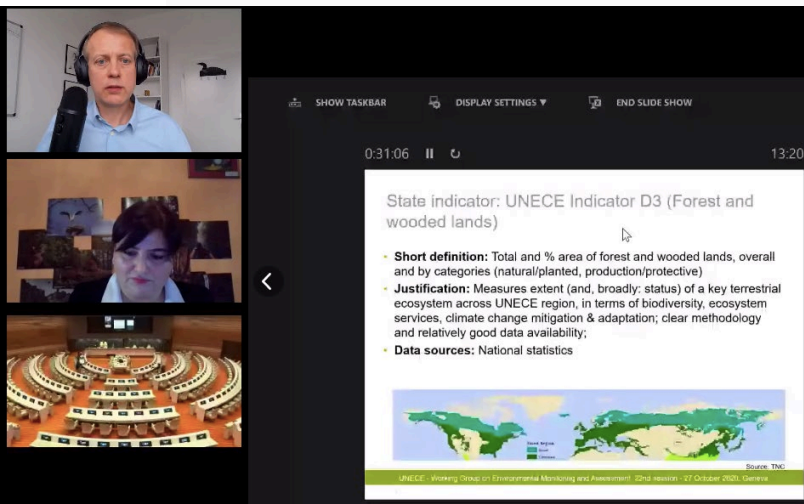# Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

- Working Group welcomed financial resources: $30,000 from Switzerland and part of €10,000 from Austria (received), about €15,000 (awaited)

- Discussed & approved outline of 7th pan-European assessment, noting
    - It may not be possible to address all environmental themes listed, such as air, water and waste – or at least not at the same level of detail
    - Themes need to be addressed in an integrated manner – themes need to be interlinked, especially with the two conference themes
    - The pandemic should be taken into consideration in the assessment

- Working Group also:
    - Discussed how assessment would proceed if 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference postponed, including impact on assessment of the two conference themes
    - Reviewed work done on one environmental theme – biodiversity and ecosystems – which also serves as a pilot assessment

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Regular pan-European environmental assessment supported by the Shared Environmental Information System

- Working Group:
    - Took note of the status and timeline for the assessment
    - Requested the secretariat to inform the Committee on the outcomes of this agenda item and the suggestions made for the assessment
    - Also requested its members to provide information on partners, indicators and case studies to the secretariat by 15 November 2020
    - Further requested an update on the assessment at its next session

Financial support of the Environmental Monitoring & Assessment programme

- Austria, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland

- European Union through the European Environment Agency

- Germany and Serbia (anticipated)

- United Nations Development Programme