

Issue 10, December 2020



We're on the move



The UNECE website is being migrated to a new platform on 14 December 2020. **This newsletter has links to the new website.** Please do let us know of any difficulties with accessing materials!

26th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy

The 26th session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy was held on 9 and 10 November 2020. The Committee decided to postpone the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, being held in Nicosia, to 5–7 October 2022.

In relation to the UNECE Environmental Monitoring and Assessment programme, the Committee:

- Took note of the information provided and welcomed the activities of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, especially regarding the review of the UNECE set of environmental indicators and how the Joint Task Force seeks to address environmental and health information together
- Took note of the modified timetable of activities of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment in 2021 (as set out in information paper No. 7)
- Decided to extend the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group until mid-2023 to allow the Working Group to prepare a new draft mandate and terms of reference after the next Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, and requested the secretariat to submit this decision on the extension to the UNECE Executive Committee for approval
- Took note of the information provided and welcomed the activities of the Working Group, especially in support of the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)
- **Encouraged all member States to submit by 15 December 2020 their self-assessments on progress made in establishing SEIS by using the online tool for reporting on the System**

- Expressed its appreciation to those member States that have provided financial contributions to support the preparation of the next pan-European environmental assessment and encouraged member States to provide further support in terms of expertise and funding, and requested the secretariat to continue to inform the Bureau of progress made.

More information on the meeting may be found at <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/events/twenty-sixth-session-committee-environmental-policy>.

UN Development Account project

A webinar on “**Health-relevant air quality data informing policy and the public**” is planned to be held on 16 December 2020 within the UNDA project “Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus”.

The webinar will include presentations by the seven countries involved in the project – Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia and Tajikistan – together with Austria, the European Environment Agency and the World Health Organization. UNECE and UNEP are together implementing the UNDA project and will report on this webinar to the Working Group. We also anticipate a recording being made available.

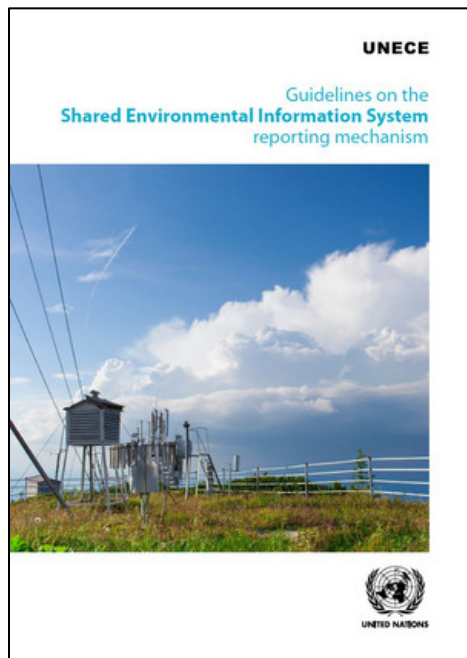
More information on the project is available at the foot of this page: <https://www.unece.org/shared-environmental-information-system>.



New publication

Guidelines on the Shared Environmental Information System reporting mechanism have been published in electronic format only and are available at <https://www.unece.org/environment-policy/publications/guidelines-shared-environmental-information-system-reporting-0>.

This publication introduces SEIS and relevant governance arrangements at the international level, presents the process for reviewing progress in the establishment of SEIS, sets out the results of two progress reports and identifies next steps.



Wishing you the very best

Wishing you the very best for the end of the year and a far better year 2021, in good health, peace and happiness!

Christine, Anelia and Nick

Gender mainstreaming in environmental policy

UNECE organized a 90-minute training webinar on integration of gender aspects into environmental policies in Serbia. The final topic discussed in this much-appreciated event was monitoring, including indicators and “gender budgeting”. A recording of the webinar is available at

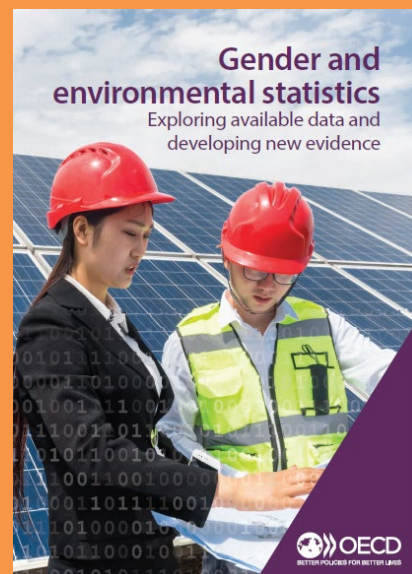
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7Ls_xldy_4&feature=youtu.be.



More information on UNECE environment and gender work may be found at

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-and-gender>.

You might also find interesting a new brochure by OECD on gender and environmental statistics, available at <http://www.oecd.org/environment/brochure-gender-and-environmental-statistics.pdf>.





Upcoming relevant events (with all dates & formats subject to change)

58th session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Air Convention)
14–17 December 2020, hybrid meeting

8th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs
16–18 December 2020, hybrid meeting
<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eighth-meeting-working-group-parties-protocol-prtrs>

Workshop on Air Pollutant Emission Inventories
21 December 2020, virtual meeting

23rd session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
3–4 May 2021

18th session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators
18–19 October 2021

The **Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment** was established in 2000 by the Committee on Environmental Policy to serve as an instrument for UNECE member States to provide recommendations, propose action plans, and improve coordination of international initiatives concerned with environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting.

For more information on the Working Group please visit:

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment>

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