

Issue 11, May 2021





23rd session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

The 23rd session of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment was held on 4 and 5 May 2021.

Because of the online and hybrid nature of the meeting, decisions taken were subject to a silence procedure. That silence procedure was not broken by a member State, so the decisions stand.

The Working Group, among other things:

- Elected Ms. Maia Javakhishvili (Georgia) as its new Chair and Ms. Katerina Nikolovska (North Macedonia) and Mr. Johannes Mayer (Austria) as its new vice-chairs for a period of up to two years
- Adopted the report of its previous session and its timetable of activities for 2022
- Expressed appreciation to those countries supporting financially the pan-European environmental assessment – Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland – and to the Russian Federation for its support of the present meeting
- Requested its members and the secretariat to continue their fundraising efforts to enable the full implementation of activities planned for 2021–2022, including the preparation of the pan-European environmental assessment and the holding of the next sessions of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators and the Working Group
- Adopted the final progress review report on the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia
- Welcomed the draft elements of the next pan-European environmental assessment and took note of the

progress made, timeline and next steps for the assessment

- Requested the authors of the thematic sections of the assessment to take into account the comments made by the members of the Working Group and to focus on policy-relevant conclusions
- Encouraged member States to support preparation of the assessment with further financial contributions

The secretariat informed the meeting of the passing away on 8 April 2021 of Mr. Yuri Tsaturov, at that time Vice-Chair of the Working Group, after a long and distinguished career, including over 20 years of service to the Working Group, for many years as Chair.



More information on the meeting may be found at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/twenty-third-session-working-group-environmental-monitoring-and->

UN Development Account project

Within the UNDA project “Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus” a series of excellent webinars have been held – with one coming up. They were organized by the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA), UNEP and UNECE, in collaboration with the European Environment Agency:

- Health-relevant air quality data informing policy and the public, 16 December 2020
- Towards clean, renewable and efficient energy use, 24 February 2021
- Waste management indicators and policies, 10 March 2021
- Freshwater management indicators and policies, 21 April 2021
- Informing biodiversity restoration policies, 26 May 2021

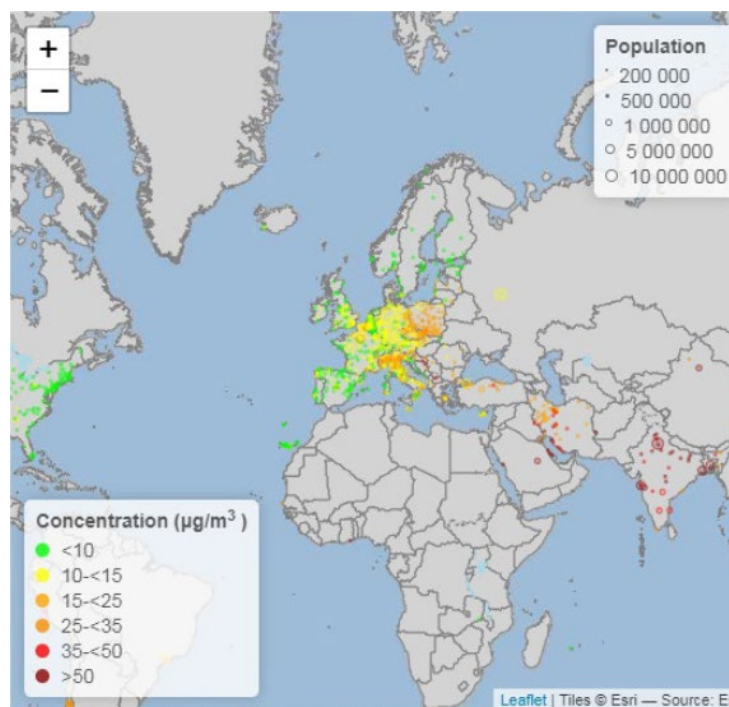


Figure. WHO Ambient Air Quality Database

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

New publication

Measuring and Monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is the result of a cooperation between all parts of the UNECE secretariat, with Environment and Statistics Divisions in the lead. You may find the publication at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2012761_E_web.pdf

The publication examines the complex process of measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs and makes a number of recommendations to overcome the numerous challenges faced by countries. Please let us know if you would like to receive a paper copy in English or Russian.



This publication is one of four nexus publications launched at the 2021 sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe. The four nexus publications were produced with financial support from the Russian Federation.



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

Webinar on informing biodiversity restoration policies
26 May 2021

Workshop on Air Pollutant Emission Inventories (Kyrgyzstan)
25–28 May 2021

Workshop on Air Pollutant Emission Inventories (Kazakhstan)
1–4 June 2021

9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
29 September – 1 October 2021

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

7th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs
18–22 October 2021

26th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy
3–5 November 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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