



Regional training on *air quality* and *emissions to air* statistics and indicators

Producing, sharing and using high-quality information for Cleaner Air

4-5 May 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

The Regional training on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators will be organised as a hybrid meeting with in-person and online participation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 4 and 5 May 2023. English-Russian interpretation will be available. The regional training will be organized by UNECE in cooperation with UNEP, the Environment Agency Austria and Statistics Luxembourg, and with financial support of the European Union.

Training sessions will start at 09:30 and finish at 17:30 CEST/Geneva time.

Training materials will be available at the UNECE website:

<https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/375048>

1. Background

The *Regional training on air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators* aims to contribute to developing capacity in countries to produce, share and use indicators on air quality and air emissions as recommended in the revised *UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators*.

To help address the triple planetary crisis, and considering the urgent need for integrated data and statistics due to the growing scope and complexity of global processes, the *Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (JTFESI)*¹ has continuously revised the list of indicators in its Guidelines to enhance their policy relevance and to align them with global and regional policies including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and globally agreed statistical frameworks such as the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES) and the System of Environmental–Economic Accounting – Central Framework (SEEA–CF).

In October 2021, JTFESI agreed on an updated list of priority indicators to be produced across the pan-European region in line with the principles of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

¹ JTFESI was set up by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in 2009 with a view to gradually improve environmental statistics including in the European Union Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and to strengthen the production and sharing of agreed UNECE Environmental Indicators across the pan-European region in support of environmental reporting and assessment and policy-making

In October 2022, Ministers of Environment at the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference invited countries to continue their efforts to implement all pillars of SEIS and to address remaining gaps. Ministers also noted the urgent need to employ the revised ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators, and to adopt indicators to cover important emerging policymaking themes, also with a view to improve the availability of quality data for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, addressing the challenges of reducing premature deaths due to environmental pollution, reporting progress towards improved environmental quality and implementing targeted policies to reduce emissions in specific sectors require the sharing of consistent and comparable statistics and indicators including in the thematic area of air.

The regional training is organized with the financial support of the European Union, through the EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data programme that provides support to target countries in sustainably managing water resources and in enhancing environmental statistics and data and the implementation of SEIS and open data principles.

2. Objectives

The aim of the regional training is to enhance the capacity of countries to produce and use consistent and harmonized air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators. This will help countries to provide robust methodological information for evidence-based policies, following the SEIS principles.

The main objectives are to:

- Provide a technical overview of the different steps for the production, sharing and use of the UNECE air related indicators through good practices and experiences from experts of different countries and international organisations
- Discuss challenges that could result in delays and gaps in the indicator production procedure and identify possible solutions

The target audience for the meeting are producers and users of air quality and emissions to air statistics and indicators, including participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), environmental agencies and other line ministries participating within the Statistical Systems (energy, transport) and experts from relevant national and subnational agencies.

3. Organisation of the Regional Training

The regional training will be held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and online participation with English-Russian interpretation from 09:30 am to 17:30 pm Geneva/Central European Time (CEST) on each of the 2 days. A remote connection will be provided for those that cannot travel.

Participants will receive in advance a questionnaire to identify main national data gaps to produce UNECE air related indicators and difficulties in updating an indicator system or maintaining the good functionality of an existing one.

Participants will benefit from presentations of countries and international organisations with time dedicated for questions and answers. The presentations will be combined with practical guidance and participants will be able to raise questions regarding specific indicators.

Participants who are interested to contribute to any of the sessions are invited to contact Michael Nagy (michael.nagy@un.org) and Christine Kitzler (christine.kitzler@un.org) by **31 March 2023** at the latest.

Participants should register at <https://indico.un.org/event/1003919/> by **31 March 2023**. Documents for the regional training will be made available on the regional training's webpage <https://unece.org/info/Statistics/events/375048>