

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable Tourism

Education for Sustainable Development

5-7 of October 2022

Nicosia-Cyprus

SIDE-EVENT AGENDA

SUSTAINABLE MONITORING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONTINUOUS INNOVATION IN IMPLEMENTING A SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

5 October 2022, 13:10-14:40 pm

Room KERYNEIA of Filoxenia Centre

English - Live

Target audience:

Environmental policymakers and experts dealing with monitoring, data
and assessment

Background

The establishment of a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the pan-European region commended by Ministers of environment at the Ministerial Conference in Astana in 2011 needs follow-up through continuous innovation towards a sustainable environmental monitoring and information system infrastructure in order to support a regular process of environmental assessment, to address remaining gaps and make environmental information publicly available and accessible in support of sustainable development, a transition to a circular and green economy and other emerging policy themes. Sustainable monitoring infrastructure will aim to combine measurements according established high-quality standards with lower-cost sensor technologies, with the option to include contributions from interested citizens to environmental monitoring at local levels.

Objectives, scope and expected outcome

The side event will reflect on the achievements in establishing a Shared Environmental Information system in the pan-European region in support of environmental assessments and will showcase selected good practice examples on the development and modernisation of sustainable environmental monitoring infrastructure and information systems in selected areas. The event will raise the awareness and inform about advanced technical solutions (e.g. based on satellite and near to real time data, the enhanced use of digitalization and citizen science) and their use to improve access of decision makers and the public to policy-relevant information in different fields, e.g. regarding health-relevant air quality information, effective Covid-19 monitoring in waste water or biodiversity monitoring. Moreover, the event will provide an opportunity to discuss capacity-development programmes and infrastructure requirements and remaining challenges in the pan-European region.

Specifically, the event will address the following questions:

- What are the main achievements of establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and Central Asia at the national level during the past 10 years?
- How does sound environmental monitoring and SEIS help to address the triple planetary crisis and to strengthen the resilience of people and ecosystems in the pan-European region?
- What are the future needs in implementing SEIS and how innovation in monitoring, digitalization and citizens science can effectively contribute to keep the environment under regular review

Provisional Programme:

Moderator: *Sylvie Motard, Acting Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe*

<p>Opening session: 13:10 – 13:20</p>	<p>Opening words and introduction Overview on main achievements of establishing a Shared Environmental Information System in the past 10 years</p>
<p>SEIS pillar: Cooperation</p>	<p><i>Ms. Maia Javakhishvili, Chair of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment</i></p>
<p>Session 1: 13:20 – 13:40</p>	<p>How innovation in SEIS, digitalization and sound environmental monitoring can help address the triple planetary crisis</p>
<p>SEIS pillars: Content and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Area 1: The potential of Citizen Science to support monitoring of the environment <i>Mr. Matthew Billot, UNEP</i></p>
	<p>Area 2: Air quality monitoring and the EU4 Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data programme <i>Mr. Johannes Mayer, Environment Agency Austria</i></p>
	<p>Area 3: Digitalization in the area of environmental monitoring in support of an evolving SEIS <i>Ms. Galina Georgieva Hristova, European Environment Agency</i></p>
<p>Session 2: 13:40 – 14:25</p>	<p>Interventions on good practice examples on innovation in SEIS and digitalization in ECE member States</p> <p>Country 1: Czechia <i>Mr. Miroslav Havránek, Czech Environmental Information Agency</i></p> <p>Country 2: Armenia <i>Mr. Alexander Arakelyan, EU4Sevan (Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan)</i></p> <p>Country 3: Kazakhstan <i>Mr. Nikolai Denisov, Zoi Environment Network</i></p> <p>Country 4: Albania and regional co-operation <i>Ms. Galina Georgieva Hristova, European Environment Agency</i></p>
<p>14:25 – 14:35</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>14:35 – 14:40</p>	<p>Wrap-up and closure by the moderator</p>