
**Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

in co-operation with

**European Environment Agency
United Nations Environment Programme**

SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND GREEN GROWTH

**Regional workshop for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and
Central Asia**

10-11 March 2015, Paris, France

Draft annotated agenda

The meeting will be held at the OECD Headquarters (2 rue André Pascal, Paris, France), starting at 9:30 on the first day.

Please contact Mr. Krzysztof Michalak at OECD (e-mail: krzysztof.michalak@oecd.org) or Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski at the UNECE (e-mail: lukasz.wyrowski@unece.org) for further information about the workshop.

Supported by:

Background

Organizing a vast array of environmental, social and economic data for their effective and efficient management can be a challenging undertaking. Even more challenging is to make the data and information available for policy analysis so that they can create the solid basis for easily comprehensible, accessible and targeted recommendations to decision makers and the public or for reporting at the country level or internationally in accordance with legal obligations, policy commitments and mandates.

Recognizing the challenge, the international community facilitated the discussion and sharing of experience between countries on the management and use of data, in particular those related to the environment. This process led to a decision to develop a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European region, which would help linking the existing data and information flows, enabling informed decision making in the environmental field, integrating them with the economic policy-making, and informing the public about progress with policy implementation.

While the SEIS is currently being developed at the pan-European level with the view to support the regular environmental assessment processes, the data flows managed under SEIS can be useful to track and understand trends and changes related to greening economic growth and moving towards sustainable development.

At the same time, many countries including those in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), take steps to advance green growth or the transition to green economy, i.e. to foster economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which society's well-being relies. If governments are going to pursue policies designed to promote green growth, they need indicators that can raise awareness, measure progress and identify potential opportunities and risks. While there are no commonly agreed green growth/economy indicators in the pan-European region, a number of countries use as a basis green growth indicators developed by the OECD that support the implementation of its Green Growth Strategy. The OECD also facilitates the exchange of experience and good practice on developing and applying green growth measurement framework in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, which includes activities under the EaP GREEN project funded by the European Union.

Workshop objectives and target audience

The workshop objectives are to:

- enhance the understanding of green growth or green economy concepts and related measurement frameworks in EECCA;
- bring together the national SEIS and green growth/economy networks;
- explore how the SEIS data flows can be used in applying green growth indicators in the region; and
- identify how components of green growth measurement that are not (yet) covered under the SEIS could be elaborated.

The workshop will raise awareness of the various national networks responsible for environmental protection, for green growth/economy and for environmental and sustainable development statistics of the usefulness of SEIS data flows for measuring green growth/economy. It will hence showcase how synergies can be exploited to establish a national approach towards measuring changes and trends in an effective and efficient way and addressing the fields of environment, green growth/economy and sustainable development also vis-à-vis possible nationally and/or regionally-agreed targets.

During the workshop the following topics, among others, will be covered:

- Concepts of green growth/economy and SEIS,
- Environmental and green growth indicators: similarities and differences,
- Ongoing SEIS and green growth/economy developments, including in connection to the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in 2016,
- National approaches towards measuring changes and trends in environment, green growth and sustainable development.

Participation and organisation

The workshop is a joint initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Its organization is supported by the European Environment Agency and United Nations Environment Programme.

The workshop will gather officials and experts from the Ministries of the Environment and of the Economy as well as the Statistical Agencies active in developing environmental and green growth measurement in the countries of the European Union Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, from Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Experts from the Russian Federation and the South Eastern Europe are also invited to the workshop.

The participation of experts from the EaP and CA countries will be financially supported by the European Union's EaP GREEN project and by the governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

The working languages at the workshop will be English and Russian.

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, 10 March 2015

9:00 – 9:30 *Registration*

9:30 – 9:45 Item 1. Opening remarks

Mr. Krzysztof Michalak (OECD) and Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski (UNECE) will welcome the participants, present the objectives of the workshop, the agenda and expected outcomes.

9:45 – 12:30 Item 2: Concepts of green growth/economy and Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

This session will discuss green growth/economy concepts and the measurement frameworks that can be applied for tracking progress and decision-making. Participants will review the SEIS approach and explore the best ways for using it to measure green growth.

- 9:45 – 11:00
- *Ms. Kumi Kitamori* (Green Growth and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD): Green Growth Strategy and its implementation in the OECD countries
 - *Ms. Rie Tsutsumi* (Regional Office for Europe, UNEP): Strategic framework for greening the economy in the pan-European region
 - *Ms. Myriam Linster* (Environmental Performance and Information Division, Environment Directorate, OECD): Measuring green growth – the OECD approach
 - *Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski* (Environment Division, UNECE): SEIS and its application for green growth/economy and SEIS on-going developments

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 - 12:30 Discussion on the concepts of green growth and green economy and their implementation in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 17:45 Item 3. Environmental and green growth indicators

On the basis of country presentations on environmental and green growth indicators this session discuss their design, similarities, differences, their application and data flows necessary to calculate them.

- 14:00 – 15:00 Country case studies:
- *the Netherlands*
 - *Czech Republic*
 - *Moldova*
 - *Kyrgyzstan*

15:00 – 15:30	Discussion on country applications of different sets of indicators
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski (Environment Division, UNECE): Presentation on matches between UNECE environmental and OECD green growth indicators
16:30 – 17:30	Discussion
17:30 – 17:45	Summary of the day
17:45 – 19:00	<i>Cocktail</i>

Day 2: Wednesday, 11 March 2015

9:30 – 12:30 Item 4. SEIS and green growth data flows

This session will discuss data flows to be produced and shared within SEIS and how these can be used for measuring green growth/economy.

9:30 – 11:00 Mr. Robin Rieprich, Ms. Christin Thurow (Consultants): Mapping of data flows between UNECE environmental and OECD green growth indicators

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:30 Discussion on data flows mapping

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 16:30 Session IV: The way forward

This session will discuss how lessons learned from the workshop can be taken into account into SEIS work and support countries in implementing green growth/economy, including under the EaP GREEN project. Participants will formulate their conclusions and recommendations useful for both national and international context.

14:00 – 15:15 Discussion with moderation on the way forward

15:15 – 15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45 – 16:30 Closing of the workshop

Mr. Krzysztof Michalak (OECD) and Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski (UNECE) will summarise the discussion and make closing remarks regarding next steps.