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EU4Environment in Eastern Partner Countries:
Water Resources and Environmental Data (ENI/2021/425-550)

WORKSHOP REPORT

“COUNTRY SPACE” FOR ARMENIA IN THE EUROPEAN STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOER) 2023

Date:
27. October 2023

Workshop Lead:
Johannes Mayer

Output/Activity n°:
**2.5 International sharing of
data and networking is
maintained**

Author(s)
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MAYER, Johannes, UBA

Date
21.11.2023

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- SUBJECT:** Workshop on a “Country Space” for Armenia in the European State of the Environment Report (SOER) 2023 (Agenda see Annex 1)
- VENUE:** Double Tree by Hilton, Yerevan, Armenia
- AGENDA:** See Annex 1
- PARTICIPANTS:** See Annex 2
- DOCUMENTS:** Available at: [SOER Country Space Workshop Oct2023](#)

1. Objective(s) and scope of the workshop / training

1.1. Introductory workshop on developing a “country space” for Armenia in the European State of the Environment Report (SOER) 2025

The objective for this workshop was to introduce the SOER 2025 approach that is more integrated, systemic and with a transformative perspective. Transitions monitoring at the country level is an approach to monitor environmental performance and socio-economic change.

The workshop aimed to start identifying relevant and available data and its competent data holders, it seeks to discuss potential alternative indicators in case of data gaps and tried to address Georgian competent authorities on possible updates of relevant information.

1.2. Introduction to the reporting on SDG 6.3.2 “Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality”

The aim of the intervention was to encourage Armenia to submit data for the 2023 data drive of SDG 6.3.2. The project team also offered support with data preparation and calculation of the indicator.

2. Main Results

2.1. General explanations regarding SOER Country Space 2025

J. Mayer introduced the possibility to associate Armenia to the “country space” development process of the European State of the Environment Report (SOER) 2025.

In response to a question from the representative of the Ministry, Amalia Misakyan, it was explained: The prerequisite for participating in SOER 2025 with a country space is that the countries apply to the EEA for membership. The decision to apply is with the ministry or government. The memberships requires the payment of a membership fee.

Most probably the work on indicators will be continued in the follow up Programme of EU4Env Water & Data.

The prerequisite for Armenian experts to be able to work on the indicators is that this work is approved at ministerial level. This means that the issue must be communicated

from the programme to ministerial level (official letter). Mr. Mayer approached Mrs Gayane Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment for the Republic of Armenia and NFP for the Programme at the time of the workshop, at the NPD in Yerevan (26.10.2023). In her view this work is of importance for Armenia and should be done. (Remark G. Vincze after the meeting: Mrs Gayane Gabrielyan was replaced as NFP for the Programme by Mr. Hakob Simidyan Minister of Environment).

For each indicator it needs to be identified to whom an official letter is to be sent (Ministry, person); the letter should explain the task, why it is important, what is needed and ask the ministry to support the work and provide resources for it.

To work on the indicators, J. Mayer suggests a peer approach which means that experts of UBA familiar with the different topics and indicators can be contacted by Armenian experts working on the indicators to support them.

2.2. Indicators of the SOER Country Space 2025

J. Mayer explained the 10 Environment / Climate transition indicators of the SOER 2025.

Indicator 1 Area under organic farming: Armenia has currently no Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural matters are currently dealt within the Ministry of Economy. The present Ministry of economy of the Republic of Armenia with the current structure was formed as a result of the unification of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments and the Ministry of Agriculture. She will inform the respective persons working in agriculture.

Gayane Shahnazaryan suggest or rather thinks that it is necessary that the Programme write an official letter to the respective NFP (Ministry) to select and nominate persons responsible for the respective indicators. A formal relationship needs to be established.

Indicator 2 Designated terrestrial protected areas: Armenia has designates Emerald sites (Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest); this data could be used to report in indicator 2.

Comment by AM: For ENI SEISII some indicators were developed among others also indicator 2 mentioned now

Indicator 5 Climate-related economic loss: J. Mayer will contact EEA to get details of the CATDAT agency who did the calculations for EEA; relevant is also if the CATDAT data are related to insurance systems or not; maybe, there are also data of other countries available. AM has not the full picture, only parts because information is only collected partly; data are not published because they are not complete. It was suggested to approach the Ministry of Economy to get the responsible contacts. Also, it was mentioned by Nayra that every 3 month they receive information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and they make evaluation for the specific events / disasters – calculate the amount of damage that was done.

Indicator 6 Share of renewable energy consumption and indicator 7 Energy consumption: Naira Mandalyan said that they have some information on these indicators; Generally, Armstat is responsible for publishing information on energy consumption.

Indicator 8 Total waste generation: waste generated by electronic devices is not available; waste generated/capita is not published but waste collected; illegal landfills can

be found in regions; regions send data on waste collected (data is mixed with mineral waste data).

Indicator 9 Circular material use rate: no published information on the recycling of waste available

Indicator 10 Health impacts of exposure to fine particulate matter: Naira (Armstat) says that there is also an SDG indicator on that issue developed from WHO. Armenia is reporting on that indicator. It need to be explored if and how the EEA and WHO indicator is related. The methodology of the air indicators Armstat is publishing is described at the Armstat Website (<https://armstat.am/en/>).

Question by Armenia: are more human health indicators included? J. Mayer: no because EEA chooses the most relevant Indicators for Europe now.

Question by Armenia: can other indicators also be taken into account, include them into the report? Armenia might not have the data ore enough data or reliable data for EEA indicators and the indicator might not reflect the situation well. For example soil contamination; Armenia has quite some problems with air pollution and soil contamination; mining is also a big issue.

Question by Armenia: do these 10 indicators have sub-indicators? If Armenia can't report on an indicator maybe information can be given on a sub-indicator. J. Mayer: if it is not possible to report, report what you have.



Figure 1: Introductory workshop SOER2025, Armenian, Umweltbundesamt and EU4ENV Water & Data experts, October 27, 2023.

2.3. Indicators SDG 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

G. Vincze gave short introduction on the SDG indicator 6.3.2 “Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality”. Information on the indicator can be found here: <https://www.unwater.org/our-work/integrated-monitoring-initiative-sdg-6/indicator-632-proportion-bodies-water-good-ambient>.

Armenia prepared data for the SDG 6.3.2 data drive 2020. Unfortunately the data were not submitted to UNEP and not published. The responsible person for SDG 6.3.2 is Gayane Shahnazaryan (Hydromet). G. Vincze will establish a contact to UNEP and Stuart Warner who supports the data drive 2023. The deadline for reporting has already passed, however, UNEP is happy to receive also data after the official deadline (which was 1st October 2023).

3. Next steps / to do's

STEP/TASK	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE	FOLLOW UP
Sending an official letter to the Armenian NFP to inform about the planned work and get an information about the further Ministries/persons to be addressed and also a list of responsible experts	Johannes Mayer	asap	
Sending official letters to responsible Ministries/persons for each EEA SOER indicator (if not the Ministry of Environment) to get the approval of the planned work and the resources for Armenian experts to work on the indicators	Johannes Mayer	asap	
Contact EEA to get details of the CATDAT agency who did the calculations for EEA indicator 5	Johannes Mayer	asap	
Indicator 10: exploration how the EEA and WHO indicator is related.	??		
Information of UBA colleagues who will be peers to the 10 indicators about the task and the outcome of the workshop	Johannes Mayer	asap	
Establish contact between Gayane Shahnazaryan and UNEP (Stuart Warner) regarding SDG 6.3.2 and support in calculation the indicator (e.g. explain the Austrian Approach of indicator calculation)	Gabriele Vincze	asap	

4. Annexes

4.1. Agenda



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AGENDA

WORKSHOP ON A “COUNTRY SPACE” FOR ARMENIA IN THE EUROPEAN STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOER) 2025

Date:
27 October 2023

Venue:
Double Tree by Hilton Yerevan City Centre,
4/2 Grigor Lusavorich, Yerevan, 0015, Armenia
Tokyo Hall

Time:
10:00-14:00

AGENDA

Local Time	Item	Speaker
09:30-10:00	Registration and welcome coffee	
10:00-10:15	Introduction and welcoming statements	Environment Agency AT Hydromet ArmStat
10:15-11:15	Development Process of the European State-of-the-Environment Report (SOER) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and Dimensions of the Report (published by European Environment Agency in dialogue) Indicator-based “Country Spaces” on transition to sustainable development (prepared in dialogue with countries) How can Armenia participate in the SOER 2025 process <p>Questions and discussion</p>	Umweltbundesamt Hydromet ArmStat all
11:15-13:15 (coffee break 12:00-12:30)	Indicators and Themes of the “Country Space” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystems (2) Climate Change (3) Clean energy transition (2) Resource Use and Circular economy (2) Environment and human health (1) Socio-economic change (9-10) 	Environment Agency AT Armenian institutions and experts Feedback on data availability and options
13:15-14:00	Closing session: Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can we achieve (and what not) ? Who does what until June 2024 to assure an indicator/data supported “country transition story” of Armenia for SOER 2025 	Environment Agency AT Armstat Hydromet all

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4.2. List of Participants



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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/ՄԱՍՆԱԿԻՑՆԵՐԻ ՑԱՆԿ*

EVENT/ՄԻՋՈՑԱՌՈՒՄ**: WORKSHOP ON A "COUNTRY SPACE" FOR ARMENIA IN THE EUROPEAN STATE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOER) 2025 / ԵՎՐՈՊԱՅԻ ՇՐՋԱԿԱ ՄԻՋԱՎԱՅՐԻ ՎԻՃԱԿԻ 2025 Թ.
ՀԱՇՎԵՏՎՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՆԵՐԱՌՄԱՆ ՎԵՐԱԲԵՐՑԱԼ ԱՇԽԱՏԱԺՈՂՈՎ

DATE/ԱՄՍԱԹԻՎ: 27.10.2023, VENUE/ՄՐԱՆ: DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON YEREVAN CITY CENTRE /«ԴԱԲԼԹՐԻ ԲԱՑ ՀԻԼՏՈՆ ԵՐԵՎԱՆ ՄԻԹԻ ՄԵՆԹԵՐ»

N	Name Անուն, ազգանուն	Gender/ (M/F) Սեռը/(Ա/Ի)	Organization, position Կազմակերպություն, պաշտոն	Contact Information (e-mail, phone) (optional) Կոնտակտային տվյալներ (էլ-փոստ, հեռ.) (ոտա ցանկության)	Signature Ստորագրություն
1	GABRIELE VINCE	F	Environment Agency Austria	gabriele.vince@umwelt- bundesamt.at	G. Vince
2	Naira Mandalyan	f	Armstat	nairam67@gmail.com	N. Mandalyan
3	Anna Hakobyan	f	Armstat	eco@armstat.am eco	A. Hakobyan

* Ստացված անձնակազմի անունները օգտագործվելու են «ԵՄ-ն» շրջակա միջավայրի համար. ցրային ռեսուրսներ և շրջակա միջավայրի տվյալներ» ծրագրի շրջանակներում Եվրոպական Հանձնաժողովի հաղորդակցության և տվյալների տարածման վերաբերյալ հաշվետվություններ ներկայացնելիս: Որոշ դեպքերում Ձեր կառավարության տեղեկատվությունը կարող է օգտագործվել՝ ծրագրի հետ կապ պահպանելու նպատակով: Մասնակիցների ցանկը կապահպանվի ծրագրի ավարտից հետո հինգ տարի՝ առկա տեղեկությունները ներկայացնելու նպատակով: Դուք իրավունք ունեք ստանալ Ձեր վերաբերող տվյալները, տեղեկանալ տվյալների մշակման վերաբերյալ, ճշտել ոչ ճիշտ անձնական տվյալները, եթե այդպիսիք կան, ինչպես նաև լուրջ և լեգիտիմ հիմքի դեպքում՝ առարկել տվյալների հետագա մշակմանը: Այս իրավունքներից օգտվելու համար՝ խնդրում ենք կապվել հետևյալ էլ. փոստով. c.dechelette@eusa.eu:

** Տեղեկացվում ենք, որ միջոցառման ժամանակ կարող են իրականացվել ֆոտո և տեսանկարահանումներ: Դրանք օգտագործվելու են «ԵՄ-ն» շրջակա միջավայրի համար. ցրային ռեսուրսներ և շրջակա միջավայրի տվյալներ» ծրագրի հաշվետվողականության և հաղորդակցության համար՝ ծրագրի կայքէջով և սոցիալական ցանցերով: Ստորագրելով մասնակցիցների ցանկը՝ դուք Ձեր համաձայնությունն եք տալիս նախկինում «ԵՄ-ն» շրջակա միջավայրի համար. ցրային ռեսուրսներ և շրջակա միջավայրի տվյալներ» ծրագրի տեսա/ֆոտոնկարներում: Դուք ընդունում եք, որ տեսա/ֆոտոնկարները կարող են օգտագործվել՝ իրանելու Եվրոպական Միությունը ԵՄ ինստիտուտների, «ԵՄ Արևելյան հարևանություն» և «ԵՄ-ն» շրջակա միջավայրի համար. ցրային ռեսուրսներ և շրջակա միջավայրի տվյալներ» ծրագրերի միջոցով՝ կայքէջերում, սոցիալական միջոցներում, տեղեկատվական թերթիկներում, մամուլ հաղորդագրություններում, հրապարակումներում և հաղորդակցության մի շարք այլ նյութերում: Եթե ցանկանում եք, որ որևէ նկար չընկնի, խնդրում ենք կապվել հետևյալ էլ. փոստով. c.dechelette@eusa.eu:

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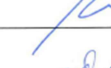
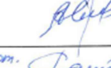
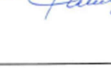
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16					
17					
18					

4.3. Photos

Link to SharePoint: [Photos](#)