

Towards eEnvironment Prague, 24 – 27 March 2009

27 March 2009

Conference Conclusions

From 24 – 27 March 2009, 350 delegates from 31 countries as well as representatives of the European institutions and bodies met in the city of Prague for the conference “Towards eEnvironment – Opportunities of SEIS and SISE: Integrating Environmental Knowledge in Europe. The delegates took the decision to adopt the following resolution:

The conference:

Conscious that the Sixth Environment Action Programme confirmed that sound information on the state of the environment and on the key trends, pressures and drivers for environmental change is essential for the development of effective policy, its implementation, and the empowerment of citizens more generally. As the environment is a public good that belongs to everyone, it is equally essential for this information to be widely shared and available.¹

Concerned that we face increased local to global challenges in implementing environmental policies which require increasingly sophisticated and open data and information services to facilitate comparison between cities, regions and countries as well as to assess and deal with cross border environmental issues.

Recognizing the initial priorities identified for SEIS in consultation with countries through the user networks such as NESIS² as:

1. Increasing usability of data sets and information through better documentation, harmonisation and interoperability;
2. Re-engineering data and information flows (to improve timeliness and ICT use for monitoring and reporting);
3. Establishment and support of sustained and stable data provision and network services for easier access to information; and

¹ Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seis/index.htm>

² <http://www.nesis.eu>

4. Automation of indicators and report creation.

Recommends:

1. and urges the European Commission to continue to actively develop an implementation plan to clarify roles and responsibilities to underpin the SEIS initiative and address identified priorities in partnership with countries including development of appropriate legislative proposals.
2. The European Commission to further pursue the integration of SEIS, INSPIRE, GMES activities so that components are mutually supportive and build on established standards and systems to improve data use.
3. The European Commission and the MS to ensure consistency in approach to open data licensing and policies in GMES, INSPIRE and SEIS, taking also into consideration the PSI directive³, and EEA approach so as to maximize data re-use and sharing.
4. The European Commission to strengthen and extend the communication of the SEIS concept to MS and also towards other areas of European policy or initiative (agriculture, transport, fisheries, marine, health, energy, civil protection, etc).
5. Facilitating the enhancement of SEIS with contributions from currently non harmonized data sources such as non-reported local to national governmental data, research, informal citizen information sources as well as the private sector and supporting the discovery and use of such data in particular where these lead to increased dialogue and cooperation in support of European policies and international agreements.
6. The MS and other stakeholders to increase attention to providing INSPIRE compliant meta-information and standards to describe data quality and fitness for purpose, as well as unique identifiers to encourage data re-use and citation, in particular to facilitate re-use by different sectors or communities
7. The EC and MS to foster European networks to support sharing of good practice, expertise and cooperation in order to facilitate and encourage more sophisticated

³ DIRECTIVE 2003/98/EC http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/psi/index_en.htm

use of ICT and environmental information services, including model outputs in support of decision making. This should support a more common approach to the use of modeling for policy development amongst the countries at national, regional and local level.

Calls on all relevant actors to contribute actively to the development of the SEIS implementation plan.

Adopted in plenary by the conference on 27th of March 2009 at 13:36.