ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA **umwelt**bundesamt

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE

Austria's experience in implementing the Aarhus Convention

OSCE

DIGITAL AUSTRIA

**Practical Steps -
from e-Government to Open Government**

OSCE Workshop – Vienna, 3 July 2013

W. Vogel, J. Mayer, H-J. Krammer, M. Nagy, R. Legat et.al
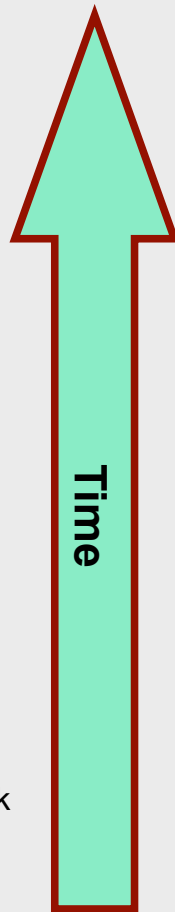
Content

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- § 10 UIG 2004 – Coordination Centre for EnviroInfo
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- Aarhus Convention – Policy Recommendations
- CAHDE – Council of Europe
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- Cooperation OGD Austria

Environmental Information - History

Time ↑

- COM(2008)748: GMES: We care for a Safer Planet
- COM(2008) 46 SEIS Communication
- COM(2005)565: GMES From Concept to Reality
- INSPIRE Directive , 2007 /2/EC
- Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information, 2003/4/EC
- Directive on Reuse of Public Sector Information, 2003/98/EC
- UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, 1998
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, June 1992
- Standardized Environmental Reporting Directive, 1991
- Declaration of the UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, 1972

Source: Thom Pick

Environmental Information - Austria

Time →

Source: Thom Pick

SEIS - Austria

INSPIRE Act, 2009

Environmental Information Act, 2005

Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Ratification in 2005

Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information, 2003

Environmental Information Act, 1993

Directive on Access to Environmental Information 90/313/EEC

Coordination Centre for Environmental Information – EIA 2004, section 10

Umweltbundesamt is the leader of a coordination centre whose task consists in supporting the information exchange between information providing bodies and in proposing suitable measures to facilitate access to environmental information, as well as in ensuring the high quality of environmental information.

http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltinformation/koordinierungsstelle

Work programme of Coordination Centre

- Supporting unified structures
- Facilitating access to information (unified structures, eGovernment, Internet)
- Supporting the exchange of information between information providing bodies („iS")

  - By using the existing eGovernment structures federal government, provinces, cities and municipalities, as well as industry/economy

  - Existing eGovernment structures are used to ensure cooperation between the Setting up a working group for environmental information (PG-UI) within the framework of "Cooperation BLSG" (Bund-Länder-Städte-Gemeinden) under the umbrella of "Platform Digital Austria"
    http://www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/site/6497/Default.aspx

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eGovernment Task Force EI

- **eGovernment Projektgruppe Umweltinformation** PG UI

Goals:

- **Common approach** to deal with the requirements of UIG 2004 in the framework of cooperation BLSG (Plattform Digitales Österreich)
- Development of a **central EI Portal** zentralen Umweltinformationsportals (One-Stop-Shop) in line with the intentions of the European Commission for a „Shared Environmental Information System" Gemeinsamen Umweltinformationssystem" (**SEIS**).
- Umweltinformationsysteme in Bund und Ländern
- **Member States** report 2009 to European Commission on the experience gained in the application of the Directive (Beiträge)

Communication Network
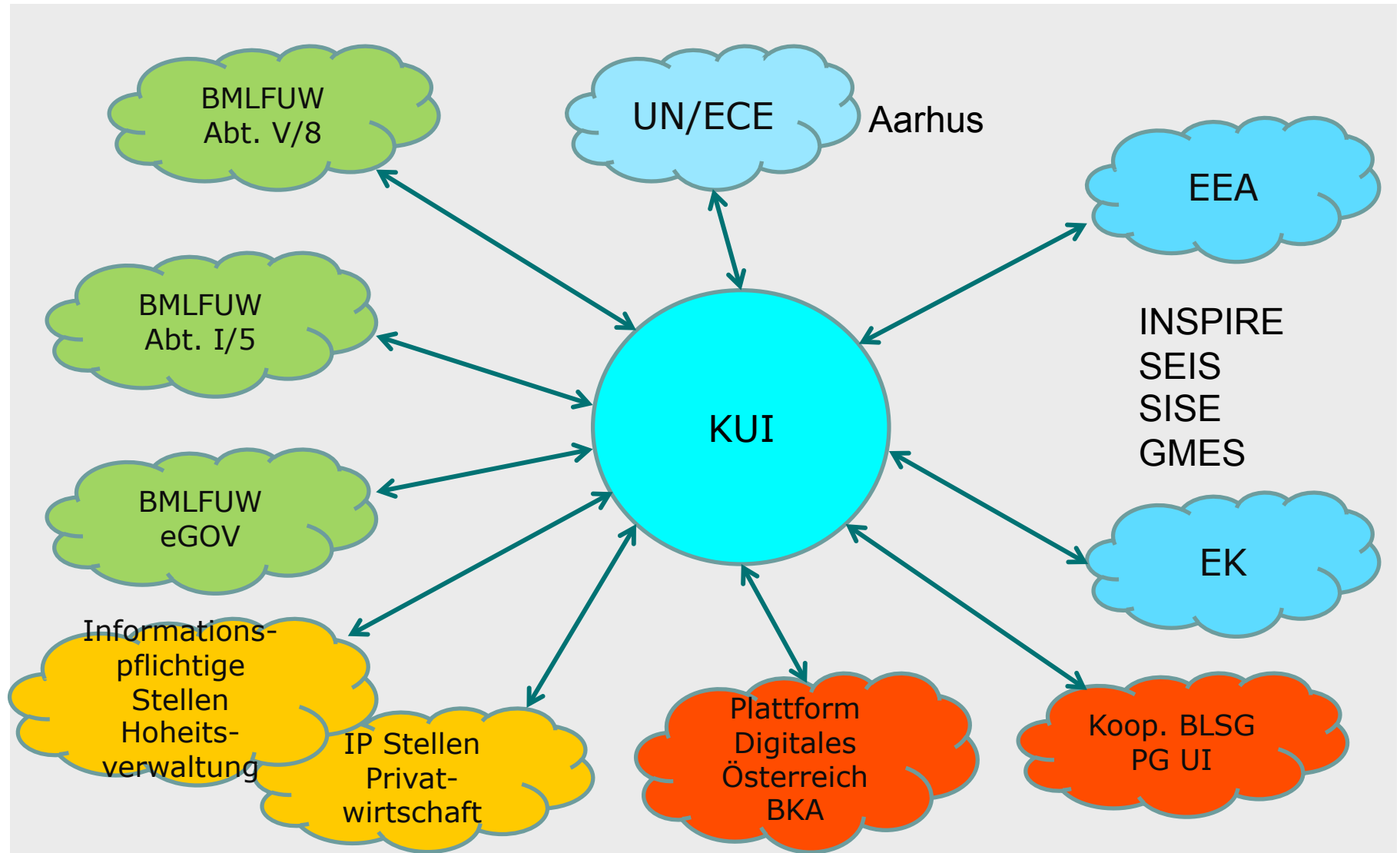
European Commission´s comment

- **"Austria's** example to address issues of modernisation of systems and infrastructures for management of environmental information as an integral part of the **national eGovernment action** under the Co-ordination of an eGovernment group is a good example that **we can learn a lot at national and EU level"**

- "I would like to stress again that the combination in Austria of Aarhus Convention & Directive 2003/4/EC and SEIS with the **national eGovernment process** is for me a sound and efficient way implement both initiatives. …………"

- …..„We are glad to see the link made in **Austria between SEIS and eGovernment.**"…….

- …….„I believe that is a sound and efficient way for implementing SEIS, INSPIRE and the Aarhus Convention & Directive 2003/4/EC: **anchor them on the e-Government platform.**"……

The Coordination Centre (KUI) provides information via webplatforms

- KUI informs the public about its activities on the Internet at http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/koordinierungsstelle/

- KUI also provides information on the Environmental Information Act (EIA 2004, UIG 2004) at HELP.gv.at http://www.help.gv.at/Content.Node/166/Seite.1660000.html

- The platform of the working group Environmental Information (PG UI) on the eGov Reference Server at http://www.ref.gv.at/Umweltinformation.1024.0.html

- At Unternehmensserviceportal **USP** https://www.usp.gv.at/Portal.Node/usp/public/content/umwelt_und_verkehr/umweltinformation/Seite.1660000.html

eGovernment Reference Server

Comprehensive collection of weblinks especially for OGD:

■ Open Government Data - **Let the sunshine in** - Das Öffentlichkeitsprinzip der Verwaltung

■ Aktuelle Informationen der KUI

■ Umweltinformationsysteme in Bund und Ländern

■ Umwelt & Open Government Newsletter
März 2012 - Nummer 00

UNECE Aarhus Convention I

Policy recommendations, adopted by the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in 2005, to implement a national node of the Convention's clearing-house mechanism:

"Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information"

- http://www.epractice.eu/files/media/media1925.pdf
- Description (short summary):
  These policy recommendations, adopted by the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in 2005, **address four areas of eAccess to environmental information**: (1) general policy, (2) priority categories of information, (3) institutional development and capacity-building, and (4) the clearing-house mechanism.

UNECE Aarhus Convention II

This document comprises main elements of efforts of **eGov PG UI**:

- *1. Formulate and implement **national "e-government" strategies** for the use of electronic tools to facilitate administrative processes and services, to make public administration more transparent and efficient in providing available environmental information and dealing with requests for such information from the public;*

- *13. Establish **one-stop access point(s) for citizen-oriented environment-related e-government services,** with coordinated input from the relevant public authorities and/or linkages to other similar sites;*

UNECE Aarhus Convention III

This document comprises main elements of efforts of **eGov PG UI**:

- *19. **Maintain a national web site** with information related to the nationwide implementation of the Convention, which will serve as the national node of the **Convention's clearing-house mechanism***;

- Policy recommendations, adopted by the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in 2005, to implement a national node of the Convention's clearing-house mechanism

- Austria signed the Aarhus Convention in 2005

Electronic access to environmental information – an important fundament for e-democracy and environmental protection

Ad hoc Committee on E-Democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE)

Strasbourg, 8-9 October 2007

Michael Nagy

Rudolf Legat

J. Hrebicek

(Additional material used from T. Pick, S. Jensen, F. Kruse, T. Vögele, H.-J. Krammer)

Ad hoc Committee on E-Democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE)

- The **Ad hoc Committee on E-Democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE)** was established by decision of the Committee of Ministers of 24 May 2006 and started its work on 23 and 24 September 2006.

- **CAHDE** is primarily an intergovernmental body, whose members are delegated by the 46 Member States of the Council of Europe, and by relevant international organisations (eg EU, OSCE).

- Ad hoc Committee on e-democracy (CAHDE)

- Masaryk University & Umweltbundesamt set trigger that **e-Environment** is part of **e-Democracy**

White paper of eEnvironment

- The White paper of eEnvironment (Electronic access to environmental information) was elaborated by the Ad hoc Committee on eDemocracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE) in 2007, [Nagy, Legat, Hřebíček]

- The eEnvironment is integrated into eParticipation and eGovernment initiative of EU and it is going to be one of the fundaments of eDemocracy

Nagy, M., Legat, R., Hřebíček, J.: Electronic access to environmental information – an important fundament for eDemocracy and environmental protection. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 2007
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/bmeia/media/AOes/e-Democracy/
4575_18___eacces_to_environm___info.pdf

E-Environment is part of E-Democracy

- The 'Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on electronic democracy (e-democracy)' was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 18 February 2009.

- **Principle 40.** **"E-environment is the use and promotion of ICT** for the purposes of environmental assessment and protection, spatial planning, and the sustainable use of natural resources, and includes public participation. Using ICT to introduce or enhance public participation can improve democratic governance in respect of environmental issues."

- Explanatory memorandum to Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on e-democracy

The obligation of providing information and its impact on political democracy (1)

1. "Checks and balances" effect: Effective legal protection for citizens requires that crucial information for decision-making is available to them. Granting access to environmental data enables the individual to check compliance with environmental regulations and identify deficits in law enforcement. The right of access to environmental information thus leads to decentralised and effective checks performed by the public on public authority activities.

2. Participation effect: The right to the disclosure of relevant data increases transparency and encourages public participation in the decision-making process of public authorities. Access to environmental information is thus a step towards participation and democratisation of environmental regulations.

(Büchele/Ennöckl, UIG Kommentar, nwv, Wien-Graz 2005

The obligation of providing information and its impact on political democracy (2)

3. Awareness-raising function: As the knowledge about the state of the environment does not remain confined to administrative authorities, the acceptance of measures for the protection of the environment increases among the population. In this way, access to environmental information contributes to a heightened public awareness of environmental issues.

4. Prevention effect: The general right to the disclosure of environmental information should act as a precautionary deterrent for potential polluters, since they run the risk of their activities being disclosed.

5. Standardisation effect: Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information ensures a "right to be informed" which is based on the same principles across Europe. This facilitates trans boundary environmental pollution control while at the same time preventing distortion of competition within the EU.

Towards eEnvironment

European conference of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

TOWARDS eENVIRONMENT

Opportunities of SEIS and SISE: Integrating Environmental Knowledge in Europe | March 25-27, 2009 | Prague, Czech Republic

www.e-envi2009.org

Towards eEnvironment

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TOWARDS eENVIRONMENT

The European conference **Towards eEnvironment** is dedicated to information exchange among public administrations, EU institutions, environmental agencies, scientists and businesses involved in developing and using environmental informatics for the delivery of modern eEnvironment services in Europe. The conference is organised by the Masaryk University in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and the European Space Agency and further Czech institutions (CENIA, CSO, ICS AS, CHMI, CTU).

Main topics for the conference will include; ICT research towards the development of a **Single Information Space in Europe for the Environment** (**SISE**); best practices of European Member States in the implementation of the **Shared Environmental Information System** (**SEIS**); cooperation and integration of the **Global Monitoring for Environment and Security** (**GMES**) initiative and the **Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community** (**INSPIRE**) directive.

The conference will display state-of-the-art in environmental informatics and opportunities towards the development and implementation of two related initiatives, SEIS and SISE in cooperation of GMES and INSPIRE. Special focus will be on the following topics :

- **Building SEIS, Europe's backbone for eGovernment environment services. Does Europe champion challenges and seize the opportunities in provision of eEnvironment/eParticipation services?**

- **ICT research towards enabling a SISE. How can ICT contribute to strengthen a** collaborative information space on the web that will maximise the use of distributed

Partners

Recommendations on the Development of an ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment (I)

- Establish **eEnvironment** national/regional environmental **information web centres** or equivalent sources of information as the part of SEIS that will stimulate and promote public access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making; promote access to electronically stored environmental information by establishing and maintaining community web access points;

- Establish **one-stop access point(s)** for citizen-oriented environmental and related eGovernment services, with coordinated input from the relevant public authorities and/ or linkages to other similar sites;

Recommendations on the Development of an ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment (II)

- Develop **human capacity** for the **use of ICT tools** of SISE, SEIS, GMES and GEOSS to promote the implementation of eEnvironment through comprehensive and forward-looking training and education strategies for public officials;
- Promote the Commission's efforts to develop the **institutional capacities** of public authorities to **monitor, collect, organize, store and disseminate environment-related data**, information and knowledge in an easily accessible and user-friendly manner;

Recommendations on the Development of an ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment (III)

- Ensure the **availability** of commonly readable, **user-friendly and easily transferable formats** of SEIS, GMES and GEOSS for environment-related data, information and knowledge and develop and apply comprehensive environment-related ICT tools, including specific training programmes linking the use of ICT tools to the promotion of good environmental governance;

- Promote the **involvement of different stakeholders** representing both SEIS providers and its users, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the development and use of ICT tools with a view to improving the accessibility, as well as the availability, of environmental information and knowledge to the public;

Recommendations on the Development of an ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment (IV)

- Maintain a **national SEIS web site** with data and information related to the nationwide implementation of eEnvironment, which will serve also as the national node of the Convention's clearing-house mechanism;
- **Designate contact points** responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node and for providing the necessary information for the central node of the Aarhus Convention's clearing-house mechanism, and undertake to disseminate information to the public on the clearing-house mechanism;

Recommendations on the Development of an ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment (V)

- Develop **capacity** for **public officials managing and updating information** for the national node, and for providing the necessary information for the central node of the clearing-house mechanism.

- Develop **methods and protocols for service chaining** and for the management of the effects of uncertainty propagation through service chaining, which will be included into the ICT infrastructure for eEnvironment.

Cooperation OGD Austria

On 13 July 2011, the Federal Chancellery and the cities of Vienna, Linz, Salzburg and Graz founded "Cooperation Open Government Data Austria", in short "Cooperation OGD Austria".

- http://data.gv.at/offene-daten/cooperation-ogd-oesterreich/

- BKA: Open Government Data **Österreich** – press conference at the BKA - Cooperation OGD Austria
- Vienna: OGD – Open Data on **Vienna** – environmental data
  Data should come to the citizens and not the other way round Dr. M. Häupl (mayor)
- Tyrol: Welcome to the **Tyrolean** Open Data Portal ! - Umweltdaten
- Linz: Welcome to **Linz** Open Data
- Vbg: Open Government Data **Vorarlberg**
- Graz: Open Government Data **Graz**
- BMWF: Welcome to the Open Government Data page of **BMWF**
- U: OpenData Portal **Umweltbundesamt** – Press release
- Sbg: Welcome to the Open Government Data on the **city of Salzburg**

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- „Towards eEnvironment" by Prof. Dr. Jiří Hřebíček, Masaryk University