



Aarhus Convention: Key trends in the implementation of information pillar

Berlin
3 December 2018



Is this moorland in good enough condition to effectively capture rain and prevent flooding?

What's the average annual rainfall?

Would we get permission to route a powerline here?

Would this be a good place to grow vines? What is the soil type, how steep is it, which way does it face?

What would the environmental impact of a moto-cross trail here be?

Should I restrict access here due to fire risk?

Who owns this farm? How well connected is it? Could it be the base for a rural technology centre?

Can I canoe here? What's the water flow like?

How many businesses would be flooded if this river broke its banks?

Is this woodland ready to fell? What species are present? What's it worth?

What crop is being grown in this field?

Where are the cattle in this field bred and sold?

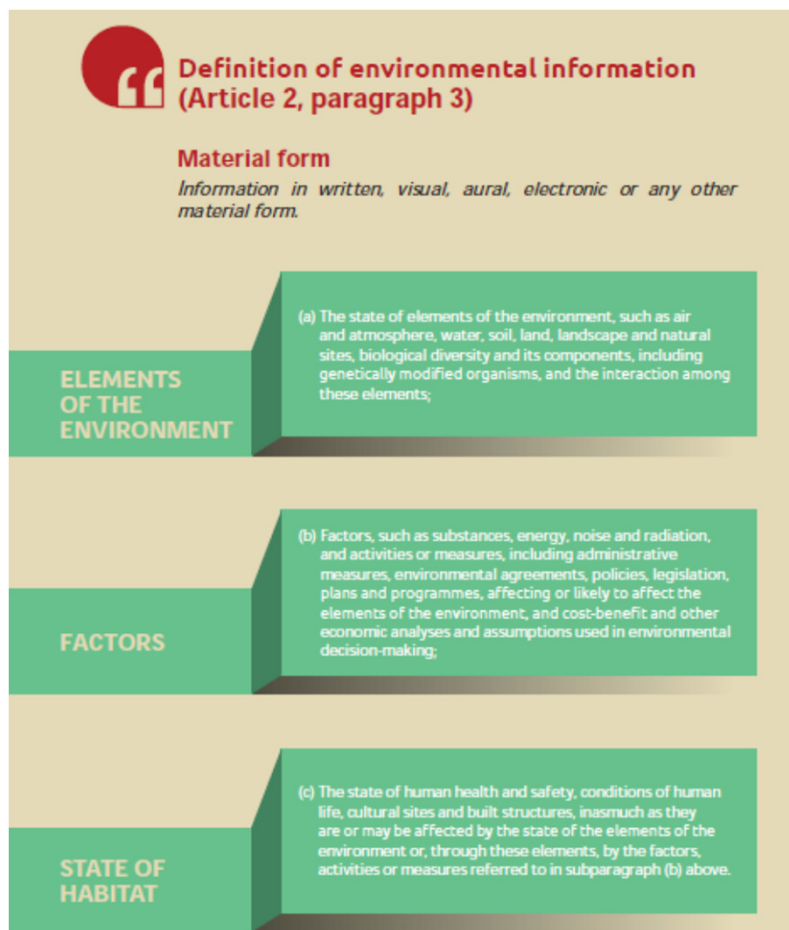
What's the soil and geological make-up of this land?

What can I see standing here? How many visitors come here? Why?

Why unlock our data vaults?

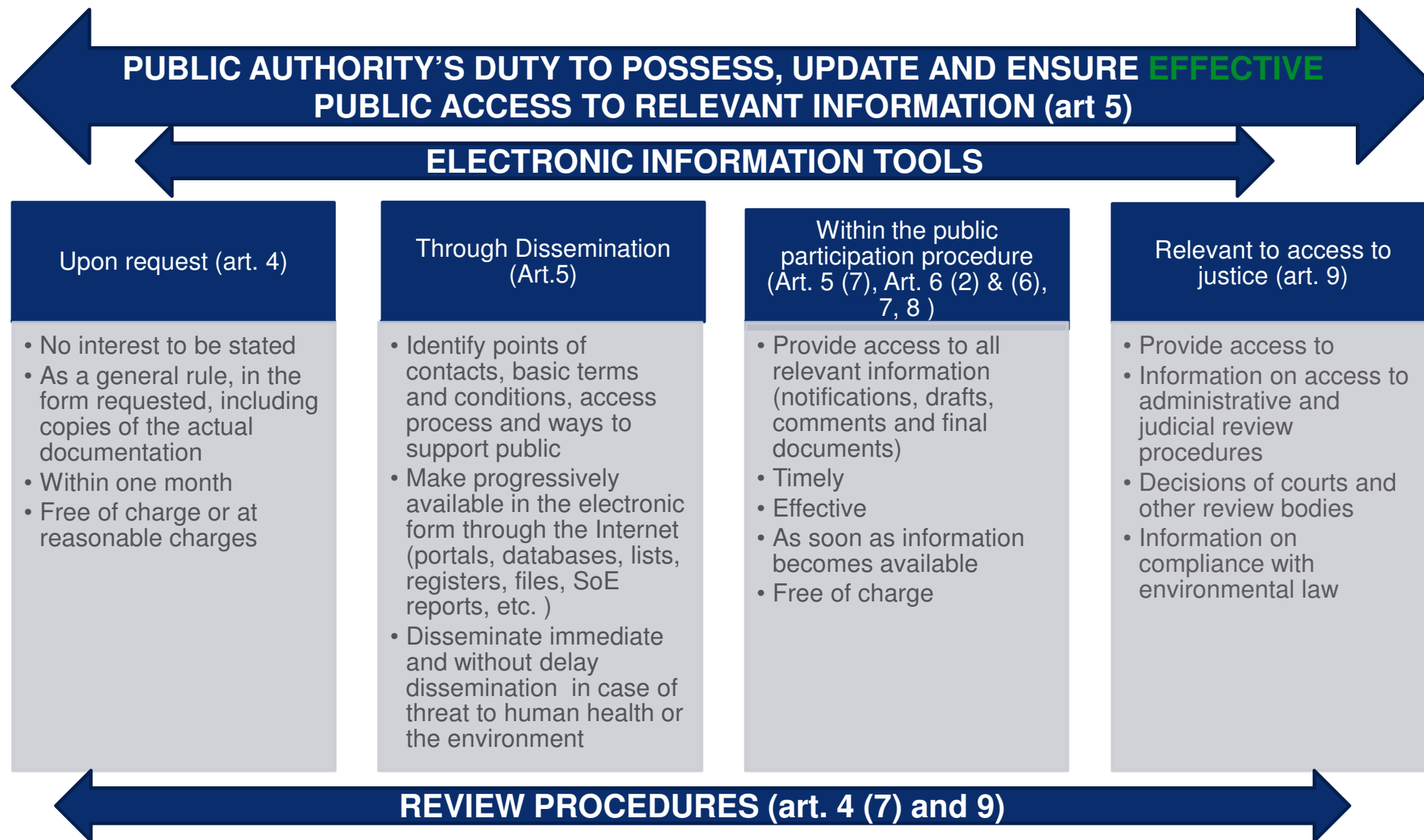
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Aarhus Convention: scope and types of environmental information

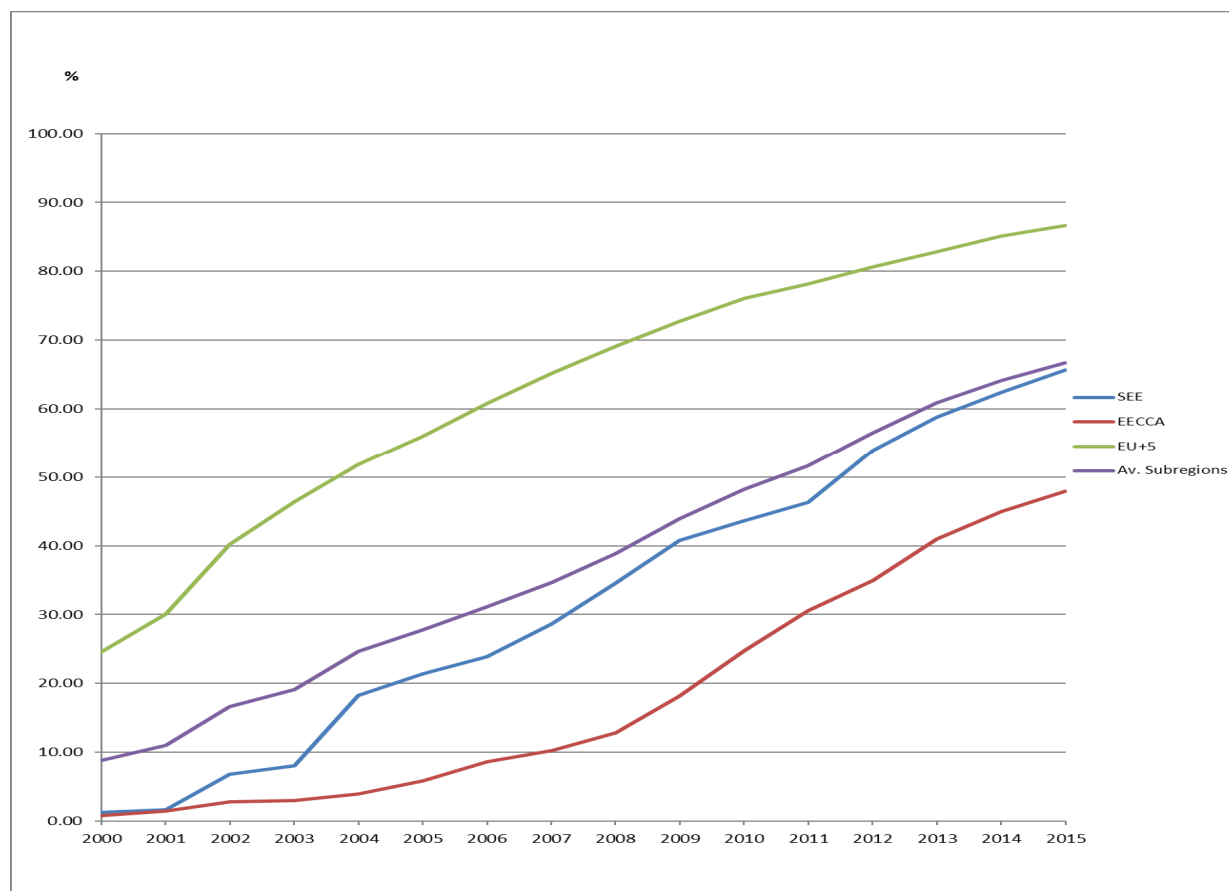


- Broad definition providing indicative and non-exhaustive list of examples (see also [decision VI/1](#) of the Meeting of the Parties, para. 6)
- Cross-sectoral nature of environmental information and its linkages with geospatial, statistical, hydrometeorological, health, Earth observation and other relevant information possessed by various public authorities
- Priority categories of information to be disseminated, including PRTRs data – see also [Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers](#), 2005 [Recommendations on Electronic Information Tools](#) (assessment reports in [2007](#), [2013](#) and [2017](#))
- Need to address potential gaps in access ([decision VI/1](#) of the Meeting of the Parties, para. 4)
- The potential of reports on the state of the environment
- Public accessibility of real-time, as appropriate, up-to-date, accurate and functional environmental information in forms and formats meeting the needs of different users ([decision VI/1](#) of the Meeting of the Parties, para. 5)

Aarhus Convention: Access to Information Pillar



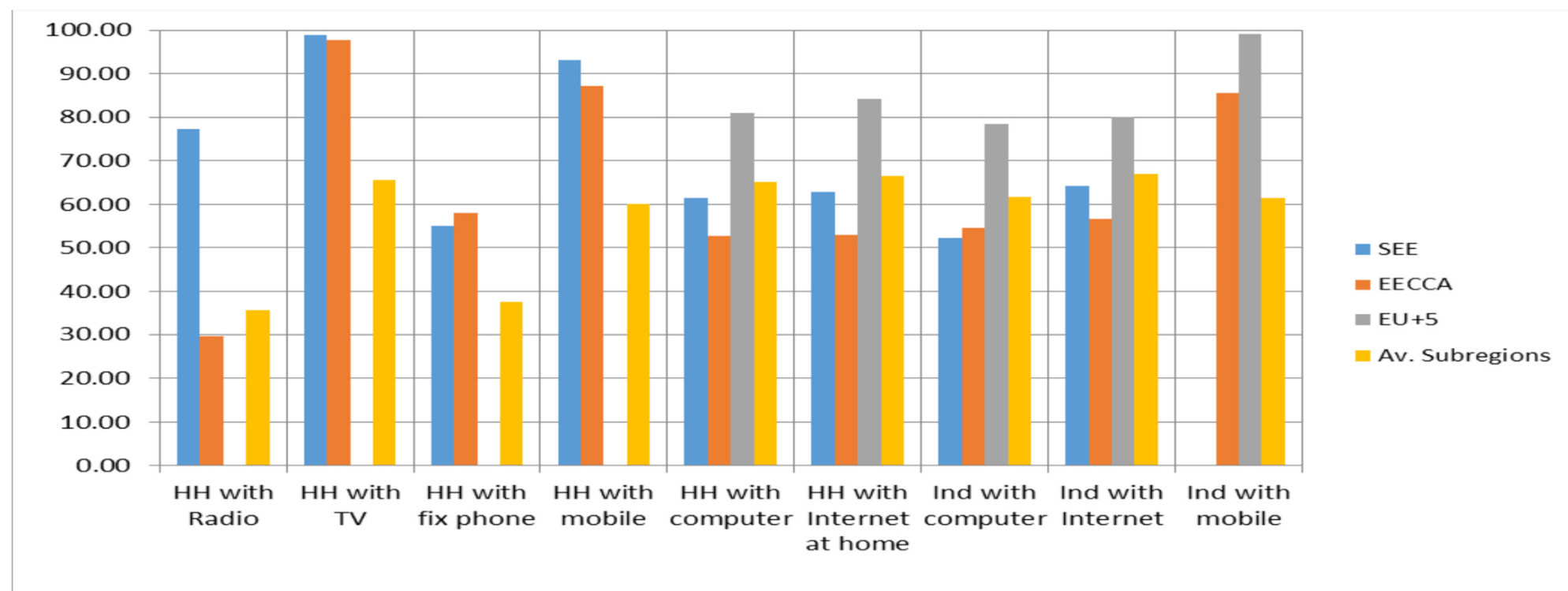
Access to ICTs (based on ITU statistics) II



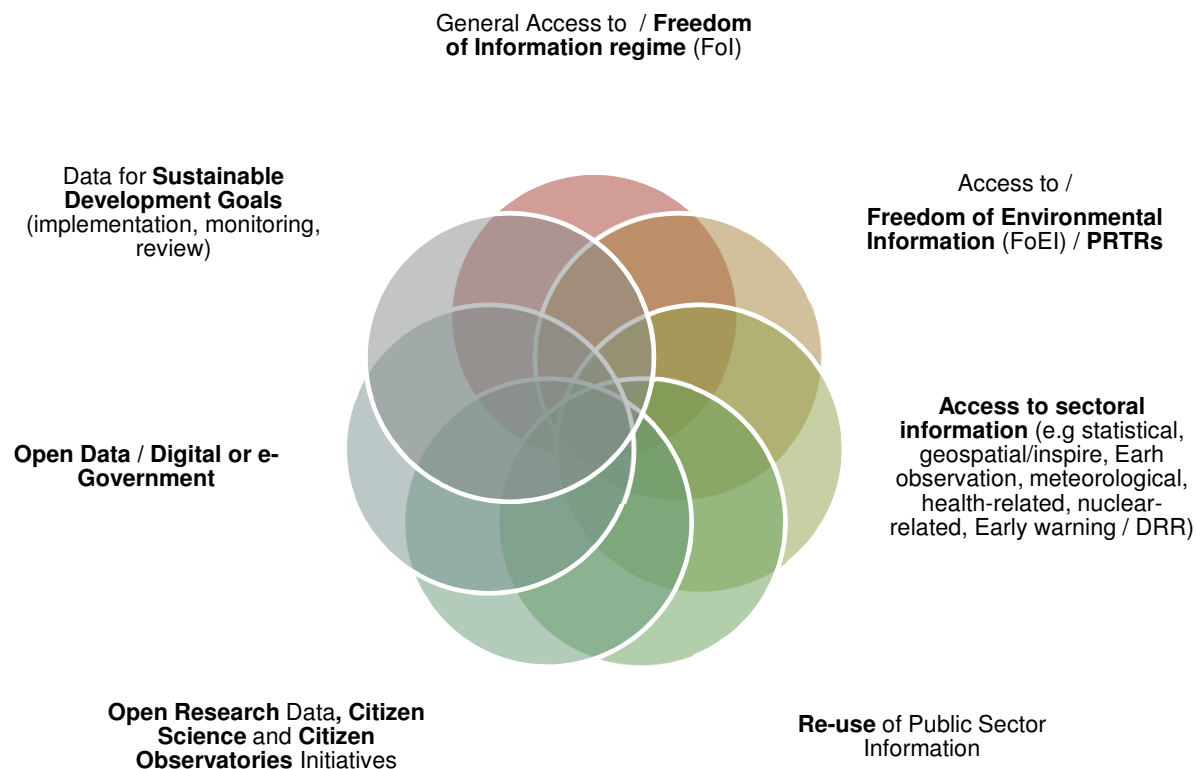
Average percentage of individuals using the Internet per subregion for 2000-2015

Access to ICTs (based on ITU statistics) I

Percentage of households with (HH) and individuals (Ind) using certain devices



Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs: potential for promoting integration



Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs: improving data sharing, dissemination and re-use

- Interoperability and data sharing were mainly supported through e-Government, Open Government Data, INSPIRE and SEIS initiatives
- Experience in:
 - Integrating environmental information in the e-Government and Open (Government) Data portals and establishing domestic interoperability framework - EU as well as Austria, France, Greece, Spain, UK...
 - Integrating information on a centralized specialized web portal with specific operational applications based on a geographic information system (GIS) – France, Serbia, Slovakia...
 - Establishing geospatial portals containing environmental information – EU, its Member States, Switzerland
 - Developing portals/webapplications/registries providing information on environmental decision-making (EIA, SEA) – Czechia, France, Slovakia, Ukraine...
 - Using portals of environmental public authorities – Ireland, Sweden
- Success lays in establishing comprehensive legal framework, common infrastructure and services (ensuring automated harvesting of data) and cooperation of public authorities – Austria, France, Spain...
- Interoperability influenced by changes in technology (e.g., cloud computing, blockchain, browser systems, and etc.), information policy, language issues and multi-stakeholder involvement
- Updating public data policies (e.g. open by default for non-sensitive data, open to one - open to all) and copyright licenses to facilitate re-use (e.g. creative commons)
- Increasing number of open research data and citizen science and citizen engagement initiatives

WGP and TF AI: power of sharing experience and expertise

- Continuous implementation of e-Government, Open Government Data and SEIS initiatives and promotion of the re-use of public sector environmental information
- Increasing availability of environmental information in the machine-readable formats and computational and statistical reproducibility
- Continuous work on implementing national interoperability schemas and metadata conventions
- Promoting the establishment of single web access points (single-window environmental information portals) and ensuring their sustainability
- Keeping under continuous review copyright licenses and the application of the exceptions in disclosure of environmental information
- Monitoring new emerging sources of environmental information and technologies for the collection and processing data (remote sensing/drones, big data, internet of things, blockchain, artificial intelligence, data cubes,, etc.), data labs and observatories
- Promoting user (public) participation and feedback in designing, testing, maintaining and improving
- Recognizing the role of citizen science, citizen observatories
- Promoting use of mobile applications (e.g. compliance, state of the environment, environmental services and etc.)
- Promoting cooperation between national focal points of different international forums dealing with access to environmental information and promoting use of electronic information tools

Widening public access to environmental information contributes to implementing Sustainable Development Goals, their monitoring (indicators) and review



Thank you!

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Web page: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>

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