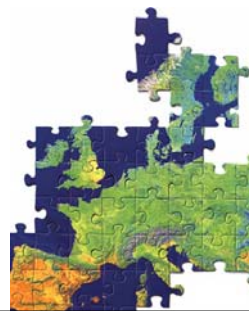


## Access to environmental information and environmental information management

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Overview and Experiences with European Environmental Legislation  
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## Summary

1. Directive 2003/4/EC overview
2. Italian Law n.195/2005
3. Opportunities for professionals
4. An example of Application

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## Directive 2003/4/EC - art 1

The objectives of this Directive are:

- (a) the right of access to environmental information
- (b) to ensure that, as a matter of course, environmental information is progressively made available and disseminated to the public ---> telecommunication and/or electronic technology

## Directive 2003/4/EC - art 2

Definitions of the Directive are:

- (a) Public authorities--> provide information
- (b) applicants--> any natural or legal person requesting environmental information

"Environmental information" shall mean any information in written, visual, aural, electronic or any other material form on:

- (a) the state of the elements of the environment,
- (b) factors, such as substances, energy, noise, radiation..
- (c) measures (including administrative measures),
- (d) reports on the implementation of envi. Legislation,
- (e) cost-benefit and other economic analyses
- (f) the state of human health and safety

- (a) texts of international treaties, conventions or agreements, and of Community, national, regional or local legislation, on the environment or relating to it
- (b) policies, plans and programmes
- (c) progress reports
- (d) the reports on the state of the environment
- (e) data or summaries of data derived from the monitoring
- (f) authorisations with a significant impact on the environment
- (g) environmental impact studies and risk assessments

## Example : Italian Law n.195/2005

- The Italian Decree has been approved the 19th august 2005 as implementation of the European Directive
- The Decree entered into force on 23th september 2005

### Other laws:

- n. 241/1990 concerning right to access administrative documents
- n. 82/ 2005 concerning electronic data management in the public administration

## Italian Law n.195/2005

- The italian public authorities were required to produce the first report within 30 december 2005 - (mostly unfulfilled)
- The italian public authorities are required to fully implement the European Directive 6 months a.r.(after receipt)
- esp. they are required to make available registers or list of env. information held by the public authority itself and plans for the EI management - (mostly unfulfilled)

Within 2 years a.r public authorities are required to fullfill art. 7 of the European Directive - i.e to make available:

- International treaties
- Studies
- Plan policies
- Authorizations
- Data
- .....

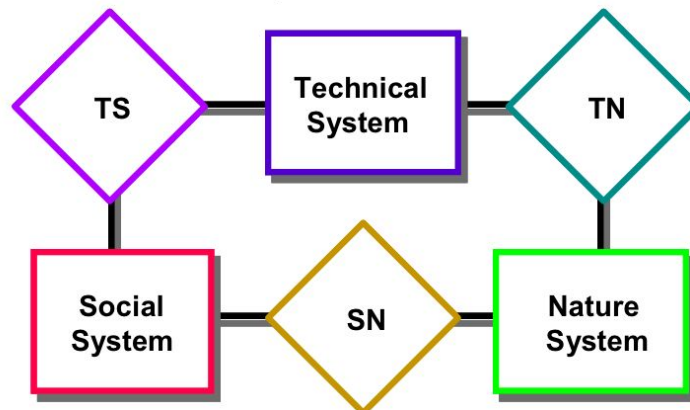
Directive 2003/4/EC represents a driven force towards EISs (**environmental information systems**) application

**EI demand is constantly growing**

EI is a **transverse** domain, crossing different professional application

EI is a right, but also an opportunity in the framework of the **knowledge-based economy**

## Environmental information



From SPINE (Carlson, Löfgren, Steen, 1995)

## Environmental Information System

The term "Environmental Information System" only came into wide use in the 1990s, concurrent with the advent of natural resource and environment action plans. The concept reflects our growing understanding of the link between environment and development. Thus, environmental information is the data, statistics, and other documents, that enable managers to identify and quantify specific environmental resource categories, and to determine their optimum utilization. Seen in this larger context, an EIS is the institutional and technical response needed to improve the role and benefits of information in **environmental management**.

### Domains involved with EI and data management

- Environmental Management
  - EMS
  - Environmental Rating
- Environmental Accountability
  - LCA
- Environmental Communication
  - Agenda 21 process
- Scientific process
  - Data standards
- Informatic Systems and tools
  - GIS
  - DBMS

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- Collection
- Ingestion
- Quality control
- Archiving and maintenance
- Rescue and conversion
- Access and Distribution
- Modelling
- Assimilation and Data Fusion

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*Within the strategy of the EU Sixth  
Environment Action Programme:*

- Supporting the provision of accessible information to citizens on the environment
- Providing a tool-kit of resources aimed at helping local and regional authorities or other organisations to communicate with citizens on environmental issues....”

CIRSA (Inter-Department Centre for the Environmental Research) and AISA have developed a system under the EMAS II standards to manage

- documents (policy, plans, programs, procedures)
- environmental analysis and data
- the list of the environmental aspect ordered by their significance
- the software for the significance calculation
- a DB system to manage the legal compliance





## CONCLUSIONS

The Directive 2003/4/EC claim the right to access environmental information and assume the need for a systematic environmental information management. Environmental information is a relevant part of the of the general information framework (institutional, economical, social, cultural) of our democratic systems.

Environmental professionals are called to contribute to the process of development supporting public institutions with methodologies, skills and tools.