

Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics
Oslo, Norway, 14 – 16 April 2008

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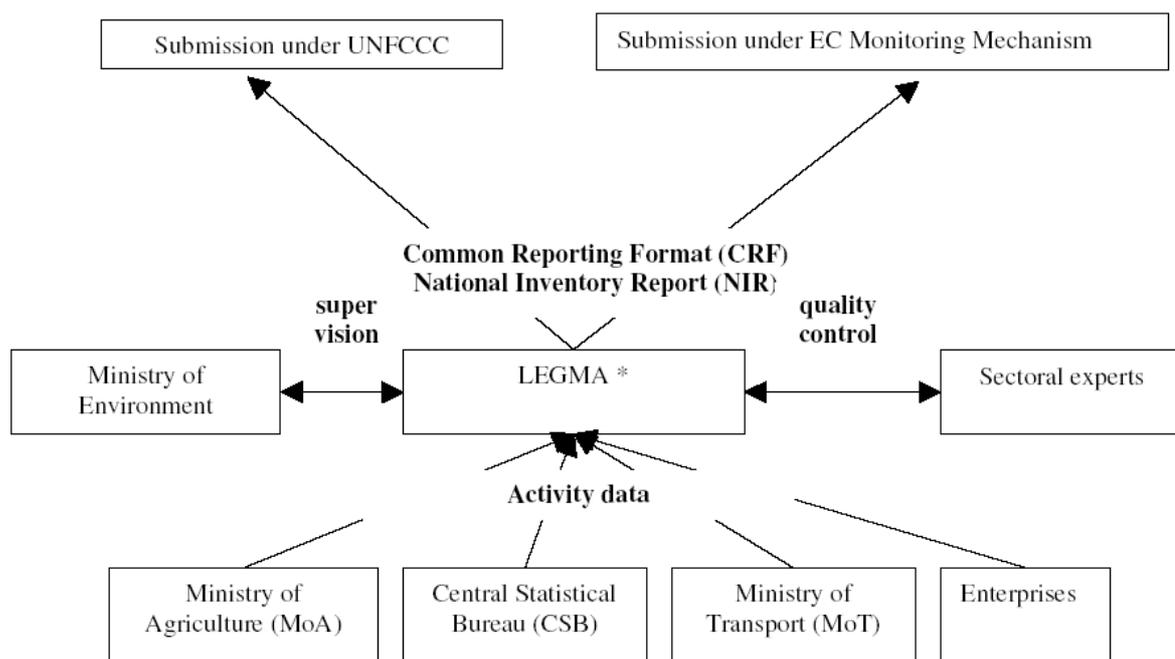
National Reporting System on Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Latvian Experience

Development of environmental and climate policy in Latvia began with the country's independence in 1991. A cornerstone for the national climate policy was put when United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 was signed. Progress towards the development of climate policy supported Latvia's way towards joining the EU. Before Latvia had not developed special national climate change policy instruments and mitigation efforts were carried out through the combination of environmental protection policies and development strategies of individual economic sectors: energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, industry and waste management.

By ratifying the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, Latvia assumed the commitment of reducing the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 8% in 2008-2012, compared to the 1990 level. In 1990, Latvia emitted 25,894 thousand tons CO₂ equivalent, i.e., to meet its Kyoto commitments in the period of 2008-2012, Latvia's annual emissions may not exceed 23,823 thousand tons CO₂ equivalent [Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency, (LEGMA, 2006)]. The greenhouse gas emission forecasts made by the Ministry of Environment suggest that Latvia will meet its commitments under Kyoto Protocol.

Annual inventory of GHG emissions and CO₂ removals as well as National Inventory Report (NIR) is prepared by the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency. The Latvian Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) is the basic statistical and activity data provider to LEGMA. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Transport (MoT) and enterprises are also co-partners by the elaboration of National Inventory Report. List of the main data and institutions responsible is given. After that when basic data are submitted to LEGMA the NIR is prepared by LEGMA. In separate cases Ministry of Agriculture prepares calculations of GHG emissions and CO₂ removals. The Ministry of Environment is supervising the process of preparation of GHG inventory and NIR.

Touching upon data collection in Latvia, since 2005, an institutional system involved in the gathering and processing of information related to environmental protection and sustainable development and responsible for environmental monitoring (including GHG emissions) and information dissemination to the public has also been developed. The institutions responsible for the Latvian GHG inventory are designated by the Ordinance of the Cabinet of Ministers No 220, also approving the Climate Change Mitigation Programme 2005-2010. A schematic model of the National system is shown in Figure 1



*Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency

Figure 1. National reporting system on greenhouse gas emissions

The main data sources used for activity data and information and responsible institutions are presented in Table 1.

Sectors	Data Sources for Activity Data and Calculations	Responsible institutions
Energy	Activity data	CSB
	Calculations	LEGMA
Transport	Activity data	CSB, MoT
	Calculations	LEGMA
Industrial processes	Activity data	CSB, Plant operators
	Calculations	LEGMA
Solvent and other product use	Activity data	CSB
	Calculations	LEGMA
Agriculture	Activity data	CSB
	Calculations	LEGMA
Land Use, Land Use Change, Forestry (LULUCF)	Activity data	MoA
	Calculations	MoA, LEGMA
Waste, Wastewater Handling	Activity data	LEGMA
	Calculations	

Table 1. Main data sources for activity data and emission values

A comprehensive Quality control/Quality assurance Plan for Inventory compilation is under development.