

# Activities in Latvia to establish the electronic information network for environmental management

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## Abstract

There is the work group under the Cabinet of Ministers to develop the national programme "Information" in Latvia since the Autumn of 1997. This group will develop the strategy for Latvian governmental, academic, education and business organisations to be able to use up-to-dated information technologies in their respective fields – the environment management field included.

The national investment project "Establishing common environment information system (EIS) in Latvia" was accepted by Government in 1996. Latvian Environment Data Centre (LEDC) is responsible for implementation of the project. The project was intended as the extension of the activities carried out in Latvia to establish Local Area Networks (LAN) in the LEDC and in the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD) of Latvia with the technical and financial support of US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in 1994–1995.

Now the main achievement is the backbone of Wide Area Network (WAN) to link LANs in the following institutions

- Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development,
- Latvian Environment Data Centre,
- Environment Consulting and Monitoring Centre,
- Latvian Hydrometeorological Agency,
- State Environment Inspectorate,
- State Environment Impact Assessment Board,
- State Geology Survey,
- 8 Regional Environmental Boards.

The leased line connections are used in Riga (capital of Latvia) and the dial-up connections for Regional Environment Boards. The service of Government Data Communication Network (GDCN) is used to establish the WAN. The GDCN was announced by Government as the backbone for establish-

ing wide spread network for governmental organizations in Latvia. All developments will be based on this network in the future.

LEDC was nominated as European Environment Agency (EEA) National Focal Point of Latvia in 1996 and in the framework of Environment Information Observation Network (EIONET) the EIONET node point will be established and will operate in LEDC in 1998 to build-up capacity in the context of Europe.

The next step in the WAN development will be establishing the topic centers and providing on-line acces to the topics centers by using WWW, Oracle DBMS and GIS technologies according to the "Information Strategy of MEPRD for 1997–2002".