

MINUTES

EPNB-21, Aarhus, June 19, 2024

- Participants: Ika Djukic, Monika Suchowska-Kisielewicz, Roy Wichink Kruit, Wilfried Winiwarter
- On-line participants: Ulli Dragosits, Markus Geupel, Karin Groenestein, Bettina Schäppi
- Co-chairs Markus and Wilfried, session chaired by Wilfried
- Presentations will be shared on the EPNB web site

Welcome (Wilfried, overview slides)

This meeting is relevant to officially inform and interact with TFRN regarding the next steps with regard to the review and revision of the EPNB Guidance document. However, time constraints (limitation to two hours) will not allow comprehensive and detailed exchange. Such exchange will be possible at the upcoming dedicated EPNB-22 meeting, already scheduled for Dessau, November 5-6. Today's meeting serves to prepare EPNB-22 in Dessau, and to collect all endorsement from TFRN that may be required.

Review & revision of the Guidance Document and its technical annexes on National Nitrogen Budgets (Bettina, slides)

Contracted by the German UBA, Bettina converts the existing guidance to allow assessing national nitrogen budgets into a more consistent and user-friendly version. Her and her colleagues' work consists of

- Collecting feedback from previous users
- Harmonization of structures and nomenclatures
- Development of an Excel template for data collection and as a basis for visualization
- Developing a new GD Annex on "waste"
- Organizing a review and integrating review responses.

Support by EPNB experts will be required for the review. Experts are invited to provide feedback to individual sections of the updated document. Please, consider your cooperation and support by reviewing one of the annexes. This would be extremely helpful and of course reviewers will be mentioned in the final document. (Self-)Nomination of experts will be by July 28, and the review process itself will be organized in October, allowing for (first) consideration of the results by EPNB-22 in early November.

Tour de table (informal, including news from individual countries)

Markus informs on ongoing work of UBA (executed by the University of Gießen, Martin Bach) to update the German NNB for the time period 2015-2020. The draft report is now under final review.

Ulli informs about Scottish Government annual update to their statutory NNB (3rd report due soon). Two small projects by the WWF (in collaboration with SEI, Kevin Hicks) cover the import/export data of N-related compounds (<https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/Trade-Import-Export-Nitrogen-Flow-Estimation-for-the-UK.pdf>) and a first version of a UK-wide budget.

(<https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/UKCEH-UK-Nitrogen-Balance-Report.pdf>) resulting in an overview sheet (<https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/Nitrogen-balance-sheet.pdf>). DEFRA commissioned a work package on developing the UK soil nutrient balances for agriculture by harmonising with the agricultural emission inventory. As part of this work, Ulli has been recommending links to economy-wide nutrient balances.

Monika introduces herself as Polish TFRN representative. She has contributed to urban N budgets (UNCNET) and is currently working on circular economy approaches in Mixed Dairy systems in the DairyMix project. Her primary expertise is on waste and waste water.

Ika reports that the Austrian N budget report now has been released and is to be published in the next week. She works on a brochure and a scientific manuscript. Next activity will be a national integrated N indicator similar to the German approach.

Karin and *Roy* agree on jointly exploring opportunities for a Dutch N budget. A “call for data” is considered helpful to move forward on such an activity.

Wilfried contributes to budgets on the global scale for N₂O. A breakdown of such budgets to the national scale is under way in the EYE-CLIMA project, which intends to operationalize inverse modelling approaches for N₂O as well as for CH₄ and selected F-gases (and black carbon) for interested national inventory agencies.

Work plan (Wilfried)

The WGSR Chairman explicitly encouraged EPNB to present this important tool in relevant ways to policy makers. The items already agreed and added to the WGSR work plan are re-iterated. Based on current activities described above, items “**Revised Guidance document on national nitrogen budgets**” and “**Extended summary for policymakers**” are seen as developing well and submission date of Feb 2025 seems easily realistic. Further activities have been noted as “subject to funding”, a “**Policy brief**” by September 2025 at this time seems nevertheless doable, and the “**Call for data**” first of all will require resources on the side of the participating countries (foreseen to be released in Feb 2025 or at the next TFRN meeting – here guidance by TFRN chairs will be sought). No change in the work plan is required at this point in time.

The upcoming informal WGSR meeting (October 2024, Leuven) seems a good platform to share intentions with country representatives, and relevant guidance of TFRN chairs will be sought.

Closing: On behalf of TFRN, co-chair Claudia Marques-dos-Santos closes the meeting

Markus Geupel and Wilfried Winiwarter, June 21, 2024