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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
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Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties:  
information exchange**

**Information exchange and management requirements under the  
Stockholm Convention and other information relevant to the  
development of a draft of a strategic plan for establishing  
procedures for the operation of the clearing-house mechanism  
under the Convention\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. As referred to in document UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/9, set out in the annexes to the present note are:
  - (a) An analysis of the information-exchange needs of Parties to the Convention (annex I);
  - (b) An analysis of information exchange and management requirements under the Convention (annex II);
  - (c) An analysis of the Secretariat situation in the exchange of information on persistent organic pollutants (annex III);
  - (d) Examples of performance indicators for the clearing-house mechanism evaluations (annex IV).
2. The annexes have not been formally edited.

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.3/1.

\*\* Stockholm Convention, Article 9; report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30), annex I, decision SC-2/17.

## Annex I

### Information exchange needs of Parties

#### Introduction

1. In addition to the requirements of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants relating to information exchange, Parties have identified specific information needs on various occasions, such as at the subregional workshops on support for the implementation of the Convention held in 2001 and 2002 and at subsequent meetings, including workshops for national focal points. Furthermore, the national implementation plans submitted to the Secretariat to date have identified the need for assistance in the implementation of the Convention in the form of information relating to persistent organic pollutants (POPs). In accordance with decision INC.6/7 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, Governments have submitted comments to the Secretariat related to the design, development, operation and scope of a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on POPS, including views on its necessary content.

2. The following analysis of Parties' needs for information exchange is based exclusively on the information contained in the documents listed in the appendix to the present annex; to date, no systematic collection of this type of information has taken place. The analysis, therefore, is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive. Moreover, it should be noted that some of the information dates back a few years and that the development and implementation of the Convention through national implementation plans will create new needs that will have to be addressed as they emerge. It should also be noted that the needs for information and information exchange listed below were often expressed in contexts other than in connection with the clearing-house mechanism; it should not be assumed, therefore, that the clearing-house mechanism is the sole means of exchanging information. Nevertheless, it is possible to draw some conclusions from the information presented below for the purpose of defining the range of information needed to identify potential improvements of the clearing-house.

3. Although the identified needs for information and information exchange have been organized to reflect the structure of the Convention, they may have been expressed in a different context. Some information needs were expressed by several sources but in different terms, such as the need to create and further foster regional and subregional cooperation and information exchange; where possible and appropriate, these needs have been reformulated to reflect a single need, indicating nevertheless the different ways in which the same point was expressed.

### **I. Intentionally produced POPs (Articles 3 and 4)**

#### **A. General**

4. With respect to pesticides and industrial chemicals, Parties have repeatedly emphasized that information exchange is of paramount importance and that information exchange should include the sharing of experiences between Parties and signatory States.

5. The clearing-house should include information on POPs research and studies. International mechanisms to promote research activities and data exchange should be established and the dissemination of findings of research on intentionally produced POPs should be promoted. Cooperation between systems involved in the research, development, monitoring and exchange of information on POPs both regionally and internationally should be fostered.

6. An information database on intentionally produced POPs should be developed. The clearing-house mechanism could also cover toxic chemicals that are not subject to the Convention.

7. Information regarding the illegal import, export and use could be exchanged through the clearing-house mechanism.

## **B. Alternatives**

8. Assistance is needed with regard to providing access to a comprehensive list of pesticides which can be used as alternatives to POPs. Information exchange – at least in the subregions – on how to produce and use alternatives to POPs would be useful. It has been suggested that a database on chemical substitutes to POPs, including information on the environmental risks associated with using those substitutes and on their economic and social impact and costs, should be developed in the context of the clearing-house mechanism.

9. Information exchange on research and development regarding alternatives to DDT is needed, as is information on successful programmes to eliminate the use of DDT and on best practices to reduce resistance to DDT.

## **C. Information related to specific substances**

10. In particular with respect to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), there is a need for information exchange regarding:

- (a) Uniform sampling and analytical procedures;
- (b) Registration of data;
- (c) Labelling;
- (d) Hot spot identification and reporting.

## **II. Unintentionally produced POPs (Article 5)**

11. As is the case with intentionally produced POPs, the sharing of experiences within and between subregions and regions with respect to unintentionally produced POPs is of the utmost importance.

12. It has been suggested that there is a need to establish a knowledge base (database, research centre, website) and to initiate the development of a global information database on unintentionally produced POPs, including a directory of experts on unintentionally produced POPs who are available for consultation.

13. In addition, international and regional hotline support, networking and access to computers and software could be envisaged.

14. Information related to the development of an action plan to identify, characterize and address releases of unintentionally produced POPs and to facilitate the implementation of practical measures to reduce releases and eliminate sources is essential.

15. With respect to best available techniques and best environmental practices, general knowledge transfer is needed, as is information on the best available techniques and best environmental practices used in developed countries to manage unintentionally produced POPs.

## **III. Stockpiles, wastes and contaminated sites (Article 6)**

16. Exchange of information and sharing of national and international experiences with respect to the management of stockpiles and wastes is needed. In addition, information on the management of alternatives to unused and obsolete chemicals, other wastes and priority chemicals is necessary.

17. Parties need information related to the identification of contaminated sites, such as criteria for identifying contaminated sites, methodology for the risk assessment of contaminated sites and options for remediation measures. Information is also needed on remediation techniques for sites which are contaminated with chemicals.

18. Information on existing projects may be useful.

#### **IV. Other technical information**

19. In addition to the information needs listed with respect to Articles 3–6, Parties have indicated that they need more general information regarding the management of chemicals, including information on:

- (a) Environmental behaviour of chemicals, including pesticides;
- (b) International safety data sheets;
- (c) Internationally recognized databases.

#### **V. National implementation plans (Article 7)**

20. Given that there is an obvious need to exchange national experiences in preparing and implementing national implementation plans, workshops have been held to address this need. Specific questions, for example on how countries integrate their national implementation plans into other national environmental action plans and policies, could be addressed in more detail.

#### **VI. Information exchange and public awareness (Articles 9 and 10)**

21. National focal points, to be designated pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, could be established at all levels of Government.

22. The development and implementation of national implementation plans should include the appointment of a national focal point to provide for information exchange on the basis of a network of interacting organizations, including governmental, research, non-governmental, monitoring, international and other organizations. New information technologies should be used for these purposes, including databases, internet technologies and others.

23. There should be improved communication and information exchange between the national focal points for the different conventions, in order to promote the integration of activities under Stockholm Convention and other related instruments.

24. With respect to the obligation to raise public awareness on POPs, the need for sharing country experiences of successes and failures has been highlighted. This could be done, inter alia, through the publication of a booklet on good practices and success stories.

25. Information on experiences with national pollutant release and transfer registers is also needed.

26. To promote public awareness, national or local information and documentation centres could be established. Any materials produced to raise public awareness could be exchanged through the clearing-house mechanism.

27. Finally, the need to help countries strengthen public awareness of existing and planned projects through the media has been identified.

#### **VII. Enhanced cooperation at the subregional, regional and inter-regional levels with respect to information exchange**

28. A number of the documents<sup>1</sup> surveyed for the present analysis include recommendations for enhanced cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in the area of information exchange. In most regions, there seems to be a need for increased information exchange among Parties on issues related to POPs and for developing strategies and mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of data, information and expertise, for example using the internet. These strategies and mechanisms could also include the establishment of discussion forums on themes relating to the Convention, possibly at the regional level using the internet or other networks. It has also been proposed to develop regional or subregional action plans for sharing information on POPs and other hazardous chemicals.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of references is contained in the appendix to the present annex.

29. Information exchange could prove to be of practical use for the Parties with respect to laboratory facilities. For example, information could be exchanged on existing authorized laboratories for screening activities and on databases or lists of disposal facilities and other laboratories in each subregion or region.
30. Another area for potential strengthened regional cooperation is project development and implementation. The exchange of information between countries that are advanced in the project procedure (development and implementation) could be helpful. The dissemination of information on the current status of implementation of a given project and its expected or actual results could be helpful to other countries in the region working on similar projects.
31. Generally, regional exchange of information and experiences relating to the management and final disposal of POPs should be encouraged. In this sense, regional and subregional centres for collection, exchange and sharing of information such as information on legal instruments and standards and information on available facilities for treatment and disposal could be established and guidelines on how they should operate could be developed. Existing regional and subregional centres involved in training, information and technology transfer could be strengthened to meet the requirements of national implementation plans.

### VIII. Technical assistance

32. The following additional needs for information and exchange of information have been identified with regard to technical assistance:
- (a) Manuals, procedures and good management practices of leading organizations on chemicals management should be made available;
  - (b) Assistance should be provided with regard to the acquisition of specific support in the field of information technology, such as CD-ROMS, hardware and software;
  - (c) Information should be provided on the scope of national authorities' competences;
  - (d) A roster of national and international experts on chemicals management should be drawn up, including information about the experts' fields of expertise.
33. UNEP materials and documents should be distributed regularly and not just at the time of meetings and workshops. It should be made available to the public free of charge in libraries and on the internet.
34. The Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) project is necessary for the exchange of information on chemicals and for the development of technical infrastructure; it should therefore be extended to other countries.
35. Finally, the clearing-house could include information related to the issues listed in paragraph 10 of decision SC-1/15 on technical assistance, as set forth in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31). Many of those issues are listed above.

### IX. List of references

- Proceedings of the regional workshop on capacity-building for Stockholm Convention focal points, Marrakech, Morocco, 28 February–4 March 2005.
- Proceedings of the workshop on implementation of the Stockholm Convention in developed countries, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 16–18 June 2004. (<http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/gef/Neuchproc.pdf>).
- Overview and summary of outcomes of the subregional workshops on support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention working groups, a Global Environmental Facility Medium-Sized Project. (<http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/gef/mspoverview.pdf>).
- Propuesta de trabajo para el establecimiento de una red nacional de intercambio de información de COPs y otros Productos Químicos, La Habana, Cuba, Diciembre 2004.
- National implementation plans submitted by Latvia, the Republic of Moldova and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. (<http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips/submissions/default.htm>).

- UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/28: The Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) Project: Capacity-building for the Sound Management of Chemicals.
- UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31: Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its first meeting.
- UNEP/POPS/INC.7/INF/16: Submissions received in response to Committee Decisions INC-6/3, INC-6/7, INC-6/8, INC-6/9, INC-6/10, INC-6/11, INC-6/13 and INC-6/16.
- UNEP/POPS/INC.7/12: Work plan and budget for the initiation and maintenance of a clearing-house mechanism for information exchange on persistent organic pollutants.
- UNEP/POPS/INC.7/28: Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its seventh session.

## Annex II

### Analysis of information exchange and management requirements under the Convention

1. In its decision SC-2/17, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the information set out below shall fall within the scope of the clearing-house mechanism.
2. The Convention identifies information which Parties exchange directly or through the Secretariat, or submit to the Secretariat, including information relevant to the following:
  - (a) The certification to be provided by a Party exporting a chemical listed in Annex A or B to a State not Party to the Convention (subparagraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3);
  - (b) The register of specific exemptions (Article 4);
  - (c) Action plans for addressing unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (Article 5);
  - (d) Implementation plans (Article 7);
  - (e) Results of research, development and monitoring pertaining to persistent organic pollutants (Article 11);
  - (f) Party reporting (Article 15);
  - (g) Effectiveness evaluation (Article 16);
  - (h) Notifications pursuant to notes (ii) and (iii) in Annex A and notes (ii) and (iii) in Annex B;
  - (i) Reports on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls (Part II of Annex A);
  - (j) Use of DDT for disease vector control (Part II of Annex B).
3. The Convention further identified information exchange activities involving both Parties and observers, including information relevant to listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B or C (Article 8).
4. Information is also disseminated by the Secretariat in the performance of its functions pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, including:
  - (a) Meeting schedules and arrangements;
  - (b) Meeting documents and reports;
  - (c) Information to facilitate assistance to Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in their implementation of the Convention;
  - (d) Information communicated as part of activities to ensure necessary coordination with secretariats of other international bodies;
  - (e) Periodic reports to Parties based on information received pursuant to Article 15 and other relevant information;
  - (f) Other information pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies.
5. In addition to the above, the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting requested the Secretariat to perform the following activities involving information exchange:
  - (a) Publish on the Convention website a list of contributions received and keep the list up to date (decision SC-1/4, paragraph 19);
  - (b) Develop a roster of experts whose assistance could be sought with respect to the development of action plans (decision SC-1/12, paragraph 6).

6. The Secretariat has conducted a further analysis of the text of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties and identified more detail information elements and the main actors participating in information exchange. The table below contains the outcome of this analysis. The Secretariat will keep this list up-to-date to facilitate planning and assessment of the time and resources required for a successful clearing-house mechanism.

	Shaded cells refer to reporting obligations under Article 15
	White cells refer to explicit information exchange under that Article
N/D	Not yet defined

Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
3.1.(a) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	Legal and administrative <b>measures</b> to eliminate production, use, import and export of Annex A Chemicals
3.1.(b) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	Legal and administrative <b>measures</b> to restrict production and use of Annex B Chemicals
3.2.(a) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to ensure import only for disposal or under exemption for Annex A, B Chemicals
3.2.(b), 3.2.(c) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to ensure export only for disposal, under exemption or for acceptable purposes for Annex A, B Chemicals
3.2.(b) (iii) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory	Exporting Party	Secretariat	Importing State <b>certification</b> and <b>supporting documentation</b>
3.2.(b) (iii) Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties having regulatory & assessment schemes	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to regulate with the aim of preventing production & use of potential new POPs
3.6 Intentional prod.& use	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties having a specific exemption	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to prevent/minimize exposure and release of Annex A, B Chemicals
4.1 Register of exemptions	Mandatory	Secretariat	Public	<b>Register</b> of specific exemptions (Annex A,B)
4.3 Register of exemptions	Mandatory	Party requiring a specific exemption	Secretariat	<b>Notification</b> requesting exemption (Annex A,B)

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<sup>2</sup>

“(Art. 15)” indicates that this information is to be reflected in national reports pursuant to Article 15.



Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
4.6 Register of exemptions	Mandatory	Party requiring a specific exemption	Secretariat ->public	<b>Report</b> justifying continuing need for exemption (Annex A,B)
4.6 SC-1/24.2 Register of exemptions	Mandatory	Secretariat	All Parties	- Copy of <b>report</b> justifying continuing need for exemption - <b>Request</b> for other available information, in English
4.6 SC-1/24.2 Register of exemptions	Mandatory	Parties (having information)	Secretariat	<b>Other information</b> relevant to report
4.6	Mandatory	Secretariat	All Parties	All collected information relevant to report and translated as necessary
4.6	Mandatory	Secretariat	All Parties	<b>Recommendations</b> and any <b>report</b> by group of experts
5.(a) Unintentional production	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Action plan</b> to identify, characterize and address the releases of chemicals listed in Annex C
5.(a)(i) Unintentional production	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Source inventories &amp; release estimates</b> of chemicals listed in Annex C
5.(b) Unintentional production	Optional	Parties	National stakeholders & secretariat	<b>Promotional materials</b> on measures for release reduction and source elimination of chemicals listed in Annex C
5.(c) Unintentional production	Optional	Parties	national stakeholders & secretariat	<b>Promotional materials</b> on development and use of substitute materials, products and processes to prevent formation and releases of chemicals listed in Annex C
5.(d)(e) Unintentional production	Optional	Secretariat (COP)	Parties, public	Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention ( <b>BAT/BEP guidelines</b> )
5.(d)(e) Unintentional production	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to implement BAT/BEP guidelines (for part II new sources) and promote BAT/BEP
5.(d)(e) Unintentional production	Optional	Parties	national stakeholders & Secretariat	<b>Promotional materials</b> & measures to use BAT/BEP
5.(g) Unintentional production		Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Release thresholds &amp; performance standards</b> (Annex C)

Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
6.1.(a) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Strategies for identification</b> of stockpiles, products/articles in use, wastes
6.1.(b) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Inventory</b> of stockpiles (Annex A,B)
6.1.(c) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to manage stockpiles in safe, efficient and environmental sound manner
6.1.(d) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to manage wastes in environmentally sound manner
Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Inventory</b> of destruction or irreversible transformation of POPs
6.1.(d)(ii) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Strategies for identification</b> of contaminated sites
6.1.(e) Stockpiles & wastes	Optional	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Inventory</b> of contaminated sites
6.2.(a) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP, Basel)	Parties	<b>Standards on wastes destruction &amp; transformation levels</b>
6.2.(b) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP, Basel)	Parties	Environmentally sound <b>disposal methods</b>
6.2.(c) Stockpiles & wastes	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP, Basel)	Parties	<b>Low POPs content</b> levels definition and <b>thresholds</b>
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Guidance</b> for developing <b>national implementation plans</b>
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Guidance</b> on social and economic assessment of national implementation plans
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Guidance</b> on action plan costs calculations
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Guidance</b> on action plans for specific POPs
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Roster of experts</b> (action plan related)
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties	<b>Guidance</b> for review and updating of national implementation plans

Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
7.1 National implementation plans	Mandatory	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>National implementation plans</b>
7 National implementation plans	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Report</b> on national implementation plans implementation and effectiveness
7.3 National implementation plans	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to integrate national implementation plans in national sustainable development strategies
8.1 8.2 Listing of chemicals	Optional	Party	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	<b>Proposal</b> for listing a chemical in Annexes A, B, C
8.4.(a) Listing of chemicals	Mandatory	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Parties, observers	<b>Proposal</b> for listing a chemical in Annexes A, B, C POPs Review Committee <b>evaluation &amp; recommendation</b>
8.4.(a) Listing of chemicals	Optional	Parties, Observers	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Information for risk profile
8.5 Listing of chemicals	Optional	Party	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Resubmission, concerns and justification for additional consideration Challenge the decision of the Review Committee at COP meeting
8.6 Listing of chemicals	Mandatory	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Parties, observers	Draft <b>risk profile</b>
8.6 Listing of chemicals	Optional	Parties, observers	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Technical <b>comments</b> on draft risk profile
8.6 8.7.(b) Listing of chemicals	Mandatory	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Parties, observers	Completed <b>risk profile</b>
8.7.(a) Listing of chemicals	Optional	Parties, observers	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Information related to social and economic considerations
8.7.(a) Listing of chemicals	Mandatory	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	Parties, observers	Risk management <b>evaluation</b>
8.8 Listing of chemicals	Optional	Party	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Request</b> to instruct the Review Committee to invite additional information from Parties & observers
8.8 Listing of chemicals	Optional	Parties, observers	Secretariat (POPs Review Committee)	<b>Requested additional information</b> on inclusion of the chemical in annexes A, B, C
8.9 Listing of chemicals	Mandatory	Secretariat (COP)	Parties, observers	<b>Decision</b> on inclusion of chemical in annexes A, B, C

Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
9.1.(a) Information exchange	Mandatory	Parties	Secretariat, other stakeholders	<b>Information</b> relevant to reduction or elimination of production, use and release of chemicals listed in Annex A, B, C and other POPs
9.1.(b) Information exchange	Mandatory	Parties	Secretariat, other stakeholders	<b>Information</b> relevant to alternatives & their risks and social and economic costs
9.3 Information exchange	Mandatory	Parties	Secretariat (circulation)	Information exchange: <b>national focal point contact details</b>
9.4 Information exchange	Mandatory	Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	Secretariat (circulation)	Information exchange on POPs
10(a)-(e) 10.3 Public information awareness and education	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to implement Art. 10, including involving industry and professional users, awareness for policy and decision makers, public education and participation, training for workers, managers, scientists etc.
Public information awareness and education	Optional	Parties, representatives of industry and professional users	Secretariat, all stakeholders	Educational and <b>public awareness materials</b> , education and training programmes (national, international)
10 (f)(g) 10.3 Public information awareness and education	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to provide public access to up-to-date information on POPs
10.5 Public information awareness and education	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to introduce mechanisms like pollutant release transfer registers in national data collection and dissemination
11.1, 11.2 Research, development and monitoring	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to encourage/undertake and support research, development and monitoring on POPs
11.2 (e ) Research, development and monitoring	Mandatory	Parties	Public	Results of research, development and monitoring activities
12.2 Technical assistance	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> and cooperation activities to provide technical assistance
12 Technical assistance	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	Technical assistance received
12.4 Technical assistance	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to promote transfer of technology
13.1 Financial resources and mechanism	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to provide financial support and incentives

Article	Status <sup>2</sup>	From	To	Information
13.2 Financial resources and mechanism	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> to provide new and additional financial resources
13.3 Financial resources and mechanism	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Information on financial resources</b> provided through bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels
15.2 (a) Reporting	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Statistical data</b> on total quantities of production, import and export of chemicals listed in Annex A and B
15.2 (b) Reporting	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>List of States</b> participating in import and export of chemicals listed in Annex A and B
16.2 Effectiveness evaluation	Mandatory	Parties & existing monitoring programmes	Secretariat (COP)	Comparable <b>monitoring data</b> on the presence in the environment of chemicals listed Annex A, B and C
16.2 (a) Effectiveness evaluation	Mandatory	Parties (regionally)	Parties (regionally)	Information on <b>monitoring programmes</b> and on <b>harmonization of approaches</b>
16.2 (c) Effectiveness evaluation	Mandatory	Parties (regionally and globally)	Secretariat (COP)	Reports on the <b>results of monitoring activities</b> (regional and global)
17 Non-compliance	Mandatory	N/D	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Non-compliance</b> information
20. (a)(d) Secretariat	Mandatory	Secretariat	All Parties	<b>Meeting documents, reports, decisions</b>
Annex A - Elimination Annex B - Restriction - notes ii	Mandatory	Parties (having chemicals as constituents of articles in use)	Secretariat => public	<b>Notification</b> of constituents of articles remaining in use (Annex A,B)
Annex A - Elimination Annex B - Restriction - notes iii	Mandatory	Parties (closed-system site-limited intermediate)	Secretariat (COP) => public	<b>Notification</b> of production and use in closed-system site-limited intermediate (Annex A,B)
Annex A - Elimination - Part II	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Measures</b> pursuant to part II of Annex A
Annex A - Elimination - Part II - (g)	Mandatory (Art. 15)	Parties	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Report on progress</b> eliminating PCBs
Annex B - Restriction - Part II - 1, 3	Mandatory	Parties (using or producing DDT)	Secretariat (COP)	<b>Notification</b> to include in DDT register
Annex B - Restriction - Part II - 4	Mandatory	Parties (using or producing DDT)	Secretariat and WHO	Information on <b>DDT use, conditions and relevance</b> for the Party
Annex B - Restriction - Part II - 7	Optional	Parties (in the DDT registry)	Secretariat => public	<b>Notification</b> of withdrawal from DDT register

## Annex III

### Analysis of the Secretariat situation in the exchange of information on persistent organic pollutants<sup>‡</sup>

1. The following analysis evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the Secretariat and the opportunities and threats that it faces in developing and undertaking a leading role for information exchange on POPs. The analysis is limited to information exchange and does not relate to other Secretariat functions with respect to other areas such as capacity-building, technical assistance or transfer of technology.
2. **Strengths** – What is already there that should be preserved?
  - (a) There is significant clearing-house capacity shared with other United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) units in Geneva, such as existing websites, information technology hardware and software infrastructure, shared human resources and expertise on information exchange and management;
  - (b) The Secretariat owns and operates the existing POPs websites and has been mandated by the Convention to serve as a clearing-house mechanism on POPs;
  - (c) Most reporting required by the Convention must be done through the Secretariat; the information contained in the various implementation reports by Parties is managed by the Secretariat;
  - (d) The Secretariat has demonstrated ability and capacity to coordinate information-exchange activities. The interim Secretariat coordinated information exchange activities on POPs during the negotiation of the Stockholm Convention;
  - (e) The geographical location of the Secretariat allows for easy and efficient collaboration and synergies with other international stakeholders on POPs;
  - (f) The Parties have accepted existing information exchange;
  - (g) Parties seem generally satisfied with UNEP POPs websites and appreciative of the quality, transparency and valuable information they contain.
3. **Weaknesses** – What should be eliminated or changed?
  - (a) Procedures for engaging consultants and staff limit the ability to respond to changing technical situations and client needs in a timely fashion;
  - (b) There is a lack of clarity about the scope and nature of information-exchange activities and their integration with other secretariat functions;
  - (c) Implementation of the Convention at the national level started before establishment of the clearinghouse mechanism and information being generated at the national level may not be generated in a way that allows for smooth integration in the mechanism;
  - (d) The scope of the mechanism needs to be defined, as will its organization;
  - (e) Other implementation aspects of the Convention have higher priority than the clearing-house mechanism.

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<sup>‡</sup> The analysis follows the so-called SWOT format. SWOT stands for “strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats”. This key part of strategic planning examines the organization and its external and future environment. Strengths and weaknesses refer to the current assets and liabilities of an organization. Opportunities and threats exist outside the organization and may arise in the future.

4. **Opportunities** – What are the circumstances and situations related to information exchange that the Secretariat should capitalize on to develop further and implement the clearing-house mechanism?

- (a) The Secretariat is in a state of development, thus providing an opportunity for easier integration of clearing-house functions;
- (b) Projects and activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society provide an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to use the Internet and to better manage information;<sup>§</sup>
- (c) There is greater focus on the tools which have already been established for information exchange on POPs, such as the Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN) (<http://www.epa.gov/cien/index.html>) and the Information Exchange Network on Capacity-building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP) ([www.infocap.org](http://www.infocap.org));
- (d) The linkages with other multilateral environmental agreements and POPs initiatives provide an opportunity to develop synergies for information exchange and to integrate other information-exchange activities into the clearing-house mechanism to avoid duplication of efforts and make use of the strengths of the Convention's partners;
- (e) The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-third session (UNEP/GC.23/11), considers support to national and regional institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring and other information-exchange capacity-building activities;
- (f) New information technologies are available that improve the management of information and knowledge;
- (g) Partnerships with industry and civil society have been developed for information exchange on POPs-related issues.

5. **Threats** - What are the options and external factors to be avoided and difficulties to be addressed?

- (a) Ad hoc development of clearing-house mechanism elements by different stakeholders may result in a mechanism that is not coherent, compatible or user friendly, and may lead to duplication of efforts;
- (b) Information from various external sources may be in different formats;
- (c) Parties and other end-users have evolving demands;
- (d) There continues to be a lack of clarity about mechanism scope and functions and a lack of ownership by the Conference of the Parties;
- (e) Sufficient resources for mechanism staffing and activities are not realized;
- (f) Parties and other information contributors do not provide the required information;
- (g) There is a widespread lack of understanding of the role of the mechanism and the opportunities it presents.

### Key findings

6. The following key issues have been identified during the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis):

- (a) **Concept:** For an efficient implementation of the clearing-house mechanism three major elements that are inter-related need to be addressed with a systematic approach. These elements are:

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<sup>§</sup> Information on opportunities provided by the World Summit on the Information Society process may be found at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>.

- (i) **Information capital:** The information content exchanged by the clearing-house mechanism network members. It consists primarily of information on POPs, but may include some additional information as decided by Parties;
- (ii) **Human capital:** The network of information providers/sources, users and institutions working to implement the Stockholm Convention and formally contributing to and using the clearing-house mechanism;
- (iii) **Operational capital (tools and processes):** A set of information tools, products and services, and the necessary processes and resources to design, implement, operate and further enhance them.

(b) **Focus:** Article 9 of the Convention provides the main mandate for the clearing-house mechanism and focus on the exchange of information on POPs, including information provided by Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The analysis of Parties' information needs shows that stakeholders are expecting the clearing-house mechanism also to promote the sharing of expertise for the effective implementation of the Convention.

(c) **Ownership:** The clearing-house mechanism is a function of the Secretariat. The Secretariat is responsible for establishing procedures for its operation and for managing it on behalf of the Parties to the Convention.

(d) **Geographical scope:** The Convention does not provide guidance on the extent to which the clearing-house mechanism should extend to the national and regional levels. Further clarification from the Parties in this regard will be sought.

(e) **Funding:** Information exchange is a cross-cutting issue; most POPs-related activities have information components, although they are often not properly identified and budgeted. Appropriate mechanisms are needed to identify funding needs for information-exchange activities and possible ways to address them.

(f) **Sustainability:** The long-term sustainability of the global clearing-house mechanism needs to be planned. Access to resources – financial, technical, human and information – is essential to that sustainability. Targeted and sustained partnerships to guarantee the necessary resources need to be explored.



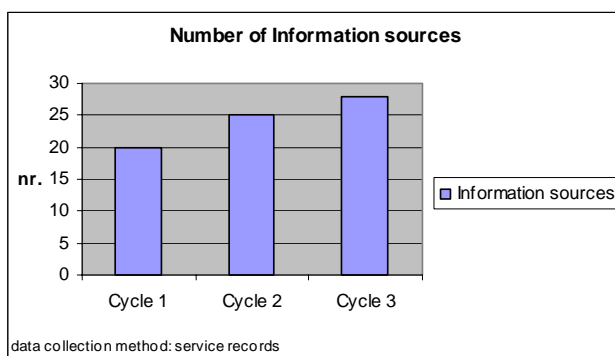
## Annex IV

### Examples of performance indicators for the clearing-house mechanism evaluations

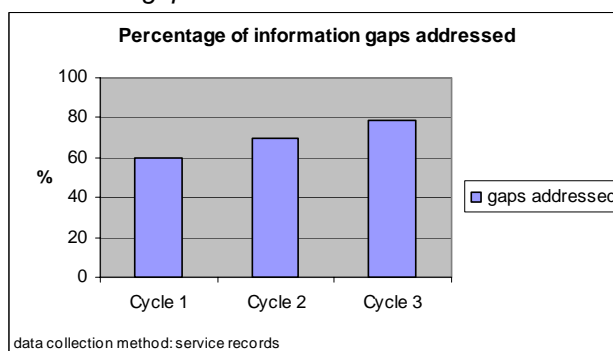
**First goal: Establishment of infrastructure and procedures to facilitate identification, integration and exchange of information and the creation of a global knowledge base on POPs.**

#### Value added

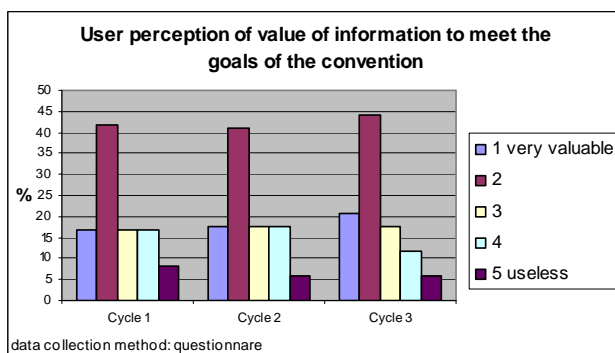
##### Information sources



##### Information gaps

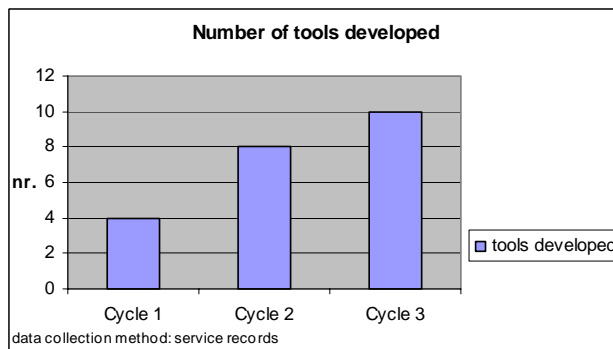
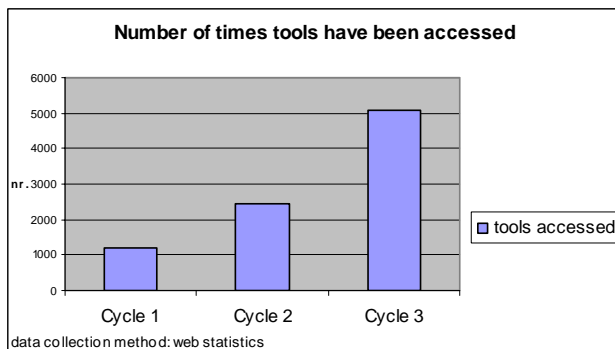


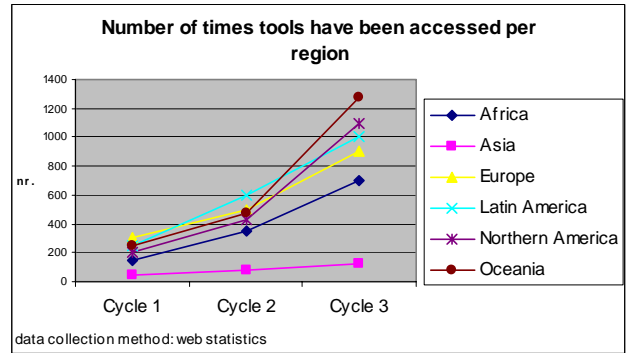
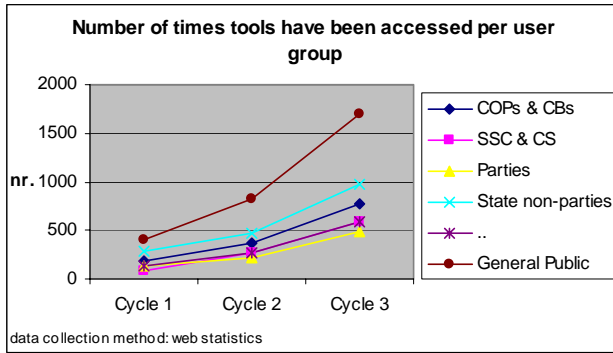
#### Value



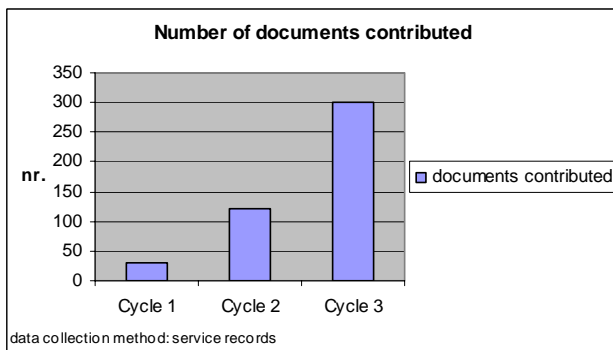
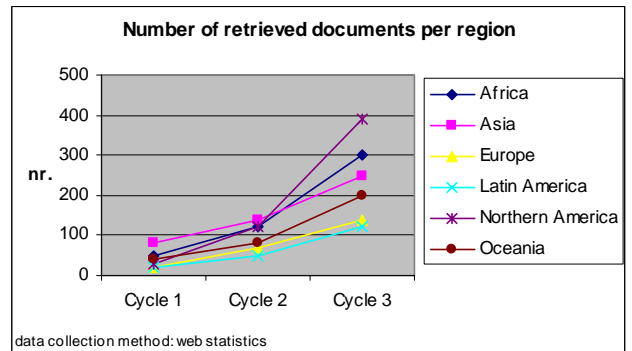
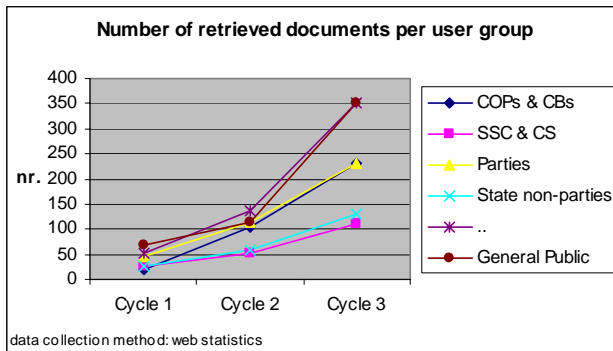
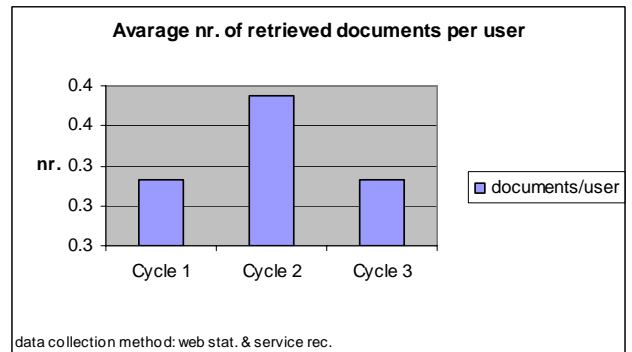
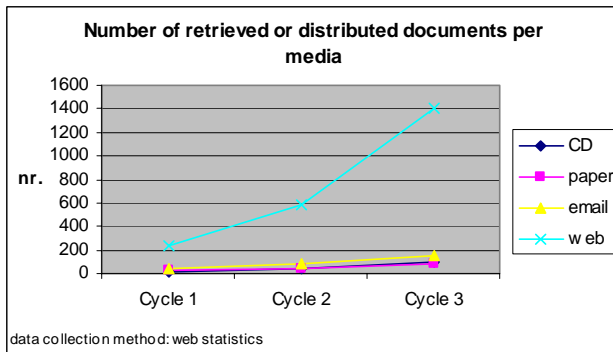
#### Use

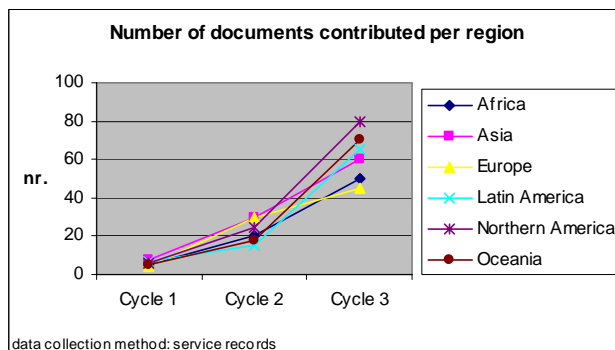
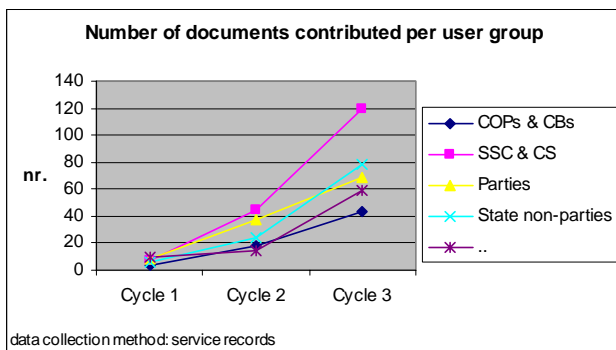
##### Tools



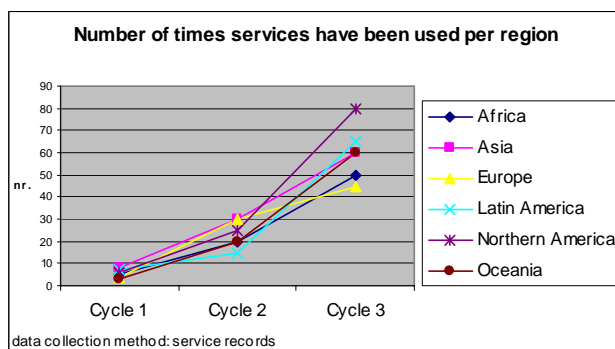
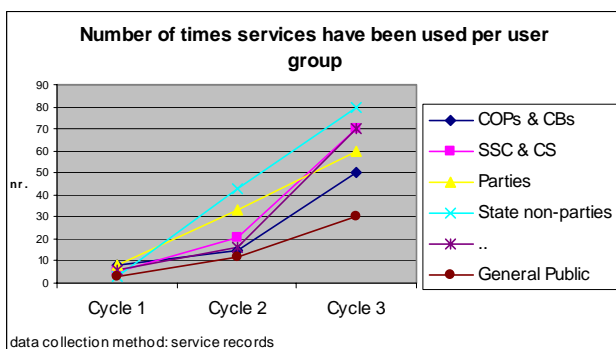
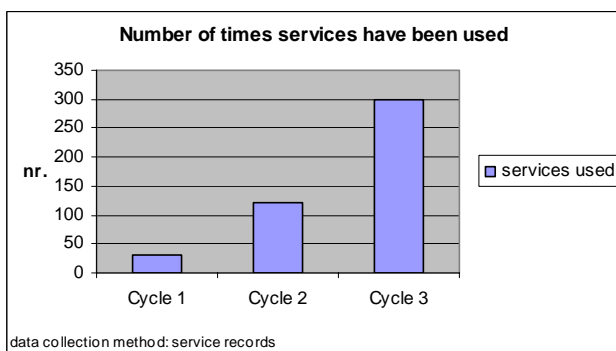


Information products



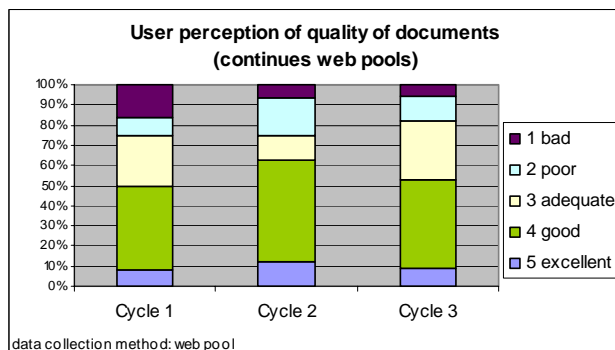
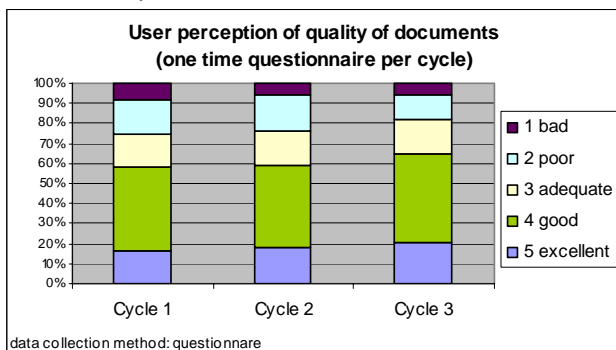


Services

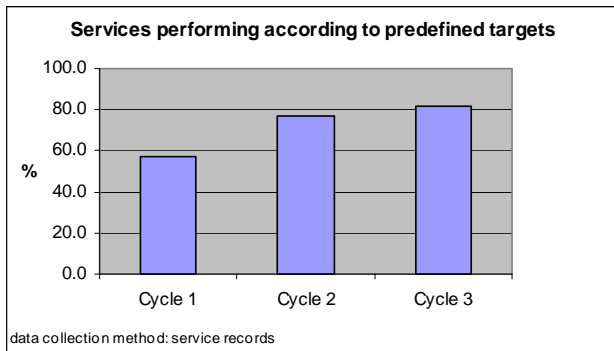
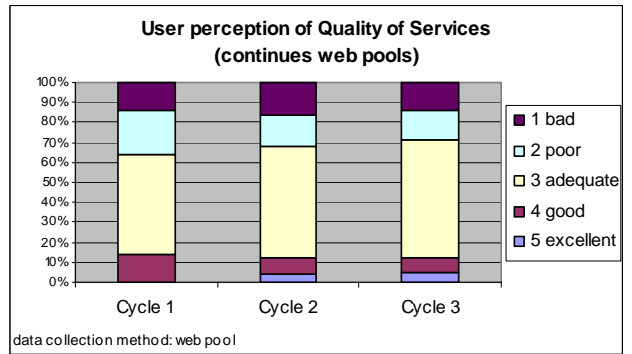
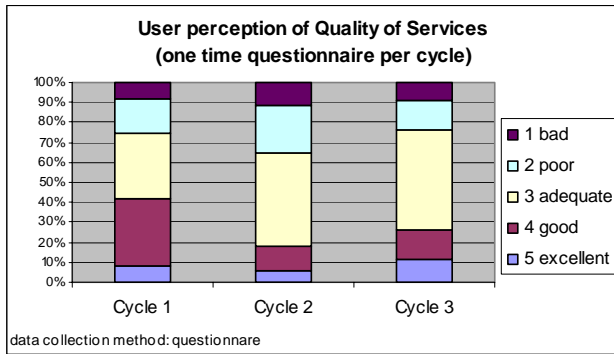


Quality

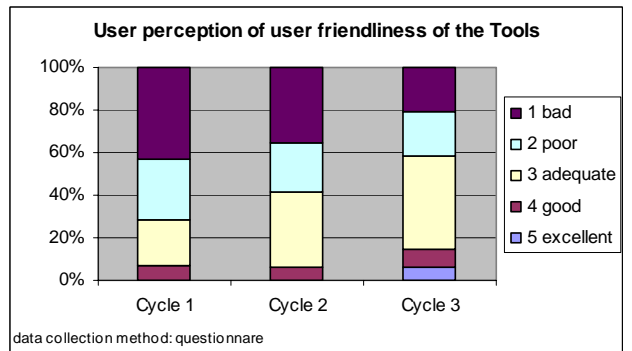
Information products



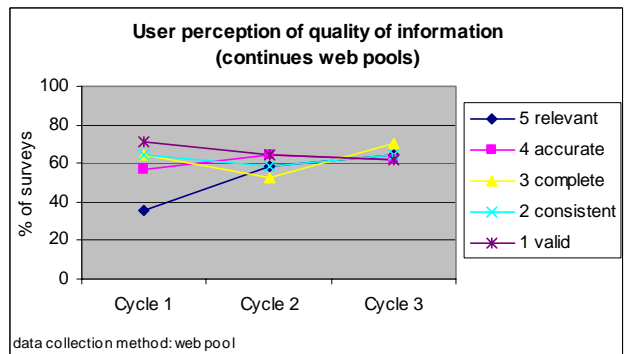
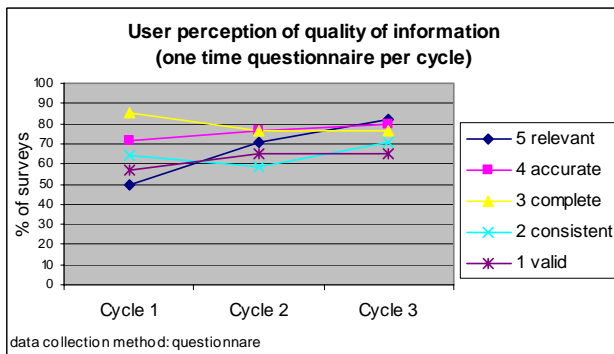
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Tools

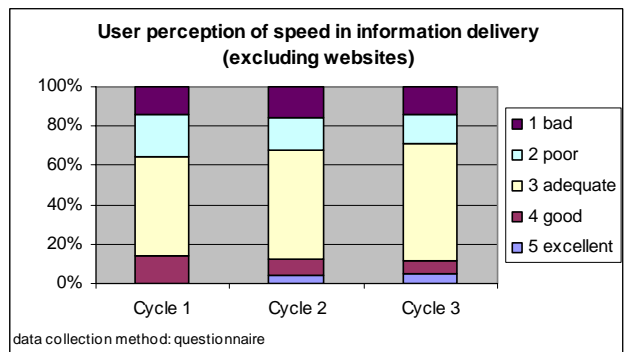
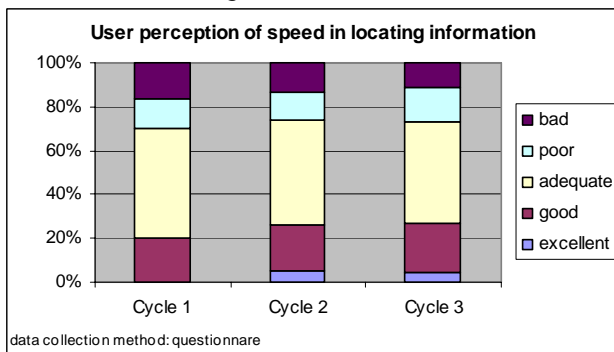


Information

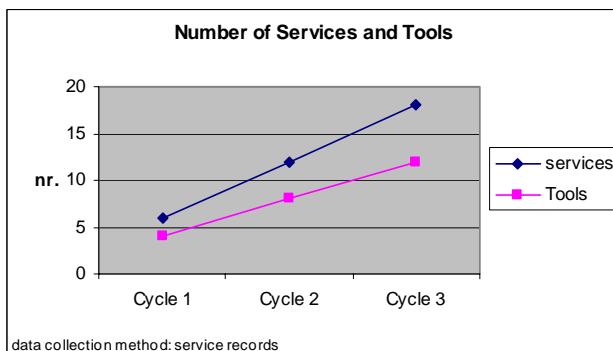
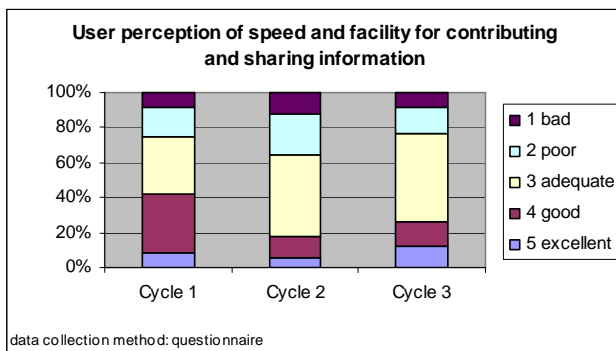


Speed and Facility

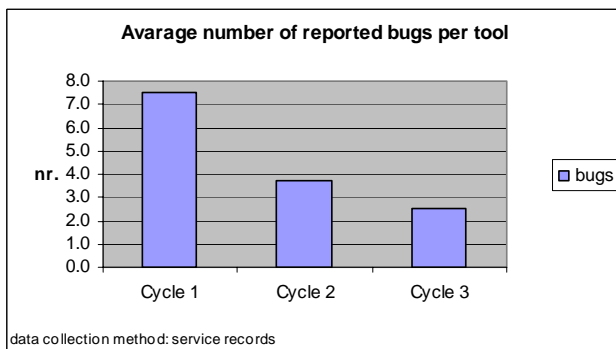
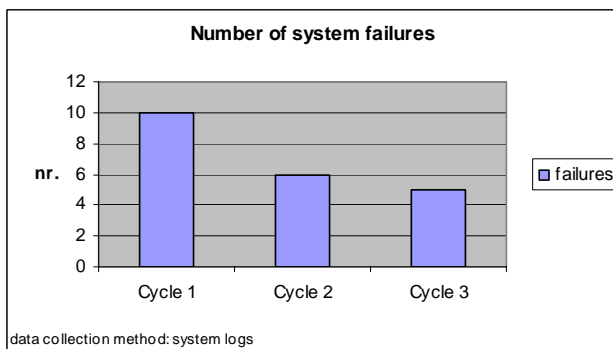
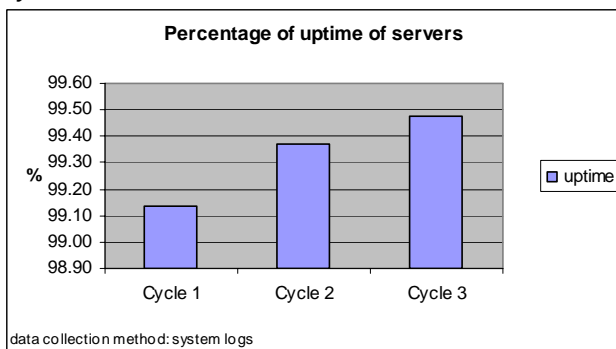
Information handling



**Facilities**

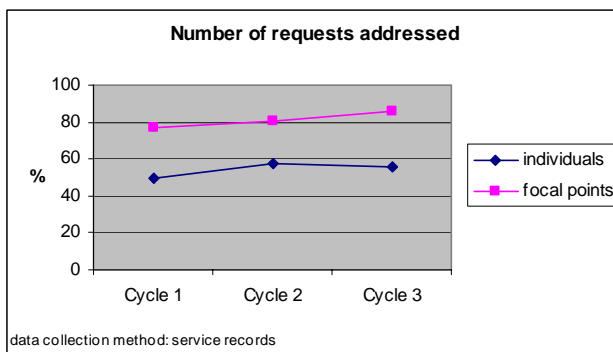
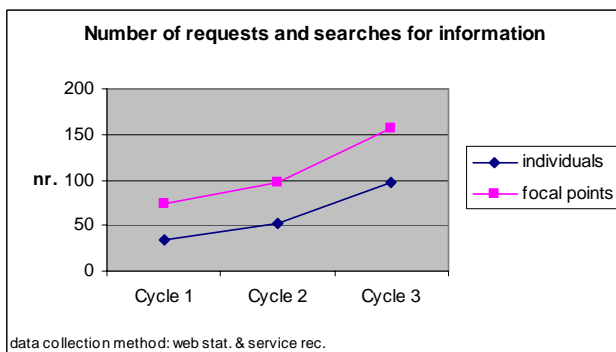


**System**

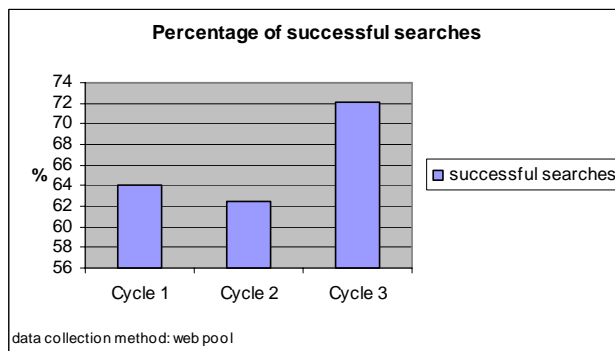
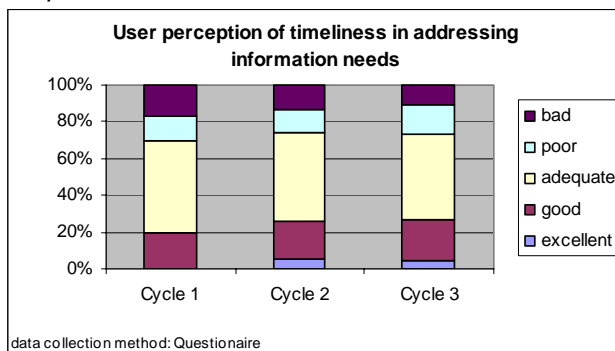


**User needs responsiveness**

**Information needs**

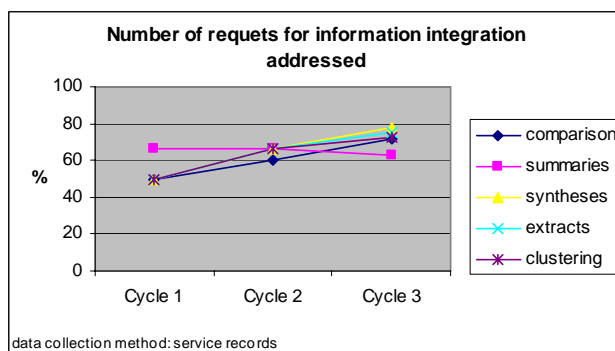
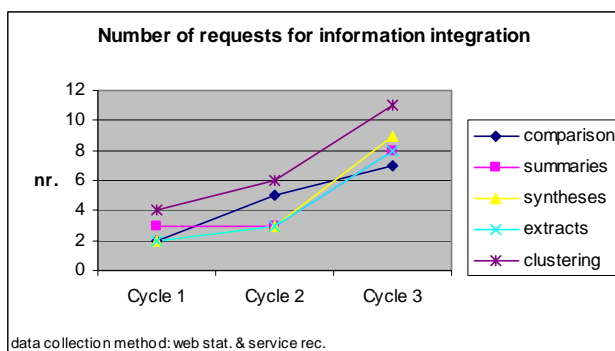


Response of CHM

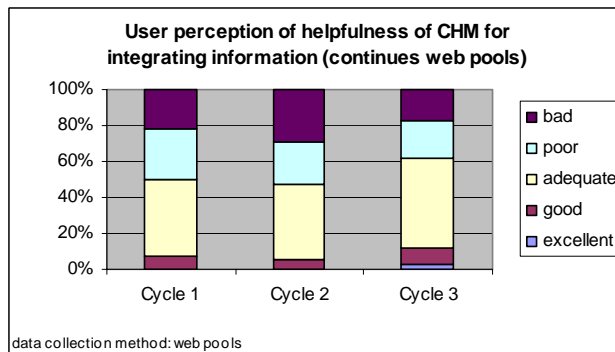
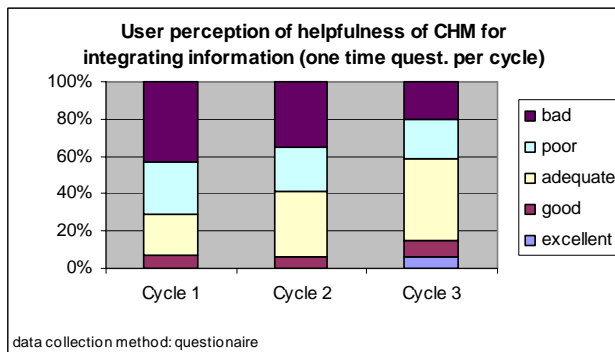


Integration

Needs

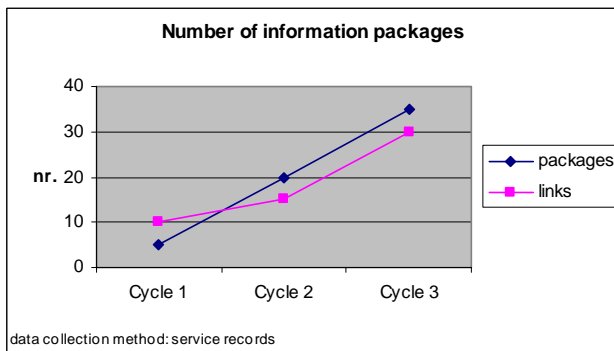
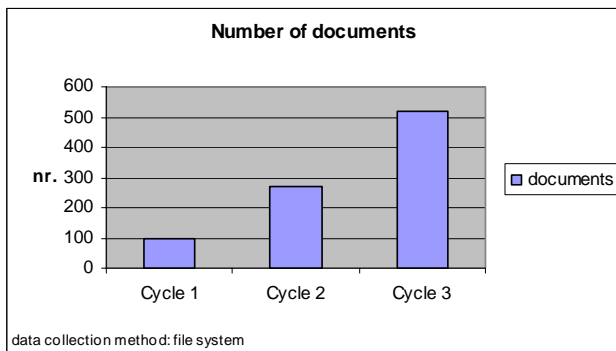


Helpfulness

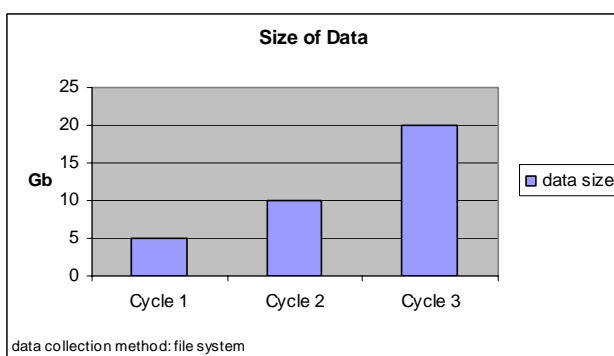
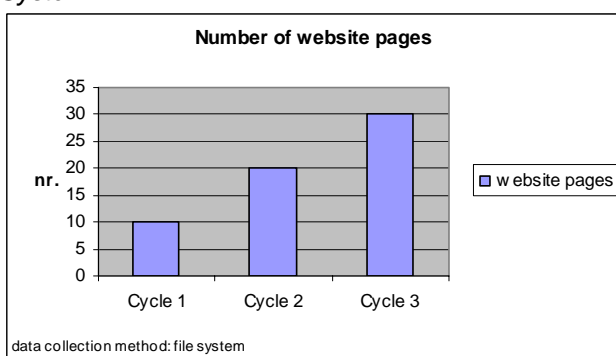


**Volume**

*Information products*



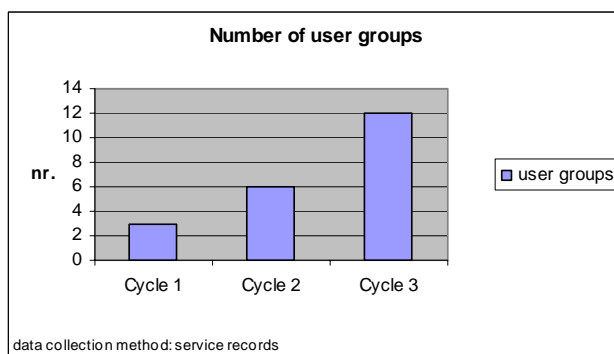
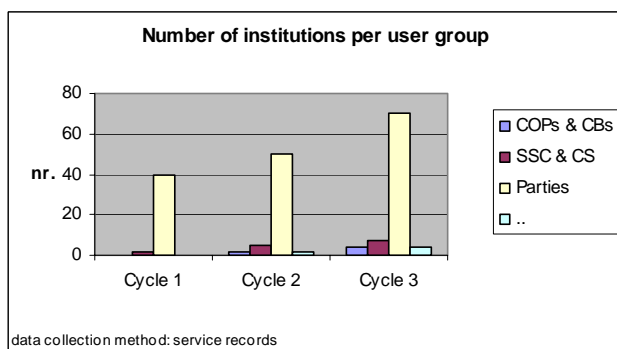
*System*



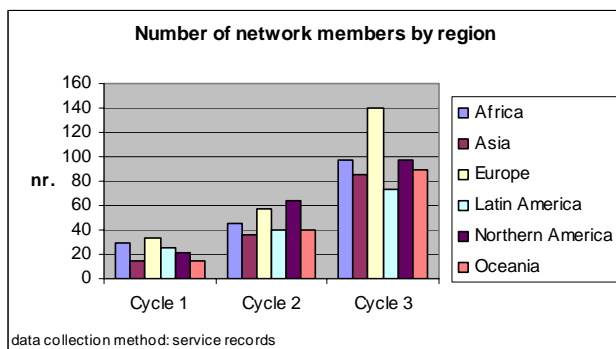
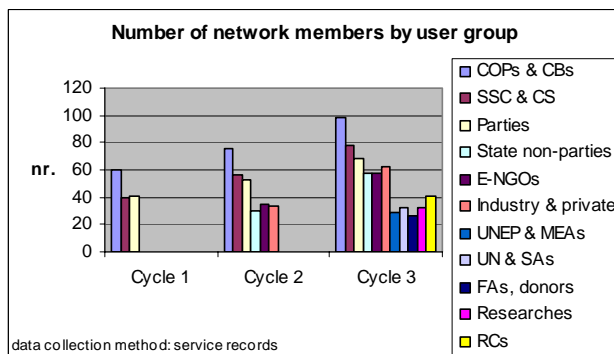
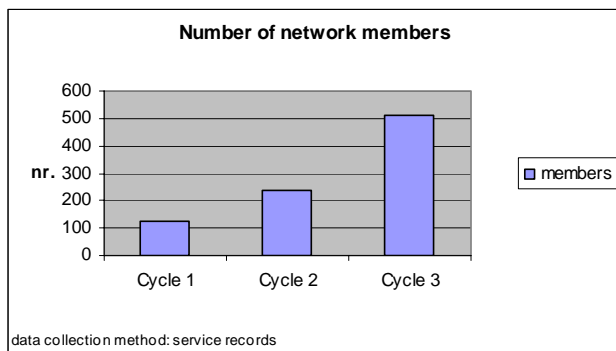
**Goal 2: Establishment of the clearing-house mechanism global network of information providers, users and institutions, having the common needs of sharing information and expertise on POPs**

**Network membership and enrolment**

*Parties and user groups*

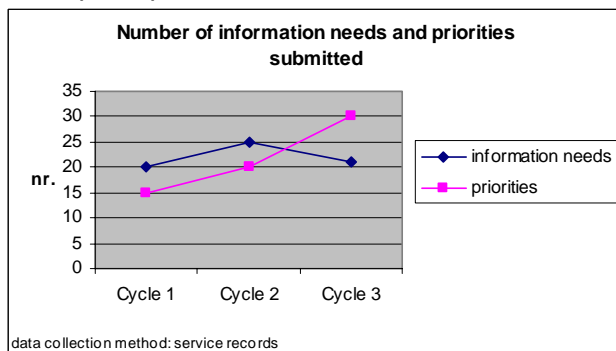


### Members

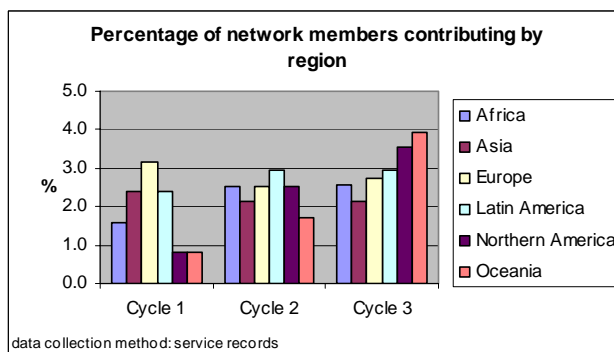
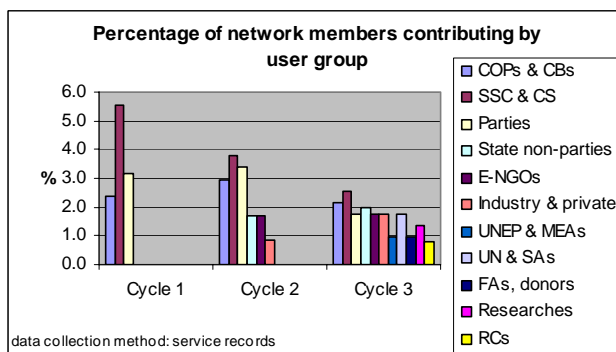
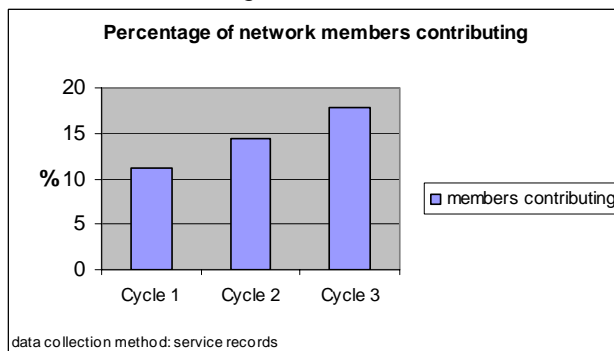


### Member responsiveness

#### Active participation

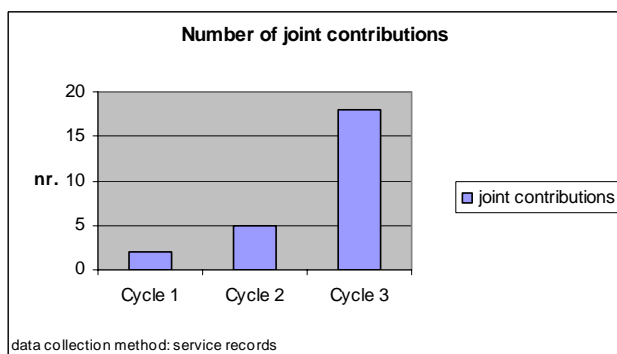
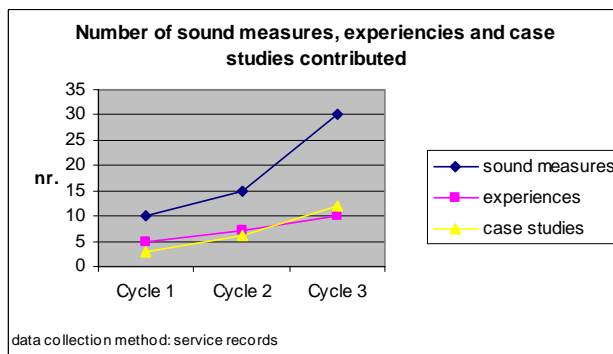
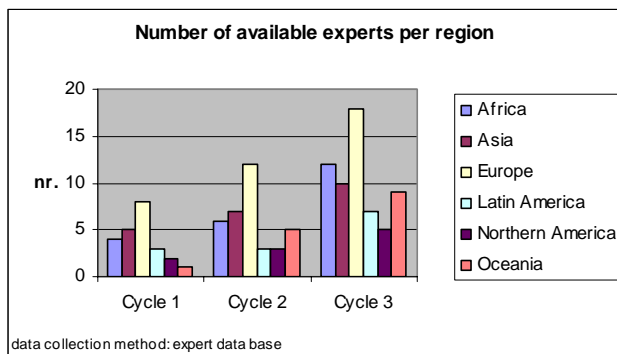


#### Members contributing



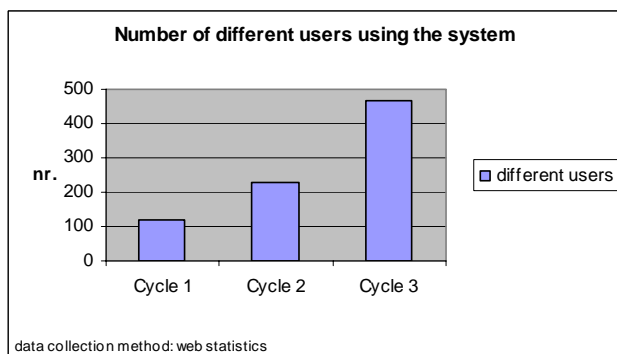


Member interaction

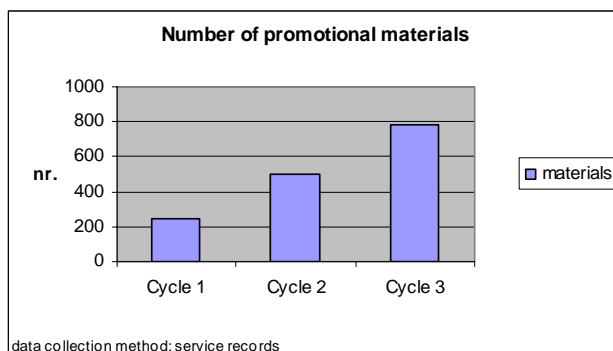
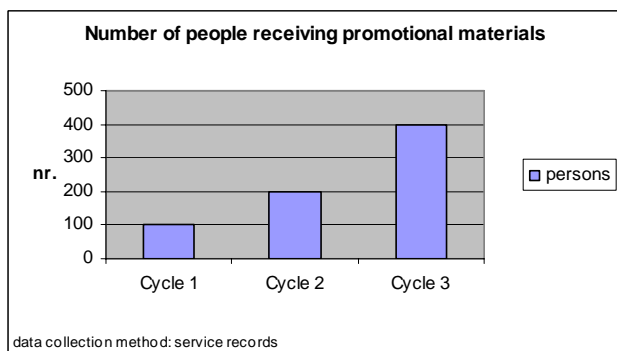
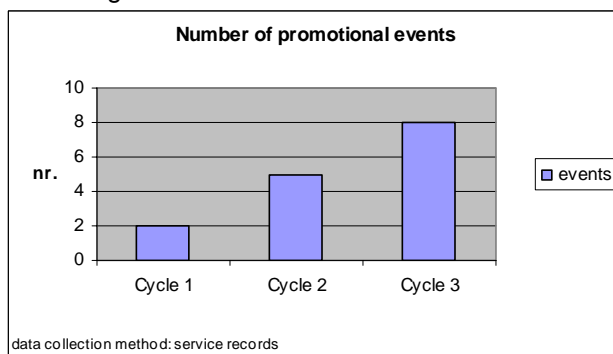


Awareness and use of the clearing-house mechanism

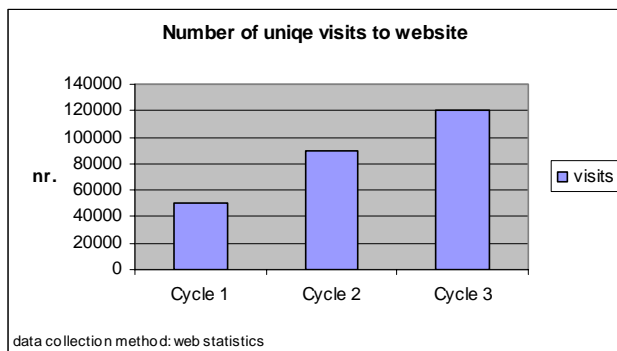
Users



Promoting



Website



Collaboration

