

20 November 2013, Working Group of the Parties to the Kiev Protocol, Agenda point 4 (a) Synergies with ECE MEAs and other partners

UNITAR - PRTR related activities

In early 2013, UNITAR finished the project for a first phase to design PRTRs in 4 Central American countries. Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras completed PRTR pilot trials and prepared national executive proposals to be reviewed by decision-makers to decide on next steps to implement these national registers. The project was implemented under the umbrella concept of a regional Central American PRTR, an initiative supported by US EPA and the Ministry of Environment of Spain. Opportunities are being explored with donors to fund a phase 2 of the project to implement and completely institutionalize these PRTRs.

Similar projects on PRTR design have been also finished at the end of 2012 in Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Peru and Ukraine. This project also supported the implementation of the PRTR in Chile and was supported by the GEF and implemented jointly with UNEP. As in the project previously mentioned, these countries held PRTR pilot trials of the PRTRs they developed. As you already heard in the presentation by Jorge Ocaña from UNEP, this project explored the applicability of PRTRs to report POPs releases under the Stockholm Convention. Although good progress was made by having all countries including POPs in their official lists of PRTR chemicals, further work needs to ensure the implementation and institutionalization of those PRTRs. Much training is needed in countries to identify the most suitable methodology to include reporting of all POPs in a PRTR, taking into account own national circumstances and structures.

As Jorge Ocaña already explained, UNITAR and UNEP are preparing a new proposal to the GEF with 6 countries to continue this work and implement the PRTRs systems designed during phase I and to achieve reporting POPs through the PRTR.

In addition to POPs, with the recently approval of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNITAR expects with this project to also test the reporting of mercury through these new PRTRs. We hope that this initiative can serve the Working Group as an experience that can be successfully replicated in many other countries, showing the applicability of PRTR to comply with reporting obligations under MEAs.

The SAICM QSPTF continues its support to PRTR initiatives. UNITAR is at the moment supporting QSPTF projects in Azerbaijan and Panama and we recently submitted a new proposal to the trust fund with Mongolia.

PRTR:Learn continues at the disposal of anyone who wants to use it with online training purposes. We expect to have new courses in PRTR:Learn when the new Phase II GEF project on PRTRs and POPs is approved and starts in 2014. We would include courses on online systems, release estimation techniques, communication and interpretation of PRTR data, and methodologies to include POPs in a PRTR reporting.

Finally, as OECD mentioned this organization and UNITAR are working together under the IOMC to develop a PRTR online module in the new IOMC Toolbox on chemicals management.

I want to thank OECD and UNECE the opportunity to cooperate on organizing the Global Round Table on PRTRs 2013.