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in Environmental Matters

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**Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation
of the Convention: capacity-building**

Report on capacity-building activities*

**Prepared by partner organizations and the secretariat of the
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-
making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**

Summary

This document was prepared pursuant to the work programme for 2009–2011 for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to Convention at its third session (11–13 June 2008) (see ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.17), as well as the decision of the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2011/2, para. 24).

* This document was submitted late due to the need to hold extensive consultations with relevant regional and international capacity-building partner organizations.

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Introduction

1. Through the Riga Declaration adopted at its third session, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) committed to prioritize more effective implementation of the Convention, including through capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.1, para. 8). The Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16), adopted at the same meeting, reinforced the role of capacity-building activities in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs). Furthermore, in decision III/9 on the work programme for 2009–2011, the Parties decided to give general priority to the issue of compliance and implementation, including capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.17, para. 3).

2. Parties and the secretariat in cooperation with other organizations were identified as partners in the implementation of capacity-building activities in accordance with objective I.5 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2014.

3. This report was prepared by the secretariat jointly with the following partner organizations: the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Europe & CIS;¹ the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the European Commission (EC); the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)/European ECO Forum; the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC); the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC); and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

4. The report provides an overview of the major capacity-building activities supporting the implementation of the Convention, the Protocol on PRTRs and principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration) that were carried out in the intersessional period, and of the main trends in this area. The report intends to facilitate a discussion on possible further work on capacity-building in the next intersessional period.

5. Capacity-building activities reported by the partner organizations are detailed in annex I. In addition, an online database of capacity-building activities (matrix) related to PRTRs was maintained and made available from the Aarhus Clearinghouse and from PRTR.net.²

6. Information related to the capacity-building activities carried out by the secretariat during this period can be found in the report of the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9), and the report on capacity-building for the eleventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties in 2009 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/7).³

¹ UNDP in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

² Information is available at <http://apps.unece.org/ehl/pp/NIR/RLsearch.asp>.

³ The documents can be accessed at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop4/mop4.doc.htm> (under intersessional documents rubric).

I. Coordination framework for capacity-building

7. Capacity-building coordination meetings and the International PRTR Coordination Group serve as major vehicles to discuss the progress in and plans for capacity-building activities regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and the Protocol on PRTRs, respectively.

8. The secretariat convened the fifth and sixth meetings on capacity-building coordination in Geneva on 27 November 2008 and 7 December 2010, respectively.⁴ The meetings addressed the activities carried out since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and detailed future plans.

9. The International PRTR Coordination Group also proved to be an efficient platform to improve coordination of efforts related to the further development and implementation of PRTR systems, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The fourth and fifth meetings of the Group were held in Paris on 10 March 2009 and 18 May 2010 respectively. In addition, a special meeting was held in Geneva on 22 April 2010.⁵ The outcomes included the updating of the capacity building matrix for PRTR activities (see para. 5 above) and the upgrading of the PRTR.net global portal. The secretariat continued to serve as the secretariat for the Group.

II. Activities

A. Supporting implementation of the Convention

10. OSCE, through the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and in close cooperation with the secretariat, continues to support the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the region.

11. The Aarhus Centres constitute the major component of OSCE support in this respect. A wide network includes Aarhus Centres in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro), South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan). The Aarhus Centres have been instrumental in providing a forum for Government officials, particularly from ministries of environment, to meet with members of environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to build cooperative approaches in order to tackle environmental issues. Working both in capital cities and in provinces, these Centres have been very active in promoting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention at the national and local levels, in helping Governments fulfil their respective obligations under the Convention and in involving the citizens in environmental decision-making. The establishment and functioning of most of these Aarhus Centres are supported within the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), which is a partnership between OSCE, UNECE, UNDP, UNEP, REC and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an associate partner.

⁴ For details, see the report on capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2009/7) and the report on the sixth Aarhus Convention capacity-building coordination meeting (PP/WG-13/Inf.8), also available at http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2009/PP/WGP/ece_mp_pp_wg_1_2009_7_e.pdf and http://www.unece.org/env/pp/wgp/wgp-13/6CBC_report27Jan2011-Inf-8.pdf, respectively.

⁵ For details, see the reports of the International PRTR Coordination Group available at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/Intl%20CG%20images/Reports.html>.

12. An independent evaluation of the Aarhus Centres concluded that the Aarhus Centres can be an effective instrument in facilitation of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including in a transboundary context.

13. In 2009, OSCE supported the development of a set of guidelines for the Aarhus Centres with the purpose of enhancing and streamlining their work and to give them guidance for their strategic orientation, set-up and activities, thereby ensuring a common understanding of all stakeholders on the roles of the Centres.

14. OSCE also organizes annual meetings of the Aarhus Centre stakeholders to exchange experiences and lessons learned. The first such meeting was organized in January 2009 in Vienna and the second in January 2010 in Istanbul. The meetings were attended by Government and Aarhus Centre representatives of the eight countries where OSCE has been supporting the Aarhus Centres, Government and OSCE representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the Aarhus Convention secretariat, UNDP and REC.

15. The Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs are part of the EU *acquis communautaire*. Accession countries are prompted to ratify the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs as early as possible in the accession process, in parallel with the transposition of the corresponding directives. Moreover, the Aarhus-related EU *acquis*, such as Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information and Directive 2003/35/EC providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment, are included in the Association Agreements under negotiation. In the framework of the activity of the EU-Ukraine Subcommittee Meetings, the implementation of Aarhus issues is monitored. As regards the Republic of Moldova, the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement that is currently being prepared addresses the Aarhus-related *acquis* as well. Aarhus-related legislation will equally be included in the Association Agreements with Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. Concerning Belarus, the EU encourages Belarus to implement Aarhus-related legislation at bilateral meetings, for instance, during the last Expert Level meeting in Minsk on 15 October 2010.

16. The LIFE Programme, as the EU funding instrument for the environment, has a general objective to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value, including Aarhus-related activities of NGOs.

17. Moreover, there is a focus on Aarhus-related issues (public participation and access to justice) in the training of judges and prosecutors in the framework of the Cooperation of Judges Programme, launched in 2008 by the EC Environment Directorate-General. Since then, seven workshops have been organized. The next workshop on environmental impact assessment (EIA), including access to justice and public participation, is scheduled to take place in 2011.

18. A review of Directive 85/337/EEC modified by Directive 2003/35/EC (known as the EIA Directive) was organized by EC. Public participation rules might be included in view of the assessment of the public consultation phase, launched in 2010. The Commission is conducting a compliance review examining the implementation of Directive 2003/35/EC concerning rules on public participation.

19. REC has focused its past and current activities on strengthening the institutional capacity for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe; improving public participation mechanisms at the national and local levels; carrying out awareness-raising regarding the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on access to justice; and providing capacity-building for judicial and legal professionals, as well as for NGOs. Another initiative was launched on how to improve the application of the Aarhus

Convention to nuclear issues at the European and national levels. The projects are complementary to activities under the Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making and the Task Force on Access to Justice.

20. The capacity-building activities of EEB/European ECO Forum have been focused on the compliance mechanism under the Aarhus Convention, including assistance to NGOs in the preparation of communications to the Compliance Committee and organization of training for NGOs and lawyers about the mechanism, including follow-up to the Compliance Committee's findings and recommendations.

21. EEB/European ECO Forum has been working on the preparation of new and updating of earlier publications related to the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), public participation in the UNECE region and the case law of the Convention's Compliance Committee.

22. EEB/European ECO Forum is also organizing capacity-building workshops on the better use and implementation of the Convention at the national level in the respective local languages. These workshops are often linked to other international processes, which are of great importance for the host country and NGOs, like the EU Enlargement process, the EU Neighbourhood Policy and/or the EU External Environmental Policy.

23. Access to justice remains another focus for the capacity-building activities of EEB/European ECO Forum, which is providing trainings at the national level in this area. Development of application forms for different types of cases, to be used for building a database of environmental cases submitted by NGOs, has started recently.

24. Since January 2010, EEB has been participating in the project "Enforcement of the Aarhus Convention in the Adriatic Region Countries", involving representatives from environmental organizations, judges, lawyers and journalists from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Italy. EEB is also closely following the implementation of the EU Aarhus-related Directives and Regulations and promotes public participation in newly developed or revised EU legal acts.

25. A positive development in awareness-raising and capacity-building is the involvement of international financial institutions. EIB promotes environmental sustainability in support of the EU policy on sustainable development. The approach of the Bank in this regard is described in various documents on corporate responsibility and, most recently, in the 2009 EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards. The 2010 EIB Transparency Policy implements EU Regulation 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, as the regulatory framework applying to requests for access to environmental information held by the Bank. EIB facilitates the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by ensuring disclosure of environmental information on its lending operations within and outside of the EU, as well as when engaging in public consultation prior to the finalization of the internal decision-making process on EIB policies and standards concerning the environment. In addition, the EIB Complaints Mechanism provides members of the public alleging a violation of EIB policies and standards, including those relevant to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, with a complaints handling procedure including the possibility of a final independent review ensured by the European Ombudsman.

B. Supporting implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

26. UNITAR is implementing a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-UNEP project focused on monitoring and reporting on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through PRTRs in seven countries. It is also assisting the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, with the support of Spain, in creating national PRTRs in the region. In addition, it is carrying out several projects under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to design PRTRs systems.

27. The idea of supporting the development of PRTRs focusing on reporting on mercury, as done in the past with POPs, can be explored in light of negotiations started by UNEP on a global legally binding instrument on mercury. The International PRTR Coordinating Group recommended applying the PRTRs as a reporting mechanism for mercury.

28. OSCE, together with the Convention secretariat, UNITAR and EC supported the organization of a Regional Conference on the Protocol on PRTRs on 20 and 21 May 2009 in Dushanbe, which was attended by all countries of the region along with several international and regional experts. The Conference put forward a set of recommendations.

29. EC reported that various projects promoting capacity-building for setting up PRTR registers have been funded (using TACIS,⁶ TAIEX⁷ and Twinning⁸ funds). The Commission participates in the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs and in the International PRTR Coordinating Group.

30. New features of the European PRTR site established in 2007 (concentration maps) will be made available for the public in 2011 (air) and 2012 (water). The data set will be reviewed on a triennial basis and the results of the review process will be made available at the beginning of 2012.

31. REC has supported, and is planning to support through ENVSEC, bilateral cooperation, and other instruments for the development of PRTRs in South-Eastern Europe. This support will be given in the form of assisting countries to prepare for the ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs; awareness-raising; and building the capacity of authorities, operators and NGOs on how to set up and operate PRTR systems in line with the Protocol on PRTRs and the EU E-PRTR system.

32. EEB/European ECO Forum's PRTR activities were affected due to financial constraints. The demonstration version of a simplified PRTR programme was developed in Volgograd, Russian Federation, and then provided for testing in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. The success of the pilot PRTR created by NGOs, in cooperation with industrial facilities in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, raised interest in other regions of the country.

⁶ The Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia (TACIS) Programme is a European Union initiative which fosters the development of harmonious and prosperous economic and political links between the European Union and these partner countries.

⁷ TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument, which supports partner countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.

⁸ The Twinning programme provides a framework for administrations and semi-public organizations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in EU member States to facilitate the transposition, enforcement and implementation of EU legislation.

C. Supporting implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

33. Some activities dedicated to the implementation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration were conducted by partner organizations such as UNITAR, UNEP and EEB/European ECO Forum outside the UNECE region.

34. The UNITAR global programme providing methodological and technical support to countries for the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration is based on positive lessons learned from a joint UNITAR/UNECE project on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Serbia.

35. The UNEP project on the implementation of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (UNEP Guidelines)⁹ has been developed and is now at the fund-raising stage.

36. EEB/European ECO Forum established contacts with several environmental networks and NGOs outside the UNECE region in order to develop cooperation on implementation of the UNEP Guidelines.

III. Trends and considerations

37. Partner organizations play a crucial role in promoting the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs in the UNECE region and beyond.

38. Most of the projects were largely focused on supporting the general¹⁰ implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs in accordance with beneficiary countries' needs. Several projects were purely dedicated to specific areas, such as access to justice and public participation in decision making. At the same time, access to information is often included in projects related to general implementation.

39. In the field of access to justice, many efforts are being made to provide training sessions for judges, other legal professionals and NGOs at the national and subregional levels, including EU level. It was emphasized that more capacity-building activities for public interest lawyers and more active involvement of ministries of justice are needed. Therefore, the implementation of the access to justice pillar still requires close attention.

40. There is increasing interest among partner organizations to facilitate capacity-building activities in sector-specific areas, such as EIA, water-related policies, activities related to genetically modified organisms and nuclear power, as well as with regard to product information and other information held by the private sector.

41. Due to their rather technical nature, the implementation of PRTRs should be preferably addressed through long-term activities so as to ensure continuity and effective use of resources. Further development of legislative frameworks and online electronic tools, as well as public involvement in the PRTR design process, are among priority needs.

42. Activities related to the promotion of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration beyond the UNECE region provide a good opportunity for exchange of good practices and lessons learned and allow for increasing the visibility of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs

⁹ Adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its eleventh special session through decision SS.XI/5, part A of 26 February 2010.

¹⁰ Projects supporting general implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs often address all provisions of the treaties.

outside the region. Further strengthening collaboration among international organizations mandated to work in this area is important.

43. As regards geographical scope, each subregion has initiatives in place to foster the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs. However, most capacity-building activities related to implementation of the Convention took place in the countries in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

44. Regarding the Protocol on PRTRs, activities have expanded since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, with new projects in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as outside the UNECE region.

45. Although capacity constraints in the above-mentioned subregions remain significant, the potential needs of the other UNECE member States (such as in Eastern Europe and countries of the European Union) should also be considered and, where necessary, addressed through appropriate initiatives.

46. Several national implementation reports and findings of the Compliance Committee show that the demand for capacity-building has still not been fully met. During the past intersessional period, the Compliance Committee recommended that some Parties reviewed take measures to align their national processes with the requirements of the Convention, but also that they develop capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes for civil servants, representatives of the judiciary and the public.¹¹

47. Further development of a regulatory framework, through systematically introducing Convention- and Protocol-related obligations into all relevant legislative and regulatory acts, continued to be important. In addition, future activities should aim to strengthen interdepartmental cooperation, especially involving ministries of justice. The activities should be organized taking into account the country needs identified through the reporting regime and by the compliance mechanism, as well as the outcomes of the task force meetings, various workshops, seminars, studies and surveys.

48. In the majority of projects, NGOs along with governmental organizations act as key partners. Strengthening the technical and administrative capacities of NGOs will be a useful contribution to advance implementation of and compliance with the Convention.

49. Aarhus Centres provide a platform for cooperation between public authorities, civil society and other stakeholders, thereby fostering implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs. They also allow for reaching out to stakeholders in the provinces and help to raise awareness of a wider audience.

50. Promoting the Convention and Protocol on PRTRs among international financial institutions can facilitate the application of their provisions in the investment process, thereby enhancing their outreach.

51. Wide dissemination of the outcomes of capacity-building activities through the Internet and by other electronic means should be an integral part of the projects and can substantially increase their visibility and contribute to raising awareness among other stakeholders. Regular use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and PRTR.net for uploading information on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities can contribute to this objective and improve further coordination.

52. Other mechanisms should be also explored for capacity-building initiatives, such as bilateral programmes, ENVSEC, Civil Action for Security and Environment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and GEF.

¹¹ See ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/8/Add.1 and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2009/6/Add.3, available at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ccMeetings.htm>.

53. The secretariat will continue its efforts to build synergies through the regular capacity-building coordination meetings and the International PRTR Coordination Group with wider participation of the partners involved.

54. In addition to cooperation with capacity-building partners discussed above, joint activities with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and forums (e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, SAICM and others) has proven to be a useful way to maximise synergies while ensuring the efficient use of resources.

Annex

Capacity-building projects related to the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

| <i>Implementing organization</i> | <i>Project title</i> | <i>Objectives and target group(s)</i> | <i>Geographical scope</i> | <i>Duration (start and end date)</i> | <i>Provisional outcomes</i> | <i>Source of funds</i> | <i>Major subject</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| OSCE | Aarhus Centres in South Caucasus www.envsec.org http://www.osce.org/eea/43654 www.aarhus.am www.aarhus.ge | To assist in establishing and/or strengthening dialogue and partnerships among Governments and civil society in implementing the Aarhus Convention and in addressing priority environmental and security challenges in the region. | Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia | January 2010–December 2011 | <p>In Armenia, 14 Aarhus Centres and the Environmental Law Resource Centre at Yerevan State University, established in 2008, are currently in operation. The Aarhus Centres serve as resource centres for environmental information; promote public participation in local environmental decision-making and in the development and revision of environmental legislation; provide a link between local and central governmental agencies on environmental issues; and facilitate the development of local environmental strategies and action plans.</p> <p>Azerbaijan hosts three Aarhus Centres: the Centre in Baku, which was opened in September 2003, and the Centres in Ganja and Gazakh, which have been working since 2007. The Aarhus Centres are primarily working on the first pillar of the Convention by providing access to environmental information and by holding public awareness-raising activities. Aarhus Centres are hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.</p> <p>In Georgia, the Aarhus Centre that was established in 2005 aims to facilitate implementation of the Convention at the national level through facilitating public access to information on environmental issues; conducting trainings and awareness-raising campaigns; monitoring the public participation process in environmental decision-making; and providing recommendations to the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources on how to improve the effectiveness of the EIA process.</p> | ENVSEC (Governments of Belgium, Canada, Finland, Spain, Sweden, United States of America) OSCE Office in Yerevan | General |

| <i>Implementing organization</i> | <i>Project title</i> | <i>Objectives and target group(s)</i> | <i>Geographical scope</i> | <i>Duration (start and end date)</i> | <i>Provisional outcomes</i> | <i>Source of funds</i> | <i>Major subject</i> |
|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| OSCE | Promoting the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Central Asia http://www.osce.org/eea/43654 | To support the implementation of the Convention in the Central Asian region through establishment and/or strengthening of the Aarhus Centres and through networking among the Aarhus Centres. | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan | January 2009–June 2011 | <p>In Kazakhstan, the project supported the establishment of an Aarhus Centre in Atyrau in late 2009. Hosted by the <i>Akimat</i> of the Atyrau Oblast, the Aarhus Centre is expected to be instrumental in implementing the relevant recommendations and findings of the ENVSEC Assessment for the Eastern Caspian Region and to contribute to the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. Kazakhstan also hosts a national Aarhus Centre that was established in Astana in 2009 under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, and a Ministerial Working Group was set up to promote the Convention principles.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan, an Aarhus Centre was established in December 2004 in Osh. It focuses on four major areas: awareness-raising on the Convention; improving environmental awareness and involvement in environmental protection activities among youth; promoting environmental journalism; and fostering dialogue between the Government and civil society on environmental issues. The Aarhus Centre has been increasingly involved in public awareness, training and public participation activities targeting various stakeholders.</p> <p>In Tajikistan, the first Aarhus Centre was opened in Dushanbe in 2003, followed by an Aarhus Centre in Khujand in 2005. The activities in Khujand focus on improving cross-border cooperation in the Ferghana Valley and on raising awareness of environment-security linkages through promoting public participation in environmental decision-making. A third Aarhus Centre was opened in the south-western city of Kurgan Tyube in 2009, to support the implementation of the Convention in Khatlon province.</p> | Government of Norway | General |

| <i>Implementing organization</i> | <i>Project title</i> | <i>Objectives and target group(s)</i> | <i>Geographical scope</i> | <i>Duration (start and end date)</i> | <i>Provisional outcomes</i> | <i>Source of funds</i> | <i>Major subject</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | <p>The Dushanbe Aarhus Centre has organized several trainings for public officials on access to information and public participation and for legal professionals on access to justice. The Khujand Centre, jointly with the Sughd Environmental Committee, conducted several trainings on the Aarhus Convention, EIA and national environmental legislation. It has also conducted seminars for legal professionals, provided legal consultations and advice to local people and continued its public-awareness activities, as well as participatory development of local environmental strategies and action plans in selected districts. The Aarhus Centre in Kurgan Tyube organized trainings on the Convention and environmental rights of citizens for representatives of relevant governmental organizations, the judiciary, NGOs and mass media.</p> <p>At the regional level, the first regional meeting of the Aarhus Centres in Central Asia was jointly organized by OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Astana on 22 June 2010 in Almaty with the participation of Aarhus Centre and OSCE Field Mission representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The need for increased linkages between ENVSEC and Aarhus Centres were at the core of the discussions. The meeting also discussed extensively upcoming regional and international events which offer opportunities for increased visibility and for resource mobilization in support of the Aarhus Centres initiative. The need for increased networking among the Aarhus Centres was also highlighted as one of the priority actions.</p> | | |

| <i>Implementing organization</i> | <i>Project title</i> | <i>Objectives and target group(s)</i> | <i>Geographical scope</i> | <i>Duration (start and end date)</i> | <i>Provisional outcomes</i> | <i>Source of funds</i> | <i>Major subject</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| OSCE | Support for Aarhus Centres in Central Asia http://www.osce.org/eea/43654 www.envsec.org | To further intensify the work of Aarhus Centres on priority environmental issues with security implications in the respective countries. | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan | September 2010–April 2012 | <p>Project implementation has started only recently. Given the differences in the status of Aarhus Convention implementation in the countries, the specifics of project activities will vary from one country to another. In general, the project is expected to yield the following results:</p> <p>Access to information: Improved access to environmental information that enables the public to request and receive environmental information from public authorities and supports a system under which public authorities collect environmental information and actively disseminate it to the public.</p> <p>Public participation: Improved mechanisms for public participation in decisions on activities with a possible significant environmental impact; in development of plans and programmes relating to the environment; and in the preparation of laws and rules with a potential environmental impact.</p> <p>Access to justice: Improved mechanisms for providing citizens with access to review and challenge violations of domestic environmental law.</p> <p>Pollution Monitoring: Mechanisms will be in place to promote ratification and implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs.</p> | Government of Norway ENVSEC (Government of Finland) | General |

| <i>Implementing organization</i> | <i>Project title</i> | <i>Objectives and target group(s)</i> | <i>Geographical scope</i> | <i>Duration (start and end date)</i> | <i>Provisional outcomes</i> | <i>Source of funds</i> | <i>Major subject</i> |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and REC | Supporting Aarhus Convention Implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina www.envsec.org http://www.mvte.o.gov.ba/org_struktura/sektor_pirodni_resursi/odjel_zastita_okolisa/English/Conventions/Aarhus_convention/Default.aspx?id=2785 | The overall goal is to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, to facilitate Government/NGO dialogue on Convention implementation and agreement on their future roles and responsibilities. | Bosnia and Herzegovina | February 2010–August 2010 | The project included three major components: (i) a study tour for Government and NGO representatives to Albania to learn from their experience with the Aarhus Centres Network; (ii) a national workshop for Government and NGO representatives on Aarhus Convention implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and (iii) launching of the Aarhus Convention webpage under the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. | ENVSEC Government of Hungary | General |
| OSCE | Promoting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the South-Eastern European Region www.envsec.org http://www.aic.org.al/?fq=brenda&m=news&lid=27&gj=gj2 | To strengthen regional, national and local capacities for participatory and informed planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes in relation to environment and security challenges. | Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia | September 2010–December 2012 | In Albania , in December 2006, an Aarhus Information Centre (AIC) was opened on the premises of the Ministry of Environment. This remains a Government facility staffed and resourced by the Ministry. Two further AICs were opened in NGO premises in Shkodra and Vlora during 2007. This institutional network of three Aarhus Centres has created an infrastructure for citizen-State-private sector interaction and dialogue on environmental issues. This project will focus on encouraging greater transparency in decision-making processes in local planning with implications for the environment. In Bosnia and Herzegovina , benefiting from the outputs of the earlier project, this project will contribute to the setting up of mechanisms for implementation of the Convention, specifically through capacity-building activities targeted at public servants at central and local levels and NGOs, and improving the mechanisms for access to information and public participation which may also eventually lead to the establishment of an Aarhus Centre. | ENVSEC (Government of Finland) | General |

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In **Montenegro**, this project will support the establishment and functioning of an Aarhus Centre based at the premises of the Environmental Protection Agency, which will facilitate the Convention's implementation through capacity-building, awareness-raising and providing a participatory platform for decision-making among relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

In **Serbia**, a National Conference was organized by OSCE in the first half of 2010 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, which brought together all national stakeholders to discuss the mechanisms for implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the country. This was followed by the opening of an Aarhus Centre in Kragujevac and by five regional seminars in five major cities to discuss the implementation of the Convention. Based on the outcomes of these consultations, the project will support further implementation of the pillars of the Convention at the local and central levels.

The **Regional Component** will facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned among the countries in implementation of the Convention; establish a network of Aarhus Centres; and convene regional thematic meetings. The first regional meeting was held on 13–14 December in Sarajevo with the participation of Government and OSCE representatives from all the countries concerned, as well as REC and the Convention secretariat.

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| OSCE | Independent Evaluation of Aarhus Centres http://www.osce.org/eea/33674 | To generate knowledge from the experience of the Aarhus Centres within the context of OSCE efforts to raise awareness on environmental issues, as well as promoting participatory approaches in environmental decision-making and thus implementing the principles of the Aarhus Convention. | Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan | April 2008– June 2008 | The following needs were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarification of the role and functions of the Aarhus Centres through developing clear guidelines on their purposes and functions; • strengthening networking and information sharing among Aarhus Centres; • the full utilization of Aarhus Centres as a tool by Governments in implementing the Aarhus Convention; • an increase in the focus on local/regional authorities, local self-government and the business community; • ensuring the financial and technical sustainability of the Aarhus Centres. | OCEEA | General |
| OSCE | Aarhus Centres Guidelines http://www.osce.org/eea/40506 | To enhance and streamline the work of the Aarhus Centres, provide guidance for their strategic orientation, set up activities of Centres and ensure a common understanding of the Centres among all stakeholders. | All Aarhus Centre locations | 2009 | The guidelines were developed through participation of all stakeholders, in close cooperation with the Convention secretariat, and widely used by all relevant stakeholders. | ENVSEC OCEEA | General |
| OSCE | Annual Aarhus Centre Meetings http://www.osce.org/eea/62444 http://www.osce.org/eea/69853 | To exchange experiences and lessons learned among all Aarhus Centre practitioners. | January 2009, Vienna, January 2010, Istanbul | January 2009– January 2010 | Annual meetings provide the platform to bring together Aarhus Convention Focal Points, Aarhus Centre Managers and OSCE field mission representatives from all countries involved in the Aarhus Centres Initiative, the Convention secretariat, UNDP, REC and other relevant organizations to share lessons learned and best practices and to plan for the next phase. | ENVSEC OCEEA | General, Aarhus Centres |

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| OSCE, UNECE, UNITAR and EC | Regional Conference on the Protocol on PRTRs http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/50939 | To promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs in Central Asia. | Central Asia | 20–21 May 2009, Dushanbe | More than 40 participants, including representatives from Governments and Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan attended the conference. Several recommendations were developed, including those related to promoting the ratification of the Protocol in the Central Asian region, capacity building and the role of Aarhus Centres in promoting and implementing the Protocol on PRTRs. | OSCE UNECE EC UNITAR | Protocol on PRTRs |
| OSCE Centre in Astana | Workshop on PRTR http://www.osce.org/astana/69244 | To promote ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs by Kazakhstan. | Kazakhstan | 5 May 2010 | The event, organized by the OSCE Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, UNECE, the Asian-American Environmental Partnership and the national Aarhus Centre brought together more than 40 representatives from State and NGOs, as well as the business community, to discuss the Protocol on PRTRs. Workshop participants developed recommendations for government institutions and other stakeholders with a view to the future ratification of the Protocol and the establishment of the National Register. | OSCE Centre in Astana | Protocol on PRTRs |
| UNECE Aarhus Convention secretariat, OSCE | Access to Justice Regional Workshop for High-Level Judiciary | To bring together high court judges from the region together with leading experts in the access to justice pillar to share experiences, to identify challenges and explore possible ways to enhance the process. | South-Eastern Europe | 17–18 November 2008, Tirana | The Workshop was attended by high-level judicial representatives from all countries of the region, as well as several experts, and produced a set of recommendations that called for further capacity building, networking and cooperation at the regional level. | Government of France UNECE OSCE | Access to Justice |
| OSCE | Aarhus Centres Retreat | To review the Aarhus Centres' performance and to strengthen their capacities. | Armenia | December 2010 | The retreat was organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan with the participation of all Aarhus Centre representatives in Armenia and facilitated by a national professional NGO. | OCEEA | General, Aarhus Centres |

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| OSCE | Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) NGO Small Grants Programme http://www.osce.org/eea/72778 | To create an enabling environment for civil society organizations to be a strong partner, primarily to Governments but also to other stakeholders, in collaboratively addressing environment and security challenges. | Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan | 2009–2012 | Aarhus Centres in these countries, particularly in Armenia and Tajikistan, provide the platform for dissemination of information on CASE project activities to national and local stakeholders and CASE activities may contribute to the further improvement of Aarhus Centres themselves by expanding their outreach, increasing their visibility and strengthening their role and value in addressing implementation challenges facing the Convention. CASE has already demonstrated success in mobilizing the interest of NGOs. In less than one year of implementation, 132 project proposals were received from NGOs in the three countries, out of which 32 were granted CASE funding support. In Armenia, 17 NGO projects and, in Azerbaijan, 7 NGO projects have received CASE support. In Tajikistan, very recently 8 NGO projects were selected by the National Screening Board. All the projects have strong elements of public awareness and participation with a special focus on youth and women. Most of these projects benefit from the Aarhus Centre platforms and also contribute to the implementation of the Convention at the local level. In Armenia, CASE is an integral component of the Aarhus Centres Initiative. In Tajikistan, two regional Aarhus Centres have been instrumental in disseminating CASE information to NGOs. | Government of Austria ENVSEC (Canadian International Development Agency) Government of Luxembourg Statoil Azerbaijan | General, Aarhus Centres |

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| UNDP | Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Conventions Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and Greenways http://eeas.europa.eu/ http://www.ecorazvitie.by/index.php?cat=24 | To promote environmental protection and sustainable development at central and local levels. | Belarus | November 2008–December 2010 | In Belarus within the SEA component of the project: (a) professional and institutional capacities for SEA implementation and sustainability have been strengthened; (b) national capacity to meet the obligations of Belarus under international environmental conventions have been strengthened; (c) public access to information on the implementation of environmental conventions in Belarus have been enhanced; and (d) five Informational Centers on Sustainable Development and Greenways have been established and officially opened in Belarus. The LA21 component contributed: (a) to increased knowledge and institutional capacity of central and local authorities and civil society in the field of sustainable development, enabling them to develop and support LA21; (b) to development and promotion of 10 LA21 and 8 Greenways; and (c) 70 community-led sustainable development actions for improving public services and the local economy implemented and supported through local contributions and project grants distributed on a competitive basis. | EU | Public Participation in Decision-making (PPDM) |

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| UNDP | EU Environment Requirements Programme http://www.undp.org.al/index.php?page=projects/project&id=208 http://www.undp.org.al/elib.php?elib,1081 | Within the “One UN” Programme umbrella, this programme has been designed to support the environmental administration of Albania in its efforts to comply with the EU <i>acquis</i> . It plans to provide assistance in the field of horizontal legislation (i.e., EIA and public access to environmental information), in the field of financial and economic instruments for the environment, and in the waste management field. It also supports the integration of the environment into other sectors’ policies. | Albania | 1 December 2010–30 November 2013 | The programme proposes to organize targeted capacity-building events aiming at raising the awareness level of various groups which can subsequently contribute significantly to introducing the necessary changes. Workshops and information dissemination on specific policies, such as waste management, biodiversity and climate change for selected target groups will be held. Workshops and round tables aiming at assessing the implications of other sectoral policies on environment from a participatory point of view as a bottom-up approach will be organized. This activity will be performed in close cooperation with the project “Institutional strengthening to mainstream environment in other sectors’ policies”. Training sessions for journalists and students of the Academy for Journalism in analysing and using information and in championing environmental issues will be delivered. A public relations strategy for the Ministry of Environment Forests and Water Administration will be drafted and a mechanism for the Ministry to handle the requests for information will be prepared. Also, the “active dissemination” measures providing for public access to environmental information will be developed. The capacity of the existing Aarhus Information Centres will be improved. | Coherence fund (only 10% of the budget has been secured to date) | PPDM |

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| UNDP | Integration of Environment to the Autonomous Republic (AR) of Crimea Development Planning by Applying SEA http://www.undp.crimea.ua/subcomponent.php?type=dem_sp&menu_id=80 , http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSF3beGCQTA , http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pL_cDQPIF1A | To develop capacity of the AR Crimea district authorities in integrating environmental concerns into district development planning in order to support sustainable development and environmental security | Ukraine, AR Crimea | 2007–2010 | Public awareness and participation-related results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness and understanding on SEA concept and benefits among the key Government and civil society stakeholders of Crimea, via several regional workshops and seminars (over 600 people involved in the strategic planning process, including SEA, via public hearings and expert meetings); • In total, 42 specialists trained within SEA training and 54 specialists obtained practical experience participating in SEA application within the project; • SEA has been fully integrated in the Bakhchisaraysky District planning process with district environment and other sectoral authorities directly involved; • Most of SEA recommendations (80%) reflected in the final Sustainable Development Strategy for Bakhchisaraysky District. | ENVSEC | PPDM |

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| UNITAR | Rio Principle 10 National Profile and Action Plan Projects http://www.unitar.org/egp/rio-principle-10-projects | Support countries in identifying and strengthening capacities for participatory environmental governance through a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder process. Develop a global methodology concerning the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Facilitate international knowledge exchange and the development of coherent regional strategies. | Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua Botswana, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo | 2007–2008 2009–2010 2009-2011 | National Profiles finalized by seven African and Central American countries, representing comprehensive analyses of gaps and opportunities for strengthening participatory environmental governance. National priorities for Principle 10 implementation identified through participatory processes, including high-level representatives from Government ministries, public interest organizations, the private sector, academia and international organizations. Concrete capacity-building activities triggered through Action Plan development, e.g., workshops on participatory environmental quality management for municipalities in Costa Rica. Guidance document to assist countries in systematically assessing and strengthening national capacities for participatory environmental governance developed (available in English, French and Spanish). | | Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration |

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| UNITAR | POPs monitoring, reporting and information dissemination using Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database | | Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Ukraine, Chile, Ecuador, Peru | 8 December 2009–30 September 2011 | Outcomes included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRTR used as a tool for POPs, and other chemicals, monitoring and reporting; • Identification of POPs and other chemicals priority areas nationally and regionally through annual information provided by PRTRs; • Capacity enhanced nationally for an effective transfer and processing of data and further provision of information; • Information available for all sectors regardless of their access to modern and technological tools • Exchanging of information to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and Parties facilitated; • Capacity enhanced facilitating PRTR development; • Best practices and lessons learned in the development and implementation of POPs reporting and monitoring systems identified and disseminated. | GEF, UNEP | PRTRs |
| UNITAR | The Central American PRTR: Design of national PRTRs and regional support activities http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NI R/RList.asp | | Belize Costa Rica Guatemala Honduras | 8 November 2010-30 June 2012 | In responding to growing chemicals pollution concerns in the region, the Central American Regional Environmental Action Plan (PARCA, 2010–2014) introduces the strengthening of national institutes and quality environmental management as one of its strategic areas. Specifically within this area, a strategic objective is the “Promotion of efforts to reduce contamination”, which includes as an area of action the implementation of PRTRs in the region. | Spain and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development | PRTRs |

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| UNITAR | Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National PRTR and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Panama http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database | | Panama | 19 November 2010–19 November 2012 | Expected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRTR Infrastructure Assessment; • PRTR Key Features Document; • PRTR Pilot trial; • Final proposal on a national PRTR. | SAICM QSPTF | PRTRs |
| UNITAR | Strengthening Capacities for Designing a National PRTR and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Georgia http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database | | Georgia | 1 July 2009–28 February 2011 | Expected outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRTR Infrastructure Assessment; • PRTR Key Features Document; • PRTR Pilot trial; • Final proposal on a national PRTR. | SAICM QSPTF | PRTRs |
| OECD PRTR Task Force | Global List of PRTR pollutants http://www.prtr.net/en/ | Enhance data comparability across PRTR systems and streamline reporting practices with the objective to cover, as a minimum standard, a list of substances to be monitored globally. | All PRTR systems and PRTR-like systems | 2010–2012 | Global List of PRTR pollutants to be covered in the scope of PRTR registers worldwide. This exercise also aims at harmonizing the way substances are grouped and used for reporting. | OECD | PRTRs |

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| EC, European Environment Agency (EEA) | European PRTR as priority data flow aims at including data from candidate and potential candidate countries to E-PRTR http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/ http://www.eionet.europa.eu/dataflows/ | Include PRTR data into the so-called “Priority data flow” with the objective to provide support for countries when they are putting procedures in place for regular reporting of environmental data. | Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey | 2010– | 2011: PRTR data of Serbia, validated and published on the European PRTR website. 2012–2013: the main focus will be on Croatia, Albania, Turkey and Israel. | EC, EEA | PRTRs |
| EC | TAIEX and Twinning projects http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/index_en.htm | TAIEX is an instrument for capacity-building that supports countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation. The Twinning programme pairs administrations and semi-public organizations in beneficiary countries with their counterparts in EU member States in order to facilitate the transposition, enforcement and implementation of EU legislation. | Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244), Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia | 2007– | The EU Enlargement Directorate General, jointly with the Ministry of Environment of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, organized a seminar on European PRTR (Skopje, 15 April 2008). It also jointly organized workshops on European PRTR with the Croatian Environmental Agency (Zagreb, 7 July 2007 and 15 September 2010). The Directorate General also jointly organized with the Ministry of Environmental of Israel a workshop on European PRTR (Tel Aviv, 22 November 2010). | EC - | PRTRs |

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| EEB/ European ECO Forum | Making the Aarhus Convention work for civil society www.eeb.org www.participate.org http://www.greennwomen.kz/news.htm | The overall objective of the project is to encourage and help environmental organizations at the local, national and international levels to use the Convention fully to promote environmental protection and democracy. More specific objectives include: • Helping citizens to exercise the procedural rights granted to them by the Convention in order to improve the quality of participatory democracy; • Promoting the use of citizens' rights to file complaints about non-compliance to the Convention's Compliance Committee; • Fulfilling the potential of the Convention through helping environmental organizations to fully understand its implications and best practice; | EU, South-Eastern Europe and countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (pan-European region) | Ongoing since 2007 | Regarding use of the Aarhus Convention Compliance mechanism: • Three training workshops combined with meetings of the Compliance Committee (2007, 2008 and 2010); • Publication of the Case Law of the Aarhus Compliance Committee (English and Russian)(2008) — currently being updated; • Assistance and/or advice to NGOs in submitting communications, during the hearings and follow-up cases (cases involving Spain, Austria, Slovakia, EU, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine). Awareness-raising and capacity-building activities at the national level include four capacity-building workshops (Kazakhstan, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244) and Armenia). Concerning implementation and development of the Aarhus Convention: • NGO survey on public participation under articles 6, 7 and 8 on the basis of the 2008 National Implementation Reports and recommendations on what needs to be done to properly implement this part of the Convention. Findings were presented at the extraordinary session of Parties to the Convention (April 2010) and contributed to the establishment of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making; | Private foundation(s), Governments (Belgium, Spain, Sweden), European Commission, OSCE in Kazakhstan for pilot PRTR | General |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the NGO network, educating and encouraging public authorities to implement and enforce the Convention with clear, useful and accessible practical measures; • Improving the development of the Convention and its processes through the involvement of and feedback from NGOs; • Strengthening the NGO network working on the Convention throughout the pan-European region. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and preparations for meaningful participation of NGOs at the official meetings under the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs, including comments on documents; • Pilot PRTR was created by NGO in Kazakhstan (2009); • An online database of environmental cases submitted to courts by NGOs is under development. <p>Information and publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign’s newsletter “Participate”; • “Participate” website; • Practical guide for citizens and NGOs on Espoo Convention (English, Russian, Ukrainian and Turkish); • Publication, “The Aarhus Convention: your guide to environmental democracy” (English, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian — coming soon); • NGO survey on implementation of the EU Aarhus-related Directives (coming soon). | | |

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| REC | Implementing Public Participation Approaches in Radioactive Waste Disposal | | Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia | 2011–2013 | <p>Recommendations on improving public participation in the nuclear waste disposal issues, including complying with the requirements of international agreements, such as the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions, EU directives and related national legislation and best practice approaches.</p> <p>Explanation of the importance of cross-border issues in nuclear sector public participation procedures: the case study/studies.</p> <p>Cross-border issues in nuclear waste management sector: how novel approaches in risk communication can improve public participation in transboundary SEA and transboundary EIA procedures.</p> <p>Reports of the national and European meetings.</p> | EU, Framework Programme 7 (FP7) | PPDM |
| REC | Improve public participation know-how at the regional and local level in EIA, SEA or Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) decision-making | Pilot projects combined with capacity building for authorities, including municipalities, and NGOs. | <p>Ongoing in Albania and Serbia</p> <p>Planned in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro</p> | 2010–2012 | <p>Improved practical knowledge of officials and NGOs.</p> <p>Practical toolkit in local language to assist officials at different levels to carry out public participation procedures in EIA, SEA or urban planning processes.</p> <p>Means and mechanisms are in place for effective public participation as well as for consultation and cooperation between Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector on environment and security issues at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Public participation is promoted as an integral component of the preparatory processes for policies, plans, programmes and projects which may have a significant effect on the environment.</p> | ENVSEC | PPDM |

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| REC | Trainings for legal professionals on national and international environmental legislation and facilitation of access by the public to justice in environmental matters | Building capacity of judges and prosecutors, in cooperation with Judicial Training Centres. Dialogue on identification of barriers to access to justice and their reduction or removal for legal professionals and NGOs. | <i>Ongoing:</i> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244) <i>Planned:</i> all three activities will be implemented in all South-Eastern European countries. | 2010–2012 | Through interactive local language trainings and round-table discussions on access to justice, judges and prosecutors, as well as legal professionals and NGOs, will achieve a better understanding of the provisions of the Convention, related EU directives and national and international environmental legislation. National and local capacities will be strengthened for effective access to justice in environmental matters. There will be a better understanding by the judiciary, legal professionals and NGOs about implementation of the third pillar of the Convention on access to justice, in particular the obligations, rights and opportunities the Convention provides. The round tables with the judiciary, legal professionals and NGOs will also raise awareness and provide a better understanding of existing barriers to implementation of the Convention's third pillar, and recommendations will be formulated for their removal. NGO strategy meetings on access to justice rights and opportunities will result in more awareness of the rights and opportunities for access to justice and possible strategies to bring cases by NGOs. | ENVSEC | Access to Justice |

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| REC | Awareness and training activities on the use of PRTRs and PRTR reporting | Evaluate the current reporting system and its difficulties, discuss improvements and planned changes with authorities. Build capacity of authorities, operators and NGOs via on-site training at one selected facility (Albania). Assess the current status of the legal, institutional and technical requirements on PRTRs. | Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo (under Security Council resolution 1244), Montenegro Planned: Other South-Eastern European countries. | 2010–2012 | Assessment of the current status of the legal, institutional and technical requirements on PRTRs and/or the necessary developments and multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss findings and recommendations for future steps. Improved understanding of the role, actions, responsibilities and benefits of operators and NGOs. Improved capacities for PRTR implementation and better understanding of reporting requirements by authorities, Eoperators and NGOs. | ENVSC | Protocol on PRTRs |
| CAREC | Capacity development for NGOs of Central Asia http://carecnet.org/en/programmes | To increase knowledge and improve skills for development and management of environmental projects by young leaders in the NGO sector of Central Asia. | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan | Four phases of the project were implemented in 2008–2010 | The Programme included four series of month-long trainings for groups of 5–10 NGOs leaders, who were living in Almaty and working with CAREC. Special sessions of the trainings were devoted to the importance of the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention — awareness-raising; public participation in decision making; and access to justice. In general, 30 young environmental leaders from five Central Asian countries have participated in the four phases of the Programme. | EC, the Ministry of Environment of the Netherlands | General |

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| CAREC in cooperation with REC | Capacity-building activities within the project “Green Pack CD-ROM for Central Asia” www.carecnet.org ; http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/Greenpack/ | Strengthening of capacity and transferring “know-how” from REC to other regions of the world on sustainable development (SD) and education for sustainable development (ESD) issues. Government officials from the Ministries of Education and Environment, NGOs and teachers of secondary schools. | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan | <i>Phase I:</i> November 2009–December 2010 <i>Phase II:</i> February–June 2011 | Developed 25 SD themes for the Central Asian subregion; including the “Aarhus Convention” under the section “Values”. Developed the “Green Pack CD-ROM for Central Asia” in Russian. More than 200 teachers and Central Asian NGOs participated in the capacity-building activities within the project. | Chevron, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-Almaty, OSCE Centre in Astana, GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan | General |
| REC, local partner — CAREC | Capacity-building activities within the project “Course for Sustainability for Governmental officials of Kazakhstan” www.carecnet.org ; http://www.rec.org | Strengthening of capacity for 40 Governmental officials of Kazakhstan on different SD issues Governmental officials | Kazakhstan | April 2008–April 2009 | Forty governmental officials of Kazakhstan — representatives of 10 ministries — participated in the four modules on SD within the Course for Sustainability. A special session of the first module in Astana in April 2008 was devoted to the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention. Governmental officials of Kazakhstan strengthened cooperation on SD issues between themselves and their ministries. Now they are taking part in the preparation for the “Environment for Europe” Conference to be held in Astana in September 2011. | REC, Italian Ministry of Environment, Lands and Seas, the BG Group, Venice International University, Central European University, Agroinnova. | General |

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| CAREC | Capacity-building activities within the project “Course for SD and ESD for Central Asian Governmental officials” www.carecnet.org | Strengthening of capacity for 20 Governmental officials on different issues related to SD and ESD. Governmental officials | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan | March-October 2009 | Twenty Governmental officials from five Central Asian countries, representatives of four ministries — environment, education, energy and economy — participated in two modules on SD and ESD within the course to strengthen their cooperation. Some presentations of the sessions were devoted to the Aarhus Convention. | UNESCO-Almaty | General |
| ERM, DHV, Russian REC, and UNICON International | Strengthening Public Participation and Civil Society Support to Implementation of Aarhus Convention http://aarhus.carecnet.org/ | To improve the state of natural resources at risk in Central Asia by promoting transboundary cooperation among the Central Asian States, strengthening public participation and civil society. Public officials and civil servants engaged in implementing the Convention, as well as those responsible for the enactment and enforcement of the necessary legislation Civil society, the media, business associations, and trade unions. | Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan | 1 September 2007–31 August 2009 | Project results: <i>Component A: Raising Awareness Amongst the Judiciary</i> This component area was successfully completed in May 2009. The benchmarking of capacity-building needs (Task A.1) was completed at the beginning of the second reporting period. The implementation of the capacity-building programme (Task A.2) for Kyrgyzstan was completed with the holding of a “train the trainers” workshop for key representatives from the Kyrgyz judiciary from across the country in Bishkek on 21–22 April 2009. With respect to Turkmenistan, four local workshops were held throughout Turkmenistan between September and December 2008, and a series of seven planned workshops for the local judiciary was completed in Tajikistan at the end of November 2008. In Kazakhstan, three major outreach workshops were held (in cooperation with OSCE and the Kazakh Supreme Court) on the access to justice pillar for the judiciary (and other key stakeholders) in Astana (10–11 March, 2009), Atyrau (6–8 April, 2009), and Almaty (25–26 May, 2009). The effectiveness of the capacity-building (Task A.3) was judged to be high by all participants that attended these workshops. | European Commission | Access to Justice |

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| | | | | | <p><i>Component B: Legislative Support</i></p> <p>This component area has been successfully completed. The legal analysis (Task B.1) for Kazakhstan was presented to the Kazakh National Coordination Committee at a round-table meeting on 14 November 2008 in Almaty, the draft recommendations therein were finalized accordingly and concrete project support agreed upon. The experts for implementing the respective recommendations were selected in consultation with the Coordination Committee in April and, following internal team consultation on the draft outputs, the secondary legislation (Task B.2) was submitted to the Project Partner in early July 2009. In Turkmenistan, the legal analysis was completed in July 2008 and, as a result of the recommendations therein, draft guidance on the law “On Public Associations” has been completed. The draft “guidance on public participation” was presented at a round table in Ashgabat on 24 March 2009 and, following stakeholder consultation, finalized in May 2009. In Tajikistan, the results of the legal analysis were presented at a round table of officials and Duma deputies in Dushanbe on 12 November 2008. As a result, a series of concrete actions were agreed upon (to be executed by Duma deputies) for implementation in the nearest future, including a project providing an “on call” facility for any assistance required. In Kyrgyzstan, the analysis of the impact of environmental legislation on entrepreneurial activity was completed in early December 2008 and guidance on enhancing public participation within the environmental decision-making process was completed in early February and rolled out at two round tables on 24 and 26 February 2009.</p> | | General |

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| | | | | | <p><i>Component C: Regional and National Capacity-Building</i></p> <p>Work in implementing each country's workplan has been completed. Analysis of the national and regional user guides was completed in February 2008 with a series of generic recommendations for the changes necessary to the respective user guides. Analysis of training and capacity-building needs of the National Teams was completed in late spring and training priorities were identified accordingly. The analysis of capacity-building for officials and civil society was completed, largely informally through the assessment of the needs of the National Teams, which were comprised of members from civil society and officials. The revisions to the user guides have been completed for each country; the user guides have been published, and were actively used by the National Teams for building capacity in the key stakeholder groups. The training of the National Teams has been completed in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan and, in the case of the latter two countries, workshops for building capacity of officials and civil society were held during the final quarter of 2008. In Kazakhstan, the implementation of the wider capacity-building process for these two target groups took place in parallel with the capacity-building for the judiciary on the access to justice pillar, with officials and civil society attending the three workshops in Astana, Atyrau and Almaty in spring 2009.</p> | | General |

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| | | | | | <p>The Kyrgyz workplan is different from those of the other three main partner countries. Nevertheless, the implementation of activities under this component area has been successfully completed. The revisions to the SEA training materials were completed in November 2008, and an outreach workshop successfully held in Bishkek in February 2009. The development of a training manual on best practice for using Aarhus Electronic Tools was successfully completed in May 2009, and was rolled out at a workshop for representatives from across the country at a two-day workshop in Bishkek on 2–3 June 2009. The revised Aarhus web page on the website of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry was finalized in early July 2009.</p> <p><i>Component D: Design and Implementation of Pilot Projects</i></p> <p>The respective pilot project workplans were completed with the finalization of the Kyrgyz implementation plan in mid-August 2009.</p> | | General |

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Component E: Tailored Programme for Uzbekistan

The implementation of this component area proved problematic — not least because there was no statement of endorsement by the Government and, hence, no legal basis for implementing the project within the country despite a consensus finally being reached between all key stakeholders upon an adapted workplan for the country in June 2008. In response to letters written by the Project Team to *Goskompriroda* (State Committee for Nature Protection) in August 2008, letters of support were submitted in mid-October 2008, and again in November 2008, to the Cabinet of Ministers by *Goskompriroda* requesting the authorization of the agreed workplan. However, the required authorizations from the Cabinet were not forthcoming by the end of January 2009. Consequently, and in line with a decision made at a meeting of the project's regional coordination committee on 24 October 2008, project resources were allocated to support a regional workshop on PRTR in May 2009 (in cooperation with UNECE and OSCE) with the implementation of activities in Uzbekistan cancelled.

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| | | | | | <p><i>Component F: Support to Protocol on PRTRs Implementation</i></p> <p>This component essentially consists of two tasks. An informal review of the status of PRTR implementation was completed for all countries in mid-2008 and appended to Progress Report No. 2 accordingly. Thereafter, the implementation of activities varied from country to country. In Kazakhstan, PRTR activities were incorporated into the pilot project on Almaty City (complementing parallel activities being implemented under the GEF facility on fixed pollution sources), which was completed at the end of June 2009.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan, the feasibility study for implementing a national PRTR was completed in January 2009, a draft concept for a PRTR database was completed in late April 2009 and two outreach workshops were successfully held for representatives from civil society and industry on 13 May 2009 and 4 July 2009, respectively. In Tajikistan, the implementation of PRTR activities was completed in Autumn 2008. The translation of the Protocol on PRTRs into Tajik was completed in August 2008. Awareness of PRTR in the country was successfully raised via the implementation of two regional workshops (in Dushanbe and Khujand) in September 2008. In Turkmenistan, the comparative analysis on the data reporting requirements between PRTR and national statistical reporting was completed in late February/early March 2009, with the results rolled out at a national awareness-raising workshop in Ashgabat on 9 April 2009.</p> | | Protocol on PRTRs |