

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**

#### **Working Group of the Parties**

##### **Twenty-third meeting**

Geneva, 26–28 June 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

##### **Preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties**

## **OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2015-2020<sup>1</sup>**

### Note by the secretariat

#### **Introduction**

Pursuant to decision VI/5 on the work programme for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1), adopted by 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) at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–14 September 2017), the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, prepared a proposal on the future Strategic Plan for 2022–2030 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2019/7). The proposal includes information on the approach to drafting the future Strategic Plan and an indicative timeline for its preparation. It also highlights issues that could be taken into consideration when preparing the future Strategic Plan. A suggested draft Strategic Plan for 2022–2030 is contained in addendum 1 to the proposal (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2019/7/Add.1).<sup>2</sup> The present document provides an initial overview of the implementation of the international dimension of the current Strategic Plan for 2015–2021 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1). The document was prepared by the secretariat to assist Parties in their deliberations on developing a new Strategic Plan for 2022–2030.

As of 1 April 2019 vast majority of the objectives in the current strategic plan were or will be addressed through the previous and current work programmes with different degree. Respectively, the related indicators of progress and targets were partly met or remain in progress. The only objectives of the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 that were not met are the following:

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited.

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.unece.org/index.php?id=50755](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50755).

## **Focal area II: Expansion**

### **Strategic goal II**

#### **Increase the impact of the Convention in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond**

- To increase the impact of the Convention in the ECE region and beyond, Parties will implement the following objectives as far as possible:
- *Objective II.1:* The number of Parties to the Convention within the ECE region continues to increase steadily throughout the plan period.
- *Objective II.2:* The amendment to the Convention on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and the placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is approved by a sufficient number of Parties to enter into force by 2015 and is progressively implemented.
- *Objective II.3:* States in other regions of the world effectively exercise their right to accede to the Convention. Parties actively encourage accession to the Convention by States of other regions of the world.

## **Overview of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020**

### **Framework for implementation**

#### **A.Focal area I: Implementation**

##### **Strategic goal I**

##### **Full implementation of the Convention by each Party**

To achieve full implementation of the Convention by each Party, Parties will implement the objectives set out below as far as possible.

*Objective 1.1:* Each Party has a clear, transparent and consistent framework for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, comprising not only the necessary constitutional, legislative and regulatory provisions, but also the operational procedures and mechanisms required for their practical application both in a national context as well as in transboundary situations, without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Identify and remediate any deficiencies in the implementation framework to ensure that adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures, and institutional mechanisms are in place. All activities are to be implemented through a participatory process, such as a robust consultation in the preparation of the National Implementation Report (NIR).	Parties, partner organizations, <sup>a</sup> stakeholders	Adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures, and institutional mechanisms are in place.  A participatory mechanism, such as a robust consultation in the preparation of the NIR, to monitor progress in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention is operational.  Good quality and timely submitted NIRs.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International<sup>b</sup></b>					
Strengthen Parties' capacities to implement the Convention and	Meeting of the Parties and relevant	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the	WGP meetings, including PPIF thematic sessions	WGP meetings, including thematic sessions on AI, PPDM, AJ, GMO and	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
address obstacles to its implementation through the compliance mechanism, sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Convention bodies <sup>c</sup> Parties and the secretariat	respective Convention bodies (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed). Effective implementation of decisions regarding Parties' non-compliance.	TF AI, AJ and PPDM, GMO GRT, CC meetings Updated Aarhus Clearinghouse (ACH) launched, and jurisprudence DB (database), collection of good practices in DB Maastricht Recommendations published in EN, FR, RU Finalization of Aarhus Implementation Guide in FR and RU	PPIF Capacity-building networking and learning event at WGP-22 TF AI, AJ and PPDM, GMO GRT, CC meetings ACH good practices and other resources	progress/targets met partially/in progress

<sup>a</sup> Wherever reference is made to partner organizations, it is understood that the organizations participating in the Convention's capacity-building coordination framework and other relevant organizations will be involved.

<sup>b</sup> Refers to multilateral processes established under the Convention.

<sup>c</sup> Activities of the Meeting of the Parties and other bodies under the Convention also involve stakeholders.

*Objective 1.2:* The Convention's mechanism for compliance review fulfils the role of an effective instrument to address compliance problems that cannot be resolved at the national level. The findings and recommendations of the Compliance Committee are regarded by Parties as an authoritative source of advice on the implementation of the Convention and are used by them to improve their national practices in the best way possible.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Implement effectively the decisions regarding non-compliance by individual Parties adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.	Parties Interested stakeholders	Having a system in place for monitoring the implementation of decisions.  Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties are implemented effectively and reported through NIRs  Positive feedback from Parties and stakeholders			
Having a system in place to monitor the implementation of decisions, involving all relevant authorities, communicants and other interested stakeholders.					
<b>International</b>					
Review of submissions, communications and referrals and preparation and publication of findings and recommendations.	Meeting of the Parties, Parties Compliance Committee Secretariat	Adoption of the findings and recommendations by the Compliance Committee and adoption of the respective decisions by the Meeting of the Parties.  Positive feedback from	Regular CC meetings New communications received and considered as to their admissibility  Follow up on decisions from MOP	Regular CC meetings New communications received and considered as to their admissibility  Follow up on decisions from MOP	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress
Thematic review of generic					

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
compliance problems. Periodic review of the implementation of decisions on compliance by individual Parties with the Convention adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.		Parties and stakeholders.	Preparation of decisions for adoption at MOP-6 Failure of endorse findings and adopt decision regarding one Party	Work to revise CC Guide	

*Objective 1.3:* The reporting mechanism under the Convention fulfils the role of an effective instrument to monitor the Convention's implementation

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b> Preparing national implementation report through wide multi-stakeholder consultations.	Parties Interested stakeholders	Good quality reports have been prepared through wide multi-stakeholder consultations.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>International</b>					
Review of the implementation.	Meeting of the Parties, Parties Compliance Committee Secretariat	Timely submission of good quality reports. Good quality synthesis report is drawn up with the major conclusions drawn from the submitted NIRs.	By 29 March 2017 all NIR for the 2014 reporting period had been received. For 2017 reporting period: 31 Parties submitted NIR before the deadline, at MOP6 reports of 7 Parties were still missing	By 1 April 2019 only 2 Parties failed to submit NIR reports: Armenia and the Republic of Moldova	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

*Objective I.4:* In implementing the Convention, each Party not only complies with its mandatory provisions, but also endeavours to give effect to its provisions whose application is discretionary.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Develop adequate legislation, regulations and implement required measures.	Parties Stakeholders	Adequate legislation and regulations are developed and the required measures are taken.			
Pilot projects.		Pilot projects are implemented.  Positive feedback from Parties and stakeholders.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities through sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Meeting of the Parties, relevant Convention bodies and the secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	WGP meetings, including PPIF thematic sessions  TF AI, AJ and PPDM, GMO GRT, CC meetings  Updated ACH launched including jurisprudence DB and collection of good practices	WGP meetings, including thematic sessions on AI, PPDM, AJ, GMO and PPIF  Capacity-building networking and learning event at WGP-22  TF AI, AJ and PPDM, GMO GRT, CC meetings	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			Maastricht Recommendations published in EN, FR, RU  Finalization of Aarhus Implementation Guide in FR and RU	Collection of good practices in ACH and DB	

*Objective I.5:* Environmental education is widely available and promotes active and responsible behaviour among the public as regards the environment, including the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Addressing provisions and principles of the Aarhus Convention through formal, informal and non-formal programmes on education for	Parties, Stakeholders, in particular educational institutions, local and subnational authorities	Adequate educational programmes and curriculum.  Good practices are reported			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
sustainable development (ESD).	Media  Civil society organizations	through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities through sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Secretariat, mostly through implementation of the ECE Strategy for ESD <sup>a</sup>  Partner organizations	The objective is adequately addressed through the work on the ECE Strategy for ESD and Convention bodies, as appropriate (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	See activities on implementation of the ECE Strategy for ESD	WGP-22 meeting, including capacity-building networking and learning event  Collection of good practices in ACH  See activities on implementation of the ECE Strategy for ESD	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

*Objective 1.6:* Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government are aware of the obligations under the Convention and allocate as far as possible the resources needed to comply with them.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Information, training, organizational and budgetary measures. Translate text of the Convention into national and subnational languages and distribute it widely; provide adequate training to all relevant staff of the authorities.	Parties All public authorities concerned within Parties Stakeholders Partner organizations	The required information, training, organizational and budgetary measures are taken. National focal points have capacity to carry out the required work. Resources are allocated as far as possible.			
Strengthening of national focal points.		Convention is translated into national and subnational languages and distributed widely.			
National capacity-building <sup>a</sup> activities.		Adequate training is provided regularly to relevant staff in the authorities. Programmes for capacity-building activities are being implemented.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
Good practices are reported through NIRs.					
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities. Strengthening Parties' capacities through sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Partner organizations and the secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed)	Inter-agency capacity-building coordination framework Report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2) Meetings of TFs Collection of good practices in ACH and DB Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)	Inter-agency capacity-building coordination framework Capacity-building networking and learning event at WGP-22 Meetings of TFs Collection of good practices in ACH and DB Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<sup>a</sup> Wherever reference is made to capacity-building activities, it is understood that the organizations participating in the Convention's capacity-building coordination framework will be involved.

*Objective I.7:* The implementation of the Convention leads to the development of an open administrative culture which supports public participation and transparency in environmental matters and values them as positive contributions to democratic, effective and good governance. Public officials concerned have and apply the knowledge and skills to provide assistance and guidance to the public to facilitate the exercise of its rights.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Political support at the highest level.	Parties	Programmes for capacity-building activities are being implemented.			
Encourage proactive officials.	All public authorities concerned within Parties	The operational procedures and mechanisms are established and implemented.			
Exchange of best practices and national capacity-building for officials at all levels.	Partner organizations	Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
Regular awareness-raising.					
Establishing and implementing the operational procedures and mechanisms promoting an open administrative culture.					
<b>International</b>					

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities. Sharing good practices.	Partner organizations and the secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared).	Inter-agency capacity-building coordination framework  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)  Aarhus Clearinghouse  Good practice DB  Partner organizations, including Aarhus Centres	Inter-agency capacity-building coordination framework  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres  ACH Good Practice and other resources	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

*Objective 1.8:* Each Party provides for appropriate recognition of and support to civil society organizations promoting environmental protection as important actors in advancing democratic debate on environmental policies, raising public awareness and mobilizing and assisting citizens in exercising their rights under the Convention and contributing to its implementation.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Identifying and remediating any deficiencies in the framework to ensure that adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures, and institutional mechanisms are in place.	Parties Donor institutions Partner organizations Civil society organizations	Measures are implemented. Programmes for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities are implemented. Civil society organizations participate effectively in the related activities.			
National capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.		Support for public interest environmental civil society organizations is being provided.			
Preparing and disseminating adequate resource material in national and subnational languages to assist civil society organizations in exercising their rights under the Convention.		Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
Provision of financial and					

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
expert assistance.  Consideration of measures for the implementation of article 3, paragraph 8, such as “whistleblower” protection.					
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties’ capacities through sharing good practices.	Parties Donor institutions Partner organizations Civil society organizations Secretariat	Civil society organizations participate effectively in the activities at the international level.  Good practices have been shared through regional and subregional capacity-building activities and the work of the Convention’s bodies.	Study on possibilities for NGOs promoting environmental protection to claim damages on behalf of the environment  Aarhus Centres  Participation of NGO representatives in meetings of Convention bodies (WGP, TFs, Bureau, MOP, GRT)	Aarhus Centres  Participation of NGO representatives in meetings of Convention bodies (WGP, TFs, Bureau, GRTs etc.)	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

*Objective 1.9:* Civil society organizations and the general public are aware of their rights under the Convention and assert them to effectively engage in addressing environmental and sustainable development issues and to advance both environmental protection and good governance, thus contributing to sustainable development.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Public awareness campaigns.	Parties	Measures for raising public awareness are being implemented.			
Support for public interest environmental civil society organizations, including environmental law organizations.	Civil society organizations Partner organizations Academic Institutions Donors	Support for public interest environmental civil society organizations is being provided.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional activities.	Parties Partner organizations Donors Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Secretariat	Civil society organizations and the general public have the opportunity to participate effectively in the activities under the Convention.	Participation of NGO representatives in meetings of Convention bodies (WGP, Bureau, CC, TFs, Bureau, MOP, GRT)  Financial support of NGO representatives to ensure civil society organization participation in meetings	Participation of NGO representatives in meetings of Convention bodies (WGP, Bureau, CC, TFs, Bureau, GRT)  Financial support of NGO representatives to ensure civil society organization participation in meetings	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			and other activities under the Convention (LoP of meetings) Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)	and other activities under the Convention (LoP of meetings) Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	

### Access to information

*Objective I.10:* Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government have well-established information policies and mechanisms, under which environmental information of a high quality is routinely provided and proactively disseminated to the public in a user-friendly manner, making full use of electronic tools where available.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>

### National

Further development of systems to collect environmental information,	Parties All stakeholders,	Environmental information of a high quality is routinely provided and
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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
including environment-related health information. Further development of public registers, national nodes and information centres. Increasing compatibility of electronic databases containing environmental information. Implementation of recommendations adopted through decision II/3 and implementation of other decisions of the Meeting of the Parties related to access to information.	including health professionals' organizations Partner organizations	proactively disseminated to the public in a user-friendly manner. Good practices are reported through NIRs. Review mechanism on access to information.			
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities. Strengthening Parties' capacities through sharing good practices and developing guidance	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g.,	TF AI 3, 4 and 5 meetings: focus on exchange of experience and good practices on scope of information, quality and associated costs, application of restrictions	WGP-22 thematic session on AI covering scope and format of environmental information, its providers, application of grounds for refusal, timeliness, dissemination of	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
material.		good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	<p>to access environmental information, comparability of information, dissemination through EIT, further development of national nodes and ACH</p> <p>Aarhus Clearinghouse: upgraded in terms of functionality and content.</p> <p>ACH Good Practices and other resources</p> <p>Survey and collection of case studies on electronic information tools</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)</p>	<p>environmental information and capacity-building learning and networking event</p> <p>TF AI meetings</p> <p>Update of the Recommendations on electronic information tools as set out in decision II/5</p> <p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region</p> <p>Aarhus Clearinghouse, continuation of adding content</p> <p>Good Practices DB, included in ACH</p> <p>EIT case studies collection</p> <p>Support of the EEA activity relating to better integration of environmental information</p>	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
				<p>system in e-government and open data frameworks within the Shared Environmental Information System project</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres</p>	

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**Public participation**

*Objective I.11:* Public participation procedures are regarded by public authorities and all other actors concerned as an integral part of the preparation of policies, plans, programmes, projects, legal instruments and executive regulations that may have a significant effect on the environment, and are implemented in their full scope. Prospective applicants are, where appropriate, encouraged to undertake proactive efforts to identify and inform the public concerned and enter into discussions with them at an early stage of planning, allowing for the effective participation of all interested members of the public.

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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Informational and organizational measures to facilitate public participation procedures.	All authorities within Parties responsible for carrying out public participation procedures	Measures have been taken to ensure that effective public participation procedures are in place.			
Training and other capacity-building activities of officials and executives in communication with the general public.	Private sector Partner organizations	Good practices are reported through NIRs.  Public authorities demonstrably take account of public input.			
Application of recommendations developed under the Convention and other decisions of the Meeting of the Parties related to public participation. Decisions broadly reflect the public input.					

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities through regional and subregional capacity-building activities, sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Partner organizations Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	TF PPDM 5, 6 and 7 meetings focused on identification and notification of public concerned incl. marginalised groups, early participation, taking due account of comments and outcomes of public participation, role of private actors/project developers, innovative practices, public participation in decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex 1 of the Convention (i.e. those type of decisions mentioned in article 6 paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention), public participation in decision-making related to changes to or extensions of existing activities, energy-related planning, in transboundary context, climate change-	WGP-23 thematic session on PPDM TF PPDM meetings, including TF PPDM 8 meeting focused on ensuring public participation, protection of persons exercising their rights in conformity with the Convention, chemicals- and product- related decision-making Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region Collection of good practices through ACH; exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with partner	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			<p>and sustainable development-related decision-making</p> <p>Good practices Database with collection of case studies</p> <p>Maastricht Recommendations published in EN, FR and RU</p> <p>Surveys on experience in using the Maastricht Recommendations</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)</p>	<p>organizations.</p> <p>Participation in other relevant regional initiatives as appropriate;</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres</p>	

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**Access to justice**

*Objective I.12:*

(a) Each Party ensures **access to administrative or judicial review procedures** that can provide timely and effective **remedies** for members of the public who consider that their rights under the Convention have not been respected;

(b) Each Party **empowers members of the public**, where they meet the criteria, if any, laid down in national law, to challenge acts and omissions that contravene provisions of national environmental law. Any such criteria should be established taking fully into account the Convention's objective of guaranteeing access to justice;

(c) Each Party undertakes genuine efforts to reduce and **eliminate financial and other barriers** that may prevent access to such review procedures and establishes, where appropriate, assistance mechanisms to that end.

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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
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**National**

<p>Identifying and remediating any deficiencies through a multi-stakeholder dialogue to ensure that adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures and institutional frameworks are in place with regard to (a) remedies, (b) standing and (c) financial barriers.</p> <p>Capacity-building activities.</p> <p>Implementing decisions of</p>	<p>Parties</p> <p>All authorities within Parties responsible for the functioning of administrative or judicial review procedures, in particular ministries of justice</p> <p>Civil society organizations</p> <p>Public interest lawyers</p>	<p>Effective access to administrative or judicial review procedures is ensured through: (a) providing timely and effective remedies to members of the public; (b) empowering members of the public to obtain access to justice; and (c) reducing and eliminating financial and other barriers that may prevent access to review procedures and through</p>
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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
the Meeting of the Parties related to access to justice.	Partner organizations	establishing assistance mechanisms.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities through regional and subregional capacity-building activities, sharing good practices, maintaining jurisprudence database and developing guidance material.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies  Partner organizations  Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	TF AJ 8, 9 and 10 meetings focused on scope of review, costs and remedies, timeliness, multi-stakeholder dialogue to remove barriers to access to justice, measures that could protect persons seeking justice and exercising their rights in conformity with the Convention from the possibility of persecution and harassment, e-justice initiatives, collection of the relevant statistics and other the use of other tools to promote effective access to justice.  Special networking sessions for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other	WGP-24 thematic session on AJ  TF AJ meetings, including:  TF AJ 11 meeting focused on promoting effective access to justice in cases on the right to environmental information; recent developments in promoting effective access to justice (standing, scope of review and remedies) and tools to improve effectiveness;  TF AJ 12 meeting focused on promoting effective access to justice in cases relating to air quality; recent developments in promoting effective access to justice (standing, scope of	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			<p>review bodies in 2015 and 2016 and UNECE, UNEP, OSCE, and REC CEE side-event at MOP6 on strengthening the role of judiciary in promoting rule of law in environmental matters and achieving SDGs</p> <p>Study on possibilities for NGOs promoting environmental protection to claim damages on behalf of the environment</p> <p>Study on scope of review in selected countries in SEE and EECCA</p> <p>Maintaining jurisprudence DB</p> <p>ACH good practices and other resources</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more</p>	<p>review, remedies, financial barriers and collective redress) and tools to improve effectiveness, including e-justice initiatives, monitoring and etc</p> <p>2018 special networking session and 2019 judicial colloquium for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies</p> <p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region</p> <p>Study on access to justice in information cases</p> <p>Maintaining jurisprudence DB</p> <p>ACH good practices and other resources</p>	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)	Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	

*Objective 1.13:* Judges, public prosecutors and other legal professionals are familiar with the provisions of the Convention and are ready to exercise their respective responsibilities to uphold them.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Information, education/training and capacity-building measures for legal professionals in accordance with decisions on access to justice adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.	Parties, in particular, ministries of justice or similar national bodies Judicial training centres Law schools Professional organizations	Adequate curricula/training programmes. Measures are being implemented. Decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other judicial bodies, are publicly accessible.			
Taking measures to make decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other judicial bodies, publicly	Civil society organizations	Good practices are reported through NIRs.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
accessible.					
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities through regional and subregional capacity-building activities, maintaining jurisprudence database, sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Partner organizations Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	Special networking session for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies to promote judicial networking in pan-European region (2015, 2016)  Training for judges and legal professionals organized by REC back-to-back with MOP6  UNECE, UNEP, OSCE, and REC CEE side-event at MOP6 on strengthening the role of judiciary in promoting rule of law in environmental matters and achieving SDGs  Jurisprudence DB, including >100 decisions by courts of law or other review bodies that make	Special networking session for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies to promote judicial networking in pan-European region (2018)  The Judicial Colloquium "SDG16: Role of Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in Environmental Matters" (2019)  Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region  Capacity-building activities executed by partners  Jurisprudence DB, including >120 decisions	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			<p>reference to the Convention</p> <p>Workshop on access to justice in environmental matters in SEE (Tbilisi 2015) in cooperation with OSCE</p> <p>ACH good practices and other resources</p>	<p>by courts of law or other review bodies that make reference to the Convention</p> <p>ACH good practices and other resources</p>	

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## B. Focal area II: Expansion

### Strategic goal II

#### Increase the impact of the Convention in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and beyond

To increase the impact of the Convention in the ECE region and beyond, Parties will implement the following objectives as far as possible:

*Objective II.1:* The number of Parties to the Convention within the ECE region continues to increase steadily throughout the plan period.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Build public and political support for ratification in non-Parties.	Parties Partner organizations	Completed ratification procedures.			
Bilateral consultations to discuss and overcome obstacles to ratification.	Civil society organizations Interested non-Party within the ECE region				
<b>International</b>					
Strengthen Parties' capacities through capacity-building activities, sharing good practices, developing guidance material and providing assistance upon request.	Secretariat Civil society organizations Parties Interested non-Party Partner organizations	Increased number of Parties.	47 Parties	47 Parties	Indicator of progress/target: Not met – no new Parties to the Convention between 2015-2018

*Objective II.2:* The amendment to the Convention on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and the placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is approved by a sufficient number of Parties to enter into force by 2015 and is progressively implemented.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Build public and political support for ratification in Parties.  Parties seek bilateral consultations with other Parties that have ratified the amendment, to discuss and overcome obstacles to ratification and receive/ provide capacity-building assistance and share good practices.	Interested Parties  Partner organizations  Civil society organizations	Completed ratification procedures.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening the capacities of the Parties concerned through capacity-building activities, sharing good practices and provision of advisory assistance upon request.  Use of regional and international cooperation	Secretariat  Civil society organizations  Parties concerned  Partner organizations, in particular the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol to the	Increased number of ratifications.	3 ratifications (France, Georgia and Malta)  2 <sup>nd</sup> GRT on GMOs/LMOs with Cartagena Protocol secretariat  Checklist of key measures required for ratification and implementation of AC /	As of 1 April 2019, no new ratifications  Joint newsletter with Cartagena Protocol secretariat in 2018  GRT on GMOs/LMOs in 2019	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets were not met

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
arrangements to raise interest in the GMO amendment.	Convention on Biological Diversity.		Cartagena Protocol Joint note on sources available for technical assistance, tools, materials with regard to implementation of the two legal instruments Two training modules on AI and PP concerning LMOs		

*Objective II.3:* States in other regions of the world effectively exercise their right to accede to the Convention. Parties actively encourage accession to the Convention by States of other regions of the world.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Build public and political support for ratification in non-Parties.	Parties Partner organizations	Completed ratification procedures.			
Bilateral consultations between Parties and non-Parties to discuss and overcome obstacles to ratification, provide capacity-building assistance and share good practices with interested non-Parties.	Civil society organizations Interested non-Party outside the ECE region	Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening the capacities of interested non-Parties through capacity-building activities, sharing good practices, translating guidance material into national and subnational languages and providing advisory and	Secretariat Civil society organizations Parties Interested non-Party outside the ECE region	Increased number of Parties.	No new ratifications Provision of advisory services to Guinea-Bissau upon request Implementation Guide made available in Chinese Quick Guide made	As of 1 April 2019, no new ratifications Provision of advisory services to Guinea-Bissau upon request Quick Guide made available in Chinese and to be made available in	Objectives were partly addressed. Indicator of progress/target: not met.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
technical assistance upon request.			available in Arabic	Japanese	
Use of regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention.			Provision of advisory support to ECLAC and Principle 10 process in LAC region	Provision of advisory support to ECLAC and Principle 10 process in LAC region	

*Objective II.4:* The Convention sets an **internationally recognized standard** for access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, and **inspires the development of similar instruments in other regions** of the world thereby putting Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration into practice.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Promoting the Convention: (a) at national level to national focal points dealing with other international forums; and (b) through bilateral cooperation with countries in other regions through providing capacity-building assistance and sharing good practices.	Parties Partner organizations Civil society organizations	Convention promoted effectively within interministerial processes and through Parties' positions in major international forums, as well as among countries in other regions.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Participation in key regional and international events to publicize the Convention.	Parties Meeting of the Parties and its Bureau and the Working Group	Convention promoted effectively in major international forums and among countries in other regions.	WGP Thematic sessions on PPIF (UNFCCC, Environment and Health)	WGP Thematic sessions on PPIF (chemicals in 2018)	Objectives were addressed
Encouraging references to the Convention in other forums (political and academic).	Secretariat		See list of events at which secretariat participated in to promote Convention	Advisory support to ECLAC and during negotiation of regional instrument on Principle 10	Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress
Cooperating with other regional bodies interested in the implementation of	Civil society organizations Partner organizations		(report on the implementation of WP), including IPCC, UN ISDR, IFI Working Group,	See list of other events, including UNEA, HRC, ECE's session, ECE CEP,	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.  Providing capacity-building and advisory assistance.			<p>UNFCCC, HRC, EfE Ministerial Conference, SAICM, UNEA, ECE CEP, MEAs and WGEMA, etc.</p> <p>Advisory support to ECLAC and during negotiation of regional instrument on Principle 10</p> <p>Contribution to several studies by HRC and reports of SR on human rights and the environment (2015, 2016), input to consultation on rights of children and human rights and the environment</p>	<p>MEAs, WGEMA, IAM/IOMC, IFIs, at which secretariat participated in to promote Convention (report on the implementation of WP)</p> <p>Contribution to several studies by HRC and reports of SRs</p> <p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region</p>	

*Objective II.5:* The **Parties to the Convention** actively promote the **application of its principles in international environmental decision-making processes** and within the framework of international organizations relating to the environment, and endeavour to influence the practices of international forums in matters relating to the environment, in particular the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Consideration of possible measures to give effect to the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums at the national level.	Parties Partner organizations Civil society organizations	Increased number of international forums that apply the Almaty Guidelines in their procedures.  National coordination mechanisms are in place and are working effectively.			
Implementation of the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties related to application of the Convention's principles in international environmental decision-making.		Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities to apply the Almaty Guidelines.	Parties Secretariat	Application of the Convention's principles is promoted effectively in major international forums.	Preparation of flyer summarizing the Almaty Guidelines and PPIF Checklist in EN, FR, RU	PPIF Sessions during WGP on different international forums on chemicals and waste, UNEA, SDG HLPF, IFIs	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress .
Promotion of the application	Civil society organizations	The objective is adequately	PPIF Sessions during		

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<p>of the Almaty Guidelines in international forums.</p> <p>Adoption of appropriate practices and procedures in international forums; review of existing practices.</p> <p>Consultations with other forums.</p>	<p>Partner organizations</p> <p>Meeting of the Parties and its Working Group</p>	<p>addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies.</p> <p>Parties coordinate collectively in other forums on matters relevant to the application of the Convention's principles.</p>	<p>WGPs on different international forums (related to SDG/HLPF, UNEA, trade negotiations, IFIs, European environment and health, climate change/UNFCCC COPs, etc)</p> <p>Surveys for Parties on application of principles in international forums addressed at PPIF thematic session Promotion in other forums in collaboration with UNDP, DESA, UNEP, UNITAR, CBD, Cartagena Protocol, EBRD, EIB, World Bank, AIIB, OECD, OSCE)</p> <p>Workshop on public access to information at IPCC event (Geneva 2015)</p> <p>Expert advisory assistance provided to UNFCCC secretariat at COP 24 (Paris, 2015) and IFIs as</p>	<p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region</p> <p>Survey for Parties on application of principles in international forums addressed at PPIF thematic session</p> <p>Take part in the IFI consultations on environmental and social framework</p>	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			requested	Took part in consultation process UNEP access to information policy and World Bank new environmental and social framework	

**Objective II.6:** The Parties to the Convention, both in their participation in international policymaking and in their national implementation activities, achieve **synergies between the Convention and other international environmental and human rights agreements.**

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Coordinated implementation of the Convention and the provisions on access to information and public participation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).	Parties	Synergies between the implementation of the Convention and other international environmental and human rights agreements are ensured.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>International</b>					
Organization of joint activities with other MEAs, in particular those of ECE, and human rights bodies.	Parties Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Secretariat Civil society organizations Partner organizations	Joint activities with other MEAs and human rights bodies are implemented effectively. Parties coordinate collectively in other forums on matters relevant to the application of the Convention.	Informal meeting of MEA Chairs back-to-back to CEP meeting Joint presentation of MEA work at CEP meetings Close cooperation with TEIA on strengthening TEIA Convention’s public participation provisions Contribution to several studies by HRC and reports of SR on human rights and the environment, (2015, 2016), input to consultation on rights of children and human rights and the environment Joint GRT on GMOs with Cartagena protocol Minamata COP – promotion of Convention (Geneva 2017) UNEP / OHCHR webinar	Informal meeting of MEA Chairs back-to-back to CEP meeting Joint presentation of MEA work at CEP meetings The Judicial Colloquium “SDG16: Role of Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in Environmental Matters” featured a session on linkages between the Aarhus Convention and other UNECE MEAs Contribution to the report of SR on human rights and the environment and several events of and back-to-back to the HRC (March 2018 and March 2019, see report on the implementation of WP)	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			on human rights defenders contribution	Forum Business and Human rights contribution by secretariat	

### C.Focal area III: Development

#### Strategic goal III

#### Further development of the provisions and principles of the Convention where necessary to ensure that it continues to achieve its objectives

To achieve the further development of the provisions and principles of the Convention where necessary to ensure that it continues to achieve its objectives, Parties will endeavour to implement the following objectives:

*Objective III.1:* The **provisions of the Convention are interpreted in a dynamic way**, enabling practice to adapt to experience acquired in the course of implementation, new developments in society, technological innovation and new environmental challenges.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Forward-looking interpretation of the Convention in view of new environmental and	Parties Civil society organizations	Adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures, and institutional frameworks are in place.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
development challenges.	Private sector	Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Strengthening Parties' capacities and addressing obstacles in implementing the Convention through the compliance mechanism, sharing good practices and developing guidance material.	Parties Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	WGP, TFs, CC meetings, MOP ACH Good Practices database and other resources Surveys to Parties in preparation of TF meetings (PPDM, AI, PPIF etc)	WGP thematic sessions on AI, PPDM, AJ, GMO and PPIF Aarhus anniversary segment during WGP-22 WGP, TFs, CC meetings WGP-22 networking session and peer-learning activity ACH Good Practices database and other resources Surveys to Parties in preparation of TF meetings (AI, PPDM, AJ, PPIF etc)	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

*Objective III.2:* The Parties explore possibilities for the development of measures under the Convention to ensure greater opportunities for public participation in policy formulation and implementation concerning each of the three pillars of the Convention, so **as to contribute to sustainable development**, recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the related Plan of Implementation and the Rio+20 Declaration. Furthermore, the Parties share their experiences in implementing the Convention with other forums interested in using them as a basis or a source of inspiration for further strengthening participatory democracy in their respective fields.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Use of participatory procedures in the revision and/or development of national strategies for sustainable development and for the development of sustainable development goals.	Parties	Provisions for effective public participation are implemented.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Exchange of experience and best practices on the impact of instruments of participatory democracy on decisions related to all dimensions of sustainable development, public participation in policy formulation and implementation	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Parties Secretariat Civil society organizations Partner organizations	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been	WGP PPIF thematic session reviews HLPF and SDGs, TFs meetings targeting SDG implementation  Side event during 2018 HLPF on Aarhus and Escazu  Mapping of SDGs relevant	WGP thematic sessions on AI, PPDM, AJ, GMO and PPIF, TFs and GRT GMO meetings linking outcomes to the implementation of 2030 Agenda  Chairs presentation at CEP 2018 MEA session on activities under the Convention that contribute	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
contributing to sustainable development.		developed).	<p>for Convention</p> <p>TF PPDM 7 meeting focused on decision-making for sustainable development</p> <p>Population of ACH with good practices and other resources tagged with SDGs, targets and indicators</p> <p>Informal MEA Chairs meetings in 2016 on SDGs</p> <p>HLS at MOP6/MoPP3 exchange of experience, including background note on Aarhus, PRTR Protocol and SDGs</p>	<p>to achievement of SDGs</p> <p>Informal MEA Chairs meetings in 2018 on SDGs</p> <p>Report to ECE CEP on implementing the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Geneva, 29-31 January 2019)</p> <p>The Judicial Colloquium “SDG16: Role of Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in Environmental Matters” discussed the role of judiciary in promoting the rule of law in environmental matters in the context of sustainable development</p> <p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019</p>	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
				Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region  Population of ACH with good practices and other resources tagged with SDGs, targets and indicators	

### Access to information

*Objective III.3:* The range of environmental information that is made available to the public is **gradually widened**, inter alia, by developing and implementing mechanisms **enabling more informed consumer choices as regards products**, thereby contributing to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Through exchange of information and good practice, consideration is given as to how to promote the **increasing accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector, taking into account relevant issues of confidentiality of commercial and industrial information and protection of intellectual property rights**, in line with the current approach under the Convention.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
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### National

Identify and remediate through a participatory intersectoral and multi-stakeholder process any	Parties  Civil society organizations	Environmental information, including related to products is made			
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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
deficiencies in the national framework to ensure that adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures and institutional frameworks are in place.  Capacity-building activities.	Private sector  Partner organizations	available effectively.  Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities, exchange of information and best practice in promoting the accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector based on national experience, preparing studies and guidance material.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies  Civil society organizations  Private sector  Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant studies and guidance material has been developed).	Report of the TFAI to WGP-19  TFAI 4 and 5 meetings addressed issue of the legitimate application of exceptions in disclosure of environmental information and the disclosure of information on emissions  ACH good practices and other resources, specifically tagged to SDG 12  Capacity-building activities executed by partners,	WGP-22 thematic session on AI and further TFAI meetings given the new MoP6 mandate  ACH good practices and other resources, specifically tagged to SDG 12  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)		

### Public participation

*Objective III.4:* The provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment, encompassing, inter alia, **product-related decision-making**, are assessed, further reflected on and, where appropriate, elaborated upon.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Identify and remediate through a participatory intersectoral and multi-stakeholder process any deficiencies in the national framework to ensure that adequate legislative, regulatory and policy	Parties Civil society organizations Private sector	Measures are taken. Provisions for effective public participation are implemented. Capacity-building activities are implemented.			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
measures and institutional frameworks are in place.  Application of recommendations developed under the Convention with regard to relevant provisions on public participation.  Capacity-building activities.		Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities, exchange of information and promotion of good practice with regard to the implementation of the provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies  Civil society organizations  Partner sector  Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	TF PPDM 5 meeting focussed on role of private actors and project developers in carrying out public participation procedures  ACH good practices and other resources, specifically tagged to SDG 12  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus	TF PPDM 6 meeting focused on product-related decision-making  WGP-23 thematic session on PPDM  ACH good practices and other resources, specifically tagged to SDG 12  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)	Centres	

*Objective III.5:* The provisions of the Convention relating to **public participation in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies** relating to the environment, as well as **executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding normative instruments** that may have a significant effect on the environment, are applied, kept under review and, as appropriate, further developed to enhance public participation from an early stage in strategic decision-making processes. This should be done with appropriate public involvement and taking fully into account the specific nature and constraints of such processes and related obligations under other MEAs, in particular the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), and by involving its bodies in such processes.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Identify and remediate through a participatory intersectoral and multi-stakeholder process any deficiencies in the national framework to ensure that	Parties	Measures are taken.  Provisions for effective public participation are implemented.  Capacity-building activities			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<p>adequate legislative, regulatory and policy measures and institutional frameworks are in place.</p> <p>Application of the recommendations developed under the Convention with regard to relevant provisions on public participation.</p> <p>Capacity-building activities.</p>		<p>are implemented.</p> <p>Good practices are reported through NIRs.</p>			
<b>International</b>					
<p>Regional and subregional capacity-building activities, exchange of information and promotion of good practice with regard to implementation of the provisions of articles 7 and 8 of Convention and in context of the implementation of the SEA Protocol.</p>	<p>Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies</p> <p>Parties</p> <p>Civil society organizations</p> <p>Partner organizations</p> <p>Espoo Convention/ Protocol on SEA bodies</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).</p>	<p>Maastricht Recommendations published as hardcopy in a joint edition with Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7</p>	<p>WGP-23 thematic session on PPDM</p> <p>WGP-22 capacity-building networking and learning event</p> <p>TF PPDM meetings, including:</p> <p>TF PPDM 8 meetings focused on product- and chemicals related decisions-making;</p>	<p>Objectives were addressed</p> <p>Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress</p>

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)	other TF PPDM meetings with focus on public participation in decision-making on the extractive sector; emerging technologies (e.g., nanotechnology); energy-related issues  ACH good practices and other resources  Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	

*Objective III.6:* To enhance the effectiveness of public participation, the development and application of **innovative forms and tools of public participation** beyond traditional consultation procedures are encouraged, the development of the capacity of civil society organizations is supported and civil society is strengthened.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
<b>National</b>					
Promote good practices regarding different modes	Parties Civil society	Innovative and effective forms and tools of public			

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
of public participation.	organizations Partner organizations	participation are in place. Capacity of civil society organizations and civil society is strengthened. Good practices are reported through NIRs.			
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities, exchange of information and promotion of good practice on innovative and effective forms of and tools for participation.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Parties Civil society organizations Partner organizations Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	Maastricht Recommendations published as hardcopy in a joint edition with Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment TF PPDM 5 meeting focused on innovative practices of public participation in decision-making ACH good practices and other resources Capacity-building activities executed by partners,	WGP-23 thematic session on PPDM WGP-22 capacity-building networking and learning event TF PPDM meetings ACH good practices and other resources Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres	Objectives were addressed Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			including Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)		

### Access to justice

*Objective III.7:* Work on promoting effective access to justice continues, in particular by way of further information exchange, capacity-building and exchange of good practice, inter alia, on the issue of adequate and effective remedies, taking fully into account the Convention's objective of, inter alia, guaranteeing access to justice. **The extension of the range of members of the public having access to administrative and judicial procedures is explored, with particular focus on access by environmental civil society organizations.** Further steps are taken to remove or reduce financial and other barriers and to establish assistance mechanisms where appropriate.

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>

### National

Review of implementation of article 9, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, through a multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify gaps and obstacles to implementation.	Parties Civil society organizations	Adequate measures are implemented.			
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<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
Reducing or removing financial and other barriers and provision of assistance mechanisms where appropriate.					
<b>International</b>					
Regional and subregional capacity-building activities, exchange of information and promotion of good practice with regard to implementation of the provisions of article 9.	Meeting of the Parties and relevant Convention bodies Parties Civil society organizations Partner organizations Secretariat	The objective is adequately addressed through the work of the respective Convention bodies and through regional and subregional capacity-building activities (e.g., good practices have been shared and relevant guidance material has been developed).	TFAJ 8, 9 and 10 meetings focused on the recent developments regarding standing, scope of review, costs, and effective remedies  Special sessions for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other independent review bodies  Jurisprudence DB, including >100 decisions by courts of law or other bodies that make reference to the Convention  ACH good practices and other resources  Capacity-building activities	WGP-24 thematic session on AJ  TFAJ meetings, including: TF AJ 11 meeting focused on promoting effective access to justice in cases on the right to environmental information; recent developments in promoting effective access to justice (standing, scope of review and remedies) and tools to improve effectiveness;  TF AJ 12 meeting focused on promoting effective access to justice in cases relating to air quality; recent developments in promoting effective access	Objectives were addressed  Indicator of progress/targets met partially/in progress

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
			<p>executed by partners, including by Aarhus Centres (see report on CB for more details (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7 and AC/MOP-6/Inf.2)</p>	<p>to justice (standing, scope of review, remedies, financial barriers and collective redress) and tools to improve effectiveness, including e-justice initiatives, monitoring and etc</p> <p>Thematic round-table on environmental dimension of SDG 16 at the 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region</p> <p>2018 special session for judiciary, judicial training institutions and other independent review bodies</p> <p>2019 Judicial Colloquium “SDG16: Role of Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in Environmental Matters”</p> <p>Jurisprudence DB</p> <p>ACH good practices and other resources</p>	

<i>Indicative types of activity/measure</i>	<i>Possible implementing partners</i>	<i>Indicators of progress/targets</i>	<i>Activities in previous WP 2015-2017</i>	<i>Activities in current WP 2018-2021</i>	<i>Objective were addressed / will be addressed / were partially addressed / were/will not be addressed at all</i>
				Capacity-building activities executed by partners, including Aarhus Centres	