

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 5 of the provisional agenda:

**Thematic session on the promotion of the principles
of the Convention in international forums**

**Results of the Survey for Parties and Stakeholders in Preparation for the
Thematic Session on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in
international Forums¹**

BACKGROUND

A survey was carried out prior to the twenty-third meeting of the Working Group of the Parties. The survey intended to assist Parties in reporting to the Working Group on the promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums. It consisted of two parts. Part I focused on Parties' progress in promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in the policies of international financial institutions (IFIs), part II on (a) identifying additional cross-cutting issues and (b) effective tools and practices that Parties use or are planning to use, to help address these cross-cutting issues in order to improve the public's access to information and participation in international forums. Each Party was invited to complete the online questionnaire by 17 May 2019.

In addition to the survey for Parties, stakeholders were invited to identify (a) additional cross-cutting issues and (b) effective tools and practices that stakeholders use, are planning to use or would suggest using to address these cross-cutting issues. Moreover, stakeholders were asked an additional question in relation to the implementation of such effective tools and/or practices by Parties. Stakeholders were invited to complete the online questionnaire by 17 May 2019.

The surveys were made available via an online survey platform to promote the use of electronic information tools. A version of the surveys as word document was shared to help coordinate responses with colleagues. One Party responded to the survey after the deadline by submitting the word file. The responses were manually added by the secretariat to the online survey to facilitate analysis of the responses.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

SURVEY OVERVIEW

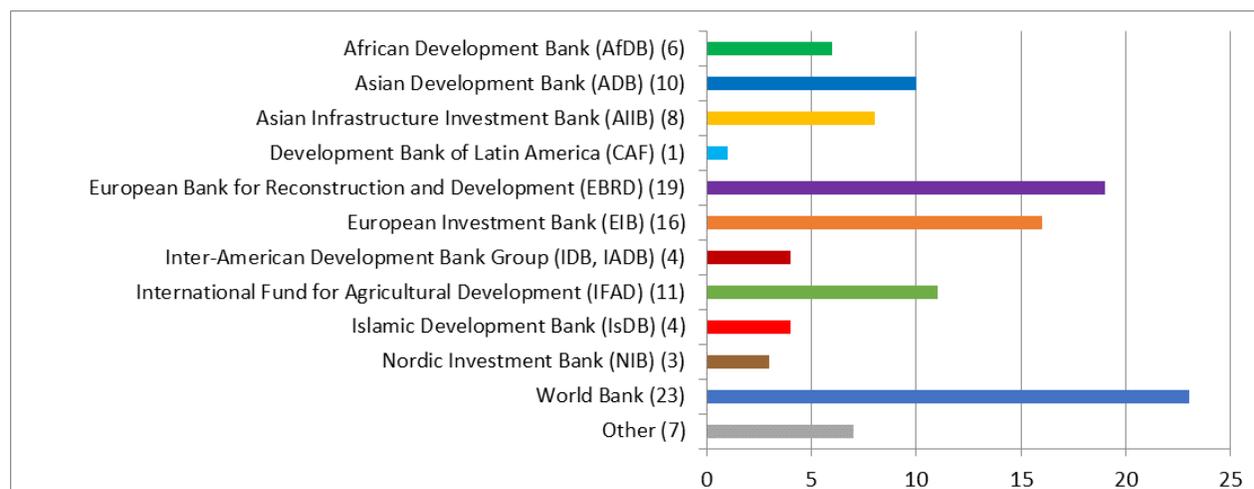
The following 24 out of 47 Parties to the Convention (51.1 per cent of total number of Parties) responded to the survey: Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czechia; Estonia; France; Georgia; Germany; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland and Tajikistan. Four additional Parties logged on to the online survey but did not reply to the questions. Six Parties started filling in the survey online and returned between one day and 22 days later to complete it. In addition, not all Parties completed the entire survey. Three responded to certain sections only (e.g. questions on IFIs (Part I) or cross-cutting issues (Part II) only).

The survey circulated to stakeholders was filled in by 36 organizations, including non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations, Aarhus Centres, law associations, among others. An additional four stakeholders had opened the online survey and inserted the organization's name but then did not continue filling in the form.

I. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1. International financial institutions Aarhus Convention Parties are a member

The first questions of part I of the survey to Parties was answered by twenty-two of the twenty-four Parties (Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cyprus; Czechia; Estonia; France; Georgia; Germany; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland and Tajikistan). Multiple answers were possible.



Seven Parties reported that they are members to other international financial institutions (IFIs) not listed above. These are:

- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) (2 Parties)
- Green Climate Fund (2 Parties)
- Bank for International Settlements (IBS)
- Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)

- Caribbean Development Bank
- Central European Bank (CEB)
- Eurasian Development Bank
- GEF
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- Russian Trust Fund for Development

The following additional information was provided by Georgia: Georgia is not a member of EIB, AIIB and NIB but cooperates with EIB since 2007, AIIB since 2015, and NIB since 2018.

2. Specific steps Parties have taken in the last two years, either individually or collectively with other governments, to promote the principles of the Convention in these IFIs with respect to the following:

(i) The IFIs' meetings and bodies

Ten Parties responded to this question providing the following information:

- AUSTRIA** During the last two years, Austria engaged in an exchange with the public in various forms. The meetings listed below include discussions on environmental issues but are not limited to them. First, Austria met with civil society organisations (CSOs) regularly on an ad-hoc basis to discuss any matters of relevance and interest. In addition, the general public was invited to IFI-related events (e.g. Forum Finanz events at the Ministry of Finance). Second, Austria, together with other countries that it shares a constituency with, organised constituency meetings that included discussions with CSOs (e.g. three AIIB constituency meetings with CSOs were organised in the last 12 months). Third, Austria proactively supported the engagement of the public at meetings organized by IFIs. For example, various Annual Meetings of IFIs included specific sessions that informed the public on various topics and activities of the IFI, including environmental issues. These meetings also included sessions targeted specifically at CSOs, as well as sessions that were open to the wider public."
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** EBRD Annual Meeting & Business Forum Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 8-9 May 2019
https://am2019.ebrd.com/annualmeeting/2019/display.php?view=66&page_id=3290&utm_source=ebrd&utm_medium=webpage&utm_campaign=am2019
- ESTONIA** Estonia follows the rules of the meetings and bodies.
- GERMANY** Germany plays an active role in promoting the Aarhus Convention Principles as a shareholder in the various international financial institutions through their

respective Board of Governors during the bi-annual Development Committee meetings, as well as its representation in the Board of Directors, supervising and voting on individual projects and policies. Germany supports regular operations of and strives to promote institutional respect for the tools tasked to ensure respect of the institutions' policies to safeguard access to information, citizen participation and access to recourse mechanisms in all IFIs in which it is a shareholder. These include the Inspection Panel and the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman at the World Bank Group, the Independent Recourse Mechanism at the African Development Bank, the Accountability Mechanism at the Asian Development Bank, as well as other Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) at the respective MDB/IFIs. This is also true for the newly established AIIB; in particular, Germany maintains a regular dialogue with German and international civil society entities to include their voices in this process. Germany has also encouraged regular dialogue at the organization's annual meeting, including the civil society forum at the upcoming meeting of the AIIB in July 2019. Although EBRD is not a member of the Aarhus Convention, EBRD acts according to it. Already since 2008 there is a concrete link in EBRDs Environmental- and Social Policies to the Aarhus Convention. In addition to the policy level, EBRD also implements the Aarhus Convention e.g. in its guidance for Operators providing public services. Germany welcomes this.

KYRGYZSTAN Transparent composition of official delegations, including representatives of the Non-Governmental sector and business. Over the past 2 years, a significant role has been assigned to the involvement of network organizations deeply engaged into natural resource management and environment protection, such as Water Users Union, Pasture user's association, Forests/Land Users Association and etc.

NETHERLANDS The Netherlands attaches great importance to the Aarhus principles and, where possible we advocate at annual/regular meetings the application of these principles in the relevant policies of those institutions (discussions on Social and Environmental Safeguard Policies, Work Programmes and project).

SLOVAKIA The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE SR) makes available to the public an information on IFIs' meetings and work of their bodies, in which it is involved.

UNITED KINGDOM Asian Development Bank – the UK participates in several different meetings at the Asian Development Bank, where we will continue to promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention. These include: regular informal meetings (in Manila and London), the annual High Level Consultations and annual general meetings. Inter-American Development Bank – the UK and other like-minded countries are able to promote the Aarhus principles in Board level

discussions, at the Inter-American Development Bank's annual Governors' meeting and in informal meetings with the Bank's staff and members.

(ii) The IFIs' official policies

Eight Parties responded to this question and provided the following information:

- AUSTRIA** Austria, together with other countries, requested IFIs at various times to open up new or revised policies and strategies for public consultation. When IFIs proactively suggested such consultations, Austria supported and acknowledged this proactive approach. When a policy or strategy was opened for public consultation, Austria shared it widely with various stakeholders and experts to ensure they are informed about the possibility to comment. Austria also ensured that any comments received during public consultations were integrated in the next draft versions of the policy or strategy. One example for a new strategy is the Sustainable Cities Strategy by the AIIB, which was open for public consultation from August 2018 until October 2018. Austria acknowledged the AIIB for conducting this public consultation, shared the information on the consultation with a broad network of stakeholders and experts, including civil society organisations, and ensured that comments received were integrated into the final draft version of the strategy. One example for a revised policy is the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy review, for which Austria also supported the process, held a meeting with CSOs and shared information with stakeholders. In addition, Austria continuously monitored that all IFIs publish policies and strategies on issues that are relevant to the public, including environmental issues, as per their transparency guidelines.
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** EIB opens office in Sarajevo to enhance financing activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-095-eib-opens-office-in-sarajevo-to-enhance-financing-activities-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina-and-montenegro>
- ESTONIA** Estonia follows the rules of the official policies of the IFIs.
- GERMANY** Following adoption of the new Environmental and Social Framework at the World Bank Group in August 2016, Germany has supported its coming into practice by providing, among others, advice on the elaboration of implementation guidance notes, through the secondment of a Safeguards expert, as well as providing advice through its bilateral development institutions such as KfW. The flagship effect of reforms at the World Bank will most likely extend to other IFIs, where Germany will support the respective enhancement of disclosure, participation and recourse practices; however, no comparable reform or policy issues were up for discussion within the past two years at the regional development banks. Germany, as the largest non-regional

shareholder of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) actively supports the development and implementation of appropriate governance principles and standards to firmly guide operational activities of this new IFI.

KYRGYZSTAN Active participation in consultation processes for discussing draft of the environment and safeguard policies

NETHERLANDS Social and Environmental Safeguard Policies, Work Programmes.

SLOVAKIA Within the processes, in which the Slovak Republic cooperates with IFIs' on their official policies, the Slovak Republic applies the standards that are in line with the Convention principles. MoE SR makes available the information on such processes to all relevant stakeholders (regional and local governments, NGO's, civil societies, etc.) and public in general. In general, if MoE SR is involved in preparation, discussion and adoption of any policy or strategic document, it invites stakeholders and public to be a part of open participatory process and gives them an opportunity to raise their opinions and comments on a subject matter of specific document. Afterwards, MoE SR makes sure that their comments are evaluate and taken into account before any decision on adoption of such policy or strategic document is taken. Then MoE SR informs the public on a result of process, i.e. it gives the public an information on adoption of such document and its final content. In a cooperation with the World Bank, which helped in a role of adviser, the "Low-Carbon Growth Study for Slovakia" was prepared. The study will contribute to the preparation of the strategic document „Low carbon strategy of development of the Slovak Republic until 2030, with a view to 2050”.

UNITED KINGDOM Asian Development Bank – the UK participates in the Bank's Board discussions of policies and programmes which serves as a useful platform to promote the Aarhus Convention's principles in the Bank's official policies. Inter-American Development Bank – the IADB has just completed a public consultation as part of the process of producing a new environment, social and governance (ESG) framework, which it aims to finish in 2020. The IADB updated its Institutional Strategy this year, re-affirming climate change as a key cross-cutting issue underpinning all of IADB's priorities. The UK and other like-minded countries are able to promote the Aarhus principles in Board level discussions of these initiatives.

(iii) The IFIs' projects, including where relevant, any projects to be carried out in a Party:

Eleven Parties responded to this question with the following information:

AUSTRIA IFI projects were regularly discussed with CSOs during the meetings that are described under question 2(i). Austria ensured that the concerns by the public

were considered in the project cycle at the relevant stages. Austria also monitored that the transparency guidelines of the institutions were met with respect to publishing information on the websites of IFIs.

AZERBAIJAN

The principles of the Convention are promoted within the relevant projects carried out in the country. Besides, during bilateral projects and/or programs, among others, the principles of Aarhus Convention also taken into account.

**BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**

Project: CORRIDOR Vc (Highway through Bosnia and Herzegovina)
DECISION ON FINANCING AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA AND THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK:
Official Gazette no. 10/2018 <http://sllist.ba/mu2018/broj10/ugovori10.pdf>

BELARUS

EBRD projects in Belarus tend to include public participation mechanisms in various forms, including public involvement as project beneficiaries / implementors / co-participants; participation of the public in the implementation of specific project activities, wide distribution of the information about projects.

GERMANY

Germany is not a borrowing country, there are no IFI investment projects carried out; however, Germany has in the past, and will in the future, provide a conducive environment for stakeholder consultations aiming at reforming mechanisms in furtherance of Aarhus Convention principles in IFI policies as these arise.

KYRGYZSTAN

There are several coordination mechanisms established and functioning in Kyrgyzstan that consider the most part of projects supported by IFIs. At the same time, the Development Partners Coordination Council has been established with the purpose of improving multi-way flow of relevant information among donors, government agencies and civil society institutions. This facilitates networking and broader collaboration within the donor community, a more constructive dialogue and shared vision with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on country's priorities and serves to strengthen overall aid coordination and management. The Council is a body committed to strengthening coordination at the national level and should not be considered as a substitute for other donor coordination mechanisms, but offer value added to already existing sector/thematic coordination groups. The DPCC does not intend to assume measures or decisions pertaining to programs and policies of individual donor agencies or the donor community as a whole.

In addition, each loan project is considered by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) prior to its formal approval and ratification. Information on these projects is available for preliminary familiarization both on the websites of the country offices of the International Financial Institutions and

on the state websites. After adoption, all documents related to the ratification of projects are posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice. In Kyrgyzstan actively promoted involvement of the network organizations dealing with natural resource management and environmental protection (Water Users Union, Pasture user's association, Forests/Land Users Association and etc), into development of project documents and consultations. Through this process, it was possible to reach more people who are directly affected by the projects. There are already several projects that have not been ratified ("Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin CAMP4ASB" project and etc) or redone ("Landslide Risk Management Sector Project" ADB and etc) after such consultations. Due to the active position in the national office of the World Bank, a special position of Environmental Specialist was allocated.

NETHERLANDS Directly by means of the approval of relevant policies (such as Social and Environmental Safeguard Policies). Indirectly by means of the approval of Work Programmes, Projects.

ROMANIA All projects/plans/strategies subject to IFIs funding which are also subject to environmental authorization are observing the procedural rules of being available to the public for comments and proposals and in the EIA/SEA stage are compulsory subject to public hearing. In the same time, these projects/plans/strategies meet the requirements of the Environmental and Social Policy of the IFIs.

SERBIA Serbia implement the principles of the Convention for the all projects for which it is decided to carry out the EIA procedure including the IFIs projects developed in Serbia

SLOVAKIA The same procedure as described above applies.

UNITED KINGDOM World Bank – the UK supported the introduction of a new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) which sets higher standards for community consultation and grievance redress for World Bank projects (and their environmental impacts). As of 1st October 2018, the ESF applies to all new World Bank investment project financing. Inter-American Development Bank – the UK has an opportunity to promote the Aarhus principles when IADB projects are submitted to the Board for approval. We also have an opportunity to review audit reports, independent evaluations and formal complaints from third parties on specific IADB projects.

(iv) The IFIs' compliance review mechanism:

Five Parties responded to this question with the following information:

AUSTRIA

Austria closely monitored the compliance review frameworks of IFIs and ensured that they were aligned with the commitments that Austria made in other international fora. Austria monitored and actively supported efforts of IFIs to continuously improve the sanctions regime of IFIs. An integral part of it is to ensure the establishment of integrity compliance programs with high standards. Some IFIs, like the World Bank have an Integrity Compliance Officer who monitors sanctioned companies or individuals that are not complying with the code of conduct.

**BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**

Mechanisms are: Phase 1: Project Admissibility; Phase 2: Project Management; Phase 3: Project Consultation (including Public and Other Stakeholders) Phase 4: Outcome of the Project Incoming complaints on the project New admissible complaints on the procedures Handled complaints Closure of registered cases European Ombudsman (EO) cases about

GERMANY

Germany has been assuming an active role in promoting AC principles in the ongoing reform of the World Bank's Inspection Panel, positioning itself in favour of an extension to the IPN's mandate, claim eligibility and claimants' rights. It should be noted that Germany assumed the chairmanship at the Committee for Development Effectiveness (CODE), where it is under a specific obligation to balance interests in resolving the remaining issues for reform, notably the monitoring of management plans as well as the discussion surrounding introduction of a dispute resolution function at the Inspection Panel. Germany intends to espouse greater accountability and furtherance of AC principles in view of the next Identity and Access Management (IAM) review, as well as with regard to the next review of the Accountability Mechanisms at the ADB, AfDB and other regional development banks. The AIIB is in the process of implementing the recently adopted Accountability Framework. Germany, as part of the Euro Area Constituency, is fully engaged and committed to help guide the new institution to ensure full implementation through regular review. IAMnet's institutional membership (Independent Accountant Mechanism Network) recently approved AIIB's Project-affected People's Mechanism (PPM) as the newest network member.

NETHERLANDS

By ensuring that the Aarhus principles are well reflected and applied in the various compliance review mechanisms (e.g. applicability in the relevant policies of the Council of the Global Environment Facility GEF).

**UNITED
KINGDOM**

Asian Development Bank – UK Executive Director chairs the Board compliance review Committee which serves as an opportunity to raise and promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention. Inter-American Development Bank – alongside the development of the new ESG framework, the IADB is rolling out training in ESG safeguards to all Bank staff and it is

strengthening ESG supervision of its high risk operations by increasing the number of safeguarding specialists in its country offices.

3. Concrete possibilities Parties foresee to promote the principles of the Convention, either individually or collectively with other governments, in the above respects in IFIs in the coming two years

Eleven Parties responded to this question with the following information:

- AUSTRIA** Austria recognizes the great importance of the Aarhus Convention and will therefore continue all activities described under Question 2 to ensure access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as outlined in the Aarhus Convention.
- AZERBAIJAN** Actually, the principles of the Convention are part of the country's strategy and vision. It is considered in the several strategic documents. Therefore, the promotion of the principles will be implemented through implementation of these strategic documents, also, possibly, by involving IFIs.
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** Strengthening trust through better: Identification of stakeholders and methods of communication: - persons, institutions and organizations that will be directly or indirectly affected by the Project, - persons and institutions involved in project implementation: EBRD, EIB, World Bank and its employees, contractors and equipment suppliers. - People and organizations that can influence and / or make decisions about project implementation. This includes national or entity ministries and agencies, local authorities and authorities, and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") with interest or professional knowledge.
- GEORGIA** In case IFIs have no practice or relevant provisions in relation to the principles of the Aarhus Convention, governments can cooperate with IFIs on the possible specific steps to ensure consideration of the Convention's principles in their respective policies and/or activities
- GERMANY** As has been the case in the course of the reform of the World Bank's Inspection Panel, it is instrumental to rally like-minded shareholders around the reform issues and positions promoting Convention principles. Such reform issues were e.g. the extension of the time period for filing complaints with the World Bank Inspection Panel. Those were promoted by Germany in shared working groups (co-chairing) together with like-minded EU governments. DE will strive to replicate positive experience made with coalitions of like-minded government shareholders promoting principles of the Convention to assure maximum success.

- KYRGYZSTAN** In November 2018, Kyrgyzstan approved the Development Strategy until 2040, in which a significant role of environmental issues was allocated. In this core Country Strategic document manifested that “Improvement of environmental data management will be the basis for improving environmental performance in order to reasonably formulate and implement development plans, as well as to make environmentally sound decisions. Development of measures and policies for the development of the country will be based on reliable information about trends in the change of the condition of environment and preliminary environmental and economic assessment of natural resources with the establishment of limits for their use in the near future”. The implementation of these principles will require significant mobilization of all development partners. This is the direction that will become the basis for activities in the next few years. Another possibility on promotion principles of the Convention this is - revision of national strategies of cooperation of international financial institutions, taking into account the best practices of other countries and national priorities
- LATVIA** Specific measures have not been planned to implement.
- NETHERLANDS** An ongoing process. Important for the Netherlands’ representatives in the various management boards to stay alert. Concrete opportunities to act when revisions of Social and Environmental Policies and other relevant are on the agenda for (annual) meetings or when concrete programmes/projects are distributed by the respective secretariats for (written) approval.
- ROMANIA** We will continue to apply the principles of the Convention in all projects/plans/strategies financed by IFIs in Romania. Cooperation between IFIs and the Romanian Government in the implementation of the IFIs environmental and social policy coherently with the national legal order (including the Aarhus Convention, which was ratified by Law No. 86/2000).
- SERBIA** Serbia should continue to promote the principles of the Conventions in the all IFIs projects developed in Serbia
- UNITED KINGDOM** Asian Development Bank – the UK, with other like-minded members, has encouraged a review of the Bank’s energy policy which has now been agreed. This review will give the UK the opportunity to promote upholding environmental standards. Inter-American Development Bank – over the coming two years, the IADB will set out its post-2020 climate change targets and update its climate change action plan, which provide influencing opportunities for the UK. Additionally, the UK has proposed to partner with the IADB on the Chancellor’s economic review of biodiversity, which will draw on submitted case studies.

II. ADDRESSING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS – SURVEY TO PARTIES

1. Additional cross-cutting issues to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums identified by Parties (in addition to the already identified issues: different modalities for engaging stakeholders; self-organization of stakeholders; hosting an international event; identification of the public)

Ten Parties responded to this question (Albania; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Estonia; France; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Serbia; and Tajikistan).

One Party (United Kingdom) reported additional issues:

- We agree with the cross-cutting issues identified above and will continue to promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention with respect to these in international forums. In addition to these cross-cutting issues, the UK identifies attendance of meetings with stakeholders as an important form for enhancing the principles of the Aarhus Convention.

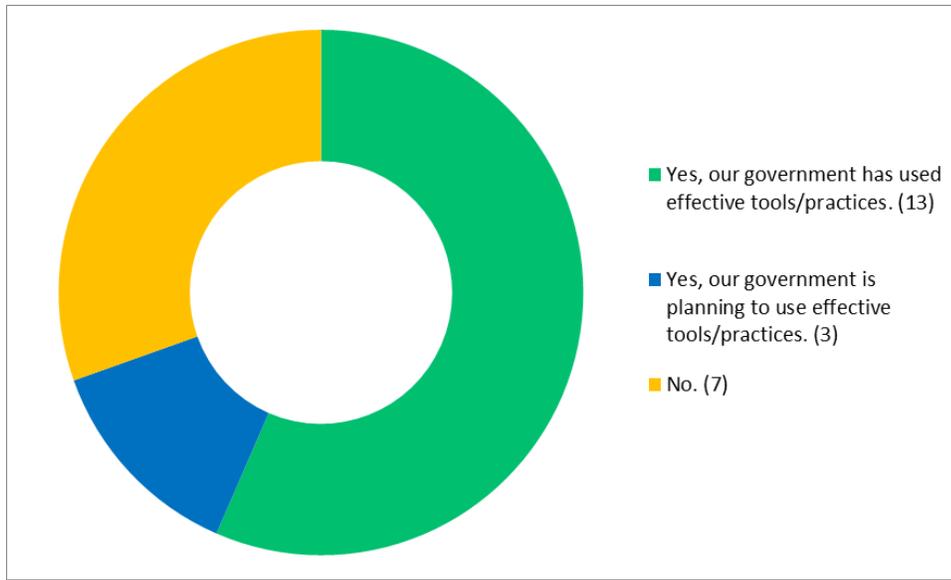
Four other Parties provided information related to how they attempt to address such cross-cutting issues to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums:

- To implement the provisions of the Convention, a Public Environmental Information Center (Aarhus Center) was established. Opportunities for the Center can be used by NGOs, government authorities, representatives of international organizations and anyone interested in environmental issues (Azerbaijan).
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection engages public in decision making process through the mechanism of Public Consultative (Expert) Council. The body is formally established by the Order of the Ministry and conducts its meetings 4 times a year. Moreover, members of the Council also are invited as experts to discuss acute topics and in case the Ministry is in need for the external expertise (Belarus).
- Aarhus brief with delegates before UNFCCC events (France).
- Involvement of network organizations deeply engaged into natural resource management and environment protection, such as Water Users Union, Pasture user's association, Forests/Land Users Association and etc. (Kyrgyzstan).

While the other five Parties that responded to this question mentioned the cross-cutting issue "Different modalities for engaging stakeholders" again. This could be interpreted as stressing the particular relevance of this specific cross-cutting issue.

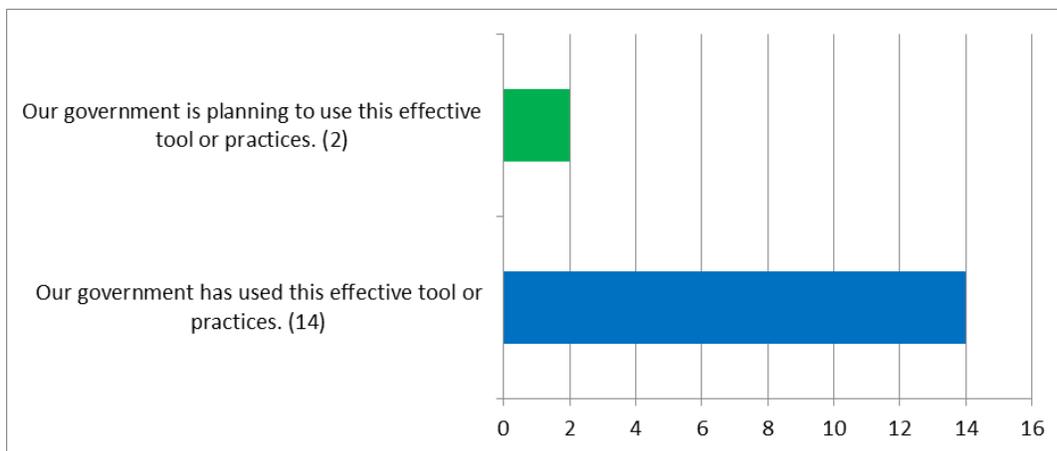
2. Effective tools/practices Parties have used or are planning to use to address these cross-cutting issues as to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums (e.g. in IFIs, UNFCCC processes or others)

Twenty-three Parties (Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Estonia; France; Georgia; Germany; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland and Tajikistan) reported to the question if the government has used, is planning to use or has not yet used effective tools/practices.

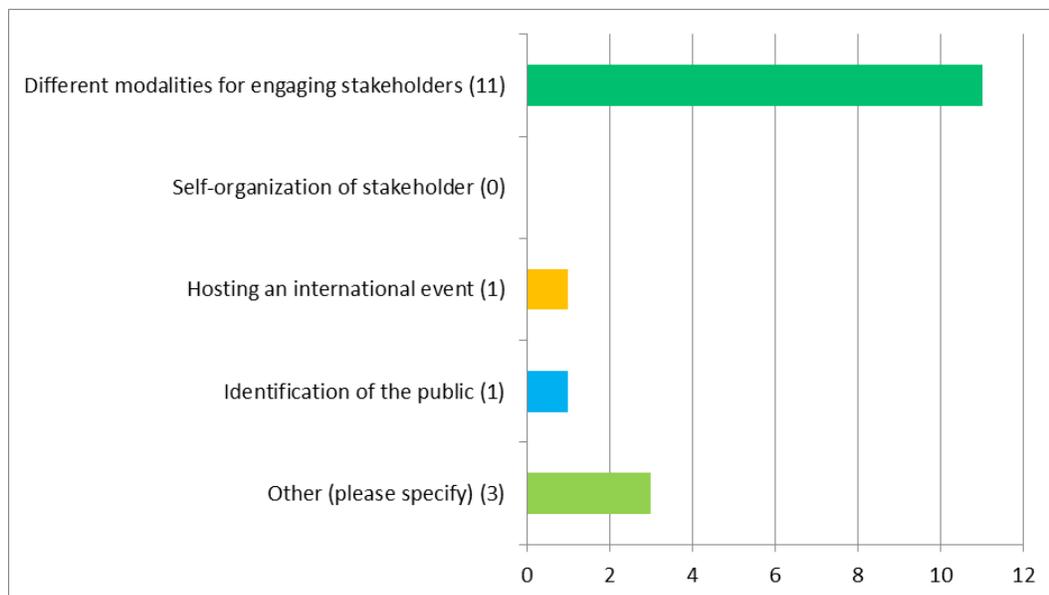


Out of the sixteen Parties that have used or are planning to use effective tools/practices, fourteen provided more information. In total, sixteen examples were shared. While the large majority provided one example, (11 Parties), United Kingdom shared three examples for effective tools/practices and Bosnia and Herzegovina two.

Fourteen out of these sixteen examples have been used already by Parties. Two Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Kyrgyzstan) are planning to use the tool/practice they have shared.



The sixteen examples shared are intended to address the following types of cross-cutting issue to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums:



The number in brackets indicates the number of examples provided to address the respective type of cross-cutting issue.

Three examples shared address other several already identified cross-cutting at the same time or other issues, namely:

- Different modalities for engaging stakeholders; Self-organization of stakeholder; Hosting an international event;
- Include the representatives of the public in the official list of the country delegation, support in information sharing for the meetings, provide assistance in logistical issues, e.g. registration for the meetings, etc.; and
- Hosting meetings.

The examples of effective tools/practices shared by Parties can be found in annex I to the report.

III. ADDRESSING CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS – SURVEY TO STAKEHOLDERS

1. Additional cross-cutting issues to enhance access to information and public participation in international forums identified by stakeholders (in addition to the cross-cutting issues already identified: different modalities for engaging stakeholders; self-organization of stakeholders; hosting an international event; identification of the public)

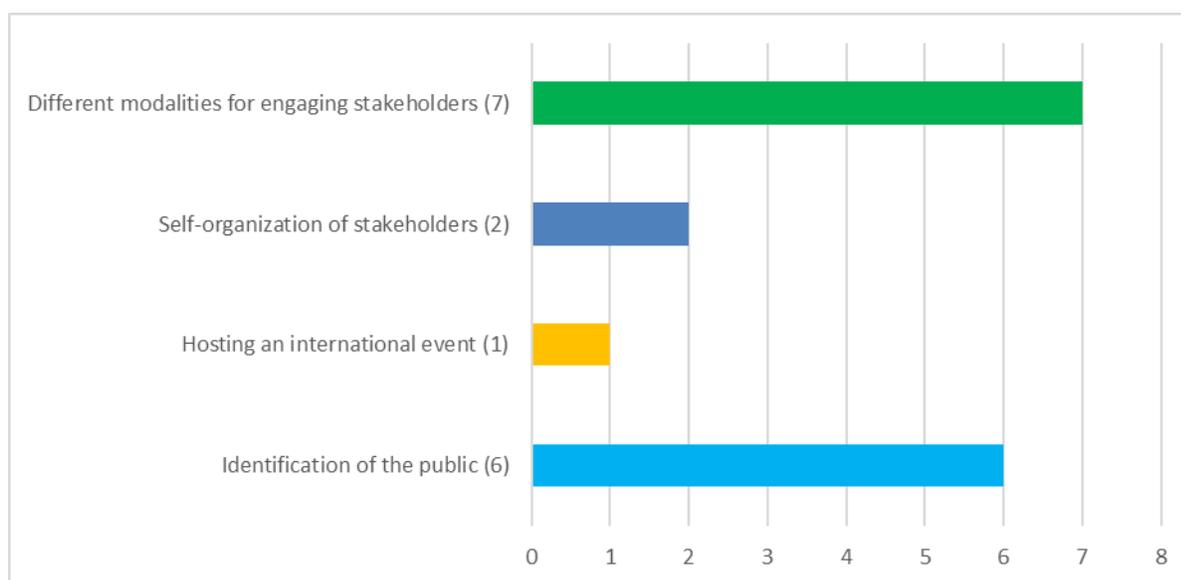
Thirty-six stakeholders responded to this question. Of these, four stakeholders had identified the following additional cross-cutting issues to improve access to information and public participation in international forums:

- Yes, the participation of citizens/lay people. The current definition of “public” by several international bodies and conventions is not in line with the Rio Declaration which also defines the “public” as ordinary citizens or lay people. Involving stakeholder organisations is a good and important thing, but it is NOT the same as involving the public or rather just one side of the coin: “public” participation means both the participation of stakeholder organisations and the participation of lay people/citizens. Stakeholder organisations represent important interests in society, but they do not speak on behalf of the lay public as such, so it is important to make use of different instruments for citizen participation, which has largely been ignored and neglected.
- Keeping observers (NGOs) out of negotiating sessions, Parties meeting behind closed doors without observers.
- Participation of CSOs in negotiations of an international agreement; different modalities for CSOs in governing structures/bodies of international forums.
- Identification of civil society contact points both at the IGO secretariat and at the civil society.

Seven stakeholders provided the following information:

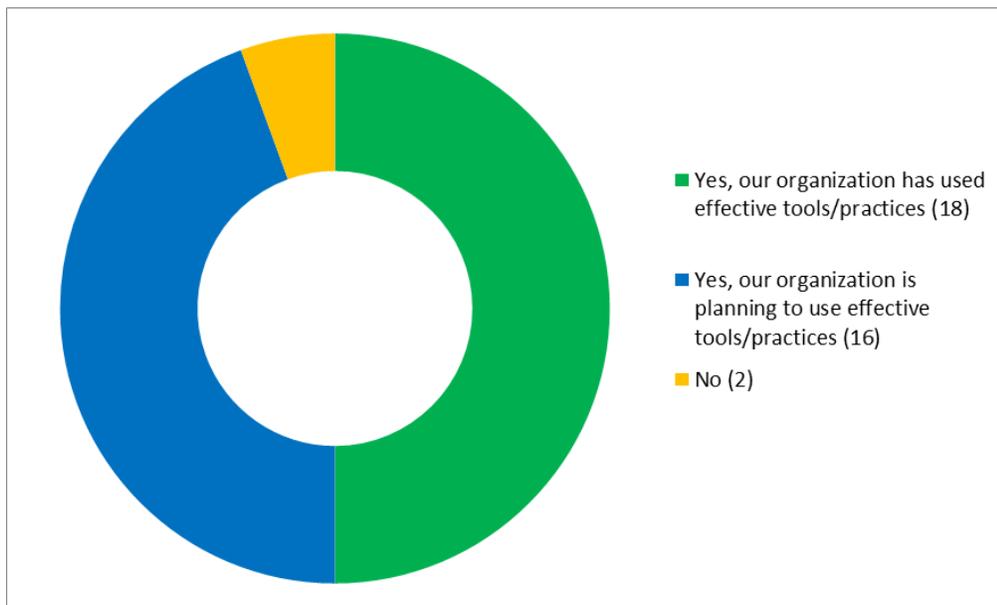
- There is promotion of principles of public participation in international forums in the framework of educational and other activities.
- Bilateral environmental agreements
- Including of PP needs in the MOE texts
- College/university/ student-/faculty) stake holders
- Usage of online tools
- Capacity building of marginalised groups
- Vulnerable groups

Nine stakeholders did not list additional issues. Sixteen repeated cross-cutting issues already mentioned in the question itself. This could be interpreted as stressing cross-cutting issues from the list that they consider particularly important:



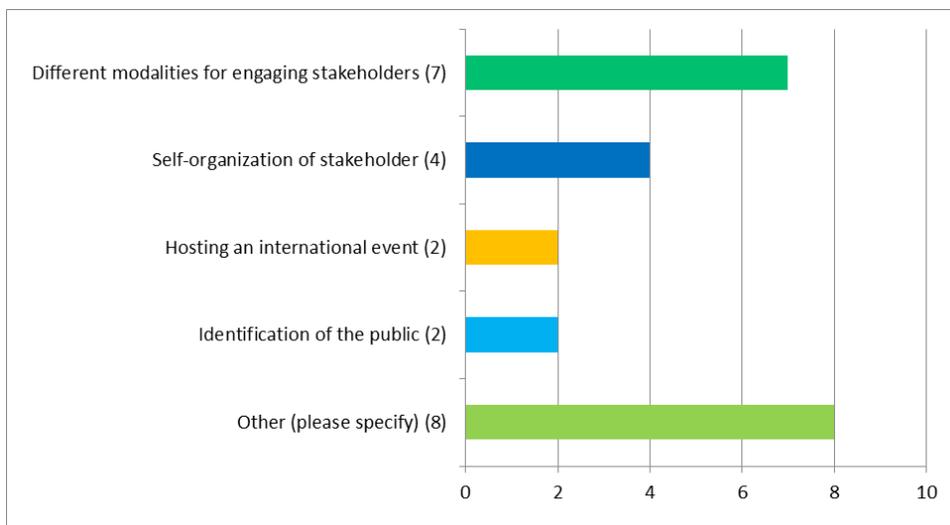
2. Effective tools/practices stakeholder organization have used or are planning to use to address these cross-cutting issues as to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums (e.g. in IFIs, UNFCCC processes or others)

Out of the thirty-six stakeholders who filled in the survey, two reported that they do not have used or are not planning to use effective tools/practices to address cross-cutting issues.



Of the eighteen stakeholders that have used effective tools/practices, thirteen provided more information later in the survey and of the sixteen stakeholders that are planning to use such tools/practices, seven provided more information on a tool or practice. A number of stakeholders submitted their inputs. Examples of effective tools/practices can be found in Annex II.

The examples shared are intended to address the following types of cross-cutting issue to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums:

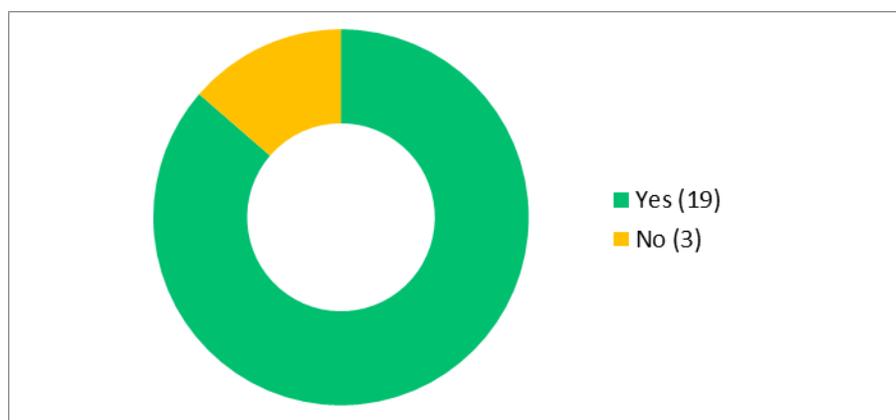


Eight examples shared are intended to address other issues, namely:

- Active involvement of public to activity of Dniester River Commission, both by membership and observers.
- Annual Reports and Reports with recommendations.
- Application of online tools.
- Citizen participation.
- Participation of CSOs in negotiations of an international agreement; different modalities for CSOs in governing structures/bodies of international forums.
- Promoting knowledge of case-law by different means.
- The Aarhus Center prepared or participated in the preparation of national reports on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the process of preparing reports, the Aarhus Center held public discussions/consultations with the public.
- We would like to host an international event to increase awareness in the media and local governments.

3. Suggestions by stakeholders to Parties to implement effective tools/practices to address cross-cutting issues as to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums

Twenty-two stakeholders answered the question whether they would suggest to Parties to implement effective tools/practices to address cross-cutting issues as to enhance access to information and/or public participation in international forums.



Stakeholders that answered with “yes” were then further requested to report what kind of effective tools/practices they would suggest to Parties. Eighteen Stakeholders replied to this question. Their answers have been grouped by types of tools or practices suggested.

1. Different kinds of meeting

- Working meeting, workshops, on-line conference and webinars
- Regional meeting such as between countries in Western Balkan or other region are useful as they create more alliances and network for cooperating for similar issues worrying different countries

2. Online tools

- We suggest making use of the World Wide Views method
- At least for the countries in Balkan it is very important to develop online tools on informing and involving citizens to address a certain environmental problem.
- Online forums/Mobile app

3. Tools with a focus on facilitating access to information

- Creation of mechanisms of unlimited access to environmental information
- PRTR tool

4. Tools with a focus on facilitating public participation

- At least employ televised negotiation sessions in real time
- CSO/stakeholder participation in governing structures of international forums
- Information meetings and stakeholder identification tools

5. Preparation of briefings and other information material

- Briefing for all Aarhus parties on their relevant obligations and commitments should become a standard practice in relevant forums.
- Preparation and dissemination of materials and assignment of speakers.

6. Using existing support structures/institutions

- More involvement of the Aarhus Centers in international processes in the nuclear field, in the field of climate change, chemicals management and human rights.
- Better use such effective international movement as Eastern Partnership. It works during 10 years for cooperation between EU and 6 EaP countries, connecting and integrating PP approaches to other policies and spheres. It is an effective way to go to other (non-environmental) sectors, in particular via CSF groups.

7. Other tools/practices

- Public monitoring in environmental programs (Общественный мониторинг в природоохранных программах)
- Promotion
- Risk analysis, and stakeholder at college and university/educational institutions
- Preparation of Thematic Sessions and involving in them more affected communities.

Annex I – Examples of effective tools/practices shared by Parties

ALBANIA

National Plan on Adaptation on Climate Change

The chapter on climate change as part of Environment Cross-cutting Strategy 2015-2020 the National Strategy for Climate Change -Implementation the Project for the National Plan on Adaptation on Climate Change

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Albania, Ministry of Environment	The Expert of Ministries of Lines (agriculture, energy, transport etc); professor from Polytechnic University of Tirana; Agriculture University etc.	2015-2020	Electronic tool Web-based application
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
UNDP, GIZ Albania	First stakeholders were identified and the discussion with the line ministries started according the specific issues.		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Albania is one of the most vulnerable in the region to changing climate trends. Changing weather patterns have already been observed over the last 15 years with increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and more frequent extreme events like floods and droughts. Ask any small hydropower plant operator or small-scale farmer whether the snowfall has been less and less and whether it melts earlier and faster than in previous years. Projections indicate a decline in summer rainfalls of about 10 percent by 2020 and 20 percent by 2050. Two sectors that are acutely impacted by these shifts in climate are energy and agriculture.		
Methodology / approach used	The focus/working groups with stakeholders. A planned discussion in a small (3 to 4 members) group of stakeholders facilitated by a skilled moderator and the questionnaire		
Results and evaluation	Albania has a climatic change framework		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	The legal framework in the climate change in Albania already has unified and agreed in the early stage		
Problems / challenges encountered	Low level of the information according the CC; difficulties to share important information from some Ministries etc.		

Case study of good practice? Yes, it is really good practice of the stakeholders involved in the legal framework for CC

AUSTRIA

Austrian Sustainability Action Days

Involvement and promotion of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the SDGs and participation at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Once a year over a period of about ten days, stakeholders have the possibility to showcase their concrete activities during initiative “Aktionstage Nachhaltigkeit” (Austrian Sustainability Action Days). A web-based tool provides information on all projects and activities. With online crowd voting one project is being awarded. A representative of this initiative is then invited to be part of the Austrian delegation to the HLPF.

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Austria – Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism together with sustainability coordinators of the Federal Provinces.	Everyone in Austria is invited to participate in the initiative, ranging from private persons, federations, associations, NGOs, enterprises, towns, communities and regions, social, scientific, cultural and spiritual institutions, Ministries to other administrative institutions. Around 400 activities take place every year.	Since 2013 the initiative takes places once a year over a period of about ten days.	Electronic tool (https://www.nachhaltigesoesterreich.at/) Web-based application (https://www.facebook.com/nachhaltigesOE)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
More than 50 civil society organisations and the private sector.	Voluntary participation of stakeholders. The range of their activities in the initiative programme of events comprises for example recycling workshops, exhibitions, enterprise evenings, pop-up stores, citizens participation projects, up to university lectures, and repair cafés. With a simple entry into the programme of the Action Days on the web-tool, the various activities of the participants become visible for all those interested and constitute, within the period of the initiative, a multifarious programme of events in a range of fields of topics on sustainable development from education to climate protection. With an online crowd voting one project within the yearly programme of the Action Days is being awarded. A representative of this initiative is then invited to be part of the Austrian delegation to the HLPF.		

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	The Austria-wide initiative puts the commitment for a sustainable development/ the SDGs in Austria in the limelight. The goal of the initiative is to promote and visualize the manifold multi-stakeholder engagement and their scope of action for sustainability in Austria. Its aim is to increase awareness for sustainable development/ the Agenda 2030 and foster networking in the SD community.
Methodology / approach used	A web-based tool provides information on all projects and activities. With an online crowd voting one project within the yearly programme of the initiative is being awarded. A representative of this initiative is then invited to be part of the Austrian delegation to the HLPF.
Results and evaluation	In the course of its 6 years of existence, more than 2100 events took place all over Austria.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	As an initiative with an effect on the public and on the media it has developed more and more into a platform of participating in shaping, raising awareness and learning from each other in the field of sustainable development/SDGs.
Problems / challenges encountered	-
Case study of good practice?	It strengthens the visibility of bottom-up approaches within all major stakeholder groups to contribute to sustainable development/SDGs across all 3 dimensions of sustainability.

AZERBAIJAN

Public Environmental Council

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	NGOs and civil society	2010 – present	Other (www.eco.gov.az)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
-	NGOs and Civil society		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	The main objectives of the Council are to establish cooperation with non-governmental organizations, as well as to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention.		

Methodology / approach used	The regular meetings are organized. The several groups with different directions are established under the Council to promote and implement the Convention's principles.
Results and evaluation	The annual final meetings are held to overview the implemented activities.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	After the establishment of the Council, the environmental concerns are discussed more broadly and additional ideas are taken in board.
Problems / challenges encountered	There are no real challenges encountered.
Case study of good practice?	We consider that the establishment of the Council, besides engagement of NGOs and civil society to the environmental issues, has contributed in promotion and implementation of the Convention.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 1

Project information websites

Project Information Websites such as: EU Funds, Contests (link: <https://www.eufondovikonkursi.com/konkursi-zastita-zivotne-sredine.ar10.html>) all in one place for the countries of BiH, Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
European Union	Including a large number of people from all activities: government and civil sector, social policy, environment, culture, education, human rights, forestry, agriculture, refugees and displaced persons, ICT technology.	2003 - to continuously	- Electronic tools (https://www.eufondovikonkursi.com/konkursi-zastita-zivotne-sredine.ar10.html https://euinfo.ba/bs/euic-mreza-u-bih)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
All	For all those who want to implement a project at European level: companies, small and medium enterprises, non-governmental organizations, schools,		

universities, associations, trade unions, international organizations, networks, students

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism

EU funds are financially supporting projects that you design and run. Support can range from 10 to 100 percent of project costs and in the amount of € 500 up to several million euros. There are usually 3 types of support: Grants: Support for a particular project, co-financing required, not intended for activities already carried out, only one grant can be awarded for a particular project. Loans: Available for projects in the private and public sectors. Especially for municipalities and small and medium enterprises Guarantees: available to banks, leasing companies, financial institutions, small and medium-sized companies, etc. The European Union is the largest donor in the world. There are over 100 programs and subprojects of the EU, (IPA is just one of them), with more than 200 vacancies per year.

Methodology / approach used

Electronic tool

Results and evaluation

The use of funds is monitored by EU.

Strengths, good practices and lessons learned

The conditions for obtaining money from EU funds are much more rigorous than any financial support granted by domestic institutions. The project requires a detailed explanation of what it wants to achieve, who you are working on, what results will be achieved, and how it will be measured later on.

Problems / challenges encountered

-

Case study of good practice?

I believe this is a good practice study as EU funds cover more than 30 areas: civil society, economics and finance, energy, citizenship, humanitarian, information, industry, innovation, research, public management, culture, media, art, local development, human education and training, environment, small and medium business, agriculture and fisheries, justice and security, transport, EU enlargement, social issues, cooperation and development, telecommunications, trade, tourism, services, urban planning, employment, health and other.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2

The EBRD in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Investing in the future

EBRD Annual Meeting & Business Forum Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 8-9 May 2019

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
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Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Business guests https://am2019.ebrd.com/content/annualmeeting/2019/documents/Guest_List%2006.05.pdf and official delegation	8 - 9 May 2019.	- Electronic tools (http://www.am2019.ebrdlivestream.com/welcome/)
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Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved
https://am2019.ebrd.com/annualmeeting/2019/display.php?view=66&page_id=3291	on the billboards are publicly invited all the stakeholders: https://www.google.com/search?q=Port+of+diversity+EBRD+Sarajevo&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi-ilmSpqjiAhWJK1AKHQ_gDTwQ_AUIDigB&biw=1350&bih=608#imgrc=ZF7hWvp88ICMKM :
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Regional Economic Prospects
Methodology / approach used	web pages, other media, official correspondence
Results and evaluation	Transition to Transition: Sharing Experiences
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Transition in transition: sharing experiences (open to all participants) for future activities and better co-operation between all participants and other stakeholders.
Problems / challenges encountered	-
Case study of good practice?	case studies are welcomed where good practices, experiences, information exchange, contribution to better understanding and eliminating difficulties, and building trust and cooperation are shown

BULGARIA

Consultation Centre of the National Council for European Affairs

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
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Administration of the Council of Ministers	General public	2013	Web-based applications (https://euaffairs.government.bg/en/page.php?c=23)
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Partner organizations

Stakeholders involved

Draft framework positions of the State for the matters to be considered at meetings of the working bodies of the Council of the European Union (EU) (including in relation to the overall EU contribution to international initiatives, processes, agreements, etc.) are coordinated/agreed within working groups of the National Council for European Affairs, in whose member compositions are included representatives of associations of NGOs, syndicates, trade unions and others. By this way is ensured the participation of the public concerned in the coordination and preparation of national positions for the negotiations procedures at the EU level for the elaboration of common EU positions on issues related to international forums. But public participation in the Bulgarian coordination mechanism on European affairs is provided not only by the representation of members of the public in the Working Groups to the National Council for European Affairs. There is in place also Consultation Centre to the Council – web portal where registered members of the public could submit comments on draft proposals for decisions and legal acts of EU:
<https://euaffairs.government.bg/en/page.php?c=23>

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism

Public consultations for contributions/statements of Bulgaria for EU issues, decisions, acts, legislative proposals, as well as positions which have to be taken by the EU at international forums, incl. those related to the environment.

Methodology / approach used

The web-based online Consultation Centre to the website of the Bulgarian coordination mechanism on European affairs provides the opportunity for the public to participate in the EU consultations in decision-making on important issues of the EU agenda and legislation, at national level, e.g. preparation of the positions of the EU for decision-making processes and initiatives within international organizations. The public consultations encompass: 1. Consultations of the European Commission by the "Your Voice in Europe" webpage – a direct link to the Commission's consultation page is given in order to be encouraged the participation of stakeholders in Bulgaria. In addition, another email address/link is provided if interested stakeholders would also like to send their opinions to the competent Bulgarian authority, which, in turn, could take them into account when preparing its opinion within the consultation. 2. Proposals for consultations by the National Council for European Affairs (NCEA) Working Groups, including inter-institutional dossiers received by the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, distributed weekly by the NCEA. When the NCEA distributes a dossier to a Working Group, it may propose the same to be uploaded at the Consultation Centre for the period within which the NCEA should prepare its framework position on it. Traditionally, the deadline is 4 weeks from the distribution by NCEA. When comments are submitted to the Consultation Centre, they are sent to the focal point of the respective competent NCEA Working Group and are taken into account in preparation of the position. Public consultations via the Consultation Centre may involve citizens, representatives of business or non-profit organizations that identify themselves as registered users through name and password. Apart from the functionality for uploading comments, the Consultation Centre also provides opportunities for discussions in forums on topics posted by the users.

Results and evaluation	-
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	The tool provides opportunities for proactive public participation without any limitations – it is open to all.
Problems / challenges encountered	Like all other tools for passive public consultations – it is difficult to expect to gain specific expertise by the stakeholders on some more complicated matters. But this shortcoming is compensated by the allowed direct participation of representatives of members of the public with such special skills and experience in the Working Groups of the National Council for European Affairs which deal with the EU dossiers.
Case study of good practice?	<p>We find this tool as valuable in view that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - orientates, encourages and provides opportunities for participation of Bulgarian civil society, representatives of business and non-profit entities in consultations at national level on EU issues – through providing opinions within the development of Bulgarian positions in the process of EU decision-making; - provides an additional option for the public administration for collection of stakeholder inputs in the preparation of national positions on EU issues.

ESTONIA

Coordinating Estonia's position in international negotiations

(through previous engagement on EU level, since international positions are negotiated beforehand on EU level)

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Ministry of Environment	Environmental NGOs, other ministries	continuous	Other (via e-mail)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
-	-		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	-		

Methodology / approach used	Estonia's official position is sent to stakeholders for opinion before submitting it to the Government for approval. Opinions are taken on board as much as possible. If an opinion cannot be accepted, explanations are given to the stakeholder.
Results and evaluation	Estonia's position takes into account the views of the stakeholders.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Different views and positions are identified and can be taken into account.
Problems / challenges encountered	International negotiations can be very time sensitive and sometimes the time limits for engaging the stakeholders are very challenging.
Case study of good practice?	-

FRANCE

Aarhus brief with UNECE delegates during UNFCCC events

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
CIEL (Center for International Environmental Law)	Delegates from UNECE countries	-	Other
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:		
-	-		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Provide knowledge to delegates about article 3§7 of the Aarhus Convention		
Methodology / approach used	-		
Results and evaluation	-		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	-		

Problems / challenges encountered	-
Case study of good practice?	Yes. It helps to enhance good knowledge of the Aarhus principles during CCNUCC events

GEORGIA

UNFCCC, COP 24, NGO representative included in delegation

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA)	Central Government - 4 persons, Local Government - 1 person, NGO - 2 persons	3-14 December 2018	-
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
NGO The Greens Movement of Georgia	The Greens Movement of Georgia is one of the local environmental NGOs who works on environmental issues and cooperates with the government institutions, including MEPA, IOs, other NGOs, civil society, academia, etc.		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To support the public participation in the COP 24 and their involvement in the future climate change activities		
Methodology / approach used	On the basis of the request of The Greens Movement of Georgia, MEPA included their representatives in the official list of the country delegation as well as made their registration for the meeting		
Results and evaluation	Currently, those representatives of The Greens Movement of Georgia are included in the preparation of COP		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Participation in the COP 24 of NGO representatives, their awareness raising, further involvement in the climate change activities, etc		
Problems / challenges encountered	-		

Case study of good practice?

Despite the fact that involvement of the public in IFs is always a good example, we consider our case as a general one. In our opinion, one of the good examples of public participation in IFs might be a practice, when the public candidatures are agreed within the appropriate local CSOs, including NGOs for a proposal to the national governments to assist them in participation in particular IFs with consideration that their participation will be beneficial to the meeting as well as further activities at the national level

KYRGYZSTAN

Aarhus Centers of Kyrgyzstan

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Aarhus Center in Bishkek	Wide public	launched in 2015, and will be functioning on constant base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools (http://aarhus.kg/en/) - Web-based applications - Other

Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved
Aarhus Center in Bishkek was created on the basis of signed Memorandum on mutual understanding between the State agency of environmental protection and forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Center OSCE in Bishkek	Aarhus Center in Bishkek was created on the basis of signed Memorandum on mutual understanding between the State agency of environmental protection and forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Center OSCE in Bishkek

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism
The aim of creation of Aarhus Center is the quality improvement of principles and obligations, proclaimed in the Aarhus Convention. Aarhus Center closely cooperates with governmental structures, such as regional and city state administration, State agency of environmental protection and forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic , the Ministry of emergency situations of the Kyrgyz Republic , the State inspectorate for ecological and technical safety at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, NGO, the international

	organizations, Higher education institutions and other institutes to promote the solution of a number of environmental problems.
Methodology / approach used	The Center create conditions of operational access to ecological information, increase the potential of the state support in ensuring more active participation of the public in decision-making, and helps to create the atmosphere of trust at interaction between various parties. Thus, all data and information represented by the Center have the official status that allows improving not only reliability and quality of information, but also allows using it at realization of the rights for access to justice.
Results and evaluation	It is working quite well
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	-
Problems / challenges encountered	-
Case study of good practice?	It is good practice.

NETHERLANDS

Side-events at international forums

The Netherlands made use and will make use of side events in the margins of international meetings (e.g. COPs Climate Change, CBD, UNEA) either alone or in cooperation with other countries to address in more detail the priorities of our country (e.g. the link Climate change/Circular economy, Climate adaptation). The principles of transparency and inclusiveness form part of the driving forces for these meetings. We furthermore stress the importance of e.g. transparency and inclusiveness when preparing ourselves for the agenda items dealing with cross cutting issues of COPs, UNEA (e.g. the agenda items coordination and cooperation, Science-Policy Interface, gender).

A similar approach is being followed preparing our own participation in such events as COPs, UNEA. E.g. discussing and adopting COP/UNEA guidelines on the participation of observers in meetings, harassment and the use of electronic means in meetings.

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
<p>UNEP Secretariat, Convention Secretariats.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Setting and target groups vary.</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>Other</p>
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
<p>UNEP, like-minded countries, organisations.</p>	<p>Participation of stakeholders as (co-) organizer, panel members, audience in the above-mentioned conferences, side events.</p>		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	<p>Sharing of thoughts, information leading to a better mutual understanding which ideally result in a common view of the issues discussed at conferences, (side) events.</p>		
Methodology / approach used	<p>see above</p>		
Results and evaluation	<p>Approach seems to work. Side events are always well received by participants and covered in the media. A good number of participants show up. Even if the given time slots are not favourable.</p>		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	<p>See above. Lesson learned: team-up with like-minded groups/countries. Combine forces. Perhaps involvement of the Aarhus Convention Secretariat? Will increase visibility of the principles of the convention.</p>		
Problems / challenges encountered	<p>Often an “over kill” of side events during international conferences, limited time slots and a heavy agenda for negotiators (consultations, contact groups which prevent them participating in relevant side events. Challenge will be to choose the momentum, right perspective of the side event, interesting panellists, key note speakers.</p>		
Case study of good practice?	<p>Not sure. The side events we organized so far, did not directly address the Aarhus principles. Indirectly, however, they play an indispensable role. The question can be asked if a specific Aarhus principle related side event would convince participants in COPs, UNEA to participate. As mentioned above time is precious and there is in general an overkill of side events at international meetings.</p>		

ROMANIA

Public announcements in newspapers, on the website of the Environmental authority, letter to environmental NGOs, local radio

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Central and Local Environmental Protection Authorities.	Public concerned	permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools (Webpage of the environmental authorities (http://www.mmediu.ro), http://www.anpm.ro) - Other (Newspaper and local radio (only for Developers), letter (Ministry of Environment))
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
-	Public concerned in EIA/SEA, the relationship consists in collaboration: answers to public's questions by individual letter, face to face in public hearing		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Timely and efficient public participation		
Methodology / approach used	Approved procedures for public information and participation by normative acts: Law No. 292/2018 and Gov. Decision 1076/2004		
Results and evaluation	Satisfactory results due to its efficiency in engaging the public concerned		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	NGO implication is important and may provide relevant information in certain issues of the project/program/strategy.		
Problems / challenges encountered	Acceptance by the public with regard to certain very discussed projects.		
Case study of good practice?	We consider the above mechanism to be common among the Parties to the Convention, efficient but not innovative.		

SERBIA

Climate Smart Urban Development Project

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Ministry of Environmental Protection.	Representatives of the Local self-governments, NGOs, Academia, business sector and individuals	2017- 2021	Electronic tools (inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/en/home/)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
UNDP	Stakeholders were given the opportunity to propose innovative ideas to combat climate change on the local level		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	GHG emission reduction on the local level		
Methodology / approach used	Public call for innovative ideas and solutions		
Results and evaluation	Five most innovative project ideas awarded		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Possibility of replication of the project in future endeavours		
Problems / challenges encountered	Insufficient capacities on the local level		
Case study of good practice?	Yes because it was the first time such approach was implemented and with great success		

United Kingdom 1

Membership in environmental stakeholder groups

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
-	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools - Other (Including key stakeholders in membership of environmental stakeholder group)
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
-	Consumer groups, women's groups and individuals.		
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	-		
Methodology / approach used	Representatives of consumer groups and women's groups, as well as individuals acting in an individual capacity, are included in the current membership of environmental stakeholder groups (such as the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum), policy advisory bodies, or as lay or expert members, as appropriate, on specialist advisory committees (such as the Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee or the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food). In addition, it is established practice for such bodies to publish the papers for their meetings on their websites, and to admit members of the public who wish to attend these meetings.		
Results and evaluation	-		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	-		
Problems / challenges encountered	-		
Case study of good practice?	Yes, we consider this practice to be a case study of good practice as it allows engagement with a range of stakeholders and enhance access to information.		

United Kingdom 2

Covering expenses for key individuals to attend meetings

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra)	4	-	- Other
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved		
-			
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To enhance access to information and public participation.		
Methodology / approach used	the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) currently covers the expenses of four academics and industry experts to enable them to attend meetings linked to the Montreal Protocol and provide expert advice to the Protocol Parties.		
Results and evaluation	-		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	-		
Problems / challenges encountered	-		
Case study of good practice?	Yes, we consider this practice to be a case study of good practice because it achieves our aim to increase public participation and enhance access to information.		

United Kingdom 3

Using guidance documents to encourage public participation

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
-	-	-	-
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:		
-			
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To encourage public participation		
Methodology / approach used	In developing technical guidelines to support parties implementing the requirements of the conventions, where appropriate, the need for public participation would be highlighted. An example is paragraph 23 of the Guidelines on the sound interim storage of mercury, adopted by the second Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention last year.		
Results and evaluation	-		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	-		
Problems / challenges encountered	-		
Case study of good practice?	Yes, we consider this to be a case study of good practice.		

Annex II – Examples of effective tools/practices shared by stakeholders

Aarhus Center of the Republic of Belarus

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus	Environmental public organizations/public	each reporting cycle	Web site http://aarhusbel.com/
Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved	Parties involved	
-	public discussions/consultations with the public	decisions of the meeting of the parties to the Aarhus Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change concerning the preparation of reports	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	identification of difficulties and best practices, increasing the transparency of the work of state bodies		
Methodology / approach used	The order of conducting public discussions of environmentally significant decisions. The online reporting format has been developed by the secretariat as a tool to facilitate the submission of national implementation reports in a standard format.		
Results and evaluation	effective mechanism		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	strengthening the cooperation of government and the public, the transparency of the work of the government, improving the quality of the report		
Problems / challenges encountered	lack of agreement at the initial stage, for example, on the submission / non-submission of an alternative report		
Case study of good practice?	Yes, because the public is involved in solving state tasks.		

Aarhus Information Awareness Centre, Ukraine, Kyiv

UNECE project 'Support to establishing the national SEA system in Ukraine: SEA capacity building and awareness raising'

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Law-Making and Information Technologies Institute, NGO, Ukraine	representatives of central authorities (ministries) of regional (oblast) bodies of environmental protection and public health, scientific and educational institutions, the public	May 2016 - May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools (https://ecomapa.gov.ua/data.gov.ua/datasets/Екологія) - Web-based applications (https://www.facebook.com/OrhusCentrKyiv/?epa=SEARCH_BOX; https://www.facebook.com/OrhusCentrKyiv/videos/455927648272012/; https://www.facebook.com/minpryrody/) - Mobile-phone apps (https://www.messenger.com/t/SaveEcoBot)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (MENR), Aarhus Centre (Ukraine, Kyiv)	environmental and health authorities, local planning authorities, educational institutions, institutes of civil society	MENR is the beneficiary of the project, cooperation with the SEA Working Group; support of the national head of the SEA group on communication with stakeholders; information support of sub-regional events, conference, preparation of information materials on events; coverage of events in the press; dissemination of information materials	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To increase awareness of public authorities and health care regarding their special role in ensuring the quality of SEA documentation. To increase the capacity of local planning authorities to understand the practical aspects of the application of SEA; Increase awareness of SEA among high-level national stakeholders and support the adoption of the SEA Law. Enhance public awareness of SEA for active participation		
Methodology / approach used	Information and methodological support and communication		
Results and evaluation	Within the framework of the project 5 trainings, 3 round tables, sub-regional conference were held. These measures covered more than 300, including national representatives as well as local authorities, non-governmental		

	organizations, research and educational institutions. All events were widely covered in the media and Internet resources.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Involvement of the public, development of the expert environment for SEA; Implementation of EU legislation and standards SEA;
Problems / challenges encountered	low level of public interest in participating in SEA; misunderstanding of the use of SEA as a tool for public participation in decision-making on environmental issues in the early stages; the need to create and maintain information systems; lack of funding sources for the SEA, effective monitoring system, qualified specialists and relevant experience of SEA in Ukraine;
Case study of good practice?	Yes, it's a good practice. The Law on SEA and by-laws was adopted, SEA capacity building and awareness raising is increasing

Aarhus Information Center, Vlore – Albania

Disaster risk reduction in south west Balkans through participation of community

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
The south west network of Aarhus Centers from Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina	36	2014 until 2016	- Web-based applications (online forums, social networks) - Regional and International meeting are as well a great tool
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
11 Aarhus Centres of 4 countries of Western Balkans (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia,	Ministry of Environment and Infrastructure	Local government units of all countries involved	

Montenegro
and Albania)

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	The main objective of the initiative was to increase the cooperation of south west Balkan Countries through the network of Aarhus Centers by sharing good experience of preventing and reducing the damage from natural and industrial disaster through better informing of community and involving citizens in decision making processes and public consultation for this issue
Methodology / approach used	The events took place in all above mention countries and involved Aarhus Centers staff as well as representatives from Ministry of Environment, Infrastructure, Mayors, Firefighters and community leaders in an open discussion for sharing best practices of each county and cooperating in case of cross border issues and disasters.
Results and evaluation	There were implemented 4 local projects for increasing the public awareness of community about reducing the risk from natural disasters and industrial ones, publishing outcomes and results in Aarhus Websites in each country of western Balkan
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	The South west network of Aarhus Centers it has been active since 2014, it has also applied three other times for common project that would strengthen the network and influence in respective policies of respective countries for further cooperation for different environmental and good governance issues. This network is an example of sharing good practices and breaking the borders of a fragile region as Balkan.
Problems / challenges encountered	Although we as Network of Aarhus Centers would like to continue cooperation and sharing our experience, and it's open to any support from generous donor, however so far, our proposals have failed to be financed
Case study of good practice?	We think that such a Regional experience and cooperation, using practical and challenging issue with the involvement of different stakeholders, community, women and youths it's a great example for sharing with others

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) 1

Briefing on the Aarhus Convention and Escazu Agreement's obligations/commitments for the delegates from relevant parties

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
CIEL	These briefings are hosted in the context of the negotiations and	2017 – ongoing	- Other: See the briefing note distributed with the briefing: https://www.ciel.org/

seek to raise awareness among delegates from Aarhus parties (and countries participating to the Escazu Agreement) regarding the scope of their existing obligations and commitments as well as relevant guidance.

wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Pages-from-PromotingParticipation_EntryPoints_COP24dec2018.jpg

Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved
EarthJustice	We invite the UNFCCC Secretariat as well as the secretariats from both agreements to participate. Key civil society representatives from both regions are also invited.	We invite all relevant parties involved in both processes. Delegates representing about half of the Aarhus parties have participated at least once to such a briefing.
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	<p>The briefings seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - further increase awareness about the importance of public participation for effective climate policies and for ambition and relevant international commitments with regards to the promotion of access to information, public participation and access to legal remedies, - consider how to promote the implementation of these principles in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, - offer an opportunity for interested Parties to consider opportunities at the SBs50 to promote these principles. 	
Methodology / approach used	We seek primarily to provide a space for the respective secretariats to brief their own parties, playing ourselves only a secondary role through the distribution of a briefing note.	
Results and evaluation	Greater awareness among delegates has been achieved. More references are made to the instruments during the negotiations.	
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Lesson learned: many delegates lack key knowledge about the instruments - not only the legal obligation contained in article 3.7 but also for instance the fact that this obligation binds ALL EU Member States. This knowledge is key to empower delegates to use effectively the Aarhus Convention when talking to their peers.	
Problems / challenges encountered	Many positions are defined well in advance of the session - the key question is how to strengthen the role of Principle 10 at this stage - for instance could Aarhus Convention focal point play a role in reaching out to their peers.	
Case study of good practice?	Yes. And we believe that it should be replicated in other relevant UN forums.	

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) 2

We have sought to identify the mandates defining all rules related to public participation and access to information in the UNFCCC process. This enabled us to observe that no formal rule prevented the Secretariat from distributing draft documents to observers during the session. Consequently, we could effectively question this rule pointing at the lack of legal basis for its implementation. Once we could confront all relevant decision makers (chairs of the negotiations and the Secretariat) with the absence of rule supporting such restriction on access to information, we could secure the reversal of the rule which enabled all actors to work much more effectively (incl. the UNFCCC Secretariat itself). Since then the UNFCCC Secretariat has developed a very useful search tool enabling to browse the relevant mandates. Please see: <https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/mas-observers-mandate-search-tool>

Cercle Català de Negocis (CCN) 1

Organization of event with media coverage

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
CCN and CMC	Open to public	2019 and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools - Web-based applications
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
Chambers of Commerce and local governments	collaboration and information sharing	Cooperation and exchange of information and actors	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Awareness raising and identification of effective strategies		
Methodology / approach used	Workshop and conference format		
Results and evaluation	Still in planning phase		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Good feedback at present small level		
Problems / challenges encountered	Organisation and funding		

Case study of good practice? Yes, we think it is an effective way to promote knowledge and tools related to Aarhus

Cercle Català de Negocis (CCN) 2

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Talks and workshops with grass roots organizations and associations	Several talks and conferences	One day events starting in 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic tools (Links to institutional webs of associations) - Web-based applications (Require dedicated administrators)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
Cercle Mallorqui de Negocis (CMN) and local governments	Participation of members and open discussion	Exchange of information and participation in events	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Awareness raising and identification of joint strategies		
Methodology / approach used	Briefings, workshop discussion and preparation and distribution of materials		
Results and evaluation	Good feedback and increased awareness		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Need to connect with media		
Problems / challenges encountered	Lack of knowledge by authorities		
Case study of good practice?	Yes, once it has reached critical mass		

Dalma-Sona Environmental, social-educational Fund/NGO

Yerevan Dalma historical Garden

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
"Dalma-Sona" Fund	Yerevan Dalma historical Garden (Orchards) and previous Land users of the Orchards / about 50 land users/	2020	- Electronic tools - Web-based applications
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre NGO	Yerevan Municipality and some Ministries.	Collaboration in the project aimed to survey and localization the international practice in the field of successful court cases due to provisions of the Aarhus Convention.	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Restoration of justice and protection of the rest part of Orchards		
Methodology / approach used	Finding, survey and analysis of the successful court /or pre-court/ cases.		
Results and evaluation	Cancellation of previous illegal Decrees, adoption of new decisions, restoration of justice and protection of the rest part of Orchards.		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned			
Problems / challenges encountered	Bureaucracy and reluctance of the administrative staffs to cooperate.		
Case study of good practice?	Yes		

Danish Board of Technology Foundation

The World Wide Views citizen consultations

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Danish Board of Technology Foundation	For the latest application of the method in 2015, World Wide Views on Climate and Energy, almost 10,000 citizens were involved; around 100 partner organisations around the world; scientific experts; and a large number of stakeholder organisations and governments.	The first World Wide Views citizen consultation was organised in 2009, the latest in 2015. The organisation of a World Wide Views citizen consultation should ideally start around a year prior to the international negotiation, the views of the citizens is supposed to contribute to.	Other (www.wwviews.org)

Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved	Parties involved
The CBD and UNFCCC Secretariats have both been involved as co-initiators. Here is link to a longer list of partners around the world that have organised World Wide Views citizen consultations in their countries: http://wwwviews.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/wwwviews_country_list_2009-2012-2015.pdf	A lot of stakeholder organisations have been involved in defining the key policy issues to address and discussing the results from the consultation at different venues.	Both the Danish and the French governments have been involved as co-initiators and several parties have been more informally engaged with the World Wide Views projects by supporting national citizen consultations, providing information about negotiation issues and being engaged in discussing the project results (the views of the citizens on global negotiation issues).

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism

The WWViews method was developed to help close the widening democratic gap between citizens and policymakers as more and more policymaking takes place on the global level. Worldwide, different cultural and political traditions and practices for the involvement of citizens in political decision-making exist. At the global level, no such tradition or practice has yet developed. International negotiations about future environmental and other issues are guided by national interests and informed by scientific expertise and advice from various interest groups. No mechanism is in place to allow those ordinary citizens, who are going to live with the future consequences of the political agreements reached (or not), to make their views heard in the policymaking process. As a result, policymakers have no knowledge about the public opinion with regards to the issues they need to make decisions about, and the democratic gap between citizens and policymakers is widening. WWViews is an attempt to help close that gap.

Methodology / approach used

World Wide Views is a multisite citizen consultation. It is called World Wide Views due to the fact that it has been developed and three times used for global citizen consultations, but it can also be used at the regional and national level. The core of the method is to have citizens at multiple sites debate the same policy related questions relating to a given issue on the same day. So far, the standard has been to have 100 citizens participating at each site, selected to reflect the demographic diversity in their country or region. Before the citizen consultations, participants receive written information material presenting facts and opinions about the issues at hand. Information videos are screened at the actual consultations as an introduction to each thematic session. The questions put to the citizens are identified through a comprehensive consultation of policymakers and stakeholders worldwide in order to address the most pertinent, debated, and disputed policy issues debated in the policy process addressed. The information material is designed to present citizens with pros and cons of voting one way or another on the questions at hand. The information material is reviewed by a scientific advisory board and both questions and information material is reviewed by citizen focus groups in different parts of the world prior to being finalized. The videos present a summary of the written information material. All meetings follow the exact same format: The day is divided into 4-5 thematic sessions. An information video introduces the thematic issue and citizens are then presented with a set of questions (3 to 5) with pre-prepared answering options. Groups of 5-8 citizens deliberate on the questions before them, assisted by a trained table moderator. At the end of each session – which can take between 30 minutes and 1 ½ hour, citizens vote individually on the questions. Votes are then collected and reported to the World Wide Views website, where results can be compared as they arrive throughout the day – starting in Asia and finishing on the American West Coast. Comparisons can be made between countries, continents and different groupings, such as developing and developed countries. The first World Wide Views (on Global Warming) also included a session in which citizens made up their own recommendations for policymakers. The second (on Biodiversity) offered partners the opportunity to do so in order to produce recommendations to the national and local level.

	<p>The results are subsequently analyzed and presented to policymakers – both by the responsible partners at the national level and by the coordinators at the global level, which has so far been at UN conferences for parties to the climate and biodiversity conventions. The method was developed by the DBT and other partners in the World Wide Views Alliance, which was established for this purpose, prior to the climate COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009. The aim was develop a method that would be cheap and easy to use for partners in all parts of the world; a method that would produce results, which were easily communicated to policymakers; and a method, which would provide participating citizens with balanced information and give them the opportunity to discuss the issues at hand with other citizens.</p>
<p>Results and evaluation</p>	<p>The method works well and there is high satisfaction among participants. The results are available on the WWViews website: www.worldwideviews.com UNFCCC Spokesperson and Director of Communications and Outreach, Nick Nuttall, about the impact of WWViews on Climate and Energy: “The results were indeed useful, because in 2015 we were making efforts to engage with new sections of society beyond governments to achieve a supportive environment in the run up to Paris, to achieve a supportive environment that would give governments the confidence to do the right thing. The supportive input from citizens through WWViews – together with input from cities, investors and many more – was part of the reason why we got a good outcome in Paris”.</p>
<p>Strengths, good practices and lessons learned</p>	<p>same as above</p>
<p>Problems / challenges encountered</p>	<p>The process is costly and funding hard to find. There is no established way of introducing the views of ordinary citizens to global negotiations, so the process depends on the will of the parties to take it seriously.</p>
<p>Case study of good practice?</p>	<p>World Wide Views demonstrates that it is indeed possible to arrange for the participation of lay citizens in global environmental governance. We do indeed believe that should be considered a good practice to be promoted but also recommend to keep open to other tools, practices and mechanisms for facilitating citizen participation in addition to stakeholder participation.</p>

Eco-TIRAS

Dniester River treaty and Dniester River Commission

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
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Dniester River Commission	5-6	2018	- Other (Active involvement of NGOs to bilateral river cooperation body)
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Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved
OSCE and GEF	NGOs and academics	Moldova and Ukraine
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	Representation of the general public interests in the River Commission	
Methodology / approach used	Participation	
Results and evaluation	The openness of both Parties and obligation according to bilateral intergovt treaty permit public to participate both in the Commission and the Working groups activities.	
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Participation raises the effectiveness, diversify the agendas	
Problems / challenges encountered	Selection of the Commission membership by the Government did not take into account the NGO community proposal	
Case study of good practice?	Yes, in general it is excellent practice	

Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Eco-TIRAS	Target NGOs	2011	Other (www.dniester-commission.com)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
NGOs-members	eNGOs	Moldova and Ukraine	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To permit eNGOs to be fully involved in Dniester Commission activities		

Methodology / approach used	Lobbying of the MeA treaty obliging Parties to include NGOS in composition of River Commission
Results and evaluation	The text of bilateral Dniester River basin treaty (art. 26) obliges Parties to include NGOs to the Commission as full members
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	It is possible
Problems / challenges encountered	Issue of financing of NGOs participation
Case study of good practice?	Yes

Environmental Law Association of Central and Eastern Europe (Guta Association)

Participation in the negotiation of the Escazú agreement, supporting the CSO participation

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
REC, Guta Association	3	2014-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electronic Tools (website, electronic newsletter; http://www.building-bridges.rec.org/BuildingBridgesII.html; http://www.building-bridges.rec.org/BuildingBridgesIII.html) - Web-based applications (Twitter, Facebook, online forums, seminars, skype conferences http://www.building-bridges.rec.org/BuildingBridgesI.html) - Other (video competition; traditional tools, meetings, articles)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
UNECLAC, UNECE	The CSOs and interested governments as well	Active CSOs and their network from the LAC region as the main target group and recipient of capacity building and advice; interested LAC	

	<p>as ECLAC were supported by experiences and best practices on the negotiation and operation of the Aarhus Convention</p>	<p>governments attending seminars and events; UNECLAC cooperative partner; UNECE providing one expert representing Aarhus Convention, partly paid by them</p>
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	<p>To provide support to the negotiation process of the regional LAC instrument on Principle 10; facilitate cooperation and interregional experience sharing between UN ECLAC and UNECE stakeholders on Principle 10 and the Aarhus Convention; and empower stakeholders by building their capacities for better engagement in the LAC Principle 10 process, including governmental and CSO networks, the UN ECLAC and other actors.</p>	
Methodology / approach used	<p>Web-based information platform for sharing experiences and best practices, forums for exchange of experience, side events in Aarhus MoP and in ECLAC meetings, expert discussions, assistance and advice in the negotiation process by onsite participation of European experts and on skype conferences, financial and expert support for national consultations in LAC countries and for sub-regional CSO coordination meetings, capacity building; awareness raising by social media, video competition, networking, website and more traditional forms, development of Strategy for Civil Society Engagement in the Esazú Agreement, fundraising support</p>	
Results and evaluation	<p>CSO strengthened and able to participate in more equal footing in negotiations of the Escazú agreement due to assistance and financial support; more efficient CSO negotiating capacities ultimately achieving better text formulations of the agreement and its adoption; key actors (ECLAC CSOs and interested governments) assisted on issues of interest, by broader views and various options, could understand the complexity of issues better when formulating their positions and the text of the agreement; Principle 10 and the negotiations put on the agendas of several relevant sub- regional meetings in the Caribbean (OECS, CBF, CCI, COTED); Strategy for the Civil Society Engagement in the Escazú Agreement and fundraising support helps to achieve signature and ratification of the Escazú agreement by LAC countries, and prepare future implementation, including building the structure of the new agreement with CSO participation (Rules of procedure, Compliance Committee, governing body)</p>	
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	<p>The exchange of experiences and best practices from UNECE region helped to understand some key issues at stake in the agreement drafting and also inspired governments, CSOs to develop own initiatives and solutions; mutual learning process during negotiations for ECLAC, governments and CSOs and good cooperation between them, CSOs and active governments developing their own approaches incl. human rights defenders in environmental matters and on persons or groups in vulnerable situations</p>	
Problems / challenges encountered	<p>Difference between the political economic conditions, legal systems and cultural traditions of LAC and UNECE region, including Europe/North vs. the South; conservative governments opposing new approaches and obligations going beyond their current national legal systems, political changes influencing the leadership by countries supporting the signature and ratification; CSOs lacking enough funds to attend from all LAC countries the negotiations, and for further regional and country activities promoting signature and ratification and implementation of the agreement</p>	

Case study of good practice?

Yes. It is first time outside Europe to achieve a new agreement on access rights and environmental democracy, similar to Aarhus Convention. The case study of the process is rather broad as covers 5 years, and the process is still ongoing, It is also possible to pick one or more aspects of CSO participation in the agreement negotiation and/or in the current stage of supporting signature, ratification, and future implementation

Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association (GEBMA)

Project on "Improving the Farmers Health and Safety against agricultural chemicals"

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
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GEBMA	Community/ Farmers and its families/about 250 persons	2020 /3 year	
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Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved
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IPEN	Local Residents and farmers-based groups • Communities of Interest • Local community and voluntary groups • Web Based or Virtual Groups	a) the specific vulnerabilities of farmers at highest risk of frequent agricultural chemical use; (b) the causes, dimensions, and effects of problems with existing chemical application processes; and (c) promising interventions to address farmer's needs. The team then will develop a Screening Checklist that could be used to quickly and systematically identify farmers who possess one or more of the vulnerabilities. The team summarizes what was learned from this project about the characteristics and associated risk factors of the actual farmers in the community.
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Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism

- Identify what the needs and priorities for Community Planning should be.
- Develop a consensus on a proposal.
- Inform the decision-making or service delivery of a community, council or department.
- Develop new or collaborative ways of implementing elements of the Community Plan.
- Review progress on the Community Plan

Methodology / approach used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography: disposable cameras can be given to people of all ages to capture their likes and dislikes in an area. The results can be exhibited to generate further discussion or to promote additional events. • Vox Pox: short, snappy interviews with people in different locations and at different times (radio or television). Like photographs the results can be displayed and discussed more widely. Educational materials: leaflets, instruction, brochures.
Results and evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The people and organisations with an interest in the focus of the engagement will be identified and involved. b. The evidence of the needs and available resources will be gathered and used this to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken. c. The clear procedures to enable the participants to work with one another efficiently and effectively will be agreed and used. d. The necessary information communicated between the participants will be ensured. e. The skills, knowledge and confidence of all the participants will be developed actively. f. The results of the engagement will be feedbacked to the wider community and agencies affected.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	This project will help to reinforce participation and encourage stakeholders to continue to be active as the engagement evolves.
Problems / challenges encountered	The limitations, such as time constraints, finances and resources available.
Case study of good practice?	-

HAYAJAN NGO

PRTR tool provide information on wide range of environmental state in the different regions

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
HAYAJAN NGO	scientific community, young researchers, students	2013 up to present	Web-based applications (e-prtr; prtr.net; https://prtraze.000webhostapp.com/)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	

"ECOSCOPE" NGO	ministry of Ecology; lecturers from universities; magistrates, scientific researchers, NGOs	-
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	to share information of resource to obtain ecological data from register, to analyse data	
Methodology / approach used	articles in media; presentations in conferences, seminars; scientific researches; proposals submission to improve ecological policy	
Results and evaluation	drawing attention of policymakers from ecological departments of leading pollutants (BP, SOCAR, Statoil Equinor), investing companies (EBRD, WB, EIB)	
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	repeatedly inform the need to create and use waste registers at all stages of the product life cycle in all international forums	
Problems / challenges encountered	even certified environmental specialists from transnational corporations are unaware of the PRTR and work according to an approved scheme that does not include the maintenance and publication of waste registers	
Case study of good practice?	yes, only by moving along the intended path it is possible to improve the methods of achieving the goal be improved.	

ICO Information Center "Green Dossier"

Strengthening PP component in environmental part of Eastern Partnership's activities

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved	Starting year and duration	Tool
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF), WG 3 (focus on environment, climate, energy and transport)	International WG3 of EaP CSF, WG3 of Ukrainian National Platform	Since 2018, and we believe that it is extremely important to continue cooperation between EaP CSF and Aarhus	- Web-based application (http://www.dossier.org.ua/en/environmental-assessment-watch)

process
further.

Partner organizations	Stakeholders involved	Parties involved
<p>International WG 3 of EaP CSF, WG3 of Ukrainian National Platform. Concrete project was implemented by "Green Dossier" in partnership with WG3 members from Ukraine (EPL), Belarus (Public Association "Ecohome"), the Republic of Moldova (Public Association EcoContact) and BlueLink (Bulgaria)</p>	<p>SEA and EIA legislations are listed among key priorities in programming document "Eastern Partnership - 20 deliverables for 2020". Developing and providing an innovative approach to EA public monitoring means involvement CSOs and local communities into the assessment process. The methodology developed and practical guide for its use allows to engage the public into the process.</p>	<p>In the framework of the international project "Environmental Assessment Watch (Implementation of SEA and EIA: civil society monitoring) partners from Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria analyzed the situation with environmental assessments in their countries and developed a methodology for public monitoring of environmental assessments. The methodology contains a practical part with a working application that can be used by active citizens and organisations in any EaP countries.</p>
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	<p>It is an ambitious task to implement SEA and EIA in accordance to EU directives and standards, in compliance with relevant Conventions (Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol, Aarhus Convention), and make them applicable across all sectors. We developed the methodology and practical guide to use it in both, AA and non-AA countries.</p>	
Methodology / approach used	<p>The project partners analyzed the situation with environmental assessments in their countries and developed a methodology for public monitoring of environmental assessments. The methodology contains a practical part with a working application that can be used by active citizens and organisations in any EaP countries.</p>	
Results and evaluation	<p>The public of 3 EaP countries has received a monitoring tool for environmental assessment watch. This instrument is going to be used for other EaP countries as well.</p>	
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	<p>Three EaP countries, which participated in the project, have very different conditions (Ukraine and Moldova have Association Agreement with EU, and Belarus does not), which were compared and analyzed for further developing of environmental human rights and environmental democracy. The project investigates the situation in three EaP countries and in one EU country - Bulgaria, collecting good and bad examples and making them known at international level. Our experts learn from each other to find out the best solutions for monitoring implementation process and make it as visible for civil society as possible. We created a model</p>	

	system for civil society monitoring of SEA and EIA (Environmental Assessments Watch) and shared this experience to other EaP countries.
Problems / challenges encountered	The main challenge was to find common solution for AA and non-AA countries, as we have different obligations and commitments in the frame with cooperation with EU, but the same - in the frame of Aarhus Convention. It was not easy to create common approach for public monitoring. We developed a kind of ideal approach to monitoring, and adopted it to concrete situations in the countries.
Case study of good practice?	Yes. This experience and tools developed may be used for other countries.

Milieukontakt Albania 1

Green Lungs for our cities – alternative and bottom-up monitoring platform for air quality, noise pollution and urban greenery for policy influencing at local level

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
CoPlan	-	2018 and will last for 3 years	Web-based applications
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
Green Center in Shkodra, Aarhus Information in Shkodra, Eper Center in Tirana, Ecological Club in Elbasan, EcoMjedisi i Durres	NGOs, Municipalities and National Environment Agency	NGOs, researchers, citizens	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	to strengthen local environmental Civil Society Organizations to impact environmental policies and performance at local level in line with the EU accession requirements, through enabling them to carry out evidence-based advocacy and policy influencing in the environmental protection realm.		
Methodology / approach used	Innovative Composite Monitoring – While official data for air quality, noise pollution and urban greenery is produced and reported, the action proposes		

	<p>an innovative type of monitoring which combines technical aspects with the use of widely accessible technology, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical measurements including: determining assessment criteria, sampling points, limit values, critical values, and elements to be monitored (PM10; PM2.5; SO2; NO2; O3; CO; C6H6; Pb; K; Fe; Zn; Ca) - Smart Technology Applications easily accessible and downloadable on mobile/smart devices such as: Noise pollution measuring applications “Noise Pollution Monitor”, etc. - On-site field observations – In the three selected municipalities there will be on-site observations and measurements taken on additional sites for more complimentary findings than those of the official institutions, for wider coverage and more representative results.
Results and evaluation	it is still in the process, even though first results are presented
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	it is still in the process
Problems / challenges encountered	it is still in the process
Case study of good practice?	yes. Because will give information to the general public on the quality of air, but at the same time will involve them to use alternative tools and report them in the platform.

Milieukontakt Albania 2

Civil Society Acts for Environmentally Sustainable Socio-Economic Development (CO-SEED)

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania	more than 100	2017 with a duration of 2 years	- Electronic Tools (http://co-seed.eu/en/publications/research-activities)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
EDEN Center	National Environment Agency, Regional Environment Agency, Local CSO, media, citizens	local citizens of the Tirana, Kruja and Elbasan communities where an investment was happening	

<p>Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism</p>	<p>to create a positive practice of involvement of the concerned public in environmental decision-making by improving environmental peer review through strengthening cooperation between environmental CSOs and the responsible authorities. This will enable a realistic assessment, transparent and professional reports on environmental impact assessment of projects that require a profound EIA helping decision-making and promote the "development that respects the environment"</p>
<p>Methodology / approach used</p>	<p>develop and foster real exchange between communities and stakeholders. This was realized through the trainings, field visit as well as through the communication that will be set up.</p>
<p>Results and evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of local CSOs in an environmental case for a certain period; • Engagement and accountability of NEA and other public institutions for a transparent process; • Quantity and quality of the environmental technical review reports; • Legal and policy recommendations drafted by the team of experts and presented to NEA; • Involvement and contribution in the regional network of project partners
<p>Strengths, good practices and lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of website of NEA / REA on environmental permitting and public hearings During the implementation of the project we have faced few challenges/ problems deriving from the legislation enforcement. In the law and DCM are foreseen some conditions from notification phase to public hearing date, which are unclear and/or not implemented. • Update of the EIA Law The lists of projects subject to profound EIA and preliminary EIA require an interpretation of definitions of project categories enlisted under annex I and II of the law on EIA as imposed /transposed by the EIA directive. Similarly, the system on public participation at all steps of the EIA process needed to be strengthened by improving the required administrative procedures.
<p>Problems / challenges encountered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The effective participation of the targeted public, during the environmental impact assessment procedure has been assessed as one of the most problematic issues of this procedure. The applicable rules provided by the DCM no. 247 are in line with the rules set out in the directive. However, in practice, there are problems with the notifications, transparency and public involvement. In order to ensure effective public participation, administrative adjustments should be made for a feasible implementation of the provisions of DCM no. 247. Location of the public hearings is in very remote areas and far from the villages hampering participation of interested community. So, at the end the result is low level of participation of the local community in public hearings. 2. Public institutions are not opened and cooperative with CSOs. In several cases experts from REA, entitled to organize public hearing, were not opened to give information on the place of the meeting. Practice shows that the public hearings are facilitated by the business itself even offering transport means for the public debate. This create a feeling that businesses have the ownership and leading of the process. In fact, REA are there to provide an integrative approach and inclusion of local interested public. And more active role from local authorities is needed. The last one, is not clear on the rights nor knowledgeable on the subject. 3. Procedures are not well regulated and monitored systematically by authorized institutions. From the monitoring of the procedure we realize that there are many problems such as missing information, violation of



deadlines, and quality control of EIA reports not according to the structure approved by the law. All of them show lack of capacities and expertise within authorized institutions. Particular care may need to be taken to facilitate good communication, coordination and cooperation between local government units, the various government departments responsible for development and environmental management.

Case study of good practice?

Yes. At the end we achieved to develop an ex-post Regulatory Impact Assessment for the EIA law in Albania

NGO Angel

Участие местного сообщества в общественном мониторинге и оценке противопаводковых мероприятий в г.Атбасар (Казахстан)
Community participation in public monitoring and evaluation of flood control measures in Atbasar (Kazakhstan)

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Общественное объединение "Ангел" (NGO Angel)	местное сообщество в г.Атбасар, депутаты парламента, органы власти,	апрель 2017 - апрель 2019г	- Other (http://ompp.kz/galereya/?gallery=pavodok-v-atbasare-2017#main)
Community (NGO Angel)	Департамент по чрезвычайным ситуациям Ақмолинской области (более 1000 человек было вовлечено; также через СМИ был большой информационный охват)	April 2017 - April 2019	
	local community in Atbasar, deputies of parliament, authorities, Department of Emergency Situations of Akmola region (more than 1000 people were involved; also through the media there was a		

large information coverage)

Partner organizations:

кафедра экологии и географии университета им. Валиханова, г.Кокшетау (Казахстан). Национальный Орхусский Центр в г.Астане

Department of Ecology and Geography of the University. Valikhanov, Kokshetau (Kazakhstan). National Aarhus Center in Astana

Stakeholders involved:

Орхусский Центр по запросу нашей НПО предоставили информацию о состоянии рек в Казахстане за много лет. Преподаватели университета поддержали директора НПО, высказали научную версию наводнения и подтвердили факты магистра. СМИ широко информировали. Депутаты Парламента по нашему обращению сделали депутатский вопрос и подняли вопросы на уровне республики

At the request of our NGO, the Aarhus Center provided information on the status of rivers in Kazakhstan for many years. University lecturers supported the NGO directors, expressed the scientific version of the flood and confirmed the master's facts. The media is widely informed. Deputies of the Parliament in our treatment made the deputy issue and raised questions at the level of the republic

Parties involved

В 2017 году в г.Атбасаре было крупное наводнение, и предыдущие года также. Мы готовили обращения к власти, поскольку противопаводковые меры были некачественными, была явная коррупция и давление на общественность. Когда пострадало более 1000 человек, мы активно стали обучать пострадавших, как и куда они могут обратиться, как защитить свои права пострадавших. Наша НПО подготовила обращения и собрала подписи жителей, чтобы провести общественный мониторинг бюджетных денег и частных пожертвований. А также потребовать качественные мероприятия по предупреждению риска от наводнений, наказать виновных чиновников и компенсировать убытки населению.

In 2017, there was a major flood in the city of Atbasar, and previous years as well. We prepared appeals to the authorities, because the anti-flood measures were of poor quality, there was obvious corruption and pressure on the public. When more than 1,000 people were injured, we actively began to teach the victims how and where they can turn to, how to protect their rights of the victims. Our NGO prepared appeals and collected signatures from residents to conduct public monitoring of budget money and private donations. And also demand high-quality measures to prevent the risk of floods, punish the guilty officials and compensate for the losses to the population.

Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism

Директор НПО «Ангел» в 2017 – 2018 году прошла обучение на магистратуре университета г.Кокшетау, чтобы глубоко изучить проблемы наводнений в г.Атбасаре. Собрала много информации (в том числе благодаря Орхусскому Центру в г.Астана). Результаты

	<p>исследований показали множество причин, в том числе воздействие глобального потепления и большая коррупция чиновников.</p> <p>Director of the NGO "Angel" in 2017 - 2018 was trained at the magistracy of the University of Kokshetau, to study in depth the problems of flooding in the city of Atbasar. I collected a lot of information (including thanks to the Aarhus Center in Astana). Research results have shown many reasons, including the impact of global warming and the high corruption of officials.</p>
Methodology / approach used	<p>Информирование в социальных сетях и СМИ масштаб проблемы. работа с населением – обучение, опросы, анкетирование, общественный мониторинг бюджетных средств (запросы); повышение квалификации эколога директора НПО. Сбор информации и анализ причин наводнений за последние года. Провели круглый стол с представителями властей и ученых, и представили результаты.</p> <p>Informing in social networks and media the scale of the problem. work with the public - training, surveys, questionnaires, public monitoring of budget funds (requests); upgrading the qualifications of the ecologist director Collecting information and analyzing the causes of flooding in recent years. We held a round table with representatives of the authorities and scientists, and presented the results.</p>
Results and evaluation	<p>Власти больше не могли скрывать проблему и оказывать давление на население. Виновных чиновников, 6 человек, осудили за коррупцию. Представителей общественности стали приглашать в Рабочую группу по противопаводковым мероприятиям в 2018 и 2019 годах.</p> <p>The authorities could no longer hide the problem and put pressure on the population. Guilty officials, 6 people, were convicted of corruption. Representatives of the public began to be invited to the Working Group on flood control measures in 2018 and 2019.</p>
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	<p>Сильная сторона - это наличие в НПО профессионального эколога. А также широкое информирование и работа с населением</p> <p>The strong point is the presence in the NGO of a professional ecologist. As well as wide information and work with the public.</p>
Problems / challenges encountered	<p>Коррупция и нежелание общественного участия со стороны органов власти.</p> <p>Corruption and unwillingness of public participation by the authorities.</p>
Case study of good practice?	<p>Да, это хороший пример. Поскольку мы получили конкретные результаты. Виновные наказаны. Пострадавшие получили новое жильё и компенсацию за ущерб. НПО повысило свой профессионализм</p> <p>Yes, this is a good example. Since we got concrete results. Guilty punished. The victims received new housing and compensation for damages. NGO increased its professionalism</p>

PA EcoContact/Centre for Information and Consultation Aarhus

Online tool: annex to the web page "contact a lawyer" / "access information"

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
EcoContact/Aarhus Centre for Information and Consultation	General Public including institutions	2019 -	- Web-based Application (https://www.ecocontact.md/)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
-	The stakeholders will be involved at the level of giving information to the EcoContact consultants and lawyers	-	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	To give to the public opportunities to access justice/information from lawyers on the environmental matters		
Methodology / approach used	Online tool as an annex to the webpage that will offer opportunity to access information or justice on environmental matters by keeping the anonymity and working faster		
Results and evaluation	-		
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	instant access and answer		
Problems / challenges encountered	Not all citizens have internet, still those that do not have internet or knowledge do have other sources to contact EcoContact for asking for help		
Case study of good practice?	Yes. It is a modern tool that will be easier to access from any corner, and later on transformed in a mob app could be the most preferred between citizens.		

Women Engage for a Common Future

Women's Major Group

Responsible Party or organization	Setting / Target group(s) / Number of persons involved:	Starting year and duration	Tool
Established in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit by women's organisations	1300 listserv members - about 600 active NGOs	1992 till now	Other (https://www.facebook.com/WomensMajorGroup https://www.youtube.com/user/WomensMajorGroup ; https://twitter.com/Women_Rio20)
Partner organizations:	Stakeholders involved:	Parties involved	
many see website (womenmajorgroup.org)	Stakeholders provide expert knowledge to support the strategic cooperation of the WMG (e.g. drafting statements for important UN meetings in the area of sustainable development or providing workshops for other NGOs to learn about advocacy work at the UN and gender and sustainable development issues))	Parties to the Aarhus Convention provide funding to support the work of the WMG, in particular for their strategy meetings etc.	
Main objective of the tool / practice / mechanism	The WMG is an official participant in the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development. Other processes use the major group or similar systems, with the WMG active in the processes of the United Nations Environment Program since 1996. The Women's Major Group has the responsibility to facilitate women's civil society active participation, information sharing and input into the policy space provided by the UN. The WMG is self-organised and open to all interested organisations working to promote human rights-based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights, the empowerment of women and gender equality.		
Methodology / approach used	The WMG acts through geographically diverse operating partners who are elected by the membership and represent the WMG. They organise strategy meetings and training sessions/workshop for their membership and enable participation, speaking, submission of proposals, access to documents, development of sessions etc. in order to join women's voices around the world and make them heard.		

Results and evaluation	The WMG is a strong, self-organised groups of stakeholders with democratic processes (elections of OPs). This leads to a well informed and well organised membership which is enabled to effectively participate in UN processes.
Strengths, good practices and lessons learned	Strengths: democratic governance, well-organised and effective - good practices: regular elections and strategy meetings - lessons learned: democratic governance structures are key to be respected and to be a powerful player within the major group system and beyond.
Problems / challenges encountered	funding is always an issue - regional meetings are needed; a challenge remains the representativeness and the outreach to new groups and their involvement (e.g. trainings of girls are needed)
Case study of good practice?	Yes, since it shows how effective the self-organisation of stakeholder can be
