

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

Thirteenth meeting
Geneva, 9–11 February 2011
Agenda item 4 (e)

REPORT ON THE SIXTH AARHUS CONVENTION CAPACITY-BUILDING COORDINATION MEETING

Palais des Nations, Geneva
7 December 2010

Introduction

1. The objectives of the meeting were:

– to discuss the progress in capacity-building activities regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, the Pollution Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol and principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration), carried out since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and to present plans for future capacity-building activities in this areas;

– to discuss coordination of efforts in fostering the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2014; Convention's draft work programme for 2012–2014; the PRTR Protocol's work programme for 2011–2014; and, a joint input to the Convention's fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

2. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The following partner organizations were represented at the meeting: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Barbara Ruis; United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Ms. Vera Barrantes and Ms. Cristina Rekasavas; European Commission, Ms. Angelika Wiedner; European Environmental Bureau (EEB)/European ECO Forum, Ms. Mara Silina; Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Ms. Magdolna Toth Nagy; European Investment Bank (EIB), Mr. Roberto Rando.

3. Ms. Esra Buttanri, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), who was not able to attend the meeting, submitted information on OSCE activities in support of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR Protocol.

4. The details of the capacity-building activities carried out by partners are provided in the annex to this report.

Past and current capacity-building activities related to the Aarhus Convention

5. REC has focused its past and current activities on strengthening the institutional capacity for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe; improving public participation mechanisms at the national and local levels; awareness-raising regarding the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on access to justice; and, on capacity building for the judiciary, legal professionals, and NGOs. Another initiative is looking into how to improve the application of the Aarhus Convention to nuclear issues at the European and national (Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine) levels. Activities include a series of roundtable meetings and a new project on implementing participatory approaches in issues related to radioactive disposal in the 5 EU countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia). The projects are complimentary to work under the Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making and the Task Force on Access to Justice.

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

7. The UNEP Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters were adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its eleventh special session through decision SS.XI/5, part A of 26 February 2010. The comments on the draft text of the Commentary to the Guidelines presented at the same meeting were received, however, it was pointed out that the Commentary would not be officially adopted.

8. The UNEP project on the implementation of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (UNEP Guidelines), has been developed and is now at the fund-raising stage. Interest was expressed from some countries outside the UNECE region, to implement the project.

9. The European Commission supported the judicial training programmes, within which 7 workshops were organized. The next workshop on environmental impact assessment, including access to justice and public participation, will take place in 2011.

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

11. The European Commission noted that the European Neighbourhood Policy has not yet addressed the Aarhus Convention so far. However, Directive 2003/4/EC on access to information and Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation (implementing the Aarhus Convention), are included in the Association Agreements under negotiation. Furthermore, multilateral environmental agreements, including the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol, are part of the EU *acquis*. Therefore, accession countries are prompted to ratify the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR

Protocol as early as possible in the accession process, in parallel with the transposition of the corresponding directives.

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

13. EEB/European ECO Forum has been working on the preparation of new editions of earlier publications related to public participation, and case law of the Convention's Compliance Committee.

14. EEB/European ECO Forum is also organizing workshops on the implementation of the Convention at the national level, in the respective local languages, in Armenia and Kosovo under the UNSCR 1244. EEB established contacts with several environmental networks and NGOs outside the UNECE region.

15. Access to justice remains a priority for the capacity-building activities of EEB/European ECO Forum, including training at the national level, development of application forms for different types of cases, and a database containing environmental cases submitted by NGOs.

16. The EIB promotes environmental sustainability in support of the EU policy on sustainable development. The approach of the Bank in this regard is described in various documents on Corporate Responsibility and most recently in the 2009 EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards. The 2010 EIB Transparency policy implements EU Regulation 1367/2006 as the regulatory framework applying to requests for access to environmental information held by the EIB. The EIB facilitates the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by ensuring disclosure of environmental information on its lending operations within and outside of the EU as well as when engaging in public consultation prior to the finalisation by the EIB governance of the internal decision-making process on EIB policies and standards concerning the environment. In addition, the EIB Complaints Mechanism (CM) provides members of the public alleging the violation of EIB policies and standards, including those relevant to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention with a complaints handling procedure including the possibility of a final independent review ensured by the European Ombudsman (EO). The implications of the current multi-level governance of the legislation related to the Aarhus Convention need to be further assessed; the exchange of best practices between the two tiers of the EIB CM and the secretariat to the Aarhus Convention as well as the participation in the task forces under the Convention should be encouraged".

Past and current capacity building activities related to the PRTR Protocol

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

17. UNEP started negotiating a global legally binding instrument on mercury. The International PRTR Coordinating Group recommended applying the PRTRs as a reporting mechanism for mercury. It may be possible to explore the idea of supporting the development of PRTRs focusing on reporting on mercury as done in the past with POPs.

18. The European Commission reported that a European PRTR site was established in 2007. New elements (concentration maps) will be available for the public in 2011 (air) and 2012 (water). The dataset will be reviewed on a triennial basis and the results of the review process will be made available at the beginning of 2012. The Commission participates in the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the PRTR Protocol and in the International PRTR Coordinating Group. (see also para. 11)

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

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

Future capacity-building activities related to the Aarhus Convention

21. The participants discussed possible future capacity-building activities, taking into account the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2014 and the draft Convention's work programme for 2012-2014.

22. EEB/European ECO Forum plans some awareness-raising and capacity-building activities related to the compliance mechanism. It is intended to organize a workshop aimed at follow-up at the country-level of recommendations and findings adopted by the Compliance Committee, and on finalization of a publication with updated case-law of the Committee, before the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

23. Regarding awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, the participants underlined the positive influence of the EU enlargement process, the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the Eastern Partnership on the outreach of the Aarhus Convention.

24. The participants welcomed the development of a Communication Strategy for the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol.

25. The EIB applies the Aarhus Convention principles in respect to its projects outside the UNECE region. The EIB Complaints Mechanism expressed its interest in awareness-raising and conducting outreach activities on the subject matter.

26. Access to information received additional attention in the Aarhus Convention's draft work programme for 2012-2014. In this regard, a new possible

area for cooperation regarding product information and other information held by private sector was discussed.

27. Regarding public participation in decision-making, REC will continue its project activities in South-Eastern Europe until 2012. EEB/European ECO Forum will provide expert input from NGOs on this topic and will carry out capacity-building activities through a workshop and a publication on the subject.

28. On access to justice activities, the necessity for awareness-raising activities focused on the relevant target groups (judges, prosecutors, judicial training centres) was underlined by REC. It was emphasized that more activities for public interest lawyers were needed. The database supported by EEB/European ECO Forum will allow easy access to environmental cases initiated by NGOs. The crucial role of ministries of justice, in facilitating implementation of the Aarhus Convention with respect to access to justice, was emphasized. In this regard, it was proposed to consider the possibility of nominating a second national focal point from the ministry of justice, to strengthen cooperation between the two sectors.

29. Concerning activities related to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), a survey on this subject will be carried out by EEB/European ECO Forum. REC suggested consideration of a project aimed at examining forms of public participation in decision-making procedures related to GMOs within the framework of the Task Force on Public Participation. The participants supported the continuation of the cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on joint GMO-related activities.

30. The EIB welcomes the proposal to involve the IFI community into the future activities related to public participation in international forums and expresses its interest in participating to them.

Future capacity-building activities related to the PRTR Protocol

31. UNITAR will focus on further expanding their **technical assistance** related to PRTRs at the country-level, organizing workshops and updating their guidance materials on PRTR design methodologies.

32. EEB/European ECO Forum underlined that PRTR activities constitute a part of its capacity-building programme. It received a request to organize a workshop on this subject in Armenia.

33. REC will focus its activities at the country-level especially for those countries in South-Eastern Europe which have not been covered in the recent projects. Currently, there are not sufficient funds available for regional or sub regional activities, although there would be a need for experience sharing at this level.

Outcomes of the meeting

34. The participants agreed:

(a) that capacity-building activities should take into account the country needs identified through:

- the reporting regime
- the compliance mechanism

- the outcomes of various workshops, seminars, studies and surveys

(b) that addressing the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR Protocol through bilateral programmes under the European Union (EU) (e.g. European Neighbourhood Policy and/or accession negotiations) will foster effective implementation of these treaties;

(c) to explore ways of cooperation regarding product information and other information held by the private sector;

(d) to promote the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR more among international and bilateral financial institutions;

(e) to use regularly the Aarhus Clearinghouse and PRTR.net for uploading information on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities;

(f) to contribute to the report on capacity-building activities for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention;

(g) to hold a capacity-building coordination meeting on an annual basis with wider participation of the partners involved so as to ensure better synergies between the activities. The possibility of organizing this meeting back to back with another event under the Aarhus Convention or to organize a videoconference will be also explored.

ANNEX

Capacity-building projects related to the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR Protocol

Implementing organization	Title	Objectives of the project, target group(s)	Geographical scope	Duration of the project (start and end date)	Provisional outcomes of the project	Source of funds	Link to the relevant website
OSCE	Aarhus Centres in South Caucasus	To assist in establishing and/or strengthening dialogue and partnerships among governments and civil society in respective countries of the South Caucasus, in implementing the Aarhus Convention and in addressing priority environmental and security challenges in the region, particularly those dealt with by the ENVSEC ¹ initiative, through utilizing the mechanisms and processes offered by the Aarhus Centres and further strengthening their capacities thereto.	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia,	Jan. 2010- Dec. 2011	<p>In Armenia, 14 Aarhus Centres and the Environmental Law Resource Centre at Yerevan State University established in 2008, are currently in operation. The Aarhus Centres serve as resource centres for environmental information; promote public participation in local environmental decision-making and in the development and revision of environmental legislation; provide a link between local and central governmental agencies on environmental issues; and facilitate the development of local environmental strategies and action plans.</p> <p>Azerbaijan hosts three Aarhus Centres: the Centre in Baku, which was opened in September 2003, and the Centres in Ganja and Gazakh that have been working since 2007. The Aarhus Centres in Azerbaijan are primarily working on the first pillar of the Aarhus Convention by providing access to environmental information and by holding public awareness-raising activities. Aarhus Centres in Azerbaijan are hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.</p> <p>In Georgia, the Aarhus Centre that was established in 2005 aims to facilitate implementation of the Aarhus Convention at the national level through facilitating public access to information on environmental issues, conducting trainings and awareness-raising campaigns, monitoring the public participation process in environmental decision-making, and providing recommendations to the Ministry of</p>	ENVSEC (Governments of Belgium, Canada, Finland, Spain, Sweden, United States) OSCE Office in Yerevan	www.envsec.org http://www.osce.org/ea/13471.html www.aarhus.am www.aarhus.ge

¹ ENVSEC: The Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative is a partnership established in 2003 between the OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, UNECE, REC, and NATO as an associate partner. It aims at supporting countries in their efforts to manage environmental risks and facilitates dialogue and co-operation on critical environmental issues as a way to promote peace and security in four regions: South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus (www.envsec.org).

Implementing organization	Title	Objectives of the project, target group(s)	Geographical scope	Duration of the project (start and end date)	Provisional outcomes of the project	Source of funds	Link to the relevant website
					Environment Protection and Natural Resources on how to improve the effectiveness of the EIA process.		
OSCE	Promoting the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Central Asia	To support the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Central Asia region through establishment and/or strengthening of the Aarhus Centres in various countries in the region and through networking among the Aarhus Centres by capitalizing on the varying strengths of the countries and responding to their varying challenges in relation to the three pillars of the Convention.	Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan	Jan. 2009 - June 2011	<p>In Kazakhstan, the project supported the establishment of an Aarhus Centre in Atyrau in late 2009. Hosted by the Akimat of the Atyrau Oblast, the Aarhus Centre is expected to be instrumental in implementing the relevant recommendations and findings of the ENVSEC Assessment for the Eastern Caspian Region and to contribute to the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. Kazakhstan also hosts a national Aarhus Centre that was established in Astana in 2009 under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and a Ministerial Working Group was set up to promote the Convention principles.</p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan, the Aarhus Centre was established in December 2004 in Osh. It focuses on four major areas: awareness-raising on the Aarhus Convention; improving the youth's environmental awareness and its involvement in environmental protection activities; promoting environmental journalism; and fostering dialogue between the government and the civil society on environmental issues. As part of this project, the Aarhus Centre has been increasingly involved in public awareness, training and public participation activities targeting various stakeholders. Sustainable mining, biodiversity conservation, participatory environmental assessment and action planning, compliance with environmental legislation, monitoring of uranium tailing sites were among the focus of Centre's activities.</p> <p>In Tajikistan, the first Aarhus Centre was opened in Dushanbe in 2003 followed by Aarhus Centre in Khujand in 2005. The activities of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand focus on improving cross-border co-operation in the Ferghana Valley and on raising awareness of environment-security linkages through promoting public participation in environmental decision-making. The third Aarhus Centre was opened in the south-western city of Kurgan Tyube in</p>	Government of Norway	http://www.osce.org/ea/13471.html www.aarhus.tj

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					<p>2009, to support the implementation of the Convention in Khatlon province.</p> <p>Within this project, the Dushanbe Aarhus Centre organized several trainings for public officials on access to information and public participation and for legal professionals on access to justice. The Khujand Aarhus Centre, jointly with the Sughd Environmental Committee conducted several trainings on Aarhus Convention, environmental impact assessment and national environmental legislation. The Aarhus Centre has also conducted seminars for legal professionals and provided legal consultations and advice to local people. The Khujand Aarhus Centre continued its public awareness activities participatory development of local environmental strategies and action plans in selected districts. The Aarhus Centre in Kurgan Tyube organized trainings on Aarhus Convention and environmental rights of citizens for representatives of relevant governmental organizations, judiciary, NGOs and mass media.</p> <p>At the regional level, the first regional meeting of the Aarhus Centres in Central Asia was jointly organized by the OCEEA and the OSCE Centre in Astana on 22 June 2010 in Almaty with the participation of Aarhus Centre and OSCE Field Mission representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The need for increased linkages between the ENVSEC initiative and Aarhus Centres were at the core of the discussions. The meeting also discussed extensively the upcoming regional and international events which offer opportunities for increased visibility and for resource mobilization in support of the Aarhus Centres Initiative. The need for increased networking among the Aarhus Centres was also highlighted as one of the priority actions.</p>		
OSCE	Support for Aarhus Centres in Central Asia	Based on the existing institutional structure and the partnership arrangements of the Aarhus Centres, this	Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan	Sep. 2010 – April 2012	The project implementation has recently been started. Given the differences in the status of Aarhus Convention implementation, the specifics of project activities will vary from one country to another. But in general the project is	Government of Norway ENVSEC	http://www.osce.org/ea/13471.html www.envsec.org

Implementing organization	Title	Objectives of the project, target group(s)	Geographical scope	Duration of the project (start and end date)	Provisional outcomes of the project	Source of funds	Link to the relevant website
		project aims to further intensify the work of Aarhus Centres on priority environmental issues that have security implications in respective countries.			<p>expected to yield the following results:</p> <p>Access to information - Improved access to environmental information that enables the public to request and receive environmental information from public authorities and supports a system under which public authorities collect environmental information and actively disseminate it to the public.</p> <p>Public participation - Improved mechanisms for public participation in decisions on activities with a possible significant environmental impact; in development of plans and programmes relating to the environment; and in the preparation of laws and rules with potential environmental impact.</p> <p>Access to justice - Improved mechanisms for providing citizens with access to review and challenge violations of domestic environmental law.</p> <p>Pollution Monitoring – Mechanisms in place to promote ratification and implementation of the PRTR protocol</p>	(Government of Finland)	www.aarhus.tj
OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and REC	Supporting Aarhus Convention Implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	The overall goal is to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Purpose of this project is to facilitate government/NGO dialogue on the Aarhus Convention implementation and agreement on the roles and responsibilities in the future.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Febr. 2010-Aug. 2010	The project included three major components: (i) A study tour for the government and NGO representatives to Albania to learn from their experience with the Aarhus Centres Network; (ii) A national workshop for government and NGO representatives on Aarhus Convention implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and (iii) Launching of the Aarhus Convention web-page under the official web-site of the MOFTER.	ENVSEC Government of Hungary	www.envsec.org http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/org_struktura/sektor_prirodni_resursi/odjel_zastita_okolisa/English/Conventions/Aarhus_convention/Default.aspx?id=2785
OSCE	Promoting the implementation of Aarhus Convention in South Eastern European Region	To strengthen regional, national and local capacities for participatory and informed planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes in relation to environment and	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina Montenegro Serbia	Sept. 2010-Dec. 2012	In Albania , in December 2006, an Aarhus Information Centre (AIC) was opened in the premises of the Ministry of Environment. This remains a government facility staffed and resourced by the Ministry. Two further AICs were opened in NGO premises in Shkodra and Vlora during 2007. This institutional network of three Aarhus Centres has created an infrastructure for citizen-state-private sector	ENVSEC (Government of Finland)	www.envsec.org http://www.aic.org.al/?fq=brenda&m=news&lid=27&gj=gj2

Implementing organization	Title	Objectives of the project, target group(s)	Geographical scope	Duration of the project (start and end date)	Provisional outcomes of the project	Source of funds	Link to the relevant website
		<p>security challenges through promoting the principles of Aarhus Convention and establishing and/or strengthening Aarhus Centres in the countries of South-Eastern Europe.</p>			<p>interaction and dialogue on environmental issues. This project will focus on encouraging greater transparency in decision-making processes in local planning with implications for environment.</p> <p>In Bosnia and Herzegovina, benefiting from the outputs of the earlier project, this project will contribute to the setting-up of mechanisms for implementation of the Convention, specifically through capacity building activities targeted at public servants at central and local levels and NGOs and improving the mechanisms for access to information and public participation which may also eventually lead to the establishment of an Aarhus Centre.</p> <p>In Montenegro, this project will support the establishment and functioning of an Aarhus Centre based at the premises of the Environmental Protection Agency which will facilitate the Convention's implementation through capacity building, awareness-raising and providing a participatory platform for decision-making among relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.</p> <p>In Serbia, a National Conference was organized by the OSCE in the first half of 2010 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning that brought together all national stakeholders to discuss the mechanisms for implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the country. This was followed by the opening up of an Aarhus Centre in Kragujevac and by five regional seminars in five major cities to present and discuss the promotion of Aarhus principles and implementation of the Convention. Based on the outcomes of these consultations, the project will support further implementation of the pillars of the Aarhus Convention at the local and central levels.</p> <p>The Regional Component will facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned among the countries in implementation of the Convention; establish a network of Aarhus Centres; convene regional thematic meetings. The first regional meeting was held on 13-14</p>		

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					December in Sarajevo with the participation of government and OSCE representatives from all countries concerned as well as REC and the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat.		
OSCE	Independent Evaluation of Aarhus Centres	To generate knowledge from the experience of the Aarhus Centres within the context of OSCE's efforts to raise awareness on environmental issues as well as promoting participatory approaches in environmental decision-making and thus implementing the principles of the Aarhus Convention.	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	April 2008 - June 2008	<p>Summary of conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The need for clarifying the role and functions of the Aarhus Centres through developing clear guidelines on the purposes and functions of the ACs. · The need for networking and information sharing among Aarhus Centres. · The need for full utilization of Aarhus Centres as a tool by the governments in implementing the Aarhus Convention. · The need for increased focus on local/regional authorities, local self-government and business community. · The need to ensure the financial and technical sustainability of the Aarhus Centres. 	OCEEA	http://www.osce.org/documents/eea/2008/10/33566_en.pdf
OSCE	Aarhus Centre Guidelines	To enhance and streamline the work of the Aarhus Centres, provide guidance for the strategic orientation, set-up activities of Centres and ensure a common understanding of the Centres among all stakeholders.	All Aarhus Centre locations	2009	The guidelines were developed through participation of all stakeholders and in close co-operation with the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat and widely used by all relevant stakeholders.	ENVSEC OCEEA	http://www.osce.org/publications/eea/2009/11/41593_1392_en.pdf
OSCE	Annual Aarhus Centre Meetings	To exchange experiences and lessons learned among all Aarhus Centre practitioners.	Jan 2009- Vienna, Austria Jan 2010- Istanbul, Turkey	Jan.2009 - Jan. 2010	Annual meetings provide the platform to bring together Aarhus Convention Focal Points, Aarhus Centre Managers and OSCE field mission representatives from all countries involved in the Aarhus Centres Initiative together with the representatives of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat and other relevant organizations including UNDP and REC as well as several experts to share lessons learned and best practices and to plan for the next phase.	ENVSEC OCEEA	http://www.osce.org/eea/item_6_35868.html http://www.osce.org/eea/item_6_44494.html
OSCE, UNECE, UNITAR and European	Regional Conference on the PRTR Protocol	To promote the ratification and implementation of the PRTR protocol in Central Asia.	Central Asia	20-21 May 2009, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	More than 40 participants, including representatives from governments and Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan attended the conference, along with several international	OSCE UNECE	http://www.osce.org/item/37817.html

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Commission					and regional experts. Several recommendations were developed including those related to promoting the ratification of the protocol in the Central Asia region, capacity building as well as the role of Aarhus Centres in promoting and implementing the PRTR Protocol.	European Commission UNITAR	
OSCE Centre in Astana	Workshop on PRTR	To promote ratification of the PRTR Protocol by the Government of Kazakhstan.	Kazakhstan	5 May 2010	The event, organized by the OSCE Centre in co-operation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, UNECE, the Asian-American Partnership non-governmental organization and the national Aarhus Centre brought together more than 40 representatives from state and non-governmental organizations, as well as the business community to discuss the PRTR protocol. Workshop participants developed recommendations for government institutions and other stakeholders taking into consideration best practices and international experience, the need to enhance public access to environmental information and to ensure effective pollution prevention and control. The recommendations were developed with the view of the future ratification of the Protocol and the establishment of the National Register.	OSCE Centre in Astana	http://www.osce.org/item/43750.html
UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat, OSCE	Access to Justice Regional Workshop for High-Level Judiciary	To bring together high-court judges from the region together with leading experts in the access to justice pillar to share experiences, to identify challenges and explore possible ways to enhance the process.	South Eastern Europe	17-18 Nov. 2008, Tirana, Albania	The Workshop was attended by representatives of high level Judiciary from all countries of the region as well as several experts, and produced a set of recommendations that called for further capacity building and networking and co-operation at the regional level	Government of France UNECE OSCE	
OSCE	Aarhus Centres Retreat	To review the Aarhus Centres performance and to strengthen their capacities	Armenia	December 2010	The retreat was organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan with the participation of all Aarhus Centre representatives in Armenia and facilitated by a professional national NGO.	OCEEA	
OSCE	Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) NGO Small Grants	To create an enabling environment for civil society organizations to be a strong partner primarily to the governments as well as to	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan	2009-2012	Aarhus Centres in these countries, particularly in Armenia and Tajikistan, provide the platform for dissemination of information on CASE project activities to national and local stakeholders and CASE activities may contribute to the further improvement of Aarhus Centres themselves by	Government of Austria ENVSEC (CIDA)	http://www.osce.org/eea/45583.html http://www.osce.org/eea/item_6_48098.ht

Implementing organization	Title	Objectives of the project, target group(s)	Geographical scope	Duration of the project (start and end date)	Provisional outcomes of the project	Source of funds	Link to the relevant website
	Programme	other stakeholders in collaboratively addressing environment and security challenges.			<p>expanding their outreach, increasing their visibility and strengthening their role and value in addressing the challenges associated with the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>CASE has already demonstrated success in mobilizing the interest of civil society organizations. In less than one year of implementation, 132 project proposals were received from NGOs in the three countries, out of which 32 were granted CASE funding support. In Armenia, 17 NGO projects; in Azerbaijan, 7 NGO projects have received CASE support. In Tajikistan, very recently 8 NGO projects were selected by the National Screening Board. Overall, CASE support has targeted the NGO activities mainly in the fields of climate change, mining, hazardous waste, natural disaster, and industrial compliance. Cross-cutting these themes, all the projects have strong elements of public awareness and participation with special focus on youth and women. Most of these projects benefit from the Aarhus Centre platforms and also contribute to the implementation of the Convention at the local level. In case of Armenia, CASE is an integral component of the Aarhus Centres Initiative. In Tajikistan two regional Aarhus Centres have been instrumental in disseminating the CASE information to civil society organizations.</p> <p>The CASE Programme has a decentralized management structure in each country that operates through the CASE National Screening Boards that include government, NGO, UNDP and OSCE representatives. In case of Tajikistan, National Screening Board also includes GTZ. The OSCE field missions co-ordinate the CASE implementation at the country level and the OCEEA provides overall guidance and facilitates co-operation and networking.</p>	Government of Luxembourg Statoil Azerbaijan	ml

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REC	Implementing Public Participation Approaches in Radioactive Waste Disposal		Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia	2011-2013	Recommendations on improving public participation in the nuclear issues	EU, FP 7 Programme	
REC	Targeted program to improve public participation know-how at the regional and local level in EIA, SEA or IPPC decision-making	Pilot projects combined with capacity building for authorities, including municipalities, and NGOs	Ongoing in Albania and Serbia Planned in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, as defined by UNSCR 1244, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro	2010-2012	Improved practical knowledge of officials and NGOs Practical toolkit in local language	ENVSEC	
REC	Project on access to justice, including: - interactive local language trainings on access to justice	Building capacity of judges and prosecutors, in cooperation with Judicial Training Centers	Ongoing: Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo as defined by UNSCR 1244 Planned: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia	2010-2012	Better understanding of the provisions of Aarhus Convention, related EU directives, national and international environmental legislation by the judges and prosecutors	ENVSEC Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI)	

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	<p>- awareness-raising on Aarhus access to justice</p> <p>- NGO Strategy meetings on access to justice rights and opportunities</p>	<p>Dialogue on identification of barriers to access to justice and their reduction or removal for legal professionals and NGOs</p> <p>Facilitation of development of NGO strategies on access to justice</p>	<p>Ongoing: Albania and bosnia Herzegovina Planned for: Kosovo, as defined by UNSCR 1244, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia</p> <p>Ongoing: Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina Planned for Montenegro, Kosovo, as defined by UNSCR 1244, Serbia</p>		<p>Awareness and better understanding of the existing barriers, recommendations on their removal.</p> <p>Awareness and better understanding of the rights and opportunities for access to justice and possible strategies to bring cases</p>		
REC	<p>Project on PRTRs, including:</p> <p>- assess the current status of the legal, institutional and technical requirements on PRTRs</p>	<p>Build capacities for authorities in setting up and operating PRTR systems</p>	<p>Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p>	2010-2012	<p>Assessment of the current status of the legal, institutional and technical requirements on PRTRs and/or the necessary developments and multi-stakeholders meetings to discuss findings and recommendations for future steps</p>	ENVSEC	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize awareness-raising and training activities on the use of PRTR and PRTR reporting - organize workshops for operators on PRTRs - pilot activities on PRTRs 	<p>Build awareness and general understanding of operators and NGOs about their role and actions, responsibilities and benefits</p> <p>Evaluate the current reporting system and its difficulties, discuss improvements and planned changes with authorities</p> <p>Build capacity of authorities, operators and NGOs via on-site training at one selected facility</p>	<p>Kosovo, as defined by UNSCR 1244, Montenegro</p> <p>Serbia</p> <p>Albania</p>		<p>Improved understanding of the role and actions, responsibilities and benefits by operators and NGOs</p> <p>Workshops for ; improved implementation of reporting requirements, better understanding by operators the reporting requirements and better understanding of operator's constraints by authorities.</p> <p>Improved capacity and understanding of the PRTR requirements by the authorities, operators and NGOs</p>		
UNITAR	Rio Principle 10 National Profile and Action Plan Projects	Support countries in identifying and strengthening capacities for participatory environmental governance through a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process; Develop a global methodology concerning the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration; Facilitate international knowledge exchange and the development of coherent regional strategies.	<p>Costa Rica Honduras Dominican Republic</p> <p>Panama El Salvador Nicaragua</p> <p>Botswana Mali the Democratic Republic of Congo</p>	<p>2007-2008</p> <p>Initiated in 2009</p> <p>Initiated in 2009</p>	<p>-Development of a methodology and guidance document (available in English, French and Spanish) to assist countries in assessing and strengthening national capacities for implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration;</p> <p>-Implementation of 9 pilot projects in Africa and Central America (3 completed; 6 ongoing);</p> <p>-National Profiles on Principle 10 implementation developed by 7 countries;</p> <p>-National Action Plans in place in 5 countries;</p> <p>-Identification of priority areas regarding Principle 10 implementation;</p> <p>-Enhanced collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at the national and local levels;</p> <p>-Targeted follow-up project in Costa Rica on public participation in environmental quality management.</p>		http://www.unitar.org/egp/rio-principle-10-projects

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UNITAR	POPs monitoring, reporting and information dissemination using Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)		Cambodia Kazakhstan Thailand Ukraine Chile Ecuador Peru	08.12.2009- 30.09.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PRTR used as a tool for POPs, and other chemicals, monitoring and reporting; - Identification of POPs and other chemicals priority areas nationally and regionally through annual information provided by PRTRs; - Capacity enhanced nationally for an effective transfer and process of data and further provision of information; - Information available for all sectors regardless of their access to modern and technological tools Exchanging of information to SC Secretariat and Parties facilitated; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity enhanced facilitating PRTR development; - Best practices and lessons learned in the development and implementation of POPs reporting and monitoring systems identified and disseminated. 	GEF, UNEP	http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database
UNITAR	The Central American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR): Design of national PRTRs and regional support activities		Belize Costa Rica Guatemala Honduras	08.11.2010- 30.06.2012	In responding to growing chemicals pollution concerns in the region, the Central American Regional Environmental Action Plan (PARCA, 2010-2014) introduces the strengthening of national institutes and quality environmental management as one of the strategic areas. Specifically within this area, a strategic objective is the "Promotion of efforts to reduce contamination", which includes as an area of action the implementation of PRTRs in the region.	Spain and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)	http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database

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UNITAR	Strengthening Capacities for Developing a National Pollutant and Release Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Panama		Panama	19.11.2010-19.11.2012	PRTR Infrastructure Assessment PRTR Key Features Document PRTR Pilot trial Final proposal on a national PRTR	SAICM QSPTF	http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database
UNITAR	Strengthening Capacities for Designing a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and Supporting SAICM Implementation in Georgia		Georgia	01.07.2009-28.02.2011	PRTR Infrastructure Assessment PRTR Key Features Document PRTR Pilot trial Final proposal on a national PRTR	SAICM QSPTF	http://www.unitar.org/cwm/projects-database