

The Regional Environmental Center's Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) capacity-building activities, 2007-2008 ¹

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe's PRTR capacity-building activities in 2007-2008 included:

- The REC after successfully implementing the PRTR component of a major multi-country project on practical implementation of Aarhus Convention which was finalized in 2006, has focused on fundraising in 2007 and 2008 to further continue the efforts on supporting building of PRTR systems in South Eastern European (SEE) countries.
- The project "Improving Practices of Public Participation: Next Steps in Implementing the Aarhus Convention in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo²", implemented between 2004 and 2006, funded by the Netherlands, resulted in assessments and multi stakeholder dialogue on gaps and needs regarding legislation and institutional framework and recommendations for further steps to prepare for establishing PRTRs and the PRTR Protocol in Albania, BiH, Montenegro and Serbia in line with EU requirements. Also, capacity building was carried out in form of a study tour (10 officials from 3 countries) to Czech Republic to learn from experiences on the legal, institutional and practical issues related to setting up and operating a more advanced PRTR system, as well as regional experience sharing workshop was organized.

Information on the project can be obtained at:

http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/PublicParticipation/improving_practices/national/default.html

- Based on the results of the above-mentioned project and in line with the capacity-building concept proposal developed within the framework of the Aarhus Convention Working Group on PRTRs with UNECE, UNITAR and ECO Forum (which was endorsed by the PRTR Working Group and submitted to ENVSEC), a specific SEE proposal was prepared and submitted to ENVSEC for funding. The proposal is supported by the ministries of 5 SEE countries.
- In 2007 and 2008 spring, two trainings have been held on "Developing and Operating EPER and E-PRTR Systems" for officials responsible for building and operating EPER and future

¹ This report was submitted by the REC to the secretariat for presentation to the third meeting of the International PRTR Coordinating Group under agenda item VI (e).

² Under interim UN administration.

E-PRTR systems in SEE countries and in selected new EU member states, within the EU funded project "Support for the Implementation of the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession for the period 2006-2009" (ECENA).

- The first training was held on October 15-17, 2007 in Szentendre, Hungary and addressed issues related to building and operating the EPER system, the planned transition to E-PRTR system, as well as the preparations for the implementation of the PRTR Protocol, and shared experiences among different countries from EU member states and the region. The two-day training was completed with a 1-day field visit to the Hungarian EPER register in the Ministry of Environment and Water in Budapest.
- The second training will be held on March 17-21, 2008 in Bristol, UK, in cooperation with the Agency of England and Wales, for the SEE ECENA member countries, which will focus on the new activities under E-PRTR and the PRTR Protocol. The training will include sessions on E-PRTR as well as a visit to the UK Pollution Inventory and a site visit to an LCP plant where participants can also gain some practical experiences.

Information on the trainings can be obtained at:

http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/environmental_policy/ecena/training_programmes/2007_10_szentendre/default.html

- A proposal was developed and submitted to the Norwegian Fund in Hungary on assisting in using the Hungarian PRTR system for more efficient environmental health information to the public and making it more user friendly. The proposal is under consideration.