

Format for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Implementation Report in accordance with Decision I/5 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1)

CERTIFICATION SHEET

The following report is submitted on behalf of

Republic of Macedonia
 [name of the Party or the Signatory] in accordance with decision I/5

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	Azemine Shakiri
Signature:	
Date:	12.12.2013

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

<i>Party/Signatory</i>	<i>Republic of Macedonia</i>
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<p>Provide a brief description of the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which types of public authorities were consulted or contributed to its preparation, how the public was consulted and how the outcome of the public consultation was taken into account and on the material which was used as a basis for preparing the report.</p>
<p><i>Answer: The Draft version of the National Report on the implementation of the PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Macedonia has been prepared by the Macedonian environmental information center (MEIC) within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP). Following the principles of the Aarhus Convention on timely informing and participation of the public, it was available to the public for amending and commenting.</i></p> <p><i>The information, together with the Report, was published on the MOEPP web-site, enabling every individual an access to the Draft Report.</i></p> <p><i>The information, together with the Report, was distributed to the relevant NGOs concerned with this issue, providing them with an opportunity for commenting.</i></p> <p><i>Number of the answers that arrived in the Ministry contained remarks regarding the Report. All relevant remarks, comments and suggestions were addressed and accordingly implemented in the Report.</i></p>

Articles 3, 4 and 5

<p>List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in articles 3 (general provisions), 4 (core elements of a pollutant release and transfer register system (PRTR)) and 5 (design and structure).</p>
<p>In particular, describe:</p>
<p>(a) With respect to article 3, paragraph 1, measures taken to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, including enforcement measures; <i>Answer: According to article 41 paragraph (1) of the national Law on environment, the Ministry established and adopted a Rulebook on the form, the content, the methodology and the manner of maintaining of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (Official gazette No:27/2011 from 03.03.2011 which entered in force in January 2013. This Rulebook prescribes the provisions for establishing a PRTR which complies with the requirements of the PRTR Protocol</i></p>
<p>(b) With respect to article 3, paragraph 2, measures taken to introduce a more extensive or more publicly accessible PRTR than required by the Protocol; <i>Answer: According to the national Law on Environment, article 41 - The body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment shall establish and maintain the unique Environmental Cadastre, which shall include the Cadastre of polluters of air, water and soil, Cadastre of noise generators, Cadastre of waste generators, Cadastre of protected areas, Register of pollutants and other cadastres as specified in the</i></p>

special laws.

In accordance with the stipulation above, the Republic of Macedonia, developed the first Cadastre in 2005 and updated it in 2009. The cadaster contains data from 117 A facilities and approximately 200 B facilities. 30 out of the identified A facilities have been granted an A environmental permit - and they submit annual reports on emissions in environmental mediums. Also the cadastre contains information from the Public enterprises, hospitals etc. Two different methodologies have been used for the development of the Cadastre. One according to practices adopted by the national methodology, and the other according to EMEP/CORINAIR methodology (for air emissions). This cadastre was used as basis for developing the PRTR.

Republic of Macedonia due to the obligations for sustainable management regarding air quality and in accordance with the obligations by being party of international conventions and protocols, has established a Rulebook on National Methodology for inventory of the air emissions in Republic of Macedonia, based on the CORINAIR system, which is part of the implementation of EMEP Programme due to the implementation of CLRTAP in Macedonia.

(c) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 3**, measures taken to require that employees of a facility and members of the public who report a violation by a facility of national laws implementing this Protocol to public authorities are not penalized, persecuted or harassed for their actions in reporting the violation;

*Answer: Measures which regulate the right of the employees of a facility and members of the public to report a violation are covered **by the Institution Ombudsman**. The Institution Ombudsman in the Republic of Macedonia has a legal function and obligation to protect the rights of the citizens and everyone else, guaranteed to them by the Constitution, laws and international acts and documents ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia in that direction, and protect the right to free access to environmental information.*

The Ombudsman of the constitutional system of RM is an independent body, a mechanism through which the constitutional and legal rights of the citizens and everyone else are protected in case of violation by acts, activities and omissions of activities by the state administration bodies and other bodies and organizations having public competencies.

The manner of appointing the Ombudsman shall guarantee his independence during the carrying out of the function. The Law on Ombudsman (Official Gazette of RM no. 60/2003) in Articles 11-18 envisages tax exemption for the requesting party for the procedure initiated before the Ombudsman.

(d) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 5**, whether the PRTR system has been integrated into other reporting mechanisms and, if such integration has been undertaken, into which systems. Did such integration lead to elimination of duplicative reporting? Were any special challenges encountered or overcome in undertaking the integration, and how?

Answer: MOEPP shall, in accordance with the Law on Environment, establish Environmental Information System. The Information System shall be established and organized in a manner that would provide a relevant database, comprehensive, accurate and publicly accessible information on the state of the nature, the state and quality of the environmental media and other environmental areas, noise, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, including electromagnetic radiation, as well as forecasts through the use of modeling techniques. The Information System shall include systematization, storage and use of data obtained through state monitoring network and local monitoring networks, from the monitoring performed by the operators obliged for that by Law, of individual environmental media and areas, as well as data from the Register of pollutants and polluting substances and their properties, and the Cadastre of polluters of the environment. Until now the PRTR system is not integrated in any other reporting mechanisms. In future we plan to build an integrated information system, part of which will be PRTR.

(e) With respect to **article 5, paragraph 1**, how releases and transfers can be searched and identified according to the parameters listed in subparagraphs (a) to (f);

Answer: Search and identification of releases and transfers are performed in accordance with the provisions of the Article 5 of the Protocol, which has been fully transposed into national legislation. To be more specific, search and identification of releases and transfers is prescribed in article 42 paragraph (2) of the national Law on Environment and article 11 from the Rulebook

Based on the above mentioned the Macedonian web page on PRTR was developed and offers the following search possibilities:

- *Search by facility at all levels in the web structure*
- *Search by River Basin District and municipality*
- *Search by year*
- *Search by pollutants and group of pollutants*
- *The environmental media in which the pollutants are released and the data on off-site transfers are displayed at the web page(ice da go prasam za formuliranje na recenicava)*

The web page will be public in the first half of 2014.

(f) With respect to **article 5, paragraph 4**, provide the Universal Resource Locator (url) or Internet address where the register can be continuously and immediately accessed, or other electronic means with equivalent effect;

Answer: The Macedonian PRTR can be found at the following url: <http://prtr.moep.gov.mk/>. Please note that the web portal will become public in the first half of 2014.

(g) With respect to **article 5, paragraphs 5 and 6**, provide information on links from the Party's register to relevant existing, publicly accessible databases on subject matters related to environmental protection, if any, and a link to PRTRs of other Parties.

Answer: The Macedonian PRTR web portal (will become public in the first half of 2014) will provide the following:

1. *Links of the national existing publicly accessible databases on subject matters related to environmental protection,*

- *Air quality - <http://airquality.moep.gov.mk/>*
- *Climate change - <http://www.unfccc.org.mk/>*
- *Persistent organic compounds - <http://www.pops.org.mk/>*
- *Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning - <http://www.moep.gov.mk/>*
- *IPPC facilities - <http://www.moep.gov.mk/default-MK.asp?ItemID=CF25D70E4A5C7A41B60778682589BFE5>*

2. *Links to the international PRTRs*

- *UNECE - <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/contentofaarhus.html>*
- *UNECE PRTR Protocol - <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.html>*
- *UNDP - <http://www.unep.org/>*
- *SAICM - http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=126&Itemid=532*
- *UNITAR - <http://www.unitar.org/>*
- *PRTR Global Portal - <http://www.prtr.net/>*
- *E_PRTR - <http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/> etc.*

Article 7

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement article 7 (reporting requirements).

Describe or identify as appropriate:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, whether the reporting requirements of paragraph 1 (a) are required by the national system, or whether those of paragraph 1 (b) are required by the national system;

Answer: The reporting requirements of paragraph 1 (a) of the PRTR Protocol are transposed into the national Rulebook. According to Article 8 paragraph 1 and 2 of the Rulebook, each facility that undertakes one or more of the activities specified in Annex I above the applicable capacity thresholds is obliged to report to the competent authority the following:

- *releases to air, water and land of any pollutant specified in Annex II for which the applicable threshold value specified in Annex II is exceeded;*
- *off-site transfers of hazardous waste exceeding 2 tonnes per year or of non-hazardous waste exceeding 2 000 tonnes per year, for any operations of recovery or disposal with the exception of the disposal operations of land treatment and deep injection referred to in Article 6, indicating with 'R' or 'D' respectively whether the waste is destined for recovery or disposal and, for transboundary movements of hazardous waste, the name and address of the recoverer or the disposer of the waste and the actual recovery or disposal site;*
- *off-site transfers of any pollutant specified in Annex II in waste water destined for*

<p>waste-water treatment for which the threshold value specified in Annex II, column 1b is exceeded.</p>
<p>(b) With respect to paragraphs 1, 2 and 5, whether it is the owner of each individual facility that is required to fulfil the reporting requirements or whether it is the operator; <i>Answer: According to article 8 paragraph 2 of the Rulebook -The operator of each facility that undertakes one or more of the activities specified in Annex I above the applicable capacity thresholds specified therein shall report the amounts annually to its competent authority, along with an indication of whether the information is based on measurement, calculation or estimation, of the following:</i></p> <p>(a) releases to air, water and land of any pollutant specified in Annex II for which the applicable threshold value specified in Annex II is exceeded;</p> <p>(b) off-site transfers of hazardous waste exceeding 2 tonnes per year or of non-hazardous waste exceeding 2 000 tonnes per year, for any operations of recovery or disposal with the exception of the disposal operations of land treatment and deep injection referred to in Article 6, indicating with 'R' or 'D' respectively whether the waste is destined for recovery or disposal and, for transboundary movements of hazardous waste, the name and address of the recoverer or the disposer of the waste and the actual recovery or disposal site;</p> <p>(c) off-site transfers of any pollutant specified in Annex II in waste water destined for waste-water treatment for which the threshold value specified in Annex II, column 1b is exceeded.</p>
<p>(c) With respect to paragraph 1 and annex I, any difference between the list of activities for which reporting is required under the Protocol, or their associated thresholds, and the list of activities and associated thresholds for which reporting is required under the national PRTR system; <i>Answer: The EU Regulation 166/2006 was transposed into the national legislation (Rulebook). Which means that the Annex I of the above mentioned EU Regulation is fully transposed into national legislation, meaning that, only those operators which perform activities listed in this Annex I, above the applicable capacity thresholds are obliged to report to the national PRTRs.</i></p>
<p>(d) With respect to paragraph 1 and annex II, any difference between the list of pollutants for which reporting is required under the Protocol, or their associated thresholds, and the list of pollutants and associated thresholds for which reporting is required under the national PRTR system; <i>Answer: The EU Regulation 166/2006 was transposed into the national legislation (Rulebook). Which means that the Annex II of the above mentioned EU Regulation is fully transposed into national legislation, and only those operators that perform activities listed in this Annex I, above the applicable capacity thresholds are obliged to report the following to the national PRTRs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • releases to air, water and land of any pollutant specified in Annex II for which the applicable threshold value specified in Annex II is exceeded;
<p>(e) With respect to paragraph 3 and annex II, whether for any particular pollutant or pollutants listed in annex II of the Protocol, the Party applies a type of threshold other than the one referred to in the responses to paragraph (a) above and, if so, why; <i>Answer: Annex II of EU Regulation 166/2006 is fully transposed into the national Rulebook. This means that in accordance with the existing legislation the operators are obliged to report only pollutants specified in Annex II for which the applicable threshold value specified in Annex II of the Rulebook is exceeded;</i></p>
<p>(f) With respect to paragraph 4, the competent authority designated to collect the information on releases of pollutants from diffuse sources specified in paragraphs 7 and 8; <i>Answer: The current Rulebook does not set out provisions for diffuse sources. Having in mind the fact that in Macedonia there is a large number of diffuse sources of pollution, we will make an effort to include them in the Rulebook.</i></p>

(g) With respect to **paragraphs 5 and 6**, any differences between the scope of information to be provided by owners or operators under the Protocol and the information required under the national PRTR system, and whether the national system is based on pollutant-specific (paragraph 5 (d) (i)) or waste-specific (paragraph 5 (d) (ii)) reporting of transfers;

Answer: The national system is based on waste specific approach.

(h) With respect to **paragraphs 4 and 7**, where diffuse sources have been included in the register, which diffuse sources have been included and how these can be searched and identified by users, in an adequate spatial disaggregation; or where they have not been included, provide information on measures to initiate reporting on diffuse sources;

Answer: The current Rulebook does not set out provisions for diffuse sources. Having in mind the fact that in Macedonia there are a large number of diffuse sources of pollution, we will make an effort to include them in the Rulebook. An update of the PRTR Rulebook is needed in the direction of identifying the diffuse sources. There are many small sources, which joined together at the national level, have great contribution to the pollution of the water, air and soil, as well as in waste production.

(i) With respect to **paragraph 8**, the types of methodology used to derive the information on diffuse sources.

Answer: The current Rulebook does not set out provisions for diffuse sources. Having in mind the fact that in Macedonia there are a large number of diffuse sources of pollution, we will make an effort to include them in the Rulebook. An update of the PRTR Rulebook is needed in the direction of identifying the diffuse sources. There are many small sources, which joined together at the national level, have great contribution to the pollution of the water, air and soil, as well as in waste production.

Answer:

Article 8

For each reporting cycle since the last national implementation report (or date of entry into force of the Protocol), please indicate:

(a) The reporting year (the calendar year to which the reported information relates);

(b) The deadline(s) by which the owners or operators of facilities were required to report to the competent authority;

(c) The date by which the information was required to be publicly accessible on the register, having regard to the requirements of **article 8** (reporting cycle);

(d) Whether the various deadlines for reporting by facilities and for having the information publicly accessible on the register were met in practice; and if they were delayed, the reasons for this;

(e) Whether methods of electronic reporting were used to facilitate the incorporation of the information required in the national register, and if such methods were used, the proportion of electronic reporting by facilities and any software applications used to support such reporting.

Answer: According to Article 41 paragraph 1 of the Law on Environment, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning –MOEPP, established and adopted a Rulebook on the form, the content, the methodology and the manner of maintaining of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register(Official gazette No:27/2011), which entered in force in January 2013.

The Rulebook proscribes the following:

- *reporting year(first reporting year would be for data of 2013 in 2014),*
- *In Article 8 paragraph 2 of the Rulebook - deadline(s)by which the operators are obliged to report is end of march with the data from the previous year*
- *which information is required to be publicly accessible is proscribed in Article 8 paragraph 2 of the Rulebook –*
- *The use of electronic tools is proscribed in Article 4 paragraph 1 and 2*

This means that operators are obliged to report PRTR data for 2013 until march 2014(for the first time), after which the Ministry will start with the validation, processing and publication of the data. For PRTR reporting, the operators will use the BUBE – online software (donation from Germany) Note that the Macedonian PRTR is under construction.

Article 9

Describe the legislative, regulatory and other measures ensuring the collection of data and the keeping of records, and establishing the types of methodologies used in gathering the information on releases and transfers, in accordance with article 9 (data collection and record-keeping).

Answer:

Measures which ensure the data collection, keeping of records, methodologies used in gathering the information on releases and transfers are proscribed as follows :

1. *According to Article 40 paragraph (4) The Information System referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall include collection, processing, systematization, storage, use, distribution and presentation of data and information obtained through state monitoring network and local monitoring networks, from the monitoring performed by the persons referred to in Article 36 of this Law of individual environmental media and areas, as well as data referred to in Article 41 and Article 42 of this Law and National List of Indicators.*

2. *According to Article 43 of the Law on Environment*

(1) The Minister managing the body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment,, the Mayor of the municipality, the Mayor of the City of Skopje and the mayors of the municipalities of the City of Skopje may delegate the development and the maintenance of the Register referred to in Article 41 of Law on Environment and of the Cadastre referred to in Article 42 paragraph (2) of this Law to authorized legal entity.(2) Authorized legal entities referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall develop the Register referred to in Article 41 paragraph (2) of this Law and the Cadastre referred to in Article 42 in accordance with Article 42, paragraph (3) of this Law, provided that they meet and the conditions concerning the staff and equipment.(3) MOEPP shall proscribe the detailed conditions referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article that have to be met by legal entities in order to be allowed to develop and maintain the Register and the Cadastre, as well as the procedure through which authorization for development and maintenance of the Register referred to in Article 41 and the Rulebook, and the Cadastre referred to in Article 42 of this Law.(4) MOEPP shall establish and maintain list of authorized entities referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

MOEPP in accordance with article 42 paragraph (3), adopted a Rulebook on the form , the Gazette and the manner in which the Cadastre of air polluters (Official Gazette of RM No:92/2010), which proscribes the obligations, responsibilities, type of information that has to be reported by the facilities, the used methodology for data collection etc.

Also note that a bylaw on Cadastre of air pollutants is established, while bylaws on the other Cadastres such as cadastre on waste water and waste generation have yet to be established

Article 10

Describe the rules, procedures and mechanisms ensuring the quality of the data contained in the national PRTR and what these revealed about the quality of data reported, having regard to the requirements of article 10 (quality assessment).

Answer: Quality assessment of the PRTR data is prescribed in Article 7 and 8 of the Rulebook.

According to article 7 of the Rulebook - The competent authorities shall assess the quality of the data provided by the operators of the facilities, in particular as to their completeness, consistency and credibility.

While according to article 8 of the Rulebook - The operator of each facility subject to the reporting requirements set in article 6 of the Rulebook, shall assure the quality of the information that they report.

Article 11

Describe the way(s) in which public access to the information contained in the register is facilitated, having regard to the requirements of article 11 (public access to information).

Answer: According to article 11 of the Rulebook on the form, the content, the methodology and the manner of maintaining of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register –PRTR (Official gazette No: 27/2011) shall be designed for maximum ease of public access to allow the information, under normal conditions, to be continuously and readily accessible on the internet and by other electronic means. Its design shall take into account the possibility of its future expansion and shall include all data reported for previous reporting year. In line with this article the Macedonian PRTR web Portal was designed (<http://prtr.moepp.gov.mk/>). Note that the web portal will be official in the first half of 2014. Also according to article 51 of national LoE, everyone shall have the right to request validated environmental information and data from public authorities and legal entities and natural persons as defined in article 52 paragraph (1) of the LoE without having to prove their interest. Environment information may possessed by, or on behalf of the bodies and legal entities and natural persons referred to in article 52 paragraph (1) of the LoE.

Article 12

Where any information on the register is kept confidential, give an indication of the types of information that may be withheld and the frequency with which it is withheld, having regard to the requirements of article 12 (confidentiality). Please provide comments on practical experience and challenges encountered with respect to dealing with confidentiality claims, in particular with respect to the requirements set out in paragraph 2.

Answer: Since the PRTR systems in Republic of Macedonia is under construction,

for the moment we are not able to provide the requested information on confidentiality. But the confidentiality issues is regulated in the national Rulebook on the form, the content, the methodology and the manner of maintaining of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register –PRTR (Official gazette No: 27/2011).

Article 13

Describe the opportunities for public participation in the development of the national PRTR system, in accordance with article 13 (public participation in the development of national pollutant release and transfer registers), and any relevant experience with public participation in the development of the system.

Answer: The Law on Environment directly implements the requirements of the Aarhus Convention for access to environmental information, public participation in the decision-making process and access to justice. The Law establishes that:

- *Everyone has the right to access to environmental information without having to show interest;*
- *The right to access to information shall be established in a manner defined by the Law;*
- *All the bodies specified by the Law shall provide environmental information;*
- *A request for giving an information may be refused only in specific cases;*
- *The bodies specified by the Law shall collect and release environmental information within the scope of their work;*
- *The Party not satisfied shall have a right to access to justice.*

The legal obligations on access to environmental information, public participation in the decision making and access to justice shall be contained in the Law on Access to Information (Official Gazette). MOEPP has a legal obligation for dissemination of environmental information in accordance with the: Law on Waste, Law on Nature Protection; Law on Ambient Air Quality and the Law on Waters. All the aforementioned Laws envisage legal basis for practical implementation and realization on the basis of the secondary legislation acts.

Article 14

Describe the review procedure established by law to which all individuals have access if they consider that their request for information has been ignored, wrongfully refused or otherwise not dealt with in accordance with the provisions of article 14 (access to justice), and any use made of it.

Answer:

The requesting party shall have the right to lodge an appeal against the decision or conclusion issued by the entities responsible for the provision of environmental information, with the body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment.

*Having in mind that Republic of Macedonia has ratified the Aarhus Convention in 1999, and its provisions are transposed in the national Law **on Free Access to Information of Public Character** (Official Gazette of RM no. 13/06). There, according to Article 7, the right to a legal protection is given to the requesting party/person requesting access to information, while Article 28 gives the appeal procedure against the decision or conclusion. Article 35 gives the possibility for judicial protection, i.e. right to initiating administrative dispute in front of the competent court.*

Also the Law on Environment, in order to enable organizations and individuals to have access to justice, specifies the cases in which citizens' organizations established for the purpose of environment protection, as well as the public, enjoy the right to submit appeal in the area of environment, thus providing a wider frame for exercising the right to an appeal compared to the one established under the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

The Law on Environment establishes the right to access to justice for organizations and individuals for the purpose of protecting their rights and interests in several cases. These

cases include:

a) Protection of the right to access to environmental information

b) Protection of the rights under the environmental impact assessment procedure

c) Protection of the right under the integrated environmental permitting procedure

The right to access to justice by organizations and individuals for the purpose of protecting their rights and interests, through administrative procedure, is also regulated by separate environmental laws, such as:

- **The Law on Air Quality** ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 67/2004;),
- **The Law on Nature Protection** ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 67/2004),
- **The Law on Waste Management** ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 68/2004),
- **The Law on Waters** ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 87/08)

and other laws regulating the rights of legal entities and individuals in the area of environment and other rights. The procedures specified in these laws are subject to the procedures stipulated in the Law on Environment, as well as the **Law on General Administrative Procedure**, so that the rules described above apply identically.

Protection of the Rights of Individuals and Organizations in the Administrative Procedure by the Institution Ombudsman

The Institution Ombudsman in the Republic of Macedonia has a legal function and obligation to protect the rights of the citizens and everyone else, guaranteed to them by the Constitution, laws and international acts and documents ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia in that direction, and protect the right to free access to environmental information.

The Ombudsman of the constitutional system of RM is an independent body, a mechanism through which the constitutional and legal rights of the citizens and everyone else are protected in case of violation by acts, activities and omissions of activities by the state administration bodies and other bodies and organizations having public competencies.

The manner of appointing the Ombudsman shall guarantee his independence during the carrying out of the function. The Law on Ombudsman (Official Gazette of RM no. 60/2003) in Articles 11-18 envisages tax exemption for the requesting party for the procedure initiated before the Ombudsman.

Article 15

Describe how the Party has promoted public awareness of its PRTR and provide detail, in accordance with article 15 (capacity-building), on:

- (a) Efforts to provide adequate capacity-building for and guidance to public authorities and bodies to assist them in carrying out their duties under the Protocol;
- (b) Assistance and guidance to the public in accessing the national register and in understanding the use of the information contained in it.

Answer:

Republic of Macedonia has designated the National focal point for the PRTR Protocol, and regularly participates on the meetings organized by UNECE.

In the framework of the projects "**Capacity Building to Put the Aarhus Convention into Action and Support Development of PRTR Systems in Selected South East European Countries**" funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and by the German Federal Environment Agency with means of the Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the project "**Strengthening regional cooperation on environmental governance through participatory and informed decision-making and implementation processes**" funded by Finland through the ENVSEC initiative, were organized the following workshops:

- One-day capacity building and awareness raising workshop for national and regional authorities, operators and NGOs on their role and

responsibilities, the steps of developing and implementing the PRTR systems and the reporting process as well as the PRTR Protocol and E-PRTR was organized in June, 2011, Skopje, R. Macedonia,

- *Three - day workshop on ‘Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant release and transfer Register legislation was organised ‘ on March, 2012, Skopje, R.Macedonia. The objective of the workshop was to provide the following information: the current status of the PRTR Protocol implementation, reporting obligations and also to provide the relevant information which will help the industry to understand and prepare them to meet the reporting obligations that arise from PRTR Protocol and national.*

Also in the frame of the above mentioned projects the following documents and guidelines have been developed:

- *Translation of the Guidance on Implantation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to the Aarhus Convention*
- *National chapter on the status of PRTR implementation in Republic of Macedonia*
- *Translation and installation of the BUBE software*
- *Short local language manual for companies on reporting on air emissions and waste*
- *PRTR web portal*

In order to strengthen the administrative capacity, a study visit to Germany was organised on the topic ‘Implementation of the EU Regulation 166/2006 concerning the establishment of E-PRTR data reporting in accordance with the EU data format framework’. This training was organised by the TAIEX instrument of the European Commission

Article 16

Describe how the Party has cooperated and assisted other Parties and encouraged cooperation among relevant international organizations, as appropriate, in particular:

(a) In international actions in support of the objectives of this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (a)**;

(b) On the basis of mutual agreements between the Parties concerned, in implementing national systems in pursuance of this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (b)**;

(c) In sharing information under this Protocol on releases and transfers within border areas, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (c)**;

(d) In sharing information under this Protocol concerning transfers among Parties, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (d)**;

(e) Through the provision of technical assistance to Parties that are developing countries and Parties with economies in transition in matters relating to this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 2 (c)**.

Answer:

Having in mind that PRTRs in Republic of Macedonia is ongoing, we weren't in position to cooperate and assist other Parties. But as a developing country, we received technical and financial help from Germany. From the Ratification of the Protocol, Macedonia actively participates in workshops and other meetings arranged by UNECE

and others.

Provide any further comments relevant to the Party's implementation, or in the case of Signatories, preparation for implementation, of the Protocol. Parties and Signatories are invited to identify any challenges or obstacles encountered in setting up, gathering data for and filling in the register.

Answer: In the process of implementation of the PRTR Protocol in Macedonia, the following problems have arisen:

- *Insufficiently trained personal for the implementation of the provisions from the PRTR(responsible bodies, industry and public sector)*
- *Weak institutional framework*

For complete and successful implementation of the PRTR Protocol, the following activities need to be undertaken:

- *Clear definition of competences of the environmental institutions*
- *Strengthening the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control System*
- *Introduction of permanent monitoring*
- *Provision of financial resources for data dissemination and for implementation of public awareness campaigns*
- *Trainings for the use and management of the BUBE software and other.*