



*Global Project on the Implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) as a tool for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) reporting, dissemination and awareness raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru*

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**Third Steering Committee Meeting  
and  
Final Lessons Learned Workshop**

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Siem Reap, Cambodia

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# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

## (What is done)

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- A National Coordinating Group has been set up;
- A National Coordination Committee was established and approved;
- A national inception seminar on the Global Project was held;
- An evaluation report on existing relevant PRTR material and infrastructure at the national level was prepared;
- Workshop on the development of the draft Concept of the National Strategy for Public Access to Environmental Information and the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register was held;
- The national executive proposal was developed.

## *TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS*

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*Training programs and technical support and assistance elements have been developed for such specific sectors related to the implementation of the PRTR: media, non-governmental organizations, government bodies, enterprises.*

*Training programs were published and implemented at two workshops:*

- 1) for media and non-governmental organizations (07 September 2018);*
- 2) for government bodies and enterprises (23 October 2018).*

## *TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR MEDIA AND NGO*

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*- A training workshop for representatives of the media and non-governmental organizations on the development and operation of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in the Republic of Belarus was held (Minsk, September 7, 2018).*

*NGO representatives:*

- Public Association "Belarusian Republican Union of Lawyers"*
- Public Association "Ecohome"*
- Public Association "Green Economy"*
- Belarusian public association "Environmental Initiative"*

*Media representatives:*

- The editorial board of the magazine "Native Nature" ("Publishing House "Star");*
- Agency "Minsk-News".*

*Science and Education representatives:*

- Institute for Nature Management of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus;*
- Belarusian State University.*

## *TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT BODIES AND ENTERPRISES*

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*A training workshop was held for the Republican government bodies and enterprises to develop a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in the Republic of Belarus.*

## *ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE PRTR*

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*The preparation of draft documents for accession of the Republic of Belarus to the PRTR were completed.*

*As regards the accession stage to the protocol the high level authorities are considering the drafts legal documents prepared in the framework of the project. The final decision will depend on the political will.*

*The further sustainable functioning PRTR in Belarus is be in planned by using national human and financing resources*

## *THE NATIONAL PILOT PHASE ON THE USE OF PRTR FOR REPORTING ON POPs*

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- A national pilot phase on the use of PRTR for reporting on POPs was completed. A national report on the status of the pilot project has been prepared.*
- Received letters from enterprises on the consent to the use of information from statistical reports to fill the PRTR database.*
- The National PRTR site is being finalized to allow public access to information on emissions:  
<http://prtr.ecoinfo.by>*

# *The facilities of the National PRTR*

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*The National PRTR included the facilities which meet the following requirements:*

- 1. They are covered by Annexes I and II to the PRTR Protocol. Of the two alternative sets of criteria for selecting facilities under the Protocol on PRTRs, an approach based on capacity threshold (Annex I) and pollutant releases (Annex II)*
- 2. Reports are compulsory according to the national legislation in the forms of statistical reporting 1-air (MNREP), 1-water (MNREP), 1-waste (MNREP)/ or there are included in the list of legal entities that carry out local monitoring of the environment as part of the National System for Monitoring the Environment in the Republic of Belarus and submit a report for inclusion in the unified database of POPs.*



## CONTINUATION:

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*At the initial stage of PRTR implementation in the Republic of Belarus not to include non-point sources of emissions in the list of objects reporting for PRTRs, as well as objects that do not comply with the criteria and thresholds necessary to initiate reporting by enterprises or other sources of emissions.*

*In total, **427 enterprises** are covered by the National PRTR, the "Production and processing of metals" sector accounts for 21% of enterprises.*

## ***PRTR Data***

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*The 86 substances under the Protocol and 5 substances from the Stockholm Convention, total 91 substances, were included in the pilot PRTR.*

*For reporting on the transfer of waste, an approach was chosen under Article 7 (a) (iii) "... [the facility] transfers off-site hazardous waste exceeding two tons per year or other waste exceeding 2,000 tons per year..."*

*The largest emissions in the Republic of Belarus are accounted for:*

*Particulate matter, Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), Methane, Ammonia, Zinc*

# *Conclusions of the final national workshop (18 December 2018)*

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- The workshop summarized the implementation of the Global Project.*
- The information provided by the experts was discussed in detail and the next steps for promoting the PRTR in the Republic of Belarus were outlined.*
- The advantages of accession to the Protocol on PRTR of the Republic of Belarus for the government, the public and industry were demonstrated.*
- The method of filling the database on the PRTR website was discussed and the advantages of online data entry directly by enterprises were presented.*
- All prepared documents according to the project implementation plan were approved by the National Steering Committee.*

# *The benefits of implementing a PRTR in the Republic of Belarus and accession to the Protocol on PRTRs in general:*

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- will accelerate the balanced development of environmental pollution control in the country as a whole;*
- will enable interested persons to more rationally select methods to prevent environmental pollution;*
- will create conditions for promoting the principles of "green" economy in the Republic of Belarus;*
- will allow to form a new state information resource on emissions to the environment and transport of pollutants in accordance with international standards (based on the provisions of the PRTR Protocol) and actively participate in international cooperation under the PRTR Protocol;*
- provide the right of the general public to access environmental information and PRTRs.*

# *The Benefits of implementing a PRTR in the Republic of Belarus and accession to the Protocol on PRTRs for the government:*

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- The ability to access environmental information will create, improve and build public confidence in local and republican authorities. Transparent environmental management and access to information promotes dialogue between various stakeholders at the national level.*
- PRTR helps to monitor and timely prevent environmental pollution, and minimize the costs of eliminating pollution.*

## CONTINUATION:

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- *Accession to the Protocol on PRTRs will enhance the country's environmental prestige in the international arena and will facilitate negotiations on improving the quality of the environment.*
- *The introduction of the National PRTR will also create conditions for attracting investments to the country by providing investors with information on the environmental status of the prospective region / site / enterprise. The information obtained will provide an opportunity for investors to fully evaluate their benefits and will facilitate the establishment of cross-border cooperation.*

# *Benefits of implementing a PRTR in the Republic of Belarus and accession to the Protocol on PRTRs for industry:*

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- Data collection for PRTRs encourages accountable enterprises to improve their internal audit and provide high quality data. Industry data provided for PRTR purposes are verified and verified by external experts. These industrial enterprises will be able to use for their further goals the development and improvement of technologies.*
- PRTR is an incentive for industry to significantly reduce costs as a result of the application of cleaner technologies, monitoring the consumption of chemicals. This will lead to an increase in the efficiency of equipment operation, improvement of production processes.*
- The PRTR also provides data on accidental emissions that can be used to monitor the state of the environment as a result of industrial accidents and to prevent adverse environmental risks and accidents.*

## CONTINUATION:

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- *PRTR will not lead to an additional burden on industrial facilities, since the existing reporting forms will be used to the maximum extent to fill the PRTR database.*
- *PRTR data are used in land use planning and in making decisions on issuing permits for potential sources of pollution of various types and building new facilities. Electronic PRTR data help to improve the acceptability of the location of an industrial facility by residents in a nearby area, which will increase the company's environmental rating. A transparent approach to the provision of environmental information allows the company to improve its image both within the region and beyond, including the international level.*
- *The dissemination of PRTR data will lead to competition among enterprises to reduce their emissions, which will be the driving force for reducing pollution in many sectors of the economy.*



# *Benefits of implementing a PRTR in the Republic of Belarus and accession to the Protocol on PRTR for NGOs:*

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*- NGOs play an important role in the implementation and improvement of the Protocol on PRTRs. This is due to the fact that they have a different vision of how to make PRTR data more accessible to the public and empower citizens through the effective use of PRTRs. Since sometimes the public does not trust official data, NGOs conduct independent monitoring of reporting, and also indicate lower thresholds for pollutant emissions, the need to link PRTRs with statistics from other areas, such as health, to include more specific information and accounting local conditions when reporting substances.*

## CONTINUATION:

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*In the long term, the use of a PRTR system will increase the level of environmental awareness of the community. It should be noted that in countries where this system is already operating, it is NGOs that are among the key participants in the information dissemination process.*



***Thank you for your attention!***

