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*Global Project on the Implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) as a tool for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) reporting, dissemination and awareness raising – Second Project Steering Committee Meeting and Mid-Term Review Workshop  
(Status of PRTR implementation in Belarus)*

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with financial support of Zoï environment network, Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, within the framework of the international initiative "Environment and Security" (ENVSEC)

*“Designing and implementing a Pollution Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in  
the Hrodna Oblast of the Republic of Belarus”*

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2015-2017



## RESULTS OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

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- Analysis of the European and world experience of PRTR implementation;
  - Realization of experimental PRTR of Hrodna region: structure, database, WEB interface;
  - Collection of information from industrial enterprises in the Hrodna region and filling out the PRTR database (data on the Internet);
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- Implementation of a fully operational version of the PRTR of the Hrodna region on the Internet to ensure public access (<http://prtr.ecoinfo.by>);

## CONTINUATION:

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- Development of an information video on the importance of access to the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in the Hrodna region of the Republic of Belarus for public representatives <https://vimeo.com/203071900>;
  - Round table in Hrodna following the results of the development, filling in and testing of PRTRs in the Hrodna region;
  - A sociological study of the effectiveness of public information on pollutant emissions by industrial enterprises using the publicly accessible PRTR website on the Internet (short report).
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with the financial support of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility fund (GEF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

*“Global Project on the Implementation of PRTRs as a tool for POPs reporting, dissemination and awareness raising for Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Peru”*

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## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

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- A National Coordinating Group has been set up;
- A National Coordination Committee was established and approved;
- A national introductory seminar on the Global Project was held;
- An evaluation report on existing relevant PRTR material and infrastructure at the national level has been 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 preparation of a national executive proposal has being developed.

# The National inception workshop, held in Minsk on August 17, 2017

## *Major findings*

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- PRTR is used not only for POPs reporting, but also for other pollutants, such as pollutants of the 1<sup>st</sup> class of hazard and heavy metals according to the national classification (for example, cadmium, chromium, mercury, nickel, lead, zinc, asbestos);
- Belarus has the opportunity, based on the experience of other countries in developing PRTR, to identify the necessary directions for the development and operation of a national PRTR;
- The PRTR simplify the reporting requirements and exclude the possibility of duplicating the reports, helping industries and the government to reduce the resources spent to comply with different reporting;

# CONTINUATION:

## *Major findings*

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- Some substances in the PRTR are not directly released, but are transformed from others (these data cannot be obtained from existing reporting), therefore additional questionnaires should be used and some of the releases in any case will not be covered even by the Register;
- Technical and methodological developments to include POPs in the PRTR reporting is carried out;
- Existing legislation should be revised for the purposes of PRTR as a tool for reporting and informing on POPs;

# CONTINUATION:

## *Major findings*

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- Belarus plans to include in national PRTR enterprises that have POPs releases regardless of the amount of releases even if they don't reach the thresholds according to the PRTR protocol. The enterprises that have special permission for POPs releases will also participate even if they don't have releases in a particular year;
- Some enterprises are ready to voluntarily provide the necessary information for the PRTR, since this system simplifies the preparation of reports. We start to work with many enterprises to determine the amount of releases and their correspondence with the thresholds according to the protocol. Based on the fact that Belarus doesn't have legal acts that oblige industry to provide their data in PRTR, the final decision will be depend only on good will of the enterprises.

# EVALUATION REPORT ON THE EXISTING PRTR RELATED MATERIALS AND RELEVANT INFRASTRUCTURES AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

## *Difficulties in the development of PRTRs:*

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- Reliability of information: the collection of information is carried out by various departments at different levels from different types of enterprises;
- At present, enterprise reporting information does not fully comply with PRTR requirements;
- Enterprises don't have willingness to provide the information at voluntary basis;
- Insufficient accounting of pollutant emissions from small enterprises and sources related to individuals;
- At this stage there is a lack of awareness of the staff of government agencies and the public in the field of PRTRs;
- Financial constrains.

## CONTINUATION:

### *Possible solutions:*

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- Include PRTR reporting in annual enterprise reporting;
- Prepare regulatory and legal acts on enterprise reporting for PRTR purposes;
- Develop a country-specific PRTR methodology containing detailed instructions for collecting and processing information, calculating and recording emissions by substances and reporting forms.

## CONTINUATION:

*The results of this project are important both for the public and for the enterprises themselves, namely:*

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- a) the provision of data to the public domain will increase confidence in enterprises and improve their image in the public eye;
- b) the developed PRTR can serve as a reference point whereby users of natural resources can compare emissions of their enterprise with others at the national and international levels, which will stimulate enterprises to reduce emissions;
- c) PRTR reporting will help improve the reliability and quality of data provided, environmental monitoring and control procedures, since errors and shortcomings can be identified when comparing data.

# **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, held in Minsk on December 28, 2017**

## *Conclusions:*

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- For effective access to environmental information (to implement the provisions of Article 5 of the Aarhus Convention), it is necessary to create an accessible national PRTR system.
- The legal and administrative framework for the formation of a national PRTR has been established in the Republic of Belarus.
- The legal concepts used in the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the light of the definitions and terminology used in the Protocol on PRTRs.
- One of the important factors in the implementation of environmental policy in the Republic of Belarus is the effective recording of pollutant releases and transfers, as well as control over their emissions and dissemination in the environment

## CONTINUATION:

### *Conclusions:*

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#### Accession to PRTR:

- accelerate the balanced development of environmental monitoring of environmental pollution in the country;
- provide an opportunity to more rationally select methods for preventing pollution of the environment;
- promote the principles of the green economy in the Republic of Belarus;
- allow the formation of a new state information resource on emissions to the environment and the transfer of pollutants, corresponding to international norms (based on PRTR provisions).

# The preparation of a national executive proposal has being developed

*It includes the following chapters:*

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- Objectives of the national PRTR system
- Legal implementation of the National PRTR system
- Reporting requirements and procedures for point sources of emissions
- Treatment of the non-point and non-reporting point sources of emissions
- PRTR data management system
- Management of the National PRTR system
- Work plan for implementation of the National PRTR
- Recommendations for further development of the national PRTR system (after accession)

# Overview of expenditures

| Budget Line |                                   | Expenditures of the first instalment | Unspent balance of the total funds of the project |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 72610       | Staff and personnel costs         | 8,854.00                             | 10,346.00   |
| 72615       | Travel                            | -                                    | 1,900.00  |
| 72625       | Operational Expenses              | 11,800.78                            | 21,199.22   |
| 72630       | Supplies, commodities, materials  | 110.11                               | 289.89  |
| 72635       | Equipment, vehicles and Furniture | 3,868.18                             | 3,531.82  |
| 72640       | Contractual Services              | 47,018.92                            | 81,081.08   |
| Total       |                                   | 71,651.99                            | 118,348.01  |

The first instalment – 80,000.00 USD;

Expenditures of the first instalment – 71,651.99 USD;

Unspent balance of the first instalment – 8,348.01 USD.



*Thank you for attention!*

