

**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 the Slovak Republic in accordance with decision I/5

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	Ing. Katarína Jankovičová Head of Department of Integrated Prevention Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic katarina.jankovicova@enviro.gov.sk
Signature:	
Date:	15 February 2017

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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

<i>Party/Signatory</i>	
<i>NATIONAL FOCAL POINT</i>	
Full name of the institution:	1) Slovak Environment Agency 2) Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
Name and title of officer:	1) Ing. Blanka Kapustová, PhD. 2) Ing. Daniela Ďurkovičová
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<i>Designated competent authority responsible for managing the national or regional register (if different):</i>	
Full name of the institution:	Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
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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.

Answer:

The report was **elaborated by the National Focal Point for Protocol PRTR**, i. e. Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and Slovak Environment Agency on responsibility of the **Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic**.

Public authorities contributed to elaboration of this report:

1) Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (hereinafter as SHMI) – the semi-budgetary professional organisation with national competence being the province of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. Pursuant to the Act No. 201/2009 Coll. on state hydrological service and on state meteorological service, the SHMI provides as well as management and administration of various information systems and in connection with the E-PRTR, relevant one is the National Pollution Register. The SHMI was established in 1969.

2) Slovak Environment Agency (hereinafter as SEA) – the semi-budgetary professional organisation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic with the national competence focused on environment care, landscape formation in accordance with rules of sustainable development. The SEA was established pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of Environment in 1993 as a budgetary organisation. Since 2001 it has been the semi-budgetary organisation. The SEA was charged with the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic to coordinate the fulfilment of the reporting activities and duties for the Environment Sector to the extent of the EU regulations listed on EUR-LEX in Chapter 15.10.10 Environment.

Report elaboration process:

National Focal Point to the PRTR Protocol (hereinafter as NFP-PRTR) elaborated draft of this report, final version of which was produced after integration of public comments into. All public comments, before have been integrated, were consulted with their authors and assessed in relation to their relevance for the report by the National Focal Point for Protocol PRTR.

In preparation of this report, the NFP-PRTR used data and information from the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter as MoE SR), the SHMI and Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (hereinafter as SEI) and from their information systems and internal databases, for instance from the National Pollution Register (operated by the SHMI), Information System on IPPC (operated by the SEA).

The MoE SR, more specifically Department of Integrated Prevention, responsible for the PRTR Protocol and Department of Cross-Cutting Issues, responsible for Aarhus Convention, approved the final version of the report in compliance with assessment of

comments submitted.

Report work schedule:

The report has been elaborated in compliance with time schedule planned as recommended by the Secretariat of Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol for preparation of the Second National report on PRTR Protocol implementation:

Preparation process	Duration	Deadlines
National consultation on the content of the report on PRTR Protocol implementation (hereinafter only „NIR-PRTR”)	3 months	May – July 2016
First NIR-PRTR draft elaboration	1 month	August 2016
Up-date of information stated in the first draft of the report		December 2016
Assessment of comments and consultation on the NSI-PRTR draft	1 month	January 2017
Elaboration of the NIR-PRTR final draft in the meaning of comments accepted	1 month	February 2017
Preparation of the NIR-PRTR translation into English language	1 month	February 2017
Submission of the NIR-PRTR to the PRTR Protocol Secretariat	5 months before the regular 3 rd Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (MOPP-3)	recommended submission date of the report: 15 December 2016 actual date of the report submission: 15 February 2017

Articles 3, 4 and 5

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).
In particular, describe:
(a) With respect to article 3, paragraph 1 , measures taken to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, including enforcement measures;
(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;
(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;
(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?
(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);
(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;

(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:

a)

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (**PRTR**) is a part of Aarhus Convention and it is the first international tool, which is aimed to allow public access to information via establishing coherent national registers. Entering into force of the PRTR Protocol in October 2009 was a significant step. The Slovak Republic acceded as one of the first Parties of Aarhus Convention to PRTR Protocol on 1 April 2008. The first meeting of Parties of Aarhus Convention to PRTR Protocol on pollutant release and transfers registers (PRTR MOP-1) had been performed in Geneva, in the Palace of the Nations, within 20 – 22 April 2010.

National PRTR in the Slovak Republic was established by an Act of the Slovak National Council No. 205/2004 Collection on gathering, holding and dissemination of information on environment as amended by later legislation, as a National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, called shortly the "National Pollution Register" (NPR). The Act No. 205/2004 Coll. established the National Pollution Register and in article 5 and article 6 established the details on its management and administration.

In the article 8 of this Act with connection to the National PRTR, administrative torts and penalties for infringement of obligations are defined like for instance non-introduction of evidence, non-gathering of information, non-reporting to the SHMI and etc.

The SEI handles administrative torts and imposes penalties.

The penalty can be from 660 Eur to 33,193.91 Eur, even repeatedly, depending on seriousness, duration of unlawful conduct, also extent of threatening or caused damage and consequences. The height of possible penalty is enough dissuasive in the SR.

In order to perform the provisions of the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. concerning the National Pollution Register, the Regulation No. 448/2010 Coll. was adopted. It established details on contents of the NPR, on contents of report and on process of its submission including its model structure (report form).

At present, a significant amendment of the Act No 205/2004 Coll., as well as of its executive regulation has been under preparation. Both amendments should simplify, apart from, a complicated wording of some paragraphs and to link obligations of operators under IPPC and NPR regimes in more transparent way. Amendments of the act and the executive regulation will also become opposite step to the SHMI and operators, since the deadline on data reporting to the NPR will be shifted from the 31 March to the 31 May. This change stated will significantly contribute to improvement of quality of data reported by operators and will enable the SHMI as an administrator of the NPR to ensure data validation in sufficiently time extent.

b)

The Act No. 205/2004 Coll. in article 5 par. 3 provides that to the NPR data are reported on amounts on waste transfers and amounts of pollutants without taking into account threshold limit values determined. It means that extent of publicly accessed data at the national level is broader than PRTR Protocol requires. Number of required and reported pollutants is 91. All data reported are publicly accessed via website of SHMI (<http://ipkz.shmu.sk/>).

Data in NPR are free of charge and available for public which is allowed to contribute via comments, remarks, suggestions and questions in its development. The NPR is accessible also from the MoE SR' website on environment information, named Enviroportal, which is administrated by the Slovak Environment Agency for the MoE SR (<http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-temy/starostlivost-o-zp/ipkz-integrovana-prevencia-a-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz-1>).

The NPR is accessible also via website of the MoE SR

(<http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/narodny-register-znecistovania/>), as well as via Enviroportal (<http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz/informacny-system-ipkz-2.html>).

On the internet portal www.enviroportal.sk administrated by the SEA, discussion forum is placed, which serves to public for asking questions. The answers for such questions are provided by the competent SEA experts instantly.

The SEA provides also consultancy free of charge within its own activities, most frequently by phone and via e-mail, also in person.

c)

Everybody has the possibility to report violation as well as anonymously. The control body is the SEI which investigates as well as anonymous reports and it takes them into account and investigates them in the same way as the signed reports. The SR adopted the anti-discriminatory law to protect every citizen from persecution and harassment.

In the SR such cases are not known, 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.

d)

In the SR, via the Act No. 205/2004 Coll., an exclusive reporting obligation to the National PRTR is set up; existing relevant databases collecting data on pollutants in waters, air and on wastes are used for data validation.

Operators are obligated to report intended data and information only when they have not been reported into the other relevant information systems. There is an effort to harmonize and validate the reported data in maximum way. The main issue is the difference of reporting requirements on the national and European levels.

National PRTR (= NPR) is connected with 2 information systems which are operated by the SHMI. These are:

- 1) National Emission Inventory System,
- 2) Complex Evidence on Waters.

These 2 information systems gather many data on pollution sources, air emissions, discharge of waste waters and contamination in the discharging waters.

There is an effort to minimise the amount of data reported by operators if these data or similar data were reported pursuant to fulfilment of other duties in the area of environment.

In case of data reported into the National Pollution Register an operator does not have to report some selected data if these data were already reported into the National Emission Inventory System or into the Complex Evidence on Waters.

A result of these measures is significant decrease in double reporting, which was the burden for operators mainly.

National PRTR (=NPR) is the information system of public administration as well; that's why it is referred to requirements on the most effective sharing data among subsystems of the public administration information system. Unification, alternatively sharing of data in systems is determined by extensive legislation process and financial means needs; this process is still on-going. Within the calls of the current Operational Programme on the Environment Quality in the SR, the SHMI is planning to apply for the financial support for the project on the rebuilding of the NPR and improvement of its functionality.

e)

Public is allowed to search for data in the NPR according to reporting year and facility operator. With each operator there are connected information on facility, its air emissions, water emissions, emissions into soil and on transferred wastes and waste waters. The NPR administrator might elaborate the set of data according to all criteria

stated in letters a) to f) according to article 5 par. 1 on demand.

f)

Requirement and a form of open National PRTR data to public are defined in article 5 and article 6 in the Act No. 205/2004 Coll., which relate to the NPR content and to the way of its operation from all stakeholders' point of view (MoE SR, SHMI, operators reporting data to the NPR).

At present, public can participate in PRTR system development in form of comments, suggestions and questions: at the internet portal www.enviroportal.sk administrated by the SEA there is a discussion forum, which serves public for placing questions and gaining erudite answers. No demand or suggestion from public on the opportunity to be actively involved in the national PRTR had been registered so far. In case of such activity, the SHMI as an administrator of the national PRTR is ready to take public proposals into account if they could contribute to improvement of the NPR functionality.

National Pollution Register is open to public at websites as follows:

SHMI: <http://ipkz.shmu.sk/>

Enviroportal - information portal of the MoE SR competence:
<http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-temy/starostlivost-o-zp/ipkz-integrovana-prevencia-a-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz-1>

MoE SR: direct link to the NPR: <http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/narodny-register-znecistovania/>, interconnection via Enviroportal: <http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz/informacny-system-ipkz-2.html>.

g)

Obligations according to article 5 par. 5 and par. 6 are fully covered by Enviroportal (www.enviroportal.sk).

Enviroportal creates a basic platform for publishing outputs of information systems, provides authorized and approved information on the environment in Slovakia, as well as behind its borders, it serves to users as one unified access to information provided within area of environment. At the same time it is a breakthrough to information on environment which are kept in databases of other professional institutions within the MoE SR competence and the MoE SR itself. Information provided contribute in large extent to raising public awareness on environment.

Enviroportal is a gate to all information systems of the MoE SR competence, it means to the National Pollution Register too. Via Enviroportal, public is directed also to the IPPC Information System and within it also to the E-PRTR Information System, which means to websites of PRTRs of other countries.

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;
(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;
(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;
(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;

(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;

(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;

(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;

(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;

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

Answer:

a)

Owners, alternatively operators of installations/facilities report data to the National PRTR according to article 7 par. 1a of the Protocol, this obligation has been transposed and specified in the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. in the meaning of the article 5 par. 3. Defining the installation/facility is carried out according to the threshold capacity value of the installation/facility, which is in compliance with the EU approach (the EU has also chosen defining according to the threshold capacity value).

Emissions data reporting obligation for the National PRTR is over the PRTR scope; to the National PRTR the mandatory persons (owners belong to them, possibly operators) report data on emissions disregards to threshold values.

b)

Reporting obligation is given according to the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. to owners of installations/facilities, but in practice there is often contract agreement between the owner and the operator about obligation to be fulfilled by the operator.

In order to avoid of double reporting or, on the contrary, of missing reports, the administrator of the National PRTR (the SHMI) is being in an intensive touch by e-mails with operators, which at that time operate facilities falling under the Act No. 205/2004 Coll.

c)

List of activities for the National PRTR is identical with list of activities stated in Annex I of the PRTR Protocol. The Act No. 205/2004 Coll. does not include the Annex with the list of activities directly, but in the article 6 par. 5 refers directly to article 5 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No. 166/2006.

There are no differences between activities reported to the National PRTR and activities reported to PRTR Protocol.

Differences exist as for emissions threshold limit values; for reporting to the National PRTR no threshold limits are stated. The meaning of it is, that every single installation/facility carrying out at least one activity according to the Annex I to the PRTR Protocol must report data on emissions as it is ordered by the Protocol.

d)

List of pollutants to be reported to the National PRTR is identical with the list of pollutants as stated in PRTR Protocol and in the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council No. 166/2006 concerning the E-PRTR.

e)

To the National PRTR, in the meaning of the article 5 par. 3 of the Act No. 205/2004 Coll., all emissions of the pollutants on the list of pollutants are to be reported regardless of taking into account threshold values, it means there is no problem to ensure fulfilling of reporting obligations. All data on emissions reported are open to the public in the NPR regardless the threshold limit value for emissions reporting.

f)

Institution authorised to collect and assess data on emissions from diffuse pollution sources is the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMI).

Issues on air emissions coming from diffuse pollution sources are solved by the SHMI in accordance with Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), but in aggregated form only as a summary for the SR. PRTR requirements are under analysis process; E-PRTR requires grids 5×5 km for emissions from diffuse pollution sources. Issues on water emissions from diffuse pollution sources have not been yet solved sufficiently at the national level. The main problem is a lack of capacities to cover relevant activities and absence of primary data in disaggregated form.

g)

With regard to data on waste transfers reporting, the national PRTR goes over the PRTR Protocol scope. Mandatory persons report data on wastes within extent according to par. 5 (d) (ii)), which means as the total transferred volume; the Slovak Republic has implemented approach based on transferred wastes volume. This obligation has been specified in executive regulation No. 448/2010 Coll. towards the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. In the Annex of the Regulation, the forms are given to be used for reporting of annual data, together with instruction on filling it. Operators report data on volumes of hazardous waste transferred and on volumes of other waste designated to be utilised or disposed, and in case of cross-border transfer of hazardous waste also the name, address of the waste processor and locality of waste utilisation or disposal should be reported.

(h)

Diffuse pollution sources and emissions released from them are not included in the National PRTR so far. The main problem is a lack of capacities to cover relevant activities and absence of primary data in disaggregated form. In the first half of the year 2013, the preliminary working meetings with air quality experts of the SHMI have been initiated, such experts provide reporting of data on emissions from diffuse air pollution sources in accordance with CLRTAP. It is assumed that the issues on PRTR requirements regarding to diffuse sources will be solved via some project.

i)

A basic data source for calculation of emission volumes from diffuse pollution sources should be statistical survey provided by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

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:

a)

The SR as the EU Member State reports data to the European PRTR. The SR begun to report data to the E-PRTR, and thus reporting of data at the national level to the National PRTR system passed off first time under calendar year 2007 (even before joining the Slovak Republic to PRTR Protocol). Till now data reported to the National PRTR and to the E-PRTR were relevant under these calendar years: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

European Commission reports to PRTR data on behalf of all EU Member States.

b)

Deadline for data reporting at the national level is the 31 March in the next calendar year following after the year under which data are reported. At present, an amendments of the relevant act and its executive regulation have been under preparation; one of the changes to be brought by the amendments is a change of data reporting deadline, which will be shifted to 31 May.

Data reporting is carried out at the national level directly; no data are reported on regional or district levels.

c)

Deadline for opening data to public at the national level in the NPR (= the National PRTR) is the 31 December in the following calendar year. Usually, data are made accessible at the beginning of December.

d)

Operators keep deadline for data reporting, which is the 31 March in the next calendar year. Based on opinion of operators it would be appropriate to move reporting to the National PRTR to later date (the 31 May) due to a need to harmonize data reporting systems in compliance with other relevant national legislative rules. Currently unfinished amendment of the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. intends to take this legitimate requirement into consideration with regard to needs of operators, as well as the SHML.

e)

Mandatory persons submit data in prescribed forms via post and via electronic post by e-mails (editable file format .doc or .xls). Operators have a possibility to report data also in an xml file format, which is not used by them so far. Majority of reports is submitted in electronic form, via e-mails.

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:

For mandatory persons, the way of obtaining data, methods of determination, frequency of measurements and conditions of operation specified in permit given to allow performance of activities within installation or facility are determined, that is directly or

via reference to relevant legislation or technical standard, where details are given.

In case of facility which is at the same time the IPPC installation, system of permitting is stated in the Act No. 39/2013 Coll. on integrated pollution prevention and control of the environment, in the Chapter I. Integrated permitting, in article 21 Terms of permit. In permit, there is also determined the requirement on annual data reporting to the National PRTR. Requirement on data storing which had been reported, as well as data which were taken as a base for data reporting is determined to 5 years (requirement is stated in the Act No. 205/2004 Coll., article 6 par. 10).

In case of facility which is not at the same time the IPPC installation, system of permitting and requirements on records keeping is stated in relevant legislative rules concerning to air protection, waters protection, waste handling etc. Such facilities have also permits issued to perform activities, in which conditions on records keeping and recommended methodical procedures on obtaining information are specified (directly, eventually indirectly).

Methodical procedures elaborated or recommended by the MoE SR are displayed also at the MoE SR's website, and they are regularly updated.

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:

Mandatory persons (owners alternatively operators) report annual data in forms enclosed in the Annex of the executive Regulation No. 448/2010 Coll. towards the Act No. 205/2004 Coll.; a part of forms are detailed instructions on filling in. To reach sufficient quality of reporting by mandatory persons, professional seminars are organised every year.

Data validation is provided directly via comparison to the basic data (monitoring results, calculation methods) in relevant sectoral information systems:

1) *National Emission Information System* - (accessible via website <http://www.air.sk/neis.php?spirit=c14465fa73b27c224378c16bc25a53a8>) administrated according to the Act No. 137/2010 Coll. on the air as amended by later legislation, and to the Regulation No. 410/2012 Coll. towards the Act on the air; the system collects data on air emissions;

2) *Complex Evidence on Waters* - administrated according to the Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on waters and to the executive Regulation No. 418/2010 Coll. towards to the Act on waters; the system collects data on air emissions;

3) *Regional Information System on Wastes* – administrated according to the Act No. 223/2001 Coll. on wastes as amended by later legislation will be replaced by a new information system for waste management, which is currently under preparation at the MoE SR according to the rightful Act No. 79/2015 Coll. on wastes and on amendments of other legislative rules as amended by later legislation; the information system will enable to follow waste material flows from their beginning to their final treatment.

Information systems 1) and 2) are operated by the SHMI, information system 3) administrates and operates the MoE SR.

Discrepancies in data are consulted with mandatory persons, together with request on elimination of such discrepancies, alternatively with request to complete information and data.

Other tools for validation of data reported are checking of conformity of data reported with valid permits for performing activities (pollutants extent, limit values determined, methods of determination etc.) and comparison of data reported with the previous calendar year.

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:

Public has possibility to search for data in the NPR according to the reporting year and according to the facility operator. With each operator the information about facility is connected, about its air, water and soil emissions, and about waste transfers and waste waters. The operator under the NPR might elaborate the set of data according to all criteria stated in letters a) to f) according to article 5 par. 1 on demand.

Requirement and a form of opening data of the National PRTR to public are defined in article 5 and article 6 of the Act No. 205/2004 Coll.

National Pollution Register is open to public at these websites:

SHMI: <http://ipkz.shmu.sk/>; the SHMI is authorized by administration and operation of the NPR, which means the National PRTR system; it provides obtaining and collecting of data, its electronic processing, validation and archiving of data reported.

Enviroportal - information portal of the MoE SR competence:

<http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-temy/starostlivost-o-zp/ipkz-integrovana-prevencia-a-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz-1>

MoE SR: direct link to the NPR: <http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/narodny-register-znecistovania/>, interconnection via Enviroportal: <http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz/informacny-system-ipkz-2.html>.

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Enviroportal is a gate to all information systems of the MoE SR competence, it means to the National Pollution Register too. Via Enviroportal, public is directed also to the IPPC Information System and within it also to the E-PRTR Information System, which means to websites of PRTRs of other countries.

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:

In relation to opening information of the National PRTR to public, operators have not used the possibility to keep the information confidential, not even in one case. For this reason, the Slovak Republic does not have experience in dealing with eventual problems related to classification of information.

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:

National PRTR was established by the Act No. 205/2004 Coll.; and as every single legislative regulation at the national level comes under observation procedure, in which public can participate. The public can pose its demands and suggestions to the currently observed regulation through the electronic portal of legislative regulations.

National PRTR is open to public, public has not applied for requests on its up-date so far. At present, the new version of the National PRTR is under development which is intended to be more user-friendly, with possibility of communication with users of the National PRTR and on-line import data from mandatory persons. The problem remained for a long time related to a lack of capacities in development of the new National PRTR, and a lack of financial sources to provide faster realisation mainly. Within the calls of the current Operational Programme on the Environment Quality in the SR, the SHMI is planning to apply for the financial support for the project on the rebuilding of the NPR and improvement of its functionality.

At present, public might contribute to the PRTR system development in form of comments, remarks, suggestions and questions; on the internet portal www.enviroportal.sk administrated by the SEA, discussion forum is placed, which serves to public for asking questions and obtaining erudite answers.

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:

Relevant procedures are stated in the Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information as amended by later legislation; in accordance with information included in the National PRTR the other details are given in the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on gathering, holding and dissemination of information on environment, as amended by later legislation. In this act, the obligation of supervisory body which is the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate is stated, which is supervising the adherence of this act provisions.

In relation to the National PRTR, the Slovak Republic has not recorded yet any information or submissions of individuals considering that their request for information has been ignored, wrongfully refuse or otherwise not dealt with it. The NFP-PRTR does not have such information, and does not have even knowledge about other competent institution might have such.

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:

Information on the National PRTR had been and are regularly presented at conferences, seminars, workshops and training activities at the national, as well as international levels; they are published in professional journals mainly within the Slovak Republic. The National PRTR has been often mentioned in relation to IPPC and industrial

emissions issues, which means public receives information on the National PRTR also within events concerning industrial emissions. Experts from the SHMI are invited on a regular basis to conferences and seminars focused also on other topics, since from the side of operators of industrial facilities the interest on data submission to the NPR lectures is expressed.

Besides, within the SEI the IPPC National Training Centre has been established, which provides consultancy and tutorials for state administration bodies, operators, as well as for public on IPPC and related issues, which means on PRTR too. Every year this Centre provides dozens of consultations, all for free of charge. This Centre provides also organising the seminars and trainings, for operators and professional public mainly.

The SHMI provides public with explanatory information regularly on demand. The most frequent form is operative communication via e-mail. Questions are oriented to legislative rules related, threshold limit values etc.

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:

a)

The Slovak Republic as the EU Member State regularly participates at the meetings of the working groups on E-PRTR, which are coordinated by the European Commission in accordance with PRTR requirements and informs participants about activities concerning PRTR Protocol.

b)

Within meetings of working groups for E-PRTR, some Member States presented their national PRTRs, information stated could be helpful in building and developing the national PRTRs of other countries.

c)

The SR has established working groups on cross-border waters protection with all neighbour countries according to bilateral treaties. Each relevant information which might have effect on the quality of the cross-border waterflow is taken as a subject of exchanging of information, and in case of need it is dealt with at meetings of working groups individually.

d)

Till now, the Slovak Republic was not requested by other Party on information related to transfers between Parties; as well as the SR has not requested other Party to provide such information.

e)

The Slovak Republic provided and provides the relevant technical support to other Parties with transition economy in form of project participation, which are meant to prepare particular country for EU membership, besides other things.

Since 1997, the Basel Convention Regional Centre (hereinafter as BCRC) has been in active operation in the Slovak Republic; the BCRC is a part of the SEA. The BCRC has been cooperating with several countries, very intensively with Moldova. Several projects were carried out in cooperation with Moldova, for instance *Strengthening Capacities for Building the Environmentally Sound Management of the E-Waste in the Republic of Moldova*.

During 2014 – 2015, the BCRC coordinated the project named *Capacity-Building to Promote Synergies on the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Belarus, Moldova and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*. Several workshops belong to the outputs of this project, they were carried out in the countries involved in the project, for example workshop in the FYROM (in April 2014), regional workshop in Belarus (in Minsk, June 2014). One of the project results is the publication named *Capacity-Building to Promote Synergies on the Coordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Belarus, Moldova and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*.

In 2014, the BCRC organised *Regional workshop of experts to review lead batteries environmentally sound management guidelines for Mediterranean region*; the workshop was carried out in Bratislava, the Slovak Republic (in March 2014).

During 2014 – 2015, the BCRC realised project in Albania *on support to legislation focused on batteries management*.

In 2015, the BCRC organised *international preparatory workshop for countries of the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Caucasus, which was focused on three conventions synergies (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions), and workshop to support ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury*; the workshop was carried out in April 2015 in Bratislava (the Slovak Republic).

In 2015, the BCRC has successfully finished the project with Moldova *Reduction of Risks Associated with End-of-Life Computing Equipment in Moldova Through Raising Public Awareness and Strengthening National Capacities*.

During 2014 – 2015, the BCRC coordinated a pilot PACE project aimed to *capacity building for E-waste management in Serbia*.

During 2016 – 2017, the BCRC has been coordinating project *Development of Introductory Assessment of Minamata Convention on Mercury in Macedonia*. The project is been financing by UNEP/GEF and it has been also managing by those institutions.

Information on the BCRC and abovementioned projects can be found at the website of the SEA and its working unit BCRC (<http://www.sazp.sk/bcrc/index.php?cmd=3>). Projects carried out by experts of the BCRC stated in this report belong to the cross-cutting projects referring to several topics within environment protection, and by their character and outputs refer also to the agenda of the PRTR Protocol.

The SEA at the same time permanently searches for a new opportunities for cooperation in the area of technical help and support in other countries of the Southern and South-eastern Europe, in relation to the possible future EU membership of these countries mainly. In 2015, the cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova, which expressed its intention to establish the environment protection agency has been established. In connection to this, the cooperation between the SEA and the Ministry of Environment of Moldova has started after country visit of Moldova's delegation. Both sides expressed their interest and will to follow in successful cooperation via mutual projects.

The SR realizes that cooperation with countries outside EU area and future enlargement of the EU is desired, although the most intensive seems to be cooperation with and

support just for countries intended to be an EU enlargement.

In connection to several successful national projects in the SR focused on identification and disposal of environmental burdens, the SR during 2013 – 2015 cooperated with Mongolia at the project *Establish the Geo-Database on Ecological Health of the Military Sites*, with emphasis to the environment contamination (information on this project could be found on website of the SEA <http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=2229>).

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:

Non sufficient providing of personal capacities might be taken as a problem, as well as a lack of financial sources for better implementation of PRTR Protocol. As mentioned above, a lack of financial sources in the state administration is closely connected to drain of highly qualified experts to the private area. Current status of capacities ensures providing of mostly the basic fulfilment of requirements eligibly. Solution of problems mentioned will be arranged via financial support for projects by the Operational Programme on Environment Quality.