

**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:	<b>RNDr. Kamil Vilinovič</b> Head of the Environmental Politics Division Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic <a href="mailto:kamil.vilinovic@enviro.gov.sk">kamil.vilinovic@enviro.gov.sk</a>
Signature:	
Date:	18 December 2013

**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 Hydrometeorological Institute 2) Slovak Environmental Agency
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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 Environmental Agency under administration of the **Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic**.

Public authorities contributed to elaboration of this report:

1) Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (further as SHMI) – the semi-budgetary professional organisation with national competence being the province of the Ministry of the 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 Environmental Agency (further as SEA) – the semi-budgetary professional organisation of the Ministry of the 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 the 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 for Protocol PRTR (further as NFP-PRTR) elaborated sources/materials and draft of this report, final version of which was elaborated 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 the Environment of the Slovak Republic (further as MoE SR), the SHMI and Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (further 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 as an administrator of Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol 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 for preparation of the First National report on PRTR Protocol implementation:

Preparation process	Duration	Deadlines
National consultation on the content of the report on PRTR Protocol implementation (further only „NIR-PRTR”)	2 months	May – July 2013
First draft elaboration and displaying of NIR-PRTR in Internet for comments	2 months	July - August 2013 NIR-PRTR published on the Internet on 5th August 2013
Assessment of comments and consultation on the NSI-PRTR draft	2 months	September – October 2013
Elaboration of the NIR-PRTR final draft in the meaning of comments accepted	1 month	November 2013
Preparation of the NIR-PRTR translation into English language	2 months	November – December 2013
Submission of the NIR-PRTR to the PRTR Protocol Secretariat		deadline: 30 January 2014, recommended submission date 15 December 2013

#### Articles 3, 4 and 5

<b>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).</b>
In particular, describe:
(a) With respect to <b>article 3, paragraph 1</b> , measures taken to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, including enforcement measures;
(b) With respect to <b>article 3, paragraph 2</b> , measures taken to introduce a more extensive or more publicly accessible PRTR than required by the Protocol;
(c) With respect to <b>article 3, paragraph 3</b> , 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 <b>article 3, paragraph 5</b> , 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 <b>article 5, paragraph 1</b> , how releases and transfers can be searched and identified according to the parameters listed in subparagraphs (a) to (f);
(f) With respect to <b>article 5, paragraph 4</b> , 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 an 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).

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 Protokol requires. Number of required and reported pollutants is 91. All data reported are publicly accessed via website of SHMI (<http://ipkz.shmu.sk/index.php>).

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. Via direct internet reference, the NPR is accessible also from websites of the Slovak Environmental Agency (<http://ipkz.enviroportal.sk/register-informacneho-systemu.php>) and from environment information portal – Enviroportal (<http://ipkz.enviroportal.sk/informacny-system.php>).

The NPR is accessible also via website of the MoE SR, which is interlinked with website of the SEA and Enviroportal.

On the internet portal [www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk) administrated by the SEA, discussion forum is placed, which serves to public for asking questions. The SEA provides also consultancy free of charge within its own activities.

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.

For instance, 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.

Double reporting problem related to some data on air emissions, and its possible harmonisation is presently a subject to analysis of legal acts on national level requirements.

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.

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 the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. in article 5 and article 6.

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

The SHMI: <http://ipkz.shmu.sk/index.php>

The SEA: <http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=1000>

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/uda>

Interconnection with the NPR might be found also at internet website of the MoE SR, where the link to the relevant register at Enviroportal is placed:  
<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 6 are fully covered by Enviroportal ([www.enviroportal.sk](http://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 (references to these websites are part of the E-PRTR Information System).

#### Article 7

<b>List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement article 7 (reporting requirements).</b>
Describe or identify as appropriate:
(a) With respect to <b>paragraph 1</b> , 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 <b>paragraphs 1, 2 and 5</b> , 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 <b>paragraph 1 and annex I</b> , 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 <b>paragraph 1 and annex II</b> , 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 <b>paragraph 3 and annex II</b> , 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 <b>paragraph 4</b> , 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 <b>paragraphs 5 and 6</b> , 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 <b>paragraphs 4 and 7</b> , 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 article 5 par. 3. 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 duplications 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 threshold limit values; for reporting to the National PRTR no threshold limits are stated.

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 EP and C No. 166/2006 concerning the E-PRTR.

e)

To the National PRTR, according to the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. and article 5 par. 3, 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.

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  $5 \times 5$  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)

Mandatory persons report data on wastes within extent according to par. 5 (d) (ii), which means as the total transferred 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 CRLTAP. 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 began 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.

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.

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.

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. During the



following process of the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. amendment, the Slovak Republic intends to take this legitimate requirement into consideration.

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. After introducing the forms, two professional seminars for mandatory persons had been organised with aim to reach sufficient quality of reporting.

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 - 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; the system collects data on volumes and types of wastes and consequential handling of.

Information systems 1) and 2) are operated by the SHMI, information system 3) administrates and operates the SEA, which according to the deal with the SHMI, provides the SHMI data on wastes transfers of the previous calendar year within the SR and data on transboundary wastes transfers on schedule as agreed.

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

<p><b>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).</b></p>
<p><i>Answer:</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Requirement and a form of opening data of the National PRTR to public are defined in the Act No. 205/2004 Coll. in article 5 and article 6.</p> <p>National Pollution Register is open to public at these websites:</p> <p>The SHMI: <a href="http://ipkz.shmu.sk/index.php">http://ipkz.shmu.sk/index.php</a>; 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.</p> <p>The SEA: <a href="http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=1000">http://www.sazp.sk/public/index/go.php?id=1000</a></p> <p>Information portal within the competence of the MoE SR - Enviroportal: <a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-temy/starostlivost-o-zp/ipkz-integrovana-prevencia-a-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz-1/uda">http://www.enviroportal.sk/environmentalne-temy/starostlivost-o-zp/ipkz-integrovana-prevencia-a-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz-1/uda</a></p> <p>Interconnection to the NPR could be found also at the website of the MoE SR, where the link to the relevant register is placed at Enviroportal: <a href="http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz/informacny-system-ipkz-2.html">http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/integrovana-prevencia-kontrola-znecistovania/informacny-system-ipkz/informacny-system-ipkz-2.html</a></p> <p>Public access is fully covered by Enviroportal (<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk">www.enviroportal.sk</a>).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

to websites of PRTRs of other countries (references to these websites are part of the E-PRTR Information System).

#### 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 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 remains related to a lack of capacities in development of the new National PRTR, and a lack of financial sources to provide faster realisation mainly.

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](http://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 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.

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 Center 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.

Within years 2011 and 2012, for instance it was about involvement of the SEA in the project supported and funded by the European Commission with name Chemical Safety - Technical Assistance for Strengthening Legal Framework and Institutional Infrastructure for Protection from Dangerous Chemicals, which was performed in Croatia.

In 2013, the SEA has been involved through the IPPC senior expert in the project supported by the EC in Serbia with name Law enforcement in the field of industrial pollution control, prevention of chemical accidents and establishing the EMAS system in Serbia.

Within both projects mentioned, through the participation, know-how and experience of the senior expert of the SEA have been providing information to other Parties on administration and operation of information systems on IPPC and NPR, as well as on working with public in development of such systems and dealing with problems related to reporting of such information.

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 the near future, the SEA plans to establish more intensive contacts with governmental institutions within environment protection, like environment agencies.

The SR realizes that cooperation with countries outside EU area and future enlargement of the EU is desired, but at the moment (due to problems, see the following answer) as a feasible and realizable path seems to be cooperation with and support just for countries intended to be an EU enlargement.

**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.