

## **BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE SLOVAKIA** **between two Basel Convention COPs (COP13 – COP14)**

The **Regional Centre of the Basel Convention for Training and Technology Transfer for Central and Eastern Europe** (BCRC), as an unit of the Slovak Environment Agency (SEA), started its regional activities in 1997.

Our region is focused on two main priorities at this time: the establishment of efficient control systems for the transboundary movement of HW and chemicals and problems connected to the illegal traffic and ESM of different waste streams, such as the waste electric and electronic equipment, waste batteries and accumulators, waste oils, the healthcare waste and waste containing POPs and PCBs. The new challenges in front of us are plastic waste, household waste and marine litter plastics.

The BCRC with its long-term and short-term activities for the region fulfils the core functions expected from BCRs. The BCRC is actively involved in different working groups (Expert working group on ESM, Expert working group on revision of Annexes of the Basel Convention) and partnership programmes under Basel Convention (ENFORCE, household waste, plastic marine litter, follow up on PACE) along with the main tasks. This participation has given us more opportunities for extending our knowledge in our direct assistance for the region and networking with other experts.

The focus on our workshops, trainings and projects is related to country requirements as well as strategic documents of the Basel Convention. Planned activities are reflected in the Center's Action Plans, "Business Plan", which are being prepared for two-year periods.

With the aim to strengthen synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:

Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste containing POPs and PCBs  
Raising awareness within the synergy of three multilateral environmental conventions  
As part of a strategic plan:

Environmentally sound management of different waste streams:  
waste oils, medical waste, dumping of waste to landfills, batteries and accumulators, E-waste  
The issue of transboundary movement (TBM)  
Fulfillment of the obligations of the Parties to the Basel Convention  
Detection of illegal cross-border waste shipment and its sanction  
Compliance with required reporting obligations

During the above mentioned period of time, we have organized the following regional and global meetings:

- o Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional preparatory

meeting for the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and working session to address regional specific issues related to ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; Riga, Latvia, March 21 - 24, 2017



- o Expert meeting on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and the “Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Stockholm Convention”; Vienna, Austria, October 3 -5, 2017
- o Regional multi-country workshop on waste prevention and minimization and presentation of the toolkit from the Expert working group on ESM; Bratislava, November 28-29, 2017



- o Kick-off meeting for the project **Capacity building on Extended Producer Responsibility implementation in the Republic of Moldova**; February 2018



- o Final workshop to the project **Strengthening of the effective implementation of the Basel Convention with regard to fulfilment of reporting obligation of Moldova**



- o 3 day training on EPR **Capacity building on Extended Producer Responsibility implementation in the Republic of Moldova**; May 2018

- o Final national meeting to the project **Development of Minamata initial Assessment in the Republic of Macedonia; May 2018**



- o Expert meeting on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and the “Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Stockholm Convention”, Bratislava, Slovak republic, October 9-11, 2018
- o MultiCountry Workshop on Management of Waste Containing or Contaminated by Persistent Organic Pollutants; Bratislava, December 6-7, 2018

### **Regarding the project activities**

- ▶ Active approach in preparation and submission of the project proposals for different calls for project proposals for selected countries in our region in accordance with their national priorities and environmental strategies
- ▶ Project “Strengthening of the effective implementation of the Basel Convention with regard to fulfilment of reporting obligation of Moldova” selected for the financial support from the Slovak Aid programme recently finalized.
- ▶ Main project outputs:
  - o Analysis of the current legislation
  - o Proposal for the methodology for the inventory
  - o Study visit for Moldovan experts in the Slovak Republic
  - o Final recommendations

- ▶ pilot project to test the 'Manual on general policies and legislation' and 'Fact sheet on e-waste' from Belarus, Moldova and Montenegro
  - main project outputs:

The manual has been tested in all three countries by national experts.

BCRC in cooperation with the consultant has worked out two checklist. All three countries completed the checklists based on their experience. When the checklists were completed, the report was prepared and submitted to the BCRC and the consultant for their assessment.

The fact sheet on e-waste was tested in all three countries. The first step was filling in the checklist prepared by BCRC and the Consultant. Based on the checklist results and consultants input, the reports were submitted.

After evaluation of the two tested documents, feedback was provided by each involved country describing their experience on working with the tested manual and fact sheet and also containing recommendations on improvement of these two documents.

- ▶ Project selected for the financial support from The Slovak Aid Programme **“Capacity building on Extended Producer Responsibility implementation in the Republic of Moldova” is in progress**
- ▶ Development of Minamata initial Assessment in the Republic of Macedonia in cooperation with Macedonian colleagues with financial support from UNEP/GEF

The Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Report for the Republic of Macedonia provides the review of Mercury Inventory results (Level 2) based on the UN Environment Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases”, Inventory Level 2 (version 1.3, April 2015), initial findings from the policy, regulatory and institutional assessments and provides general recommendations for further prioritized steps toward phasing out mercury and sustainable mercury management in the country. This MIA Report gives an opportunity for a country for the first time to develop a mercury Inventory, to communicate it with all stakeholders in a clear manner and to discuss with them the measures required for the Minamata Convention objectives implementation.

- ▶ Preparation of the educational material to disseminate information on the waste management hierarchy and to spread knowledge on the elements of the individual levels within the hierarchy
- ▶ Active involvement in the ISFP project for European Commission challenge to fight against environmental crime – BCRC is in the position of an associate project partner with the main role to disseminate products
- ▶ New challenge in front of us is our active involvement in the European Topic Centre on Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE) where Slovak environment Agency is one of Consortium partner
- ▶ Preparation of the Activities report for the regional centres evaluation

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