

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014¹

Document prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

This document (AC/WGP-17/Inf.1) was prepared pursuant to Decision IV/8 on strategic planning (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)² adopted by the Aarhus Convention's Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June - 1 July 2011). The Bureau took note of the document at its 28th meeting (28 February 2012) and requested the secretariat to further elaborate the document so that its final version would be ready for information for the Working Group of the Parties at its 17th meeting (Geneva, 26-28 February 2014).

1. The document comprises of the overview of the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009-2014 in connection with the Convention's work programmes for 2009-2011 and for 2012-2014 and the self-assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014 (Addendum 1) completed by Parties to evaluate the progress achieved in accomplishing its objectives.

2. The following documents were used in preparing the overview: report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009-2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9), decision IV/6 on the work programme for 2012-2014 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1), synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention for the 2011 reporting cycle (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7), report on capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8) and report of the Compliance Committee to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2011/11), as well as reports on implementation of the work programme for 2012-2014 prepared during the current intersessional period (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/3, ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/3, ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3), and additional relevant information available to the secretariat. The document was distributed to Parties and stakeholders for inputs on 14 August 2013. It therefore also includes inputs by Parties, implementing partners and other stakeholders received in the consultation process. Inputs were received from the following Parties: Norway, Slovakia and Spain; and are included in Addendum 1. Inputs on capacity building activities were received from the following implementing partners: UNITAR and the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC CEE) and will be reflected in the Report on Capacity-building to be prepared for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties. Inputs were received from the following NGO: Justice and Environment, and are reflected in the main document of the overview.

3. The overview is expected to help to identify those areas of work in which: (i) greatest progress in meeting the strategic plan's objectives has been achieved; and (ii) the progress achieved was not satisfactory. The document thereby aims to assist the Parties in identifying the progress achieved in implementing the current Plan. The Bureau used the draft document for preparing a new Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

4. The following observations were made during the preparation of the document:

(a) the strategic goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are rather ambitious; it was difficult to verify to which extent they have been reached, as no indicators or targets were included in the original Plan; an assessment scale³ could, therefore, be introduced in the document to help to measure the progress;

(b) the national implementation reports by Parties provide only limited information relevant for assessing the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Available from: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop4/Documents/ece_mp_pp_2011_2_add.1_eng.pdf.

³ See Addendum 1.

(c) potential links/interrelation between the focal areas, objectives, indicative types of activities and activities under the work programmes could be interpreted in different ways; it was difficult to find the right balance between providing general descriptions and references to specific activities;

(d) a clearer presentation of the distribution of responsibilities for national implementation and for international cooperation would be helpful for assessing progress;

(e) it was not feasible for the secretariat to thoroughly assess the implementation of those activities specified in the Strategic Plan intended to be implemented not only by the secretariat and the Convention's subsidiary bodies, but also by the Parties, civil society organizations and other partners. Though, inputs received through the consultation process give some further clarity on implementation of those activities in 2009-2014;

(f) enhanced synergies between the future strategic plan and the future work programme will help to better monitor and evaluate the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention.

Overview of the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009-2014

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
Focal area I: Implementation/ Strategic Goal I: Full implementation of the Convention by each Party	I.1: Each Party has a clear, transparent and consistent framework for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, comprising not only the necessary constitutional, legislative and regulatory provisions, but also the operational procedures and mechanisms required for their practical application	Development and review of national framework in consultation with public authorities responsible for implementation and stakeholders.	Parties All concerned public authorities and other concerned stakeholders Secretariat to facilitate technical assistance upon request	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, task forces and capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, task forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.	All Parties demonstrated efforts to implement the Convention. Significant progress was noted in elaborating legislation and developing practices on access to information and public participation. In general, implementation varies across the UNECE region. Countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and in South East Europe (SEE) still need assistance in building capacity and raising awareness in this area. The implementation of the access to justice provisions appears to be the most difficult area for Parties across the region (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)). Details on capacity-building activities carried out by partner organizations are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). Since its establishment, the Compliance Committee has received 96 communications	Although progress was made by the Parties in developing a framework for the implementation of the Convention and it was also supported through the activities under the Convention, the state-of-play varies across the UNECE region. It is unlikely that the objective is achieved by each Party by 2014.	NGO Justice and Environment (J&E): J&E is convinced that the overall implementation of the Convention is lagging behind expectations; therefore this is not only the EECCA and the SEE regions where the countries still need assistance in building capacity and raising awareness in this area. Countries from the EU, both EU – 15 and EU – 10 and EU – 2 alike have gaps in implementation of the Convention into their legal systems. This should be reflected also in the current report.
		Legislative, regulatory and administrative measures.		The activities, among others, included: - promoting the Convention in subregional and national multi-stakeholder workshops and events; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - facilitating the exchange of information and good practices by maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, Convention's website	The activities, among others, included: - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - facilitating the exchange of information and good practices by maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, Convention's website			

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				and jurisprudence database; - facilitating monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention by further developing online reporting system, by organizing a training on how to use it and revising reporting requirements.	Implementation Guide; - continuing to facilitate monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention by maintaining online reporting system and by conducting relevant surveys and analysing their results.	from members of the public and 1 submission from a Party. The communications concerned compliance of 27 Parties (approx. 59% of all Parties). 25 communications (26%) were considered non-admissible and in 30 communications the Parties concerned were found to be in non-compliance. Presently (as of January 2014), 21 communications are pending consideration on compliance by the Compliance Committee. No Party has made a submission concerning its own compliance. No referral has been submitted by the secretariat. As of today, the Meeting of the Parties endorsed the Committee's findings that 11 Parties, including 6 Parties from the EECCA region and 1 from SEE, were in state of non-compliance with the Convention (Reports of the Compliance Committee) and made recommendations for them.		
		Updating of the Implementation Guide to the Convention if necessary.		The secretariat has assisted the Parties in updating the Implementation Guide.	Text version of the second edition of the Implementation Guide was made available electronically in April 2013; print copy including an interactive online		The activity was implemented.	

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					version will be available in 2014.			
		Development and implementation of national-level profiles, assessments and action plans through a participatory intersectoral and multi-stakeholder process.		No requests were received by the Secretariat to provide technical assistance in developing national level profiles, assessments and action plans.	No information available.	<p>Action plans were developed by several Parties to implement the recommendations of the Compliance Committee (e.g. Lithuania and Ukraine).</p> <p>The Republic of Moldova adopted a Programme for strengthening the capacity of communication and implementation of the Aarhus Convention for 2011-2020.</p> <p>Regarding the national-level profiles, in early 2003, UNECE together with UNITAR developed a pilot programme to assist countries in preparing a national profile to assess their capacities to implement the Aarhus Convention. Such profile was developed only for Tajikistan and published in 2009.</p> <p>UNITAR has switched focus to the countries in Africa (Botswana, Mali and Congo) and Latin America (Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Panama, El Salvador and Nicaragua) to prepare their national profile on Rio Principle</p>	Not enough information for the proper evaluation of the progress in achieving the objective. The development of the national-level profiles, except for Tajikistan, was not done.	

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						10. (Capacity-building report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8)). It appeared that Parties preferred to devote resources to develop and implement action plans and/or to follow up on the implementation of the Convention's Compliance Committee recommendations rather than to initiate and keep under review national-level profiles. (AC/WG-15/Inf.2, para. 42)		
	I.2: Each Party's implementation framework and procedures are adequate not only to ensure application of the Convention in a national context, but also to guarantee its application, where necessary, in transboundary situations, without discrimination as to citizenship,	Review of national framework to identify and amend any inconsistent provisions.	Parties	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, the work under the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising. In particular, promotion of the Convention during a joint event with the Espoo Convention as well as during the meetings under the auspices of the Espoo Convention and other multilateral environmental	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, work under the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Additionally, the objective was pursued through: - exploring synergies and cooperating with relevant bodies under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA; the Water Convention and the Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information	The majority of the reporting Parties stated that they provide for the principles of non-discrimination and equality before the law in accordance with article 3, para. 9. Many Parties also mentioned synergies in implementing the public participation procedures under the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions. Some countries that are Parties to both the Aarhus and the Espoo Conventions underlined the application of the public participation provisions of the latter in transboundary projects. Concerning the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination	The objective was properly addressed by the activities under the Convention, however, it is unlikely to be accomplished by each Party by the end of 2014.	NGO Justice and Environment: There should be a research carried out and possibly a set of pilot projects started on the topic by UNECE, where the application of the Convention in transboundary situations would be analyzed and monitored. This could give more input into the evaluation on how this part of the Convention is applied.

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	nationality or domicile.			agreements addressing transboundary aspects has contributed to pursuing the objective.	(ANCCLI) by organizing joint meetings in 2012 and 2013 under the Task Force on Public Participation in decision-making; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency capacity-building coordination meetings; - providing recommendations on public participation in decision-making.	requirement in article 3, paragraph 9, of the Convention, most Parties reported on progress in the incorporation of relevant definitions in the context of public participation provisions into their national legal frameworks; however, steps need to be taken to further clarify some definitions under national law. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). Details on capacity-building activities carried out by partners are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8; AC/WG-15/Inf.2).		
	I.3: In implementing the Convention, each Party not only complies with its mandatory provisions, but also strives to give effect to its provisions whose application is discretionary.	Consideration of possible measures to give effect to recommendatory provisions. Pilot projects followed by broader application.	Parties	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, work under the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Additionally, the objective was pursued through: - facilitating exchange of information and	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, work under the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. The objective was addressed at the subregional meeting for the Central Asia countries in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 22 and 23 May 2012, the meetings of the Task Forces and during the	No specific information was provided in the synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7) and the report on capacity building (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8). The issue was brought to the attention of the partners at the 7th capacity-building coordination meeting (see report AC/WG-15/Inf.2). An online compendium of good practices is currently being developed by the secretariat.	Due to the lack of information, it is premature to make a comprehensive assessment.	

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				<p>sharing good practice in this area by maintaining and developing of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention's website;</p> <p>- facilitating monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the discretionary provisions of the Convention by further developing online reporting system and organizing a training on how to use it;</p> <p>- providing recommendations by the Compliance Committee to Parties, which although were not found in non-compliance, were advised to make some changes in their law and practice (e.g., ACCC/C/2008/35 (Georgia).</p>	<p>realization of a project in Belarus.</p> <p>To facilitate the exchange of information and good practices, case studies on (a) public participation at the national level and (b) public participation in international forums was made available online. In addition, the Aarhus Clearinghouse, the Convention's website and the jurisprudence database are maintained and continue to be populated. In response to calls for more practical guidance on how to improve the implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation in decision-making and in accordance with the decision IV/6 the recommendations on public participation in decision-making were prepared.</p>			

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	I.4: Environmental education is widely available and promotes active and responsible behaviour among the public as regards the environment, including the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Convention	Formal and non-formal environmental and citizenship education programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational institutions - Local and regional authorities - Media - NGOs 	<p>The activities of implementing partners to accomplish the objective were supported through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparing and widely disseminating (in particular to education institutions) the information about the Convention and good practices of its implementation through publications, press-releases and fact sheets as well as through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and UNECE website; - commissioning the analytical studies to be used in the trainings and for other educational purposes; - updating the Implementation Guide to be used in the trainings and for other educational purposes; - developing the Communication Strategy; 	<p>The activities of implementing partners to accomplish the objective were supported through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementing the Communication Strategy; - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse, the UNECE website and online jurisprudence database; - preparing leaflets; publications; news bulletins; articles and brochure on the Convention in six UN languages; - making available online case studies on (a) public participation at the national level and (b) public participation in international forums; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing its an interactive online version. 	<p>A wide range of measures to promote education and environmental awareness were reported by Parties, with environmental education (EE) and education on sustainable development (ESD) being included among the key criteria for curricular development.</p> <p>National laws, strategies and programmes have been developed to strengthen EE/ESD, especially after the adoption of the UNECE Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in 2005 and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014).</p> <p>In some countries schools are honoured for their special commitment in the fields of environmental education, environmentally sound action and the promotion of a socially viable school environment.</p> <p>Special seminars, guidelines and e-education tools were published. Various environmental bodies, enforcement agencies and other organizations run specific environmental awareness programmes, sometimes in</p>	<p>The objective is expected to be accomplished by the majority of the Parties.</p> <p>In addition to the relevant activities under the Convention, the accomplishment of the objective is very much supported through the implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD.</p>	<p>NGO Justice and Environment: We believe that also Competent Authorities should be involved into educational activities, and instead of Environmental Education (EE), there should be more emphasis on Aarhus Convention Education (ACE). The reason for this is that unlike regarding the Kyoto Protocol, the majority of the public has no idea on what the Aarhus Convention is about and what it guarantees to the public.</p>

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				<p>- promoting the Convention at subregional and national multi-stakeholder workshops and events;</p> <p>- contributing to the development of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms adopted by the COP/MOP of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>		<p>conjunction with schools. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)).</p>		
	I.5: Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government are aware of the obligations under the Convention and allocate as far as possible the resources needed to comply with them	Information, training, organizational and budgetary measures. Strengthening of national focal points. Regional, subregional and national capacity-building activities.	<p>- Parties</p> <p>- All public authorities concerned within Parties,</p> <p>- Secretariat, in cooperation with other agencies</p>	<p>The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including though the compliance mechanism, work of the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>Additionally, the activities of implementing partners were supported by the secretariat through:</p>	<p>The accomplishment of the objective was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, work of the Task Forces, capacity-building activities and awareness-raising.</p> <p>Additionally, the activities of implementing partners were supported by the secretariat through:</p> <p>- preparing and widely disseminating publications, analytical studies and press-releases; contributing</p>	<p>The Parties reported about efforts and successes in using and making available information through the electronic information tools and Aarhus Centres.</p> <p>Parties from all subregions reported obstacles in collecting and disseminating environmental information as well as public participation in decision-making, such as financial constraints, lack of trained staff and relevant equipment or lack of collaboration between authorities (Synthesis report</p>	<p>The objective is addressed by the activities under the auspices of the Convention. However, the Parties repeatedly reported on the constraints in achieving the objective. Not enough information to assess the allocation of resources at the national level and strengthening national focal points. Therefore, it is foreseen that the</p>	<p>NGO Justice and Environment: In the implementation of this obligation, not only Ministries of Environment but also line ministries responsible for natural resources and infrastructure should be participating actively.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - promoting the Convention at the subregional and national multi-stakeholders workshops and events; - preparing and widely disseminating publications, analytical studies and press-releases; contributing to UNECE publications; - providing the public authorities with wide and easy access to information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, UNECE website and online jurisprudence database; - providing various information at the request of the national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to UNECE publications; - implementing the Communication Strategy; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version; - continuing to provide wide and easy access for the public authorities to the information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, UNECE website and online jurisprudence database as well as through online case studies on public participation in decision-making at the national level and in international forums; - providing information at the request of national focal points. 	(ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partner organizations are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3).	objective may not be fully accomplished by each Party.	

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				focal points; - developing the Communication Strategy; - preparing a template by the Task Force on Public Participation for exchange of good practices.				
	I.6: The Convention leads to the development of an open administrative culture which supports public participation and transparency in environmental matters and values them as positive contributions to democratic, effective and good governance. Public officials concerned have and apply the knowledge and skills to	Political support at highest level. Reward and encourage proactive officials. Exchange of best practices. Capacity-building for officials at all levels.	Parties	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including though the compliance mechanism, task forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Additionally, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - ensuring the transparency of the compliance mechanism and full access to its correspondence; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities including the compliance mechanism, task forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Additionally, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - ensuring the transparency of the compliance mechanism and full access to its correspondence; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - implementing the Communication Strategy;	Details on capacity-building carried out by partner organizations activities are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2). Aarhus Centres in many countries have enabled the development of a new model and understanding, whereby public institutions, local and regional administrations and NGOs jointly address environmental challenges in their localities and seek solutions. As of January 2014 there are 56 Aarhus Centres in 13 countries in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia), Eastern Europe (Republic of Moldova, Belarus), Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), and Central Asia	No information is available regarding rewarding and encouraging proactive officials and best practices of the Parties in achieving the objective.	NGO Justice and Environment: J&E is convinced that this objective is poorly implemented and Parties to the Convention simply do not take this obligation seriously enough.

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	provide assistance and guidance to the public to facilitate the exercise of its rights.			<p>the inter-agency coordination meetings;</p> <p>- developing the Communication Strategy;</p> <p>-responding to requests from public officials;</p> <p>- providing wide and easy access for the public officials to the information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention's website;</p> <p>- facilitating monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the discretionary provisions of the Convention by further developing an online reporting system and organizing a training on how to use it.</p>	<p>- continuing to provide wide and easy access for the public authorities to the information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, UNECE website and online jurisprudence database, and through online case studies on public participation in decision-making at the national level and in international forums;</p> <p>- preparing recommendations on public participation in decision-making at the national level.</p>	<p>(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan). Increasingly, governments are taking over responsibility for supporting Aarhus Centres from the OSCE, which indicates great interest in this establishment and will contribute to the Centres' sustainability.</p> <p>Parties from all subregions reported obstacles in public participation in decision-making, such as financial constraints, lack of trained staff and relevant equipment or lack of collaboration between authorities (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)).</p>		

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	I.7: Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government have well-established information policies and mechanisms, under which environmental information of high quality is routinely provided and proactively disseminated to the public in a user-friendly manner, making full use of electronic tools where available	Establishment of systems to collect environmental information, including environment-related health information. Establishment of public registers and information centres. Establishment of electronic databases and national nodes in accordance with decision II/3.	- Parties - All public authorities concerned within Parties, - All stakeholders, including health professionals' organizations - Secretariat to facilitate technical assistance upon request	The objective accomplishment was supported through the compliance mechanism, work of the Task Force on Information Electronic Tools and capacity-building activities. The activities of the implementing partners were also supported through: - promoting good practices and informing about challenges in this area by means of organizing or participating in multi-stakeholder meetings and events (e.g. a Workshop on Electronic Information Tools to Support the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe (Skopje; 25-26 November 2010); -building capacities of the Aarhus Centres by way of participating in their meetings and disseminating	The objective accomplishment was supported through several activities, including the compliance mechanism, work of the Task Force on Access to Information and capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. The activities of the Parties and implementing partners were also supported through: - promoting good practices and information at the meetings of the Task Force on Access to Information and the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making; - participating in the meetings of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; - ensuring synergies of capacity-building activities by means of the inter-agency coordination meetings; - continuing to provide wide and easy access to	Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partner organizations activities are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2). The issue was brought to the attention of the partners at the 7th capacity-building coordination meeting. As for the status of implementation, in most countries, the basic legal framework regarding the collection and dissemination of environmental information had mostly been developed by 2008, and had been incorporated in environmental protection laws, sectoral laws and city construction laws and regulations, as well as forest and mining legislation, etc.) or laws regarding emergency situations. Additional information on the establishment of the Aarhus Centres is provided under the item (objective) I.6. EU countries and Norway reported that the mandatory national environmental systems continued to apply, ensuring not only the active dissemination of	Although progress was made by the Parties in accomplishing the objective, more purposive activities are needed to ensure its proper achievement.	

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				<p>information;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention's website, developing and managing the online database on jurisprudence. 	<p>information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, Convention's website and online jurisprudence database as well as through online case studies on public participation in decision-making at the national level and in international forums;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -building capacities of the Aarhus Centres by way of participating in their meetings and disseminating information; - exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements; - contributing to relevant international forums dedicated to electronic information tools. 	<p>general environmental information to the public, but also providing information to the public and public authorities about proposed and existing activities which may significantly affect the environment. Similar environmental information systems are being established in the countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and in South East European countries.</p> <p>All countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and in South East Europe reported on new efforts and successes in using and making available environmental information through the activities of the Aarhus Centres and through the development of electronic information tools.</p> <p>At the same time, the national legislation in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia does not adequately address some of the Convention definitions, such as "environmental information" and "public authority".</p> <p>Parties from all subregions reported obstacles in collecting and disseminating</p>		

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						<p>environmental information, such as financial constraints, lack of trained staff and relevant equipment or lack of collaboration between authorities. Other implementation problems included the lack of explanation from public authorities when refusing requests for information, the failure to meet deadlines, or sometimes the failure to respond. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). Other relevant reference documents are: decision IV/1 on access to information (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1), Recommendations set out in decision II/3 (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.4), Communication Strategy (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2) and the Workplan for the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making.</p> <p>Overview of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of articles 4 and 5 of the Convention is provided in document AC/TF.AI/Inf.2.</p> <p>Information on implementation of the Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties on</p>		

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						Electronic Information Tools (Decision II/3) is provided in document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4).		
	I.8: Within the framework of an overall environmental information policy, each Party has established a coherent, integrated, nationwide pollutant release and transfer register designed for effective use by public authorities and maximum ease of public access through electronic means, which facilitates the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Convention and provides incentives for industry, in addition to those	Establishment of pollutant release and transfer registers.	Parties Secretariat to facilitate technical assistance upon request	Since the entry into force of the Protocol on PRTRs in 2009 and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2010, the objective was addressed through the activities under the Protocol carried out in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its first session.	Activities related to awareness raising, promotion of the Aarhus Convention and access to information were carried out in synergy with the relevant activities under current work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011-2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1).	Additional information is provided in the report and the decisions adopted the Meeting of the Parties to the PRTR Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2 and Add.1). EU countries took measures to implement Regulation 166/2006 concerning the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR), which requires the creation of a new and broader national register of emissions (PRTR Register) to replace the existing system of Government registers on pollutants. EECCA countries demonstrated relatively slow speed in ratification of the PRTR Protocol. Various capacity-building events and pilot projects were taken place to promote the Protocol (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7))	The objective is expected to be addressed though the activities under the Protocol on PRTRs.	
		Dissemination and use of guidance document.		The Guidance on implementation of the PRTR Protocol (in English and Russian) and Simplified Guide on PRTRs (English and Russian) have been published and widely disseminated.	The Guidance on implementation of the PRTR Protocol in Spanish has been published and widely disseminated. Simplified Guide on PRTRs in French was published in 2012 and reprinted in all ECE languages in 2013.	Details of capacity-building		

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	provided by other relevant instruments, to prevent and reduce pollution	Regional and subregional capacity-building activities.		The objective was addressed by the Secretariat through the organization of workshops (Minsk (2011) and side-events (Chisinau (2011), Astana (2011), participation in the capacity-building events and pilot projects.	The objective was addressed in the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011-2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1).	activities carried out by partner organizations with regard to PRTRs are provided in the capacity-building report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8).	The activity is expected to be implemented.	
	I.9 Public participation procedures are regarded by public authorities and all other actors concerned as an integral part of the preparation of policies, plans, programmes and projects which may have a significant effect on the environment, and are implemented in their full scope. Prospective applicants are,	Information and organizational measures to facilitate public participation procedures. Training of officials and executives in communication with the general public.	- All permitting authorities within Parties - Private sector	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings; - work of the Expert Group on Public Participation and then the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making; - compliance mechanism; - promoting the Convention in the	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - the work under the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making; - capacity-building activities coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings; - collecting case studies and information on obstacles to and good practices in implementing the Convention's relevant provisions and making case studies online; - preparing recommendations on public participation in decision-	Many countries use the same public participation procedures for policies as they do for plans and programmes, and these may be similar to the public participation process under EIA, and sometimes there is no specific public participation procedure or a special definition for "policies". The Parties report that all relevant practical arrangements and other provisions have been made for the public to participate in the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment. Such arrangements may be stipulated by law or organized on an ad hoc basis. Although some obstacles in implementing this objective	Although progress was made by the Parties in making practical arrangements for public participation in the preparation of policies, plans, programmes and projects, the accomplishment of the objective depends on the development of a clear regulatory framework by each Party.	NGO Justice and Environment: We are convinced that taking into account the importance of this topic, there is highly insignificant attention paid to it.

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	where appropriate, encouraged to undertake proactive efforts to identify and inform the public concerned and enter into discussions with them at an early stage of planning, allowing for the effective participation of all interested members of the public			meetings and events under auspices of the Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol; - updating the Implementation Guide.	making; - the compliance mechanism; - cooperating with relevant bodies under the Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol, Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention and the Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information (ANCCLI); - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.	were reported by the countries. EU member States transposed relevant EU instruments into their national legislation. Several countries in SEE and EECCA subregions also undertook practical arrangements to implement SEA procedures, including public participation. It has been observed, however, that there is not enough clarity on what a "plan", a "programme" or a "policy" means under the Convention and this may impede proper implementation. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partner organizations are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8).		
	I.10: Each Party ensures access to administrative or judicial review procedures which can provide timely and effective remedies to members of the public who	Legislative measures. Information measures. Establishment of assistance mechanisms where appropriate. Elimination of financial and other barriers	- Parties - Secretariat and donors to facilitate advice and assistance	The objective accomplishment was supported through: - the compliance mechanism (7 communications regarding article 9, para.4); - the work under the Task Force on Access	Access to Justice has received particular priority in the work programme 2012-2014. The accomplishment of the objective was supported through: - promoting good practices and information at meetings of the Task Force	The implementation of the access to justice provisions of the Convention appears to be the most difficult area for Parties to implement, although not all Parties reflected on obstacles to implementation. Two of the main issues addressed in most reports were the regulation of the rights of	Access to justice remains the most difficult area for the implementation and it is unlikely to be accomplished by each Party by 2014.	NGO Justice and Environment: Aarhus Convention's Compliance Committee, the Task Force system and the renewed Implementation Guide do not offer universal solutions to all problems of the implementation of the

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	consider that their rights under the Convention have not been respected, and empower members of the public, where they meet the criteria, if any, laid down in national law, to challenge acts and omissions which contravene provisions of national environmental law. Any such criteria should be established taking fully into account the Convention's objective of guaranteeing access to justice. Each Party undertakes genuine efforts to reduce and eliminate financial and other barriers	which may prevent access to review procedures.		to Justice; - preparing and widely discussing the analytical studies on access to justice with focus on available remedies, timeliness and costs; - developing and supporting the jurisprudence database in the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website; - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional level (subregional workshops for high-level judges). The activities were coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings; - updating the Implementation Guide.	on Access to Justice; - analytical studies carried out under auspices of the Task Force on Access to Justice - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, using materials produced by the Task Force (e.g. a workshop for high-level judges and judicial training institutions from the Central Asia in 2012). The activities were coordinated through inter-agency coordination meetings; - strengthening cooperation with existing networks of judges and other legal professionals; - collecting, examining and making on-line case summaries for the jurisprudence database; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.	environmental NGOs to seek judicial or administrative remedies for collective interests (standing) and financial barriers. Parties are aware of the difficulties and many efforts have been reported that demonstrate that Parties are keen to promote implementation of this pillar of the Convention. For instance, Parties reported on ongoing judicial reforms and the establishment of judicial bodies; the adoption of new laws stipulating standing criteria or the initiative of the judiciary to embrace a wider interpretation of the existing standing criteria; and the practice for provision of legal aid. However, the progress is slow and a number of obstacles still exist. It would be useful for Parties to continue exchanging experiences on good practices with regard to access to justice (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)). Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partner organizations with focus on access to justice are provided in the capacity-building report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2).		Convention. Specifically, with regard to this objective, it is far from true.

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	which may prevent access to such review procedures and establishes, where appropriate, assistance mechanisms to that end.					Jurisprudence database and analytical studies serve as an additional source of information on good practices and challenges in this area. Other relevant reference document is: Decision IV/2 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1).		
	I.11: Judges, public prosecutors and other legal professionals are familiar with the provisions of the Convention and are ready to exercise their respective responsibilities to uphold them	Information, training and capacity-building measures for legal professionals in accordance with decision II/2.	- Ministries of Justice or similar national bodies - Judicial training centres - Law schools - Professional organizations - NGOs	The objective was addressed through: - work under the Task Force on Access to Justice; - preparing and widely discussing the analytical studies on access to justice with focus on available remedies, timeliness and costs; - wide dissemination of the materials produced within the Convention's activities through the different groups of legal professionals; - developing and supporting the jurisprudence database	Access to Justice has received a particular priority in the work programme 2012-2014. The objective was addressed through: - the work under the Task Force on Access to Justice; - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, using materials produced by the Task Force (e.g. a workshop for high-level judges and judicial training institutions from the Central Asia). The activities were be coordinated through inter-agency coordination meetings; - strengthening cooperation	Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on access to justice are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WGP-15/Inf.1, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). Jurisprudence database and analytical studies serve as an additional source of information on good practices and challenges in this area. Other relevant reference document is: Decision IV/2 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1).	Access to justice remains the most difficult area for the implementation and it is unlikely to be accomplished by each Party by 2014.	NGO Justice and Environment: Here the evaluation of the draft report is too negative, and possibly this is the area where the most detectable progress can be witnessed, especially due to the small size of the target group and the many targeted action at raising the awareness of the judiciary.

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				<p>in the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional level (subregional workshops for high-level judges). The activities were coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings; - updating the Implementation Guide. 	<p>with existing networks of judges and other legal professionals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing analytical and training materials; - collecting, examining and making on-line case-studies; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version. - continuing to provide wide and easy access to information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, Convention's website and online jurisprudence database; 			
	I.12: Each Party provides for appropriate recognition of and support to civil society organizations promoting environmental	Establishment of supportive legislative and fiscal framework. Provision of capacity-building and financial assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties - Donor institutions - Capacity-building institutions 	<p>The objective was addressed through the work of Task Forces, the capacity-building activities coordinated by way of the inter-agency meetings and awareness raising.</p> <p>In most cases capacity-</p>	<p>The objective was addressed through the work of Task Forces, the capacity-building activities to be coordinated by the way of the inter-agency coordination meetings and awareness raising.</p> <p>Additionally, the activities</p>	<p>Many EU countries and Norway, as well as some EECCA countries reported on their established practice of regularly including NGOs in environmental decision-making bodies, working groups or advisory bodies, official coordination meetings and round</p>	<p>Not enough information to assess the fiscal framework and financial assistance of NGOs and a progress in "whistleblower" protection.</p> <p>The objective will be</p>	<p>NGO Justice and Environment: It is a commonplace that there is not enough support to civil society organizations throughout the entire ECE area, especially in the EECCA and the</p>

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	protection as important actors in advancing democratic debate on environmental policies, raising public awareness, and mobilizing and assisting citizens in exercising their rights under the Convention and contributing to its implementation .	Consideration of measures for the implementation of article 3, paragraph 8, such as “whistleblower ” protection. Consideration of other tools to achieve objective.		building activities at the national and subregional levels were multi-stakeholders and foresaw participation of non-governmental organizations and activists. In particular, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - providing wide and easy access for public officials and the public to the information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention’s website; - raising awareness among the public about the Convention by the way preparing and widely disseminating publications, analytical studies and press-releases; contributing to publications; - updating the	of the implementing partners were supported through: - preparing and widely disseminating publications, analytical studies and press-releases; contributing to publications; - continuing to provide wide and easy access for public officials and the public to information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention’s website as well as making online case studies on public participation in decision-making at national level and maintain the jurisprudence database; - providing recommendations on public participation in decision-making at the national level; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.	tables with ministries of environment, although the possibilities of NGOs to influence decisions varied from country to country. Some EU and EECCA countries reported having in place simple procedures for registration of NGOs. However, to pursue this objective several Parties should implement decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties on their compliance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. Several Parties — mainly EU countries and Norway — provide financial support to NGOs under different grant schemes. Some countries mentioned indirect support for environmental associations or groups, which includes exemption from direct and indirect taxes for qualifying fund-raising activities by registered charities, as well as tax relief on charitable donations from individuals. With regard to obstacles concerning assistance to the public, notwithstanding considerable progress, some countries noted that not all public authorities have	unlikely accomplished by each Party by 2014.	SEE countries. This should be highlighted.

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				Implementation Guide to provide the public officials and the public the detailed guidance on the implementation of the Convention's provisions.		<p>established a bureau of public affairs or equivalent services responsible for providing information to and contact with the public, mainly due to a lack of resources. There is also a lack of inter-ministerial coordination on these issues. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7))</p> <p>The Bureau decided that, in exceptional situations that might imply non-compliance with article 3, paragraph 8, of the Convention, the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties, after consultation with other Bureau members, would send a letter to the Party concerned soliciting information and clarifying the matter. The procedure is intended as a prompt reaction to any severe incidents that might entail non-compliance with the Convention. The Bureau agreed that the correspondence between the Bureau and the Party will be posted on the Convention's website.</p> <p>Up to date the Bureau initiated the procedure in 2012 in a matter related to the killing of the environmental activist in Ukraine.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Bureau</p>		

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						<p>members agreed that such incidents should be brought to the attention of their countries' diplomatic representations in the Party concerned.</p> <p>Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on NGOs support are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3).</p> <p>Within the compliance mechanism, the communicants' requests for confidentiality are respected.</p>		
	I.13: Civil society organizations and the general public are aware of their rights under the Convention and assert them to effectively engage in addressing environmental and sustainable development issues and to advance both environmental protection and	Public awareness campaigns. Financial and other support for public interest environmental NGOs, including environmental law organizations.	- Parties - Civil society organizations - Donors	<p>The activities of the implementing partners were supported through several activities, including the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>In addition, financial support was provided to NGO representatives for the meetings under auspice of the Convention as well as communicants to participate in the Compliance Committee meetings.</p>	<p>The objective was addressed through the work of Task Forces, the capacity-building activities to be coordinated by the way of the inter-agency coordination meetings and awareness raising.</p> <p>Additionally, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through:</p> <p>- preparing and widely disseminating publications, analytical studies and press-realises; contributing to publications;</p>	<p>Several Parties — mainly EU countries and Norway — provide financial support to NGOs under different grant schemes. Some countries mentioned indirect support for environmental associations or groups, which includes exemption from direct and indirect taxes for qualifying fund-raising activities by registered charities, as well as tax relief on charitable donations from individuals.</p> <p>Recent cuts in public administration budgets, due to the economic crisis, pose challenges to keeping financial</p>	<p>Not enough information to assess the fiscal framework and financial assistance for NGOs. The objective might be accomplished in many Parties by 2014.</p>	<p>NGO Justice and Environment: There is insufficient financial aid and support to the NGOs actively involved into the implementation of the Convention, especially to the public interest environmental law offices operated by NGOs in the Parties to the Convention.</p>

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	good governance, thus contributing to sustainable development			The participation of civil society organizations and the general public in a number of international forums relating to the environment were considered at the meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and back-to-back workshops with the broad participation of non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of invited international forums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continuing to provide wide and easy access for the public to information about the Convention and its implementation through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse, Convention's website and the jurisprudence database as well as making online case studies on public participation in decision-making at national level; - continuing to facilitate monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention by maintaining online reporting system; - providing recommendations on public participation in decision-making at the national level; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version. 	support to environmental NGOs at previous levels (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). Capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on NGOs support are reflected in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3).		
	I.14: The Convention's mechanism for	Review of submissions, communications and referrals.	Compliance Committee Meeting of the Parties	The Compliance Committee held: 4 meetings in 2009;	The Compliance Committee continued to: - review submissions,	Since its establishment, the Compliance Committee has received 96 communications and	The objective will be fully accomplished by 2014.	NGO Justice and Environment: J&E agrees with the evaluation of the

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	compliance review fulfils the role of an effective instrument to address compliance problems that cannot be resolved at the national level. The findings and recommendations of the Compliance Committee are regarded by Parties as an authoritative source of advice on the implementation of the Convention and are used by them to improve their national practices in the best way possible	Preparation and publication of findings and recommendations. Thematic review of generic compliance problems.	(MOP) Parties	4 meetings in 2010; 5 meetings in 2011. In 2009, 2010 and 2011 (up to April 2011) 23 new communications received. The Committee: - considered all new communications with respect their admissibility; - reviewed progress on the implementation of decisions on compliance by individual Parties adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its third session; - reported to the Meeting of the Parties on general compliance issues and reporting requirements; - undertook a mission to Turkmenistan to assist the Party to comply with the Convention.	referrals and communications on cases of alleged non-compliance; - review the implementation by individual Parties of the decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and concerning their compliance with the Convention; - prepare findings and reports; - undertake fact-finding missions; The secretariat continued to: - service the Compliance Committee; - publicize the mechanism; - contribute to database of cases.	1 submission from a Party. The communications concerned compliance of 27 Parties (approx.. 59% of all Parties). 25 communications (26%) were considered non-admissible and in 30 cases the Parties were found in non-compliance. As of January 2014 21 communications are pending consideration before the Compliance Committee. No Party has made a submission concerning its own compliance. In addition, 9 Parties including 6 Parties from the EECCA region) were found by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session in non-compliance with the Convention. (Reports of the Compliance Committee). The Meeting of the Parties through decision IV/4 has expanded the reporting requirements on following up on issues of compliance. Other relevant reference documents are: Decision IV/9 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1) and decisions regarding the individual Parties (9 of them were found in non-compliance		report in this regard.

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						by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session).		
	I.15: The impact of civil society's contribution to environmental management and sustainable development is better understood, documented and evaluated	Research studies on the impact of civil society's contribution to environmental management and sustainable development.	Parties Civil society organizations Academic institutions	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - the work of the Task Forces with regard to exchanging information and collecting examples of good practices; - facilitating monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention by further developing the online reporting system, organizing training on how to use it and revising reporting requirements. - facilitating exchange of information and good practices by means of the maintenance and development of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website.	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - making available on-line case studies (a) public participation at the national level and (b) public participation in international forums; - continuing to facilitate monitoring of the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention by maintaining an online reporting system.		No information available about research studies on the impact of civil society's contribution to environmental management and sustainable development.	NGO Justice and Environment: The lack of information is really painful in this matter, and it demands for a targeted research to uncover the impact of civil society on sustainable development.

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	I.16: The Convention is neither applied nor interpreted by Parties as implying any derogation from existing rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters	—	Parties	The objective accomplishment was supported by the secretariat and other partners through several activities, including through the compliance mechanism, the work of the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.	The objective accomplishment continued to get support through several activities, including through the compliance mechanism, the work of the Task Forces, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.	Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on general implementation of the Convention are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3).	The objective is expected to be fully achieved by each Party.	
B. Focal Area II: Expansion Strategic Goal II: Increase the impact of the Convention in the UNECE region and beyond and ensure the entry into force of the Protocol on PRTRs	II.1: The number of Parties to the Convention within the UNECE region continues to increase steadily throughout the period of the plan	Build public and political support for ratification in non-Parties. Bilateral consultations to discuss and overcome obstacles to ratification; provision of assistance upon request.	- Secretariat - Civil society organizations - Parties - Interested non-Party UNECE States	The objective was addressed by the Secretariat through: - awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention within and outside UNECE region; - promoting the Convention at various multi-stakeholders meetings, workshops and conferences and in international forums,	The objective was addressed by the Secretariat through: - promotion of the Convention at various multi-stakeholders meetings, workshops and conferences and in international forums, including Rio +20; - use of bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the	The number of the Parties to the Convention has reached 46. The President of the Russian Federation made a political statement regarding ratification of the Convention. Mongolia has expressed its interest in the Convention. According to information available to the secretariat, the draft proposal on the accession of Mongolia to the Aarhus Convention was still undergoing an inter-ministerial commenting procedure. http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ra	The objective is expected to be partially achieved.	

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				including 7 th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” and Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio +20 held in 2011; - arranging the participation of officials and representatives of the non-governmental organization from the non-Parties (e.g. Russian Federation and Uzbekistan); - joint events with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements; - analytical studies with the extended geographical scope on non-Parties; - maintaining the UNECE website as well as the Aarhus Clearinghouse.	Convention, e.g., the Economic Commission for the Latin America and the Caribbean, the European Neighbourhood policy; - missions to non-Parties organized at the request of host Governments; - implementation of the Communication Strategy; - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention’s website; - raising awareness through leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles, datasheets and other materials, including a promotion brochure on the Convention in six United Nations languages.	tification.html In February 2011 the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties sent a formal letter to the Signatories (Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Switzerland) calling on the countries to ratify (accept or approve) the Convention. Since then, Iceland and Ireland have ratified the Convention and Switzerland is in the process of finalizing the ratification.		
	II.2: The Protocol on PRTRs is ratified by a sufficient	Complete national approval procedures.	Parties	The Protocol on PRTRs entered into force on 8 October 2009 and the first	The objective was not addressed in the Work Programme 2012-2014.	Further activities are defined at Protocol’s Work Programme for 2011–2014 and other key decisions adopted by the	The objective was accomplished.	

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	number of Parties so that it can enter into force as soon as possible and its first meeting of the Parties can be held in 2009			session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 April 2010. The first meetings of the Bureau, the Compliance Committee and the Working Group of the Parties were held on 14 and 27-28 January 2011 and 28-29 November 2011 respectively.		Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2 and add.1). As of January 2014, the Protocol on PRTRs has 38 Signatories and 33 Parties (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html). EECCA countries demonstrated relatively low speed of the ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs. Various capacity-building events and pilot projects were organized to promote the Protocol. More detailed information on the regional, subregional and national capacity-building activities is presented in the capacity-building report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8).		
	II.3: The amendment to the Convention on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and the placing	Complete national approval procedures.	Parties	The objective accomplishment was supported by the secretariat through: - participating in and organizing workshops regarding GMOs (e.g. organization of a joint workshop with the secretariat of	The objective accomplishment was supported by the secretariat through: - using the Aarhus Clearinghouse to facilitate exchange of information on good practices; - organizing an expert	The Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session welcomed the efforts of the 26 Parties that had ratified the GMO amendment thus far, while noting that the Republic of Moldova was the only State from EECCA region to have done so, and called upon those Parties to the Aarhus Convention which had not yet	Accomplishment of the objective is seriously delayed and it is not expected to be achieved by 2014. 27 Parties have ratified the amendment, as of February 2014.	

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	on the market of genetically modified organisms is approved by a sufficient number of Parties to enter into force by 2009			<p>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Nagoya, Japan on 8 and 9 October 2010; participation in the 5th European Conference on GM-Free regions and 13th European Biosafety Association Annual Conference);</p> <p>- facilitating exchange of information and good practises through the Aarhus Clearinghouse;</p> <p>- preparing articles and contributing to the UNECE publications (e.g. UNECE/ FAO sourcebook, International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy instruments for Europe);</p> <p>- contributing to the development of the programme of work 2011-2015 on public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms adopted by the COP/MOP of the Convention on</p>	<p>round table in cooperation with the secretariat of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2013;</p> <p>- cooperating and providing support to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the implementation of its programme of work 2011-2015 on public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms;</p> <p>- preparing and widely disseminating the information about the Convention and good practices of its implementation through publications, press-releases and fact sheets as well as through maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and UNECE website;</p> <p>- finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version which provides detailed guidance on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and its</p>	<p>ratified the amendment to do so in order that it might enter into force as soon as possible (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2).</p> <p>In February 2011, the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties sent a formal letter to the Parties to the Convention who were Party to the Convention at the time the amendment was adopted and who had not yet ratified the amendment, calling on them to proceed with ratification (the amendment will enter into force once ratified by three quarters of those Parties that were Parties at the time of the adoption of the amendment). Letters were sent to: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Furthermore the Working Group of the Parties (in 2012 and 2013) urged the above Parties to proceed with the ratification as soon as possible.</p> <p>As of January 2014 secretariat has only received response by France which informed the secretariat that ratification of the GMO amendment was expected</p>		

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				Biological Diversity; - updating the Implementation Guide to provide detailed guidance on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and its amendment related to GMOs; - expanding the reporting requirements on the GMO amendment to the Convention.	amendment related to GMOs; - continuing to monitor the progress achieved by the Parties in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention including the GMO amendment by maintaining online reporting system and by conducting surveys and analysing their results.	before the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties in June-July 2014. Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on general implementation of the Convention are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). The objective was also addressed at the national capacity-building workshop (Minsk, 29-31 January 2014).		
	II.4: States in other regions of the world effectively exercise their right to accede to the Convention. Parties actively encourage accession to the Convention by States of other regions of the world with the aim of, by 2011, having Parties which	Use of bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, e.g. the European Neighbourhood Policy. Build public and political support for accession. Provision of assistance upon request, e.g. appropriate	- Parties - Secretariat - Interested non-UNECE States	The objective was addressed through: - awareness-raising and promoting the Convention within and outside UNECE region; - the participation of representatives of the Convention bodies and of the secretariat in various meetings, workshops, conferences and international forums to promote the Convention;	The objective was addressed through: - promoting the Convention in key regional and international events and processes; - using bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, e.g., the European Neighbourhood policy; - organizing missions to the countries outside the UNECE region at the request of host	Relevant reference document is decision IV/5 on accession to the Convention by non-UNECE member States adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1).	Accomplishment of the objective is postponed due to delays in internal procedures of the interested non-UNECE States (e.g. Mongolia).	NGO Justice and Environment: As was echoed by the many NGO representatives at the MOP4 of the Aarhus Convention in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, if the rules regarding the accession of non-ECE countries to the Convention will not be made easier, it is not a realistic idea to expect those countries to join the Convention in large numbers, or even at all. This

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	are not member States of UNECE	European Union and bilateral financial instruments.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing the Communication Strategy; - joint events with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements having Parties which are not member States of UNECE (UNFCCC and CBD secretariats). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments (e.g. Mongolia); - implementing the communication strategy (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2); - preparing and widely distributing leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles and other materials, including a brochure on the Convention in six United Nations languages; - maintaining and further developing the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website. 			situation should be solved at the MOP-5 as soon as possible.
	II.5: The Convention is widely regarded as setting an internationally recognized standard for access to information, public participation in decision-making and	Participation in key regional and international events to publicize the Convention. Encourage references to the Convention in other forums (political and academic). Cooperation with other	Secretariat, with support of Parties and civil society organizations	<p>The objective was addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising awareness about the Convention outside the UNECE region; - promoting the Convention at various multi-stakeholders meetings, workshops and conferences and in international forums, including 7th 	<p>The objective was addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting the Convention in regional and international events and processes to promote the Convention; - exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA; the 	<p>Chisinau Declaration (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session sent a strong message to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 from Parties and Signatories to the Convention offering to share their experience and calling for replicating their achievements.</p> <p>The secretariat has provided ongoing advisory support upon</p>	Good progress was made in achieving this objective.	<p>NGO Justice and Environment:</p> <p>A process that aligns with this objective can be witnessed in fact in the UNECLAC region where approximately 15 national governments have signed a joint declaration to make sure Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration is applied in the sub-continent in</p>

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	access to justice in environmental matters, and inspires the development of similar instruments in other regions of the world	regional bodies interested in implementation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.		<p>Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” and Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio +20 held in 2011;</p> <p>- participating in the development of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, which were adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council on 26 February 2010;</p> <p>- organizing joint events with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.</p>	<p>Water Convention and the Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d’Information (ANCCLI);</p> <p>- participating in (a) Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance for the project on the promotion of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, led by UNEP; and (b) “Access for All” initiative, lead by the World Resource Institute, aimed to provide a platform for global promotion of Principle 10; the initiative was launched at the Eye on Earth Summit in December 2011;</p> <p>- facilitating bilateral, regional and international cooperation arrangements to raise interest in the Convention, e.g., the European Neighbourhood policy;</p> <p>- raising awareness about</p>	request to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and designated focal points for the initiative on a possible regional convention on access rights in Latin America and the Caribbean		a more enhanced manner, even by conducting a binding international legal instrument, i.e. a regional convention on access rights.

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					the Convention through preparing leaflets, publications, news bulletins, articles and other materials, including a promotion brochure on the Convention in six United Nations languages.			
	II.6: The Parties to the Convention actively promote the application of its principles in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations relating to the environment, and endeavour to influence the practices of international forums in matters relating to the environment, in particular the	Promotion of application of Almaty Guidelines in international forums where Parties participate. Adoption of appropriate practices and procedures in international forums; review of existing practices. Consultations with other forums.	Parties Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums	The activities of implementing Partners were supported through: - the work of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and organization of back-to-back workshops; - promoting the principles of the Convention and Almaty Guidelines in various international forums, working with other United Nations bodies such as UNEP, UNITAR, UNDP, OCHR and the UNFCCC secretariat; environmental treaty bodies such as the Conference of the	The activities of implementing Partners were supported through: - organizing thematic sessions at the meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to oversee the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and to address challenges encountered in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention; - promoting the principles of the Convention and Almaty Guidelines in international forums through the organization of thematic sessions during the meetings of the Working Group of the Parties addressing issues covered by the Almaty	Several Parties reported that they had translated the Almaty Guidelines into their national languages and distributed them to various relevant authorities. Other activities were reported: the promotion of public participation in the implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements; strengthening civil society participation in various international bodies; the inclusion of NGO representatives in Parties' official delegations to international forums and processes; and consultations with civil society organizations and other major stakeholders at the national level in order to elaborate national positions in international forums. Among international forums cited were the Sixth and Seventh	Progress was made in achieving this objective, but it is unlikely that it will be fully accomplished by 2014	NGO Justice and Environment: J&E still believes that there is a need for a separate and independent Task Force for Public Participation in International Forums. We still do not see any reason in the abolishment of the PPIF TF in 2011.

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	development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements			<p>Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; other international or supranational bodies such as the OSCE and OECD; and various professional, academic or non-governmental institutions and associations;</p> <p>- participating in the development of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, which were adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council on 26 February 2010 and in informal consultations on mercury;</p> <p>- preparing an evaluation of the outcomes of the consultation process carried out in the last intersessional period,</p>	<p>Guidelines;</p> <p>- joint activities with other treaties and multilateral processes (e.g. Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention; SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention);</p> <p>- maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website and developing an online database to facilitate exchange of information on good practices;</p> <p>- making available online case studies on public participation in international forums;</p> <p>- preparing a checklist to assist each Party to identify possible steps it might take to most efficiently and systematically promote the principles of the Convention in all international forums dealing with matters relating to the environment in which it takes part.</p> <p>- monitoring the implementation through the reporting requirements on article 3, paragraph 7, of</p>	<p>"Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, Regional preparatory meeting for Rio +20 and recent United Nations Climate Change Conferences, meetings under auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>It was admitted that the international promotion of the Convention's principles is challenged by the fact that each international forum has its own rules and often influenced by countries, which are not Parties to the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>In addition, some countries mentioned that the exchange of information at the national level regarding international forums varies, depending on the type of international forum and the quality and confidentiality of the information. In most of the reporting countries there is no formalized procedure for the exchange of information at the national level. Many countries provide information on ministerial websites and other related websites, and specific information is often provided upon request. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7).</p> <p>The increased cooperation</p>		

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				<p>as well as a compendium of good practices based on the experiences collected during the recent Task Force meetings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparing articles and contributing to publications; - use of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention's website to facilitate exchange information on good practises; - expanding the reporting requirements on article 3, paragraph 7, on the voluntary basis; 	<p>the Convention (see decision IV/4 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)).</p>	<p>between the secretariat and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council during the past year is noteworthy, in particular with regard to the recently created mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the Human Rights Council in April 2012. It has been recognized that the lessons learned from the Convention's activities, and in particular from the compliance review mechanism, will be a significant element in the Independent Expert's work during the next three years. Members of the secretariat met with the Independent Expert and informed him about the Convention during a half-day experts meeting on 4 March 2013 organized by Earthjustice and the Center for International Environmental Law. In addition, cooperation has been promoted with the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, given the relevance of the Protocol on PRTRs, and with</p>		

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						<p>the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, which focuses among others on the issue of participation of persons living in poverty.</p> <p>Another relevant reference document is decision IV/3 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1).</p> <p>Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on general implementation of the Convention are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). The objective was also addressed at the national capacity-building workshop (Minsk, 29-31 January 2014).</p>		
	II.7: The Parties to the Convention, both in their participation in international policymaking and in their	Coordinated implementation of the Convention and provisions on access to information and public participation of	Parties Secretariat All stakeholders, including human rights bodies, NGOs	The objective was addressed through: - promoting the principles of the Convention and Almaty Guidelines in various international forums, working with	The objective was addressed through: - promoting the Almaty Guidelines and recommendations on electronic information tools;	Liaising at informal meetings with the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE MEAs to exchange information on priorities under the agreements and identify and discuss possible areas of cooperation and synergies.	Some progress was made in achieving this objective.	

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	national implementation activities, achieve synergies between the Convention and other international environmental and human rights agreements	other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Organization of joint activities with other MEAs, in particular those of UNECE, and human rights bodies.		<p>other United Nations bodies such as UNEP, UNITAR, UNDP, OCHR and the UNFCCC secretariat; environmental treaty bodies such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;</p> <p>- participating in consultations on mercury organized by UNEP;</p> <p>- contributing to the development of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms adopted by the COP/MOP of the Convention on Biological Diversity;</p> <p>- participating in the events organized by other treaties and multilateral processes (e.g. Espoo Convention, Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention, Convention on</p>	<p>- organizing thematic session at the meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to oversee the promotion of the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and to address challenges encountered in the implementation of article 3, paragraph 7 of the Convention;</p> <p>- involving the representatives of other relevant international forums in the work of the Task Force on Access to Information;</p> <p>- promoting the Convention at the relevant international forums;</p> <p>- exploring synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under the Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol, Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention and ANCCLI by organizing joint meetings in June 2012, October 2012 and March 2013, respectively,</p>	<p>Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on general implementation of the Convention are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). The objective was also addressed at the national capacity-building workshop (Minsk, 29-31 January 2014).</p>		

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
				Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification and IPCC; - organizing joint activities with other treaties and multilateral processes (e.g., a joint workshop with Cartagena Protocol in Nagoya, Japan on 8 and 9 October 2010).	under the task force on public participation in decision-making; - organizing an expert round table jointly with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in October 2013; - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website to facilitate exchange information on good practises; - making available online case studies on public participation in international forums; - monitoring the implementation through the reporting requirements on article 3, paragraph 7, of the Convention (see decision IV/4 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1)).			
Focal area III: Development Strategic Goal III: Further development of the	III.1: The provisions of the Convention are interpreted in a dynamic way, enabling practice to	Exchange of best practices Comprehensive review of the Convention 10 years after entry into force.	- Parties, through the Aarhus Clearinghouse - MOP/Working Group of the Parties	To monitor further development of the Convention, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through:	To monitor further development of the convention, the activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - further interpretation of the Convention's		There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
provisions and principles of the Convention where necessary to ensure that it continues to achieve its objectives	adapt to experience acquired in the course of implementation, to new developments in society, to technological innovation and to new environmental challenges		(WGP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interpretation of the Convention's provisions by the Compliance Committee; - work of the Task Forces; - capacity-building and awareness-raising activities; - collecting case studies and examples of good practice on all three pillars of the Convention; - commissioning analytical studies in the area of access to justice; - maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information; - developing and maintaining the jurisprudence database; - updating the Implementation Guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provisions by the Compliance Committee; - work of the Task Forces; - capacity-building and awareness-raising activities; - preparing an in-depth Evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention and accompanying documents (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/8; AC/WGP-16/Inf.8, AC/WGP-16/Inf.9) as well as Assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions and accompanying document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/9; AC/WGP-16/Inf.10); - collecting and making available on-line case studies on public participation at the national level and public participation in international forums; - preparing recommendations on public participation at the national level; - commissioning analytical 			

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
					studies in the area of access to justice; - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website as well as the jurisprudence database; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.			
	III.2: The range of environmental information that is made available to the public is gradually widened, inter alia, by developing and implementing mechanisms enabling more informed consumer choices as regards products, thereby contributing to more sustainable	Workshop on product information.	- MOP/WGP	The activity was not carried out.	The workshop on product information took place under auspices of the Task Force on Access to Information (Geneva, 7-8 February 2013). The outcomes of the meeting are available in the report (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/5).		There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective..	
		Exchange of information and best practice in promoting the accessibility of environmental information held by private sector based on national experience.		The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - the work of the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools; - providing the interpretation of the Convention's provisions by the	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - providing the interpretation of the Convention's provisions by the - work of the Task Force on Access to Information back to back with regional	Many countries described different voluntary eco-labelling systems and also reported on the implementation of voluntary environmental management systems. In some EECCA countries, legislation in this area has only recently been adopted (Belarus, Turkmenistan) or is in a planning stage (Armenia). In some EU countries and		

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	patterns of production and consumption. Through exchange of information and good practice, consideration is given on how to promote increasing accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector, taking into account relevant issues of confidentiality of commercial and industrial information and protection of intellectual property rights in line with the current approach under the Convention.			<p>Compliance Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting good practices and informing about challenges in this area by means of organizing or participating in multi-stakeholder meetings and events (e.g. a Workshop on Electronic Information Tools to Support the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe (Skopje; 25-26 November 2010); - building capacities of the Aarhus Centres by way of participating in their meetings and disseminating information; - maintaining the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention's website. 	<p>workshop dedicated to the exchange of information and best practices in promoting the accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector and product information;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participating in other relevant regional initiatives as appropriate, including - the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; - pilot projects and capacity-building activities at subregional and national level that are expected to be funded by partners and coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meeting; - continuing to maintain the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website. 	<p>Norway voluntary agreements exist between ministries of environment and private companies or public services providers, in order to improve the environmental performance of the latter, as well as to increase the periodic compilation of environmental reports by enterprises.</p> <p>EU countries and Norway reported on the further development of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, as well as integrated product policies. Similarly, environmental reporting is encouraged on the basis of the corporate social responsibility of enterprises (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)).</p> <p>Details of capacity-building activities carried out by partners with focus on general implementation of the Convention are provided in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). The objective was also addressed at the national capacity-building workshop (Minsk, 29-31 January 2014).</p> <p>Other relevant reference documents are: Overview of the</p>		

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Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
						obstacles encountered in the implementation of articles 4 and 5 of the Convention is provided in document AC/TF.AI/Inf.2. Information about the implementation of the Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties on Electronic Information Tools (Decision II/3) is provided in document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4).		
	III.3: The provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment, encompassing, inter alia, product-related decision-making are assessed, further reflected on and, where appropriate, elaborated on	Assessment of the provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment.	MOP/WGP	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - the work of the Expert Group on Public Participation and later on the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making with regard to the exchange of information and good practices in this area; - maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the the Convention's website for the exchange of information;	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - work of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making with regard to the exchange of information and good practices in this area; - preparing recommendations on public participation in decision-making; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.		There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	

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Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
				- updating the Implementation Guide.				
	III.4: The provisions of the Convention relating to public participation in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment, as well as executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding normative instruments that may have a significant effect on the environment, are applied, kept under review and further developed, as appropriate, to enhance public participation from an early	Exchange and analyse information on the implementation of articles 7 and 8 in the light of the principles of Convention and results in terms of public participation and environmental policy objectives and in the context of the implementation of the SEA Protocol.	MOP/WGP Civil society organizations Espoo Convention/SEA Protocol bodies	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - functioning of the compliance mechanism; - meetings of the Expert Group on Public Participation and then the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making with regard to the exchange of information and good practices in this area; - maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information; - updating the Implementation Guide; - participating in the meetings held under auspices of the Espoo Convention and	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - work of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making and workshops; - collecting and making on-line case studies and information on obstacles to implementation; - preparing recommendations on public participation in decision-making; - maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version; - continuing cooperation with relevant bodies under SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health to the	NIRs show that during the intersessional period implementation of article 7 of the Convention has been developed. EU member States transposed relevant EU instruments into their national legislation. Several SEE and EECCA countries also undertook practical arrangements to implement SEA procedures, including public participation. It has been observed, however, that there is not enough clarity on what a "plan", a "programme" or a "policy" means under the Convention and this may impede proper implementation. Progress has been noted in the implementation of article 8 of the Convention, mainly through practical arrangements rather than legislative initiatives. However, regulation of such practices and procedures would promote transparency, clarity and legal certainty Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7).	There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	stage in strategic decision-making processes. This should be done with appropriate public involvement and taking fully into account the specific nature and constraints of such processes and related obligations under other multilateral environmental agreements such as in particular the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo			organizing a joint event with the Espoo Convention.	Water Convention and the Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information (ANCCLI) by organizing joint meetings in June 2012, October 2012 and March 2013, respectively, under the task force on public participation in decision-making;			

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	Convention) and by involving its bodies in such processes							
	III.5: To enhance the effectiveness of public participation, the development and application of innovative forms and tools of public participation beyond traditional consultation procedures are encouraged, the development of non-governmental organizations' capacity is supported and civil society is strengthened.	Exchange of experience and best practices on modes of participation and on their evaluation. Workshop on new tools/forms of public participation.	Parties through the Clearinghouse, MOP, Civil society organizations	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - work of the Expert Group on Public Participation and then the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making; - maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information; -organizing a workshop (e.g. Workshop on Electronic Information tools to Support the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe, Skopje, 25-26 November 2010); - capacity-building activities at the	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - work of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making and workshops; - collecting and making on-line case studies; - preparing recommendations on public participation in decision-making; - continuing to maintain the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information and developing an online database for good practices; - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional level coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings.	The use of electronic tools has boosted implementation of the public participation provisions of the Convention; however, these should not be the only form of public participation (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7). More detailed information on capacity-building activities carried out by partners is presented in the capacity-building reports (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8, AC/WG-15/Inf.2 and AC/WGP-17/Inf.3). Using electronic tools to facilitate public participation in decision-making were addressed in report of the Task Force on Access to Information on its second meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4).	There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	NGO Justice and Environment: We think that this part of the report does not devote the sufficient level of attention to this important segment of implementation.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
				national and subregional level coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings.				
	III.6: Work on promoting effective access to justice continues, in particular by way of further information exchange, capacity-building and exchange of good practice, inter alia, on the issue of criteria for standing, taking fully into account the Convention's objective of guaranteeing access to justice. The extension of the range of members of the public having access to	Review of implementation of article 9, paragraphs 2 and 3, identifying gaps and obstacles to implementation . Initiatives to reduce or remove financial and other barriers and assistance mechanisms where appropriate.	- MOP - Task Force on Access to Justice, - Parties - Compliance Committee	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - work of the Task Force on Access to Justice and the Compliance Committee; - preparing and promoting the analytical studies on access to justice; - developing and supporting the jurisprudence database; - capacity-building activities at the national and subregional level (2 subregional workshops for high-level judges). The activities were coordinated through the inter-agency coordination meetings; - updating the	Access to Justice has received particular priority in the work programme 2012-2014. The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - the work of the Task Force on Access to Justice and the Compliance Committee; - organizing capacity-building activities at the national and subregional levels, using materials produced by the Task Force and coordinating through interagency coordination meetings; - organizing a subregional workshop for high-level judges and judicial training institutions from the Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2012; - strengthening cooperation with existing networks of	The implementation of the access to justice provisions of the Convention appears to be the most difficult area for Parties to implement, although not all Parties reflected on obstacles to implementation. Two of the main issues addressed in most reports were the regulation of the rights of environmental NGOs to seek judicial or administrative remedies for collective interests (standing) and financial barriers. Parties are aware of the difficulties and many efforts have been reported that demonstrate that Parties are keen to promote implementation of this pillar of the Convention. For instance, Parties reported on ongoing judicial reforms and the establishment of judicial bodies; the adoption of new laws stipulating standing criteria or the initiative of the judiciary to embrace a wider interpretation of the existing standing criteria; and the practice for provision of legal aid. However, the progress is slow and a number of	There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	administrative and judicial procedures is explored, with particular focus on access by environmental non-governmental organizations. Steps are taken to remove or reduce financial and other barriers and to establish assistance mechanisms where appropriate.			Implementation Guide.	judges and other legal professionals; - developing analytical and training materials; - collecting and examining case-studies; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version.	obstacles still exist. It would be useful for Parties to continue exchanging experiences on good practices with regard to access to justice. (Synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/7)) Since MOP-4 36 new communications were received, a number of which relate to access of effective access to justice under the Convention. Details on capacity-building activities carried out by partners are provided in the capacity-building report (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8). The jurisprudence database and analytical studies serve as a source of information in this area. Other reference document: Decision IV/2 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1).		

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	III.7: The Parties explore possibilities for the development of measures under the Convention to ensure greater opportunities for public participation in policy formulation and implementation contributing to sustainable development, recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the related Plan of Implementation . Furthermore, the Parties share their experiences in implementing the Convention with other forums	Exchange of experience and best practices on the impact of instruments of participatory democracy in decisions related to all dimensions of sustainable development. Use of participatory procedures in the revision and/or development of national strategies for sustainable development. Exploration of possibilities for the development of measures under the Convention to ensure greater opportunities for the public to participate in policy formulation and implementation	MOP Parties All stakeholders, including civil society and business organizations, local and regional authorities	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - servicing the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (before the Expert Group on Public Participation) and the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums in with regard to the exchange of information and good practices in this area; - promoting the principles of the Convention and Almaty Guidelines in sustainable development process, regional preparatory meeting for Rio +20 and Environment for Europe process; - participating in the development of the Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information,	The activities of the implementing partners were supported through: - servicing the Working Group of the Parties and the Task Force of Public Participation in Decision-making to oversee progress in promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and at the national level; - collecting and making available on-line case studies and developing a publicly accessible database of good practices; - the preparation of recommendations on public participation in decision-making; - finalizing the second edition of the Implementation Guide and developing an interactive online version; - the continued cooperation with relevant bodies under other multilateral environmental agreements.	Chisinau Declaration (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session sent a strong message to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 from Parties and Signatories to the Convention, promoting a wide participatory approach and greater public involvement in decision-making in formulation policy for sustainable development. Liaising at informal meetings with the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE MEAs to exchange information on priorities under the agreements and identify and discuss possible areas of cooperation and synergies.	There are no clear indicators to assess the progress in achieving this objective.	NGO Justice and Environment: This part of the report rightly refers to the Chisinau Declaration, thus there is a clear need for the follow-up of what happened to the strong message that was included therein. An impact analysis of the Chisinau Declaration is much needed, especially before the MOP5 to be held in 2014.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014 DECISION III/8 (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.16)				Progress achieved in Implementing the Objectives and activities under the Strategic Plan				Comments provided by stakeholders
Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Indicative types of activity	Possible implementing partners	2009-2011 (Report on the implementation of the work programme 2009-2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9))	2012-2014 (Decision IV/6 on the work programme 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.1))	Additional information by the secretariat	Remarks by the secretariat	
	interested in using them as a basis or a source of inspiration for further strengthening participatory democracy in their respective fields	contributing to sustainable development.		<p>public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, which were adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council on 26 February 2010 and in informal consultations on mercury;</p> <p>- maintaining of the Aarhus Clearinghouse and the Convention's website for the exchange of information;</p> <p>- updating the Implementation Guide;</p> <p>- participating in the meetings related to public participation held under auspices of the Espoo Convention and organizing a joint event with the Convention;</p> <p>- expanding the reporting requirements on article 3, paragraph 7, on the voluntary basis.</p>				

SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009-2014 BY THE PARTIES⁴

Responses to the questionnaire were received from the following Parties: Norway, Slovakia and Spain; they are written in the table below under respective column.

Focal Area/ Strategic Goal	Objective	Type of instruments chosen for the accomplishment of an objective	Not started	In progress	Developing	Completed
Focal area I: Implementation / Strategic Goal I: Full implementation of the Convention by each Party	I.1: Each Party has a clear, transparent and consistent framework for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, comprising not only the necessary constitutional, legislative and regulatory provisions, but also the operational procedures and mechanisms required for their practical application	Constitutional provisions	Norway Spain			Slovakia
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain
		Regulatory provisions			Norway Slovakia Spain	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain
		Practices			Norway Slovakia Spain	

⁴ The purpose of the proposed self-assessment by Parties to the Aarhus Convention was to evaluate to which extent the strategic goals set out in the Strategic Plan 2009-2014 were reached by the way of analysing the progress achieved in accomplishing the objectives.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE SELF ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009-2014 BY THE PARTY

Focal Area/Strategic Goal	Objective	Type of instruments chosen for the accomplishment of an objective	Not started	In progress	Developing	Completed	Brief description supporting the assessment
Focal Area I: Implementation Strategic Goal I: Full implementation of the Convention by each Party	I.1: Each Party has a clear, transparent and consistent framework for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, comprising not only the necessary constitutional, legislative and regulatory provisions, but also the operational procedures and mechanisms required for their practical application.	Constitutional provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Norway: The principle that the public is entitled to environmental information has been included in para 110b of the Norwegian Constitution since 1992. This includes information about measures that have been planned or commenced, and thus lays down the principle that the environmental impacts of projects should be assessed in advance.</p> <p>Slovakia: Articles 44 – 45 of the Slovak Constitution. The Aarhus Convention became part of the national legal system by being published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 43/2006 Coll.</p> <p>Spain: Article 45 Spanish Constitution Spanish Constitution of 1978 and the system of constitutional, legal and administrative protection implemented through it are directly applicable to the guarantee of the effective exercise of the rights recognised in the Constitution and by Spanish legislation.</p>
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Norway: A number of provisions in Norwegian law on public access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making processes relating to the environment existed before the adoption of the Aarhus Convention, including Public Administration Act 1967, the Freedom of Information Act, the Civil Procedures Act and legislation in the environmental field. The Environmental Information Act was adopted to strengthen the right of access to information and public participation. In addition, some minor changes have been made to</p>

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Focal Area/Strategic Goal	Objective	Type of instruments chosen for the accomplishment of an objective	Not started	In progress	Developing	Completed	Brief description supporting the assessment
							<p>the Legal Enforcement Act. Spain: Law 27/2206, 18 July on Access to Information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters. Moreover, the Autonomous Communities have passed a series of regulations to implement this article. These include: Law 7/2007 of Andalusia on Integrated Environmental Quality Management; Law 7/2006 of Aragon on Environmental Protection; Law 4/2006 of Cantabria on Nature Conservation; Law 17/2006 of Cantabria on Integrated Environmental Control; Law 5/2002 (8 October) of La Rioja on Protection of the Environment, Law 11/2003 of Castilla y León on Environmental Prevention ,General Law 3/1998 of the Basque Country on Environmental Protection, Law 9/1999 of Castilla-La Mancha on Nature Conservation, Law 7/2008 of Galicia on Landscape Protection and Law 5/2010 of Extremadura on Prevention and Environmental Quality. Some other Autonomous Communities are currently working on similar legislation in their respective areas of competence.</p>
		Regulatory provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Spain: AAA/1601/2012 Order of June 26, which dictate instructions on the application to the Department of Law 27/2006, of 18 July
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	Spain: Creation of the Environmental Information Offices at national and regional level
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	
		I.2: Each Party's implementation framework and	Constitutional provisions			Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: The Espoo Convention became part of the national legal system by being published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 162/2000 Coll.

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	procedures are adequate not only to ensure application of the Convention in a national context, but also to guarantee its application, where necessary, in transboundary situations, without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile.	Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendment of some acts Spain: Law 27/2006 article 2 (1)
Regulatory provisions					Norway Slovakia		
Formal operational procedures and mechanisms					Norway Slovakia Spain		
Practices					Norway Slovakia Spain		
	I.3: In implementing the Convention, each Party not only complies with its mandatory provisions, but also strives to give effect to its provisions whose application is discretionary.	Constitutional provisions				Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Slovakia complies with its mandatory provisions/obligations and where it is suitable Slovakia strives to give effect to discretionary provisions.
Legislative provisions					Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Slovakia complies with its mandatory provisions/obligations and where it is suitable Slovakia strives to give effect to discretionary provisions. Spain: Some discretionary provisions of the Convention are mandatory under Law 27/2006	
Regulatory provisions					Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Slovakia complies with its mandatory provisions/obligations and where it is suitable Slovakia strives to give effect to discretionary provisions.	

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		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Slovakia complies with its mandatory provisions/obligations and where it is suitable Slovakia strives to give effect to discretionary provisions.
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Slovakia complies with its mandatory provisions/obligations and where it is suitable Slovakia strives to give effect to discretionary provisions.
	I.4: Environmental education is widely available and promotes active and responsible behaviour among the public as regards the environment, including the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Convention.	Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia	Norway: According to the Norwegian Education Act the primary and secondary education shall among others build upon respect for nature, and the pupils shall learn critical thinking and to act ethically and with concern for the environment. Environmental education is implemented in Norway's national curricula (legislative provisions). The Natural Satchel is a joint initiative taken by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry for Environment in order to strengthen the education in sustainable development.
		Regulatory provisions				Norway Slovakia	Norway: Environmental awareness is dealt with as a separate topic in the general part of the Norwegian national curriculum for primary and secondary schools. Slovakia: The environmental education is based on the concept adopted by the Slovak Government Resolution No. 846 in 1997. The measures intended to increase the environmental education efficiency include in particular its integration in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools (environmental minimum). The environmental education issues were incorporated in the curricula of all grades of elementary and secondary schools in Slovakia.
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	Norway: The Norwegian Environmental Education Network involves co-operation between schools, the environmental authorities, research institutions and NGOs, and provides a

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							<p>meeting place where schools can obtain information and also input their data.</p> <p>Slovakia: the Slovak Government Resolution No. 846 in 1997</p> <p>Spain: All Autonomous Communities (AC) develop programmes in environmental education CENEAM (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment) is a reference center for environmental education with more than 20 years working to promote the responsibility of citizens in relation to the environment. It is constituted as a resource center and support service of all those groups, public and private, to develop programs and environmental education activities. Their lines of work focus on the collection and dissemination of specialized information on environmental education in the design and development of awareness programs and citizen participation in the development of educational materials and exhibitions, in organizing and supporting seminars and other forums Visit: http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/ceneam/programas-de-educacion-ambiental/</p>
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Norway: One section of the MoE's website is targeted specifically at schoolchildren and young people who are interested in the environment. It deals with subjects of current interest and provides factual information about environmental protection that can be used in school assignments, etc. There are also links to a number of other websites that focus mainly on information for children and young people.</p> <p>Slovakia: The environmental education issues were incorporated in the curricula of all grades of elementary and secondary schools in Slovakia.</p>

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	I.5: Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government are aware of the obligations under the Convention and allocate as far as possible the resources needed to comply with them.	Regulatory provisions		Spain		Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Public authorities – the whole state administration – is legally binding by the Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information (the Act on information freedom). Spain: Need to be completed in some sectors. Completed in environmental sector at all levels: national, regional and local
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms			Norway	Slovakia	Norway: In addition to the laws and regulations implementing the Convention, there are established routines and instructions on how to handle requests for information and how to include the public in preparing proposals for legislative and other forms of actions in all fields, including fields relating to or having an impact on the environment. However, with replacement of employees and variation in the frequency of dealing with matters covered by the Convention, the need for action to maintain or improve awareness and practices should be kept under review.
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	Norway: See comment above Spain: In order for the State, Autonomous and local authorities to provide the necessary public assistance with maximum efficacy, training courses and conferences on environmental information and the application of Law 27/2006 are regularly organised for their officials
	I.6: The Convention leads to the development of an open administrative culture which supports public participation and transparency in	Regulatory provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Spain: This provision is mandatory under Law 27/2006 Article 5.1 Article 3.1 b) of Law 27/2006 recognises the universal right to be informed of the rights set down in this Law and of being assisted in their exercise. Article 5 sets forth the general obligations of public authorities in this matter. Likewise, Law 30/1992 (26 November) on the Legal System of Public Authorities and the Common Administrative Procedure also sets forth the general obligation of officials and public authorities in assisting the public and supplying the required information and, in addition, it allows for public participation.

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	environmental matters and values them as positive contributions to democratic, effective and good governance. Public officials concerned have and apply the knowledge and skills to provide assistance and guidance to the public to facilitate the exercise of its rights.						Likewise, Royal Decrees 208/1996 (9 February) regulating the administrative information and citizens advice services and, 951/2005 (29 July) establishing the general framework for the quality enhance of National Administration determine the operation and quality controls of the Information Offices of the State Government. Both the State and Autonomous authorities have introduced citizen advice services to assist the public, dealing with all queries submitted and advising citizens on how to access the environmental information and on the instruments of participation and access to justice if they consider that their rights have been impaired
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	
		Practices			Slovakia	Norway Spain	Norway: See comment under 1.5 above Slovakia: ESO reformation process (effective – reliable – open) state administration
	I.7: Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government have well-established information policies and mechanisms, under which environmental	Constitutional provisions				Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Article 45 of the Slovak Constitution.
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Public authorities – the whole state administration – is legally binding by the Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information (the Act on information freedom). Spain: In the framework of Law 11/2007 (22 June) on the electronic access of citizens to public services, the MAGRAMA has successfully

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	information of high quality is routinely provided and proactively disseminated to the public in a user-friendly manner, making full use of electronic tools where available						implemented an electronic access system to information and administrative procedures. It is currently available for the following procedures, among others: environmental impact assessments; electronic registry; maritime public domain; appeals and claims, complaints and suggestions, etc. The Autonomous Communities have also developed similar processes of implementing these services in their respective areas of competence.
		Regulatory provisions		Spain		Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: The Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information (the Act on information freedom) and its regulations. Spain: Need to be completed in some sectors. Completed in environmental sector at all levels national, regional and local
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	Norway: The public administration has developed systematic routines for collection (monitoring and research) and dissemination of general information, for instance using databases and registers. One important site for environmental information is Miljøstatus i Norge (State of the Environment Norway) at www.miljostatus.no www.environment.no The website uses data from a number of registers. It is intended to give the general public easy access to updated information on the state of the environment, environmental trends and environmental pressures.
	I.8: Within the framework of an overall environmental	Legislative provisions				Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Slovakia ratified The Protocol PRTRs on 1 April 2008 and it became part of the national legal system by being published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 353/2010 Coll. Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on collection, storage, and dissemination of

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	information policy, each Party has established a coherent, integrated nationwide pollutant release and transfer register designed for effective use by public authorities and maximum ease of public access through electronic means, which facilitates the exercise of the rights guaranteed by the Convention and provides incentives for industry, in addition to those provided by other relevant instruments, to prevent and reduce pollution.						environmental information as amended posterior and Act No. 39/2013 Coll. on IPPC. Spain: Art. 8 Ley 16/2002 at its amendments (mainly Ley 5/2013) Ratification to the Protocol PRTR by Spain (24 September 2009).Published in Spanish official Bulletin (BOE): nº 285, 26.11.09.
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia	Slovakia: Regulation No. 448/2010 Spain: Real Decreto 508/2007, regarding the information which has to be Provided to the Spanish PRTR and its amendment through the Real Decreto 102/2011 regarding air quality requirements. (New amendments in preparation, updating the scope of the PRTR-España: new activity categories in line with new Industrial emissions Spanish legislation)
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia	Norway: Extensive information on activities that may have a significant impact on the environment is acquired through the system of discharge permits under the Pollution Control Act. An enterprise that holds a discharge permit must submit annual reports on its emissions, and the pollution control authorities also ensure compliance through a system of inspections. A website holding information on emissions, production quantities and waste from major sources of pollution, both site specific and diffuse, has been established at www.norskeutslipp.no . Spain: PRTR-España (www.prtr-es.es) is designed as an integrated tool for gathering, management and dissemination of data, located in Internet, taking into account the Spanish legal competencial. This integrated electronic tool is structured in two levels of access with different functionalities: MEMBER AREA and PUBLIC INFORMATION. All the

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							<p>process is on Internet. Each member has different functionalities and periods of time to use it “MEMBERS” are: FACILITIES (owners/ operators): registration, notification and queries COMPETENT AUTHORITIES : revision, validation, upload and data management; Autonomous Communities (ACs), River Basin District (RBDs). OTHER AUTHORITIES: water, wastes, air quality, ETS, national inventories and statistical, etc. SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR (management, public information, int. requirement, hosting maintenance): Ministry</p>
		Practices			Slovakia	Norway	<p>Spain: All information about the Spanish PRTR system, PRTR-España, is available in internet www.prtr-es.es. In English and in Spanish: general information, manual, technical documents, public information, news, link to other PRTRs. Contact details for queries and public participation: Telephone (+34902545350), e-mail (info@prtr-es.es) etc. Promoting activities on PRTR carried out by Spain •Translation into Spanish and publishing of the full Guidance on Implementation for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, provided by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and financed by the Government of Spain; (June 2012 http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/2008/RETC_ESP_AÑOL_SICA.pdf •Financial support to develop PRTR activities in Central American/Caribbean countries through Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) Technical support to UNEP/GEF projects (to implement PRTRs to report POPs) in collaboration with UNITAR in several countries (Chile, Perú, Ecuador)</p>
	I.9 Public participation procedures are	Constitutional provisions				Norway Slovakia	<p>Slovakia: The Espoo Convention became part of the national legal system by being published in the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic under No. 162/2000 Coll.</p>

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	<p>regarded by public authorities and all other actors concerned as an integral part of the preparation of policies, plans, programmes and projects which may have a significant effect on the environment, and are implemented in their full scope. Prospective applicants are, where appropriate, encouraged to undertake proactive efforts to identify and inform the public concerned and enter into discussions with them at an early stage of planning, allowing for the effective</p>						<p>Spain: Article 23 of the Constitution: Citizens have the right to participate in public affairs, directly or through representatives freely elected in periodic elections by universal suffrage.</p>
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Slovakia: Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment and on amendment of some acts</p> <p>Spain: Public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6 of the Convention was already regulated in Spain's legal system, albeit generally. Therefore, in order to effect the provisions of the Convention and Directive 2003/35/EC providing for public participation in the respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment, Directive 2003/35/EC was transposed through Law 27/2006 mentioned above, for the extension and adaptation of said system. Spain is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a cross-border context (Espoo Convention) since it ratified the agreement in 1991. Article 16 of Law 27/2006, establishes the obligations of public authorities in order to ensure that they make this right effective. Law 9 / 2006 implementing Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment, introduces environmental assessment of plans and programs (SEA) and promotes transparency and citizen participation in developing them Law 27/2006, articles 16-18 and specific Laws (Coastal, Water, Wastes; Air Quality etc)</p>
		Regulatory provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	

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	participation of all interested members of the public.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	Spain: The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, through websites, disseminates the draft laws, regulations, plans and programs carried out, so that citizens value them prior to its approval and thus guarantees the right of access information and public participation according to Law 27/2006 and specific legislation This procedures are also available in the website of the Autonomous Communities (AC)
	I.10 [1]: Each Party ensures access to administrative or judicial review procedures which can provide timely and effective remedies to members of the public who consider that their rights under the Convention have not been respected, and empower members of the public, where they meet the	Constitutional provisions				Slovakia	Slovakia: Constitution of the Slovak Republic Spain: Article 24 of the Constitution All persons have the right to the effective protection of the judges and courts in the exercise of their rights and legitimate interests, and in no case may there be a lack of defence
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Norway: Administrative decisions may be challenged through an administrative appeal, including appeal to the Ombudsman for Public Administration. Disputes relating to access to environmental information pursuant to the Environmental Information Act, the right to public participation pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Act and other decisions or actions that contravene national law, can be brought before the ordinary courts under the Civil Procedure Act. Established environmental organizations may also initiate such cases. In addition, such matters come within the sphere of authority of the Ombudsman for Public Administration Slovakia: Act No. 99/1963 Coll. Civil Procedure Code

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	criteria, if any, laid down in national law, to challenge acts and omissions which contravene provisions of national environmental law.						<p>Act No.71/1967 Coll. Administrative Code</p> <p>Spain: The current legal system establishes a system of administrative appeals and, when this possibility has been exhausted, the possibility of court action, allowing citizens to fully exercise their right to access to justice with the characteristics and requirements described in article 9 of the Convention. Article 20 of Law 27/2006 establishes that a member of the public who considers that an act or, where applicable, an omission attributable to a public authority has impaired his/her rights to information and public participation as recognised by this Law may seek the administrative remedy regulated in Law 30/1992 on the Legal System of Public Authorities and the Common Administrative Procedure Law 27/2006, articles 20-23 Law 30/1992 (legal regime of public administrations and common administrative procedure) Law 29/1998 judicial control of public administration.</p>
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia Spain	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	
		Practices				Norway Slovakia Spain	
	I.10 [2]: Any such criteria should be	Constitutional provisions				Slovakia	Slovakia: Constitution of the Slovak Republic

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	established taking fully into account the Convention's objective of guaranteeing access to justice.	Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Act No. 99/1963 Coll. Civil Procedure Code Act No.71/1967 Coll. Administrative Code Spain: See above Law 27/2006, articles 20-23
Regulatory provisions					Slovakia		
Formal operational procedures and mechanisms					Norway Slovakia		
Practices					Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Communications from the public: ACCC/C/2013/89 (Art 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, and 6.2 (d)(vi))	
	I.10 [3]: Each Party undertakes genuine efforts to reduce and eliminate financial and other barriers which may prevent access to such review procedures and establishes, where appropriate, assistance	Constitutional provisions				Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Constitution of the Slovak Republic Spain: Article 119 of the Constitution: "Justice shall be free of charge when the law so provides and in any case for those who have insufficient means to litigate"
Legislative provisions					Norway Slovakia Spain	Norway: When the Environmental Information Act was adopted, amendments were also made to the Enforcement Act to satisfy the Convention's requirement that procedures to which Article 9 applies must not be "prohibitively expensive". Slovakia: Act No.71/1992 Coll.	

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	mechanisms to that end.						on Court Fees Spain: Law 27/2006, articles 20-23
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia	Norway: Administrative complaints procedures are free of charge. Bringing a case to court always involves costs, which will depend on the legal procedure involved and the time a case is expected to take. The simplest procedure in the Norwegian legal system is to use a conciliation board (<i>forlikrådet</i>), where parties seek to reach a settlement. As a main rule, the conciliation board does not settle disputes where the public administration is one of the parties. Taking a case to a conciliation board costs NOK 860. If a case is not resolved through a conciliation board or is brought directly to a district court, the standard court fee is NOK 4300 for a main hearing that is stipulated to last for one day. It is only in special cases that a main hearing is stipulated to last for more than one day. In addition to the court fee, costs may be awarded in the case, for example for legal assistance and other expenses for all parties.
		Practices		Spain		Slovakia	Spain: Need to clarify some interpretations particularly on free legal assistance
	I.11: Judges, public prosecutors and other legal professionals are familiar with the	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain		Slovakia	Spain: Need to promote specific training

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	provisions of the Convention and are ready to exercise their respective responsibilities to uphold them.	Practices		Spain		Norway Slovakia	
	I.12: Each Party provides for appropriate recognition of and support to civil society organizations promoting environmental protection as important actors in advancing democratic debate on environmental policies, raising public awareness, and mobilizing and assisting citizens in exercising their rights under the Convention and	Constitutional provisions				Slovakia	
Legislative provisions					Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Norway: Civil society organizations are recognized as included among the public with right to access to information and to participation, and established environmental organizations may also initiate civil complaint and court cases if they are of the opinion that these rights or national legislation concerning the environment has been breached.</p> <p>Slovakia: Act No.40/1964 Coll. Civil Code Act No.213/1997 Coll. on nonprofit organizations providing community services</p> <p>Spain: The Advisory Council for the Environment, (CAMA) is created by Law 27/2006 (art.19) with participation of Civil Society including NGOs with the following functions, among others a) Reporting on the draft laws and projects with environmental impact b) Advise on plans and programs</p>	

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	contributing to its implementation.	Regulatory provisions				Slovakia Spain	<p>Slovakia: The Government of the Slovak Republic in order to involve in decision-making processes the general public has adopted the following resolutions: - Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 68 of 22 February 2012 to the draft of the concept of civil society development in Slovakia; - Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 397 of 1 August 2012 on the proposal for the establishment of the Slovak Government Council for Nongovernmental-nonprofit organisations.</p> <p>Spain: Other Advisory Bodies are establish for specific sectors (climate change, wastes, water policy, biodiversity)</p>
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia Spain	<p>Norway: Many NGOs are actively involved in promoting public awareness of environmental issues, and play a very important role in this work. Some of them receive government funding and/or accept commissions from the state.</p> <p>Spain: The State, Autonomous Communities and local authorities and a number of non-profit institutions regularly hold calls for aid proposals specifically for non-profit organisations and NGOs set up to protect the environment.</p>
		Practices			Slovakia	Norway Spain	

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	I.13: Civil society organizations and the general public are aware of their rights under the Convention and assert them to effectively engage in addressing environmental and sustainable development issues and to advance both environmental protection and good governance, thus contributing to sustainable development.	Practices		Spain	Slovakia	Norway Spain	Slovakia: - Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 68 of 22 February 2012 to the draft of the concept of civil society development in Slovakia; - Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 397 of 1 August 2012 on the proposal for the establishment of the Slovak Government Council for Nongovernmental-nonprofit organisations Spain: Completed in the case of NGOs. In progress in the case of general public

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	<p>I.14: The Convention's mechanism for compliance review fulfils the role of an effective instrument to address compliance problems that cannot be resolved at the national level. The findings and recommendations of the Compliance Committee are regarded by Parties as an authoritative source of advice on the implementation of the Convention and are used by them to improve their national practices in the best way possible.</p>	Practices			Spain	Norway	<p>Norway: There have so far only been two cases brought against Norway, both of them communications from the public. One of them was dismissed by the Committee and the Committee is currently considering whether the other should be taken under consideration.</p> <p>Slovakia: Communications from the public: ACCC/C/2009/41 (Art 6 (in particular 6.1, 6.4, 6.10); Art 9, par 2, par 3 and par 4 ; Annex I par 1, par 20, par 22) Communications from the public: ACCC/C/2013/89 (Art 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, and 6.2 (d)(vi))</p> <p>Spain: The work and recommendations of the Compliance Committee are helping the National Focal Point to enhance the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Spain, taking into account, particularly, that responsibilities in environmental policies are fully decentralized.</p>

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	I.15: The impact of civil society's contribution to environmental management and sustainable development is better understood, documented and evaluated.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain		Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Process of Rio + 20 National Strategy of Sustainable Development (Resolution No. 978/2001) Spain: The role of NGOs and environmental organisations has been decisive in raising widespread awareness about environmental issues and promoting legal instruments of control and protection. Nevertheless, the role played by environmental NGOs is not always well understood. In general, civil society organizations and the public are aware of their rights to participate in the EIA and SEA processes, contributing to take into account environmental and sustainable issues in the development of plans, programmes and projects. Nevertheless, the Spanish Government is aware of the need of improving the participation of civil society (e.g. proposal).
		Practices				Norway Slovakia	Slovakia: Evaluation of SD indicators
	I.16: The Convention is neither applied nor interpreted by Parties as implying any derogation from existing rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in	Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Spain: The Aarhus Convention is directly applicable in Spain, following its ratification in December 2004 and entry into force on 31 March 2005, meaning that no other law or regulation can contravene its provisions.
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway Slovakia	

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	environmental matters.	Practices			Spain	Norway Slovakia	Spain: Need to clarify the application of some exception of art. 4 and on free legal assistance on access to justice
Focal Area II: Expansion Strategic Goal II: Increase the impact of the Convention in the UNECE region and beyond and ensure the entry into force of the Protocol on PRTRs.	II.1: The number of Parties to the Convention within the UNECE region continues to increase steadily throughout the period of the plan.	Legislative provisions					
		Regulatory provisions					Spain: Secretariat
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms					
		Practices					
	II.2: The Protocol on PRTRs is ratified by a sufficient number of Parties so that it can enter into force as soon as possible and its first meeting of the Parties can be held in 2009.	Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia Spain	Slovakia: Slovakia has fully implemented requirements of the Protocol PRTRs Spain: Ratification September 2009 In force October 2009
		Regulatory provisions					
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway	

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		Practices					
	II.3: The amendment to the Convention on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and the placing on the market of genetically modified organisms is approved by a sufficient number of Parties to enter into force by 2009.	Legislative provisions				Norway	Slovakia: Slovakia ratified GMO amendments of Alma-Aty on 1 April 2008 and it became part of the national legal system -Act No. 151/2002 Coll. Spain: Secretariat
		Regulatory provisions				Norway	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway	
		Practices				Norway	
	II.4: States in other regions of the world effectively exercise their right to accede to the Convention.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain			Spain: Spain encourages the accession of non UNECE Parties through Multilateral Institutions

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	Parties actively encourage accession to the Convention by States of other regions of the world with the aim of, by 2011, having Parties which are not member States of UNECE.	Practices		Norway			Information about the Convention and the possibility to accede is provided through bilateral cooperation/meetings
	II.5: The Convention is widely regarded as setting an internationally recognized standard for access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, and inspires the development of similar instruments in other regions of	Practices			Norway Spain		Spain: Collective action (Rio+20)

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	the world.						
	II.6: The Parties to the Convention actively promote the application of its principles in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations relating to the environment, and endeavour to influence the practices of international forums in matters relating to the environment, in	Legislative provisions		Slovakia			
Regulatory provisions			Slovakia				
Formal operational procedures and mechanisms			Slovakia				
Practices			Norway Slovakia Spain			Spain: Spain promotes the application of the principles of the Convention in international environmental decision-making processes in relevant Multilateral Conventions associating the main NGOs to the debates	

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	particular the development and implementation of multilateral environmental agreement.						
	II.7: The Parties to the Convention, both in their participation in international policymaking and in their national implementation activities, achieve synergies between the Convention and other international environmental and human rights agreements.	Legislative provisions					
Regulatory provisions							
Formal operational procedures and mechanisms					Spain	Spain: Specific consideration to the principles of Aarhus Convention is devoted in the National Plan for Human Rights (II Plan in elaboration)	
Practices			Norway			Slovakia: Close cooperation with Espoo Convention, CITES Convention, Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Water Convention and other international organizations (e.g. UNEP, OECD etc.)	

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Focal Area III: Development of the provisions and principles of the Convention where necessary to ensure that it continues to achieve its objectives.	III.1: The provisions of the Convention are interpreted in a dynamic way, enabling practice to adapt to experience acquired in the course of implementation, to new developments in society, to technological innovation and to new environmental challenges.	Constitutional provisions			Slovakia		
		Legislative provisions			Slovakia	Spain	Spain: Article 3.1 of the Civil Code: Rules shall be interpreted according to their own word sense, in relation with the context, the historical background and the social reality of the times where they are to be applied, particularly considering their spirit and purpose.
		Regulatory provisions		Spain	Slovakia		
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain	Slovakia		
		Practices			Norway Slovakia Spain		
	III.2: The range of environmental information that is made available to the public is gradually widened, inter alia, by	Constitutional provisions				Spain	Spain: Article 51 of the Constitution 1. The public authorities shall guarantee the defence of the consumers and users, protecting their safety, health, and legitimate economic interests through effective procedures. 2. The public authorities shall promote the information and education of consumers and users, foster their organizations, and hear them in those questions which could affect them under the terms which the law shall establish

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	<p>developing and implementing mechanisms enabling more informed consumer choices as regards products, thereby contributing to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Through exchange of information and good practice, consideration is given on how to promote increasing accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector, taking into account relevant issues of confidentiality of commercial and industrial information and protection of intellectual</p>	<p>Legislative provisions</p>				<p>Norway Slovakia Spain</p>	<p>Norway: The Environmental Information Act and the Product Control Act. entitle the general public to receive information directly from producers, importers, processors, distributors and users of products. This includes information on whether products contain components or have properties that may cause injury to health or environmental damage, what these properties are, and what significant injury to health or environmental disturbance is caused by production and distribution of the product. All information held by a public body on products must also be disclosed unless specific grounds for exemption apply. There are several voluntary ecolabelling schemes, of which the Nordic Swan is in most widespread use. This scheme is run by a foundation. Proposals for criteria for licensing different product groups are drawn up by highly qualified experts, and public consultations are held on the proposals, which are also published on the Internet for comment; A website has also been established at www.erdetfarlig.no, providing consumers with information on chemicals in consumer products, advise on which products to chose, as well as how to dispose of the products.</p> <p>Slovakia: ECOLABELLING – Act No. 469/2002 Coll. EMAS - Act No. 351/2012 Coll.</p> <p>Spain:</p>

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	property rights in line with the current approach under the Convention.						The labelling of agricultural products in general and organic farming products in particular, fish products, dangerous substances, noise from domestic appliances, energy consumption, etc., have their own state regulation covering information. The twelfth additional provision of Law 27/2006 requires public authorities to encourage economic operators, when required to do so, to inform the public regularly of those activities or products that have or could have a significant impact on the environment
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia	Slovakia: ECOLABELLING – Regulation No. 258/2003 EMAS - Regulation No. 606/2005
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain		Norway	Spain: Agreements with specific sectors
		Practices			Spain	Norway	Spain: Awareness campaigns
	III.3: The provisions on public participation in decisions having a significant impact on the environment, encompassing,	Constitutional provisions					
		Legislative provisions				Norway	Norway: No specific plan established for assessment and review. In general, any existing laws and regulations are reviewed from time to time.
		Regulatory provisions			Spain		Spain: Example: National Plan for Wastes

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	inter alia, product-related decision-making are assessed, further reflected on and, where appropriate, elaborated on.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms			Spain	Norway	Spain: The labelling of agricultural products, in particular ecological products, fishing, hazardous substances, noise in household appliances, energy consumption, etc..., have their own state regulations that covers information. Some regions perform control actions on the labelling of electrical and electronic equipment and the hallmarks of integrated waste management. Some local governments have also developed green procurement catalogues, spreading sustainability criteria in public procurement of goods and services.	
		Practices			Spain			
	III.4: The provisions of the Convention relating to public participation in the preparation of plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment, as well as executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding normative instruments that may have a significant effect on the	Constitutional provisions					Norway	
		Legislative provisions				Norway Spain	Norway No specific plan established for assessment and review. In general, any existing laws and regulations are reviewed from time to time. Spain: - Direct application of the SEA Protocol (http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2010/07/05/pdfs/BOE-A-2010-10601.pdf). Law 9/2006, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2010/07/05/pdfs/BOE-A-2010-10601.pdf). Regional law on SEA - Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary	

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	environment, are applied, kept under review and further developed, as appropriate, to enhance public participation from an early stage in strategic decision-making processes. This should be done with appropriate public involvement and taking fully into account the specific nature and constraints of such processes and related obligations under other multilateral environmental agreements such as in particular the Protocol						<p>context, signed in Espoo, on 25 February 1991. (Directly applicable). Legislative Royal Decree 1/2008, of 11 January, approving the codifying legislation on the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of projects. Regional legislation on EIA.</p> <p>The proposal of a new Law on EIA/SEA has followed the provisions of Aarhus Convention in order to fully guarantee public participation.</p> <p>The environmental assessment of plans and programs, is regulated by Law 9/2006 of 28 April on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment and incorporated into Spanish law Directive 2001/42/EC , as well as the provision of Aarhus Convention</p> <p>Strategic environmental assessment is constituted as a prevention tool to integrate environmental concerns from the initial stages of the planning process and promotes public participation, allowing incorporate the results into the decision-making process of public plans and programs.</p> <p>Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) encourages the active participation of stakeholders in its implementation. The Spanish Water Law and Regulation of Water Planning in the articles collected all the requirements of Article 14 of the WFD</p>
		Regulatory provisions				Norway	

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	on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and by involving its bodies in such processes.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway	
		Practices				Norway	Slovakia: Public has access via legislative regulations portal (https://lt.justice.gov.sk/Default.aspx) and possibility to comment all legislative and law documents.
	III.5: To enhance the effectiveness of public participation, the development and application of innovative forms and tools of public participation beyond traditional consultation	Constitutional provisions					
		Legislative provisions				Spain	Spain: Law of Electronic Administration
		Regulatory provisions				Spain	

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	procedures are encouraged, the development of non-governmental organizations' capacity is supported and civil society is strengthened.	Formal operational procedures and mechanisms			Norway	Spain	<p>Norway: Many NGOs are actively involved in promoting public awareness of environmental issues, and play a very important role in this work. Some of them receive government funding and/or accept commissions from the state. The Norwegian authorities support environmental NGOs and measures that are designed to improve people's knowledge of the environment or that focus on environmental problems. Many environmental organizations receive basic funding as a means of maintaining a wide variety of democratic, nationwide organizations that focus on environmental protection, and thus ensuring voluntary efforts and strengthening participation in environmental issues at local, regional and central level. Furthermore, organizations that provide expertise and information on environmentally-friendly production and consumption receive annual grants.</p> <p>Spain: In both the State and Autonomous levels, public participation in the drafting and approval of plans and programmes is facilitated through the implementation of new technologies allowing the interactive participation of citizens, whose aim is the transparency and promotion of these plans and programmes. At the local level, new channels of participation are being set up or existing ones are being strengthened, Some Autonomous Communities have created profiles on Facebook and other social networks for the mass dissemination of information and as additional means of participatory processes. This social tool has become a major means of communication in today's society.</p>
		Practices		Spain	Norway		<p>Slovakia: Besides traditional tools, public participation is available via internet tools.</p> <p>Spain: The development of NGOs capacity needs to be promoted</p>

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	III.6 [1]: Work on promoting effective access to justice continues, in particular by way of further information exchange, capacity-building and exchange of good practice, inter alia, on the issue of criteria for standing, taking fully into account the Convention's objective of guaranteeing access to justice.	Constitutional provisions				Slovakia	
		Legislative provisions				Norway Slovakia	
		Regulatory provisions				Slovakia	
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms	Norway	Spain		Slovakia	Norway: Currently no specific information exchange or capacity building started or in progress. Spain: Need to intensify promotion and specific capacity building
		Practices	Norway			Slovakia	Norway: As above.
	III.6 [2]: The extension of the range of members of the public having access to administrative and judicial procedures is	Constitutional provisions					
		Legislative provisions				Norway Spain	Norway: Such access is provided to the public in general, including environmental non-governmental organizations. Spain: Law 27/2006 (art. 20-23)

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	explored, with particular focus on access by environmental non-governmental organizations.	Regulatory provisions					
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway	
		Practices				Norway	
	III.6 [3]: Steps are taken to remove or reduce financial and other barriers and to establish assistance mechanisms where appropriate.	Constitutional provisions				Spain	Spain: Article 119 Justice shall be free of charge when the law so provides and in any case for those who have insufficient means to litigate
		Legislative provisions				Norway Spain	Norway: Administrative complaints procedres are free of charge. As described above, bringing a case to court is not considered prohibitively expensive. Spain: Art 23. Law 27/2006.
		Regulatory provisions					
		Formal operational procedures and mechanisms				Norway	
		Practices			Spain	Norway	Spain: Need to clarify some interpretations on free legal assistance

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	III.7: The Parties explore possibilities for the development of measures under the Convention to ensure greater opportunities for public participation in policy formulation and implementation contributing to sustainable development, recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the related Plan of Implementation. Furthermore, the Parties share their experiences in implementing the Convention with other forums interested in using them as a basis or a	Constitutional provisions					Slovakia: Article 44 of the Slovak Constitution Government Council for Sustainable Development Horizontal Priority – SD for 2007 - 2013
Legislative provisions				Slovakia	Norway	Slovakia: National Strategy for Sustainable Development Government Resolution No. 978/2001 Parliament Resolution No. 1989/2002	
Regulatory provisions				Slovakia		Slovakia: Action Plan of Sustainable Development for 2005 – 2010 Government Resolution No. 574/2005	
Formal operational procedures and mechanisms		Spain				Norway	
Practices		Spain		Slovakia	Norway	Slovakia: CSD Country Profile – evaluation of SD indicators according AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS OECD Environmental Performance Review	

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	source of inspiration for further strengthening participatory democracy in their respective fields.						
