

### **Agenda item 3. Promotion and Capacity Building; b. Subregional and national activities**

#### **Statement by Magdolna Tóthné dr. Nagy, Project Manager, Participatio Ltd.**

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you news about the launching of the new project „Enhancement of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) in the Western Balkan countries and the Republic of Moldova”, kindly funded by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety with funds from the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries bordering the European Union and by the Federal Environment Agency. The project is supervised by the Federal Environment Agency. It will be implemented in three Parties, Albania, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova, one signatory, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kosovo\*, by Participatio Ltd. in partnership with the Resource Environmental Center Albania, the Resource Environmental Center Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Resource Environmental Community Montenegro and EcoContact from Moldova, between May 20, 2021 and May 19, 2023. The project will also support the ratification of the Protocol by Bosnia and Herzegovina. The implementers have also offered their own contribution to the funding.

The project aims at supporting the project countries to develop or upgrade their PRTRs and to enable the relevant authorities, operators and NGOs for the implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs, and for the prospective implementation of E-PRTR & LCP integrated reporting, the reporting to the European Union Registry on Industrial Sites, preparing for the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive. The goal, ultimately, is to achieve more informed decision-making for sustainability, and thus, achieve environmental improvements.

The activities of the project include technical assistance, capacity building in form of trainings for operators and the civil society, and guidance documents for operators, transfer of knowledge and experience sharing. The experiences of countries with more advanced PRTRs in the region, EU and Europe will be shared bilaterally. Also, a regional experience sharing workshop will be held on the implementation of the PRTR Protocol and the requirements of E-PRTR & LCP

integrated reporting, reporting to the EU Registry on Industrial Sites and IED, on using for PRTRs for more informed decision-making for sustainability, as well as on other uses, such as, reporting for relevant international agreements and SGDs.

As a result of the project activities, it is expected to:

- Make further **progress** in the implementation of the PRTR Protocol and the transfer of the relevant EU legislation in the project countries;
- Have **functioning PRTRs in place** with regular, good quality **online reporting by operators**; and
- **Improved accessibility and availability of PRTR data** and information for the public via PRTR websites, in more interesting and understandable format;
- **Increased transparency of decision-making on the development or improvement of PRTRs**;
- **Improved capacities of PRTR authorities, operators and CSOs**;
- **Regular use of PRTRs for informing the public** of potential risks and impacts of pollutants and transfers, and through this **empowering civil society to take actions in their communities**;
- **Developing and implementing pollution reduction programmes** leading to progress towards European environmental standards and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project builds on the former results of earlier projects but will also contribute to the implementation of the Work Programme and Strategic Plan of the Protocol. There could be opportunities for cooperation with the Secretariat of the Protocol on PRTRs which could be further explored and built on, during the next intersessional period.

Thank you for the attention!