



**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**  
**Environmental Protection Agency**

# **Implementation of the first Pillar of the Aarhus Convention - Access to Information in Environmental Matters**

**Kyiv, March 2019**



# Legal Framework (1)

- Serbia became Party to the Aarhus Convention by adopting the Law on Ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (“OG of RS”, No. 38/09);
- Serbia became Party to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to the Aarhus Convention by adopting the Law on ratification (“OG of RS”, No. 8/11);
- Serbia adopted the Strategy for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and related Action Plan (“OG of RS”, No. 103/11).



## Legal Framework (2)

- **Law on Environmental Protection (LEP)** (“OG of RS”, No. 135/04, 36/09, 72/09, 43/11, 14/16, 76/18 and 95/18 )
- **Law on free access to information of public importance** (“OG of RS”, No. 120/04, 54/07, 104/09 and 36/10)
- Other relevant legislative act is:
  - Regulation on content and method of environmental protection information system management, methodology, structure, common bases, categories and levels of data collection and on the content of information the public is constantly and mandatory informed about (“OG of RS”, No. 112/09)



# Institutional framework

**Ministry responsible for Environmental Protection (2 information officer)**

- **Environmental Protection Agency (71 employees)**
- **National, regional and local authorities responsible for environmental protection (1 information officer in each authority)**
- **Commissioner for Information of Public Importance (59 employees)**
- **Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety**
- **Arhus Centres**



# Implementation – passive flow (1)

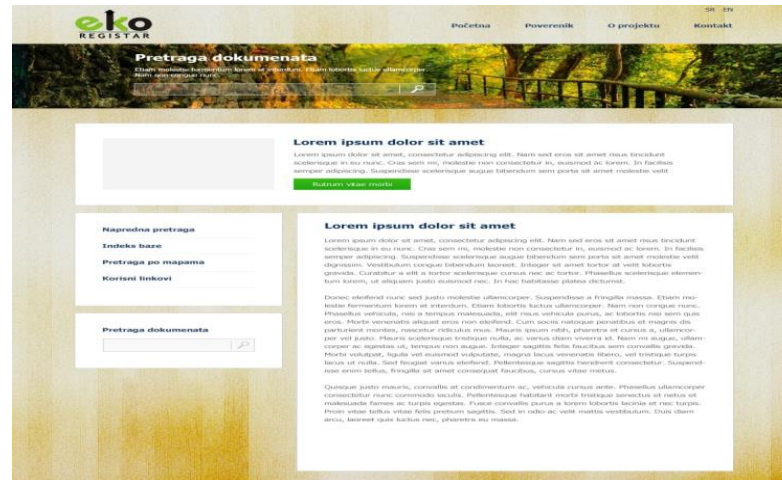
- Public authorities have the obligation to provide information on environment at request:
  - appointed official persons (information officers) to answer to request for information of public importance (information on environment is information of public importance, according to the law in force).
- Exceptions: Legislation in force provides for exceptions, i.e. a request for information can be refused in specific cases which are to a great extent in accordance with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention.



# Implementation – active flow (1)

## A. Environmental Information system:

- is operated by the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
- All links available at main SEPA portal: [www.sepa.gov.rs](http://www.sepa.gov.rs)
- data are divided in thematic sectors, e.g.: Air and climate changes; Water; Nature and biodiversity; Land; Waste; Noise; etc.
- Ecoregister - [www.ekoregistar.sepa.gov.rs](http://www.ekoregistar.sepa.gov.rs)





## Implementation –active flow (2)

### B. National Air Quality Portal:

<http://www.sepa.gov.rs/DostavljanjePodataka/Default.aspx>

- Real time data on air quality.
- 48 stations, integrating data from all operational automatic networks

### C. National Water Quality Portal:

<http://77.46.150.213:8080/apex/f?p=406:4>

- Near real time data on water quality.
- 9 stations on major water streams

### D. Data on pollen concentrations

<http://www.sepa.gov.rs/index.php?menu=303&id=1111&akcija=showExternal>

- Weekly report on pollen concentrations.
- 25 stations, 24 allergen species



# Implementation –active flow (3)

## E. Open Data Portal

<http://data.sepa.gov.rs/>

- Available since 2017, different formats and APIs
- 19 data sets: Air quality (real time), Water Quality, Waste, Emissions, Pollen Concentrations, Soil Quality, PRTR.

## F. National Environmental Indicators Portal

<http://indicator.sepa.gov.rs/>

- 81 environmental indicators
- Divided into 12 sections: Air and Climate Change, Water, Biodiversity, Soil, Waste, Noise, Forestry, Sustainable Development, etc.





# Implementation –active flow (4)

## G. Waste Management GIS portal

<http://www.nrizgis.sepa.gov.rs/NRIZGIS/index.html>

- Data and Waste generation, collection, treatment, disposal, export and import

## H. Biodiversity CHM Portal

<http://biodiverzitet-chm.rs/>

- The Serbian Biodiversity Portal is a part of the global information exchange network established by the Convention on Biodiversity (Clearing House Mechanism - CHM).
- Its purpose is to offer directly or provide links to the information on biodiversity.



# Implementation –active flow (5)

I. National Register of Pollution Sources is available at:

<http://www.sepa.gov.rs/DostavljanjePodataka/Default.aspx>

- data from 2009.
- reporting to E-PRTR on voluntary basis from 2011.
- can be found on the following website of the SEPA:

<http://77.46.150.211/TeamsPublic/teamssr.aspx?FormName=PRTRPublicForm>

- for 2018, includes 277 facilities which are the most significant sources of pollution in the Republic of Serbia in the field of, e.g.:
  - Production and processing of metals – 2
  - Mineral industry – 58
  - Chemical industry - 17
  - Waste and waste water management - 17



## Implementation – active flow (6)

### C. Website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection:

- A list of environmental legislation in force:  
<http://www.ekologija.gov.rs/dokumenti/>
- Environmental impact assessment Studies, requests and decisions on screening and scooping:  
<http://www.ekologija.gov.rs/obavestenja/procena-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu/>

### D. Database of the Agency for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety:

- annual report on the level of exposure of the population to ionizing radiation from the environment:  
<http://www.srbatom.gov.rs/srbatom/monitoring-radioaktivnosti.htm>



## Implementation – active flow (7)

E. Websites of the five Aarhus centers (Kragujevac, Subotica, Novi Sad, Nis and Belgrade)

**AARHUSKG**  
ARHUS CENTAR KRAGUJEVAC

**AARHUSU**  
ARHUS CENTAR SUBOTICA

**NBG**

**AARHUSNS**  
ARHUS CENTAR NOVI SAD

**AARHUSJIS**  
ARHUS CENTAR JUŽNE I ISTOČNE SRBIJE



**Thank you for your attention!**

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**Serbian Environmental Protection Agency**