

Second Interim Progress Report

1. Identification: "Further strengthening of national capacities for risk management of Hazardous Substances throughout their life cycle"

Partners Names: Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia

Budget lines: M99/ M1-32CML-000001/SB-007154.02.06.02.01.05/11218/14AC0005

POW: 2018-2021 Subprogramme 5: Chemicals and Waste

Expected Accomplishment: This project aims to build the sustainable capacity of the government for the sound chemicals and hazardous waste management through strengthening national legislation and capacity building of stakeholders

Title of the approved PRC project: Strengthening of national legislation and capacity building of stakeholders for sound chemicals and hazardous waste management in Serbia

PCA starting date: 13 May 2023

Reporting period: from 1 January to 31 December 2025

2. Summary of Status:

Brief description of the status of implementation of the PCA at the time of reporting and progress towards achieving PCA's objective:

During the reporting period from January to December 2025, the team of experts continued to provide dedicated support for the implementation of project activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP). Their work focused on strengthening national and industry capacities through a combination of targeted trainings, technical workshops, analytical studies, and the development of key national tools and reference documents related to hazardous substances, microplastics, and nanomaterials. These activities supported the transition toward safer alternatives, improved regulatory awareness and compliance, enhanced evidence-based policymaking through inventories and studies, and culminated in the update of the National Chemicals Management Profile, collectively contributing to the advancement of sound chemicals and waste management in Serbia. During this period, the team focused on implementing key studies, inventories, trainings, and national reference documents necessary to achieve these objectives.

1. Updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile (NCMP) (2009- 2021)
2. Training of industry on safer alternatives to hazardous substances which are subject of the SAICM's "Issues of Concern"
3. Training for using XRF detector intended for producers and importers of plastic articles (children toys and other plastic articles for general use)
4. Development of a Guidance Document on Identification and Safe Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Materials, including XRF Screening Approaches

Updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile (NCMP) (2009- 2021)

Final version of the National Chemicals Management Profile is officially completed and updated national reference document that comprehensively describes the current system for the sound management of chemicals in the Republic of Serbia, as finalized in 2025. It provides an integrated overview of chemicals management across the entire life cycle—covering production, import, export, use, storage, transport, waste management, and accident preparedness—while addressing hazardous chemicals of global concern in line with international obligations. Developed in accordance with UNITAR methodology and finalized through coordinated interinstitutional cooperation, the profile consolidates information on national legislation harmonized with EU frameworks, institutional mandates, technical and human capacities, data availability, international commitments, and public awareness mechanisms. The document presents an agreed national baseline, identifies remaining gaps and priorities, and sets out conclusions and recommendations that will guide future policy development, capacity building, and the effective implementation of sound chemicals management in Serbia.

Training of industry on safer alternatives to hazardous substances which are subject of the SALCM's "Issues of Concern"

This activity aimed to strengthen the capacity of industry stakeholders to transition from hazardous substances of international concern, including substances of very high concern (SVHCs) and intentionally added microplastics, to safer and more sustainable alternatives, in line with SALCM Issues of Concern and UNEP Special Programme objectives. The project supported producers, importers, and distributors of consumer products through targeted capacity building focused on safer alternatives for materials and chemicals used in plastics, textiles, and cosmetics.

The activity was implemented through a series of five capacity-building workshops and knowledge-exchange events, including technical presentation and informational leaflet and two brochures. Training content was specifically tailored for PVC product manufacturers, textile producers and importers, importers of textile raw materials, and cosmetic product manufacturers. All training materials and sessions were developed and delivered by NET in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce (SCC), following relevant guidance developed by UNEP, SALCM, and other multilateral chemicals agreements. In addition, the project promoted safer products and alternatives to consumers through virtual events and social media outreach.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, this activity also strengthened institutional cooperation between the Department for Chemicals of the MEP and relevant industrial associations within the SCC. This cooperation supports long-term transformation in industrial production away from endocrine-disrupting SVHCs toward safer alternatives, directly contributing to the goals of the UNEP Special Programme. Capacity-building activities implemented under this action include:

1. Online Workshop on Techniques for Separation of Hazardous Chemicals from E-waste Streams, organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection for recycling companies in Serbia (**Belgrade, November 2024**), covering hazardous chemicals in e-waste (e.g. heavy metals, brominated flame retardants, phthalates), analytical identification techniques, and best available techniques (BAT) for their separation from recycling streams. The workshop was attended by representatives of recycling companies and polymer processors using recycled plastics as raw materials.
2. Industry Workshop on Microplastics and Nanomaterials in Consumer Products, held on **30 January 2025** at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Belgrade, within the UNDP/UNEP project framework. The workshop presented project studies on identified consumer products containing microplastics and nanomaterials,

regulatory developments, gender exposure aspects, and guidance for developing preliminary inventories. The event enabled direct dialogue between regulators, industry representatives, and experts on safer alternatives and compliance with emerging restrictions.

3. International Conference "Microplastics for Breakfast", held in Belgrade (April 2025), where representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection presented project results and publications to the international scientific and professional community. The conference was organized by Educons University and Superlab Institute.
4. International Conference MICROM 2025 – Microplastics in Organic-rich Matrices, held on 26–27 November 2025, organized by Educons University from Novi Sad. Representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection participated and disseminated project findings related to microplastics, exposure pathways, and the need for safer material alternatives.
5. World Environment Day, celebrated on 5 June 2025 and organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, included a dedicated panel on microplastics and nanoplastics, aimed at raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of the wider public on risks, exposure pathways, and the importance of safer and more sustainable material alternatives. In addition, an interactive educational workshop for primary school pupils was organized, focusing on micro- and nanoplastics, their environmental and health impacts, and the role of responsible consumption, thereby contributing to early awareness-raising and long-term behavioral change.

Together, these five capacity-building activities enhanced technical knowledge, regulatory awareness, and practical capacity across industry, recycling, and scientific communities, while promoting substitution of hazardous substances and supporting safer production and consumption patterns in Serbia.

Training for using XRF detector intended for producers and importers of plastic articles (children toys and other plastic articles for general use)

A dedicated training workshop was held on 14th of April 2025 on the use of handheld XRF detectors was organized for producers and importers of plastic articles, with a particular focus on children's toys and plastic products intended for general use. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) in cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, with the aim of strengthening industry capacity to identify hazardous substances in plastic materials and ensure compliance with chemical safety requirements.

During the training, representatives of MEP provided an overview of the regulatory context and the role of XRF screening in the identification of restricted substances in plastics. This was followed by a practical demonstration of handheld XRF detectors, including guidance on proper handling, measurement procedures, and interpretation of results. Polymer raw material samples supplied by participants from the plastic processing industry were analyzed on-site as part of the hands-on session. Approximately 15 samples were tested, and in all cases the concentrations of hazardous substances were below the detection limits of the device, indicating that the tested materials were compliant and safe. The training enhanced participants' practical knowledge of rapid screening techniques and supported proactive compliance and safer production and import of plastic articles. Please note that the news article covering the held training and workshop is available at the following link: <https://www.pks.rs/vesti/tehniko-za-separaciju-i-skrining-zagadjujucih-supstanci-prisutnih-u-recikliranim-plasticnim-materijalima-11419>.

Development of a Guidance Document on Identification and Safe Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Materials, including XRF Screening Approaches

This study represents a comprehensive analytical and guidance-based assessment aimed at supporting the identification, separation, and safe management of plastic materials containing hazardous chemicals throughout their life cycle. It provides an overview of chemicals associated with plastics, including additives, monomers, and non-intentionally added substances, with a focus on substances of concern due to their hazardous properties and potential impacts on human health and the environment. The study reviews the regulatory framework in Serbia aligned with EU legislation, identifies priority sectors and vulnerable population groups exposed to hazardous chemicals in plastics, and examines challenges related to recycling and circular economy implementation. It also presents practical approaches for chemical identification, including screening techniques such as XRF analysis, and outlines technological options for mechanical and chemical recycling while preventing the recirculation of hazardous substances. The study serves as a technical and policy-support tool for improving chemical safety, informed decision-making, and sustainable plastics management within a circular economy framework.

The project team consists of three key experts: a Lead Expert, a Legal Expert, and a Chemicals/Waste Management Expert.

- Mr. Nebojša Pokimica serves as the Lead Expert, boasting over 20 years of experience in chemicals management and holding a Master's Degree in Chemistry. His contract spans from November 6, 2023, to December 13, 2024, with the possibility of extension.
- Ms. Jasmina Kostelac Blegović is the Legal Expert, bringing more than 20 years of experience in legal affairs and legal analysis within the public administration, particularly in the environmental sector. Her contract is effective from November 6, 2023, to December 13, 2024, with the potential for extension.
- Ms. Anđelka Mihajlov serves as the Chemicals/Waste Management Expert, possessing over 20 years of experience in chemicals management and waste management. Her contract spans from November 6, 2023, to December 13, 2024, with the option of extension.

During the reporting period, **one international study and coordination trip** was organized for a representative of the Department for Chemicals of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), aimed at strengthening institutional and technical capacities related to microplastics, hazardous chemicals, circular economy, and international chemicals and waste governance.

The trip to **Geneva, Switzerland**, was undertaken by **Ms. Suzana Andrejević Stefanović**, OCP (Official Contact Point) and DNA (Designated National Authority) for the Rotterdam Convention, Member of the Chemicals Review Committee (CRC), Head of Division for Chemicals Management attended the meeting as part of the Serbian

delegation, from **26 to 28 March 2025**, in order to participate in the **Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2025 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**, organized by the BRS Secretariat.

The meeting addressed a broad range of strategic, legal, scientific, and technical issues related to chemicals and waste management under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Discussions covered, inter alia, plastic waste, amendments related to e-waste, hazardous chemicals in products, wastes containing nano materials, and proposals for the listing of additional chemicals under the conventions. Participation in the meeting enabled Serbia to actively contribute to regional consultations, exchange views on implementation challenges, and align national positions with ongoing international developments under the BRS Conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals. In addition, project-related activities and results were presented to regional partners, contributing to increased visibility and coherence with relevant international processes.

Participation in the meeting was financed by the project, as travel costs were not covered by the convention secretariats or EU funding mechanisms. Eligible expenses included international airfare, accommodation with breakfast, Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSAs), and terminal expenses. The total cost of the mission amounted to **USD 5,411.01** and covered one participant.

This international study and coordination mission was conducted under **Activity 1.3 – Drafting the amendments of the national regulatory framework for the implementation of bans and restrictions on products containing nanomaterials or microplastics and the ban on the use of mercury amalgams in dental applications**. The mission directly supported the drafting process by strengthening institutional and technical capacities related to hazardous chemicals, microplastics, and international chemicals and waste governance frameworks. Participation in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2025 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions enabled the Ministry of Environmental Protection to obtain up-to-date regulatory, legal, and scientific guidance relevant to EU and international standards underpinning the proposed amendments. The activity was financed from the **travel budget allocated under Activity 1.3**, as travel costs were not covered by the convention secretariats or EU funding mechanisms. The knowledge gained during the mission directly informed the development and alignment of national regulatory amendments with the REACH Regulation, the EU Mercury Regulation, and obligations under the BRS Conventions.

This international engagement significantly strengthened the technical, regulatory, and strategic capacities of ministerial staff, particularly in the areas of chemicals risk assessment, identification and management of hazardous substances in products and waste streams, evaluation of safer alternatives, and implementation of international chemicals and waste agreements. The knowledge and experience gained directly supported subsequent project activities, including industry-focused trainings, analytical studies, inventories, and ongoing efforts to modernize Serbia's chemicals and waste management framework, ensuring sustained institutional benefits beyond the project duration.

The participation of Ms. Suzana Andrejević Stefanović in the Regional Preparatory Meeting was of particular importance for improving and harmonizing national terminology related to pesticides, chemicals, biocides, human and veterinary medicines, medical devices, cosmetic products, and borderline products within Serbian

legislation. In her capacity as Official Contact Point and Designated National Authority for the Rotterdam Convention, as well as a member of the Chemicals Review Committee, a precise and consistent understanding of internationally agreed definitions and regulatory language is essential for the effective implementation of convention obligations.

Discussions held in Geneva on the listing of chemicals under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, compliance mechanisms, and implementation challenges provided valuable guidance on international approaches to the classification, evaluation, and regulation of chemicals. This knowledge is directly transferable to national legislative processes, supporting the development of clear, unambiguous, and internationally aligned terminology, particularly in complex borderline cases where products may fall under multiple regulatory regimes. Exchanges with other national authorities and convention secretariats further enabled Serbia to benchmark its regulatory approaches and legislative terminology against those of other Parties, contributing to improved coherence across chemicals legislation, sector-specific laws, and implementing bylaws, and reducing regulatory uncertainty for both authorities and industry.

In conclusion, the project has been successfully implemented, achieving significant progress in strengthening national and industry capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the Republic of Serbia. Through targeted trainings, technical workshops, analytical studies and international knowledge exchange, the project addressed key challenges related to hazardous substances, microplastics, and nanomaterials, while supporting alignment with EU and international frameworks. Key deliverables—including industry training on safer alternatives, XRF screening training, Guidance Document on Identification and Safe Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Materials, including XRF Screening Approaches and the updated National Chemicals Management Profile—have established a solid evidence base for regulatory development, risk prioritization, and informed decision-making. International engagement further strengthened institutional expertise and ensured effective transfer of international best practices into national policies. A no-cost extension has been granted, and all remaining activities will be completed by June 2026, ensuring full delivery of planned outputs and consolidation of project results.

3. Outputs/Activity delivery status

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Output 1 - Strengthened policy and regulatory framework for chemicals and waste sound management in accordance with BRS-M conventions	Organization of the first validation workshop and presenting the NPCM document at the validation workshop with all relevant	First validation workshop organized	6/3/2024	Complete	The first validation workshop was successfully organized, and the draft of the NPCM document has been delivered following the UNITAR Guidance Document. See agenda, list of participants and report for the meeting. If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
	stakeholders (governmental institutions, scientific institutions, private sector, CSOs).				If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
Activity 1.1 Updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile (NCMP) (2009- 2021)	The collection of updated data and information from representatives of governmental institutions and other national competent authorities, particularly from the BRS-M Working Group, plays a pivotal role in the ongoing process of updating the National Plan for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (NPCM). This collaborative effort ensures that the NPCM remains current and responsive to evolving environmental challenges and priorities.	Final National Profile for Chemicals Management - NPCM (for the period 2009- 2021)	11/11/2025	Complete	The updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile (NCMP) involved several implementation challenges, primarily related to the collection, validation, and consolidation of up-to-date data from multiple governmental institutions and competent authorities. Differences in data availability, reporting formats, and timelines across institutions, as well as the need to reflect recent legislative changes and emerging policy areas (such as microplastics, hazardous substances in products and waste streams, and circular economy aspects), required additional coordination and iterative revisions of the document. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Environmental Protection adopted a structured, consultative approach based on the UNITAR methodology, ensuring continuous interinstitutional cooperation and expert support throughout the process. Targeted consultations, technical exchanges, and feedback loops with relevant authorities were organized to clarify responsibilities, harmonize inputs, and improve data consistency. International knowledge gained through study visits and regional meetings was also used to refine chapters related to risk assessment, monitoring systems, legislative alignment, and international obligations. The activity has been successfully completed, with the final version of the NCMP finalized in 2025. No outstanding risks remain for this activity. The updated NCMP now serves as a consolidated national baseline and strategic reference for chemicals management in Serbia, identifying remaining gaps and priorities and providing a clear framework to guide future

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
Activity 1.2. Improvement of the terminology for pesticides, chemicals, biocides, human and veterinary medicines and medical devices, cosmetic products and bordering products cases in national legislation	The activities carried out included conducting a comprehensive desk review, which involved collecting and analyzing government-published data to identify legal gaps in the national legislation related to chemicals, biocidal products, human and veterinary medicines, medical devices, plant protection products, and certain borderline cases of cosmetic products.	Proposed Draft of the amendments of national regulatory framework for implementation of bans and restrictions of products containing NM or MP and bans of using mercury amalgams in dental applications, for inclusion in the Government legislation plan.	7/6/2024	Complete	Proposed amendments to the national regulatory framework were developed to implement bans and restrictions on products containing nanomaterials or microplastics and to prohibit the use of mercury amalgams in dental applications. Based on the updated EU legislative framework, including Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation and the Mercury Regulation, these amendments align national legislation with EU standards to mitigate health and environmental risks. The approach aims to enhance regulatory measures and support compliance with international conventions. To advance the proposed amendments, the next steps include inter-ministerial review and legal harmonization to ensure alignment with the updated EU regulatory framework. This should be followed by targeted stakeholder consultations and a brief impact assessment. After incorporating feedback, the amendments should proceed through the formal adoption process, supported by implementation planning, awareness-raising, and monitoring to ensure effective compliance.
Activity 1.3 Drafting the amendments of the national regulatory framework for implementation of bans and restrictions of products containing NM or MP and bans of using mercury amalgams in dental applications	The activities included conducting a comprehensive desk review, which involved collecting and analyzing government-published data to identify legal gaps in national legislation related to	Prepared legal gap terms analysis and recommendations for amending legal acts.	9/5/2024	Complete	This analysis informed the development of targeted strategies and actions to address these gaps and align national regulations with EU standards, ensuring comprehensive risk management and compliance.

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
	Rotterdam Convention. Based on the legal gap analysis, recommendations for amendments to the existing national legislation were developed.				
Activity 1.3 Drafting the amendments of the national regulatory framework for implementation of bans and restrictions of products containing NM or MP and bans of using mercury amalgams in dental applications	Official Government delegation traveling to Geneva, Switzerland, with the purpose of participation in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2025 Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.	Participation in the Regional Preparatory Meeting under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	26 – 28/4/2025	Complete	Participation in the Geneva meeting provided the Ministry of Environmental Protection with critical first-hand insight into international regulatory approaches for assessing and managing hazardous substances under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In particular, the meeting enhanced understanding of how Contracting Parties apply toxicological, ecotoxicological, and socio-economic criteria when deciding on bans, restrictions, and control measures for chemicals of concern, as well as the regulatory implications of substances listed under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. This knowledge was essential for supporting the drafting of amendments to the national regulatory framework addressing products containing nanomaterials and microplastics, as well as the phase-out of mercury amalgams in dental applications, in line with evolving international obligations and best practices. Furthermore, discussions on chemical classification, compliance mechanisms, and practical implementation challenges provided valuable input for improving national legal terminology and regulatory consistency across chemicals-related legislation. This was particularly relevant for complex borderline product categories, including medical and dental products, cosmetics, biocides, pesticides, and human and veterinary medicines, where clear definitions are crucial for the effective enforcement of bans and restrictions. Aligning

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
					national terminology with internationally agreed definitions helps reduce regulatory ambiguity, strengthens compliance and enforcement, and ensures coherence across sectoral laws. Given Serbia's recent adoption of updated chemicals and biocidal products legislation aligned with EU requirements, as well as international commitments under the Minamata Convention to phase out mercury-containing products, participation in the Geneva meeting was necessary to ensure that planned regulatory amendments are technically sound, legally robust, and fully aligned with EU and international standards. The participation directly supported the development of evidence-based regulatory amendments, contributing to the effective implementation of bans and restrictions related to nanomaterials, microplastics, and mercury amalgams, and to the overall strengthening of chemicals management in Serbia.
Output 2 - Built capacity of industry and raised awareness of general public (men and women) on chemicals and waste management				On-going	Completion of this output is planned for 2026, in accordance with the approved no-cost extension.
Activity 2.1 Project kick-off conference for stakeholders organized	Kick-off conference was held for stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the project.	Project kick-off conference for stakeholders organized.	20/12/2023	Complete	On December 20, 2023, a kick-off conference was conducted with 31 attendees, comprising members of the working group tasked with project implementation. During this kick-off event, the fundamental objectives and core components of the project were presented, alongside an overview of its management structure. Emphasis was placed on the project's significance, particularly regarding the development of documents addressing nanomaterials and microplastics, as well as its relevance to gender equality and vulnerable demographics. Furthermore, comprehensive details regarding the project's activities were provided, with a particular focus on the organizational framework and methodological approach for implementation.

Outputs/ Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
Activity 2.2 Training of industry on safer alternatives to hazardous substances which are subject of the SAICM's "Issues of Concern."	During the reporting period, targeted capacity-building activities were implemented to support industry transition toward safer alternatives to hazardous substances, including SVHCs and intentionally added microplastics. Four workshops and knowledge-exchange events were organized, supported by tailored training materials, institutional cooperation with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, and outreach activities, strengthening regulatory awareness, technical knowledge, and practical capacity across industry, recycling, and scientific communities.	Online Workshop on Techniques for Separation of Hazardous Chemicals from E-waste Streams Industry Workshop on Microplastics and Nanomaterials in Consumer Products International Workshop "Microplastics for Breakfast" International Workshop MICROM – Microplastics in Organic-rich Matrices World Environment Day – Awareness-Raising Event	11/2024 30/01/2025 04/2025 26/11/2025 – 27/11/2025 05/06/2025	Complete	The workshops and awareness-raising activities successfully strengthened the capacity of industry stakeholders and increased awareness of the general public on hazardous substances, microplastics, and safer material alternatives. Through targeted workshops and international knowledge-exchange events, the activities addressed key technical and regulatory challenges related to chemicals in products and waste streams, while promoting compliance with emerging restrictions and the substitution of hazardous substances. The discussions and feedback gathered during these events informed practical recommendations for industry and regulators, supporting safer production and consumption patterns. The outcomes of these activities will be used by the Ministry of Environmental Protection to further guide capacity-building measures, awareness campaigns, and policy actions aimed at improving chemicals and waste management practices and ensuring long-term environmental and health protection.
Activity 2.3a Development of guidance document to inform pilot practical XRF testing on PBDEs, lead and cadmium of plastic raw material (plastic granulates)	During the reporting period, a Guidance Document on the identification and safe management of	Development of a Guidance Document on Identification and Safe Management	24/11/2025	Complete	The activity was successfully completed and resulted in the development of a comprehensive guidance document supporting the identification and safe management of hazardous chemicals in plastic materials. A key implementation challenge was the technical complexity of identifying

Outputs/ Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
	hazardous chemicals in plastic materials was developed. The work included a review of chemicals associated with plastics, the national regulatory framework aligned with EU legislation, and key challenges related to recycling and circular economy implementation. Practical approaches for chemical identification, including XRF screening techniques, were also addressed to support safer plastics management and informed policymaking.	of Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Materials, including XRF Screening Approaches			hazardous substances in plastic raw materials and ensuring alignment with national and EU regulatory requirements. This was addressed through a structured, evidence-based approach, combining expert analysis, review of existing regulations, and the application of practical screening methods such as XRF analysis. The findings of the guidance document informed the development of practical recommendations and technical approaches aimed at strengthening chemical safety, improving recycling practices, and preventing the recirculation of hazardous substances within a circular economy framework. The conclusions will be used by the Ministry of Environmental Protection to support capacity-building activities, inform future policy and regulatory measures, and guide training and awareness-raising initiatives for producers, importers, and relevant regulatory bodies. The Ministry will consider the guidance in formulating concrete actions to enhance safer plastics management and environmental and consumer protection.
Activity 2.3b) Training for using XRF detector intended for producers and importers of plastic articles (children toys and other plastic articles for general use)	During the reporting period, a dedicated training workshop on the use of handheld XRF detectors was organized to strengthen the capacity of producers and importers of plastic articles to identify hazardous substances and ensure compliance	One practical training workshop on the use of handheld XRF detectors for screening hazardous substances in plastic articles	14/04/2025	Complete	The training was successfully implemented without significant challenges. Combining regulatory guidance with practical demonstrations ensured effective knowledge transfer and high participant engagement. The results of on-site testing confirmed that all analyzed samples were below detection limits for hazardous substances, reinforcing industry confidence in compliance practices. The knowledge gained through this training will support proactive application of XRF screening by producers and importers and will be used by the Ministry of Environmental Protection to further promote safer production, import, and market surveillance of plastic articles, particularly those intended for children and general use.

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
					If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
	with chemical safety requirements. The training combined regulatory guidance with hands-on demonstrations and practical testing of polymer raw materials supplied by industry participants.				
Activity 2.4 – raising awareness of consumers, teachers and school children on chemicals labels and safer handling of hazardous chemicals for general use (detergents, paints, biocides including Products containing nanomaterials and MPs, etc) and recycling, reuse and reduce of plastic waste			2026	Not started	
Output 3 - Identified Products containing NMs and intentionally added MPs which represent unacceptable health and environmental risk in Serbia.7				On-going	Completion of this output is planned for 2026, in accordance with the approved no-cost extension.
Activity 3.1 Development of Guidance for development of the national inventory of consumer products containing NMs and intentionally added MPs	The activities undertaken included conducting research to identify hazardous substances commonly found in plastic raw materials, consulting with industry stakeholders to gather practical insights, analyzing regulatory requirements to ensure compliance, and	Guidance document for development of national inventory of consumer products containing NMs and intentionally added MPs	6/12/2024	Complete	The development of the Guidance document on identifying and separating hazardous substances from plastic raw materials aimed to enhance the capacities of producers and importers of plastic articles, including toys. Challenges included the technical complexity of identifying hazardous substances and aligning guidance with regulatory requirements. To address these, a systematic approach was adopted, including expert analysis, and alignment with best practices and standards.

Outputs/Activity(ies)	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	Comments - brief description of implementing challenges, strategy/actions which have been adopted to address these challenges and planned actions to mitigate any identified risks
	drafting the Guidance document.				If activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
Activity 3.3 Development of the Study on identified consumer products containing NMs and MPs to identify national priorities and risks connected to exposure to these products and their packaging waste,	A study was conducted to identify high-risk consumer products with nanomaterials and microplastics in Serbia, assess exposure risks, and propose measures for risk reduction, including a list of prevalent products and vulnerable population groups.	Study on identified consumer products containing NMs and MPs and their packaging waste.	3/7/2024	Complete	The study aimed to identify national priorities and assess risks related to exposure to consumer products containing nanomaterials and microplastics and their packaging waste. To address this, a thorough analysis was conducted, resulting in a list of prevalent products and their packaging on the Serbian market, as well as identification of the most vulnerable population groups. Planned actions include implementing targeted risk reduction measures based on these findings to minimize health and environmental impacts.
Activity 3.4 Development of the Gender Study on gender exposure of identified consumer products containing NMs and MPs from the Serbian market	A study was developed on gender-specific exposure to products containing nanomaterials and microplastics from the Serbian market, including their packaging waste. The assessment examined male and female exposure, considering variations in consumer product usage and socio-economic factors.	Study on gender exposure of identified consumer products containing NMs and MPs from the Serbian market and the list of prioritized male and female exposed consumer products containing NMs and MPs.	19/9/2024	Complete	The study successfully assessed gender-specific exposure to consumer products containing nanomaterials and microplastics, along with their packaging waste, within the Serbian market. By leveraging data from previous projects by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP), it conducted a comprehensive gender-sensitive risk analysis, focusing on socio-economic factors and consumption patterns. The findings informed the development of targeted recommendations and effective policy measures to address identified vulnerabilities and ensure improved health and environmental protection.
Output 4 - Monitoring and evaluation plan developed and conducted, financial audit and exit strategy prepared and conducted	Review/analysis of the Evaluation Report.	Monitoring and evaluation plan developed.	15/12/2023	On-going	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the project is prepared in accordance with the Project Document.

4. List of attached documents

(for example, publications, meeting reports, participants list, reports of workshops, etc.)

1. National Chemicals Management Profile (NCMP)
2. Guidance Document on Identification and Safe Management of Hazardous Chemicals in Plastic Materials, including XRF Screening Approaches
3. Brochure #1
4. Brochure #2
5. Leaflet
6. Act 2.3+PPT 14 April 2025_XRF training
7. Act1.3_Proposal on amendments
8. Act1.3_Proposed amendments of the national regulatory framework
9. Act1.3_Recommendation for amendments of the national legislation
10. Amending Law on Chemicals related to Nanomaterials
11. Annex I- V Rulebook on important export of hazardous chemicals
12. Draft- Law on Dental Medicine
13. Jan30 2025 Workshop agenda
14. List of participants_workshop_30 January 2025
15. Output 1_Agenda_ 6 March 2024
16. Output 1_lost if participants validation workshop- 6 March 2024
17. Report CEE regional BRS meeting_ Geneva 26-28_3_2025
18. Report of MICROM 2025 Final Conference from Novi Sad
19. Report on Validation workshop Mrsch2024
20. Rulebook on important and export of hazardous chemicals

Name and title of signing officer: Sonja Roglic, National Project Director
Signature:



Date: 29.12.2025.