

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

FOR THE REPORTS IN THE FRAME OF THE PLASTIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT „ADDRESSING THE ESCALATING PLASTIC CRISIS IN FIVE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA“

Data collection

The first step in the data collection process during the project was to obtain statistical information on the production, import and export of plastic and plastic products by month from 2021 to 2024 to prepare registers of the primary sources of plastic pollution to inform governments, the private sector and civil society on how to prevent and reduce plastic pollution. Data were obtained from official sources of ministries and agencies of partner countries, as well as interviews with government and industry representatives.

In addition, interviews were conducted with members of the public, government agencies and businesses to obtain information on plastic recycling, the use of single-use plastic and alternatives to plastic products in the target countries. The data obtained made it possible to prepare reports on the availability of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics to promote their use in the target countries.

Based on interviews with manufacturers, an analysis of the prospects for reducing plastic pollution in the target countries is prepared.

Form for the preparation of a national inventory of significant sources of plastic pollution

To prepare national inventories of the primary sources of plastic pollution, a form was developed which included sections on plastic production, import and export of plastic products, generation, import and export of plastic waste to inform government agencies, the public and the private sector about the sources of plastic and ways to prevent and reduce pollution.

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More information about the project:
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Analyzing the national plastic market

How much and what kind of plastic is produced by polymer type in the country.

Type of polymer	Volume of output in 20xx, min tons	Volume of output in 20xx, min tons	Volume of output in 20xx, min tons	1 quar-tal 20xx	1 quar-tal 20xx	Changes Q1 20xx / Q1 20xx, %
Ethylene polymers						
Change in production volume, as a percentage of the previous year						
Propylene polymers						
Change in production volume, as a percentage of the previous year						
Vinyl chloride polymers						
Change in production volume, as a percentage of the previous year						
Styrene polymers						
Change in production volume, as a percentage of the previous year						
Polyethylene Terephthalate polymers						
Change in production volume, as a percentage of the previous year						

How much and what kind of plastic is imported into the country by polymer type

How much and what kind of plastic is exported from the country by polymer type

Changes in production, exports and imports over the last 5-10 years

Analysis of the changes that have taken place with references to statistical sources and other published sources of information, interviews with experts

Plastic market in the country

- Volume of plastic waste generated in the country with reference to statistical data, published materials, interviews with experts
- Volume of imported plastic waste into the country, with the identification of exporting countries or business companies, with reference to statistical data, published materials, interviews with experts
- The volume of exported plastic waste from the country with the identification of importing countries or business companies, with reference to statistical data, published materials, interviews with experts
- Summary of the plastic waste market in the country over the last 5-10 years, with reference to statistical data, published materials, interviews with experts
- Plastic waste management system in the country (issues of waste collection, recycling and utilization):
 - What types of plastic are recycled
 - What technologies are used
 - How much waste goes to landfills?
 - What is the volume of waste going to incineration?
- How does the principle of extended producer responsibility work in the country?
- Analyzing positive and negative trends of plastic waste generation and management in the country

Plastic labeling

- Does the country use labeling of plastic products according to the international classification ?
- How well do residents navigate the plastic classification?
- Does the country have a system for plastic waste collection and separation according to the international classification of plastic products?

Form to assess the use and control of single-use plastics and the availability of safe alternatives in target countries

1. Introduction
2. Review of existing national legislation to regulate the production, import, export and use of single-use plastics
3. Overview of existing types of single-use plastics, including applications and types of polymers used
4. Review of existing statistics on production, exports, imports and use of single-use plastics by type and sector of application
5. Overview of the availability of alternatives to single-use plastics by type of application
6. Public opinion on ending single-use plastic: what types of plastic consumers consider important and why
7. Recommendations to reduce the production, export, import and use of single-use plastics, taking into account sectors of use and the availability of safe alternatives

The report should be based on interviews with experts, statistical data and open access information materials. All figures should be substantiated with references to official materials or interviews with experts.

Questionnaires to conduct interviews with stakeholders

Stakeholder groups were divided into the following categories: producers and processors of plastic products and consumers. Separate questionnaires were prepared for each group.

Questionnaire for manufacturers of plastic products

Since what year have you been working with plastics?

What kind of plastic products do you produce?

In what quantity (in kg) do you produce plastic products per year?

Where do you import raw materials from?

Do you know what polymers and chemical ingredients make up the plastics you use? How toxic are they?

Would you like your products to have a QR code on them indicating the composition of the plastic?

How much waste do you have left over and how do you deal with plastic waste?

Your full name and phone number (optional).

Questionnaire for organizations that collect and recycle plastic products

Since what year have you been collecting plastic waste?

What products have you produced and are currently producing through recycling?

How much plastic (in kg) do you collect or recycle per year?

Where do you export your processed raw materials from and to which countries?

Do you know what polymers and chemical ingredients make up the plastics you recycle? How toxic are they?

Have you analyzed the toxic content of recycled plastic (recycled plastic pellets)?

Questionnaire for consumers of plastic products

How often do you use single-use plastics (both disposable and otherwise)?

Where do you throw your used plastic items?

Do you know what chemical elements make up your plastic products?

How often do you burn plastic?

Do you know the harm that some plastic items cause to nature and humans?

Did you wish there was a QR code on your plastic products that showed the chemical composition of the plastic?

Health effects of plastic

Are residents concerned about the health effects of plastic? If yes, what is it related to? Are there any results of population surveys?

Does the country recognize the need for a sanitary protection zone for plastic production?

Does the country have a SanPin establishing sanitary protection zones and sanitary classification of enterprises, structures and other industrial facilities and industries, including plastic and plastic products, incinerators and waste processing plants?

Do companies producing plastics and plastic products provide data on harmful emissions during production?

What are the main challenges in providing such data?

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