

DEVELOPMENT OF MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY INITIAL ASSESSMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

PROFILE

Donors: Global Environment facility (GEF), Government of Serbia

Budget: \$200,000, \$97,220

Main partner: Ministry of Environmental Protection

Duration: 2016-2018

GOAL

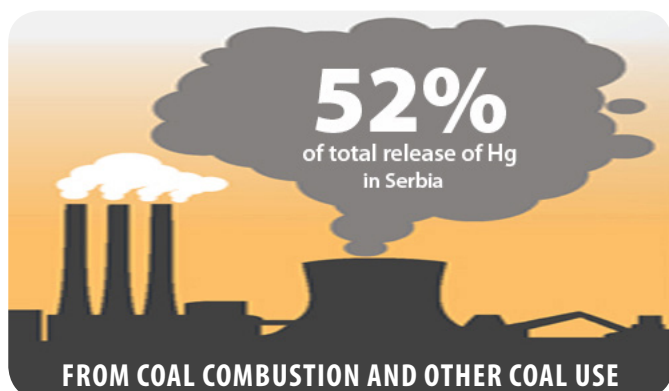
To help the Government of Serbia to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury, by developing National Mercury Inventory and Mercury Initial Assessment Report;

CONTEXT

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of emissions and releases of Mercury and Mercury compounds.

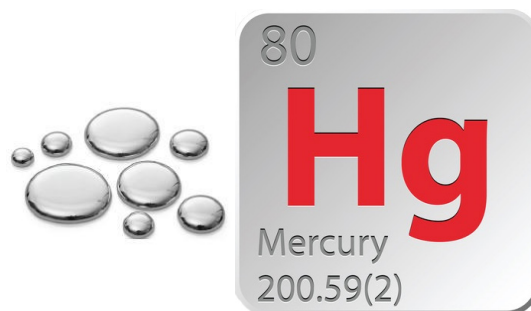
The main source of Mercury contamination in Serbia is coal combustion, as well as use and disposal of dental amalgam fillings.

The Republic of Serbia signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 9 October 2014. However, the ratification process remains to be completed.



FOCUS

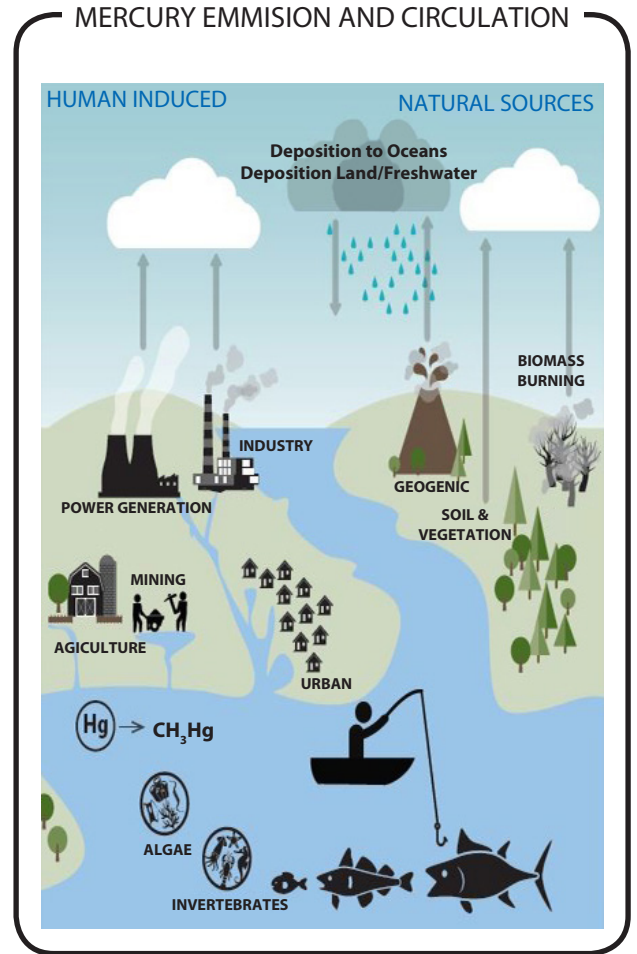
- Assisting government, academia, public, private and civil society organization (CSO) representatives to share information and collaborate across sectors to identify Mercury-related issues in Serbia, and treat their negative effects;
- Training of various stakeholders and decision-makers on how to prepare the Mercury Inventory in line with international guidelines;
- Raising awareness of the public on diverse effects of Mercury on human health and environment.



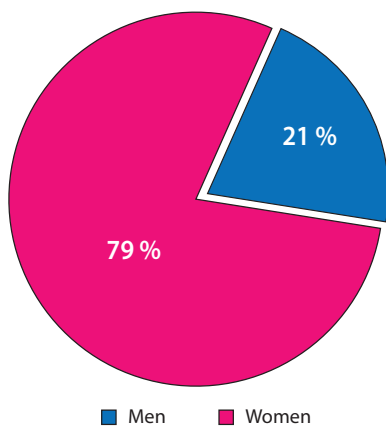
Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil. It is considered by the World Health Organization as one of the top 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern. Exposure to Mercury – even small amounts – may cause serious health problems. Once accumulated, it takes years, sometimes even decades to remove the Mercury from the human body and/or the environment.

RESULTS TO DATE

- ✓ First detailed National Mercury Inventory developed;
- ✓ Mercury Initial Assessment for Serbia prepared;
- ✓ The Ministry and the Agency for Environmental Protection improved the National Methodology for Sampling and Analyzing Mercury Emissions, enabling better monitoring and reducing emissions from two Mercury contaminated sites, former Chlor-alkali facilities “Petrohemija” in Pancevo and “Zupa” in Krusevac;
- ✓ A National Working Group is established, to ensure and strenghten multi-sector collaboration, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Health, Public Health Institute, Chamber of Commerce, Agency for Environmental Protection, Customs Administration, Statistical Office, Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, Dentists Association, HIP Petrohemija from Pancevo and Zupa from Krusevac, etc.;
- ✓ Two guidebooks with recommendations on how to safely use Mercury-containing products were prepared, and a special feature titled “Minamata Special” was filmed for broadcasting on national TV station RTS.



Mercury Inventory training participants (by gender)



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