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# Identification and Remediation of Contaminated Sites with Persistent Organic Pollutants Project Newsletter



## Contents

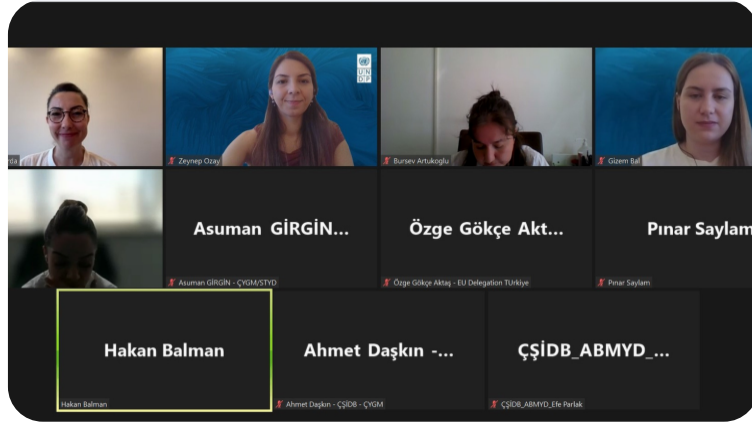
1

**37TH OPERATION  
COORDINATION UNIT  
MEETING**

2

**PROGRESS OF THE  
PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

# 37th Operation Coordination Unit (OCU) Meeting



We held the 37th OCU meeting online on 26 September with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MoEUCC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Türkiye Country Office project team. During the meeting, we discussed the activity schedule for the last six months of the project, preparations for the second addendum request, and reporting.

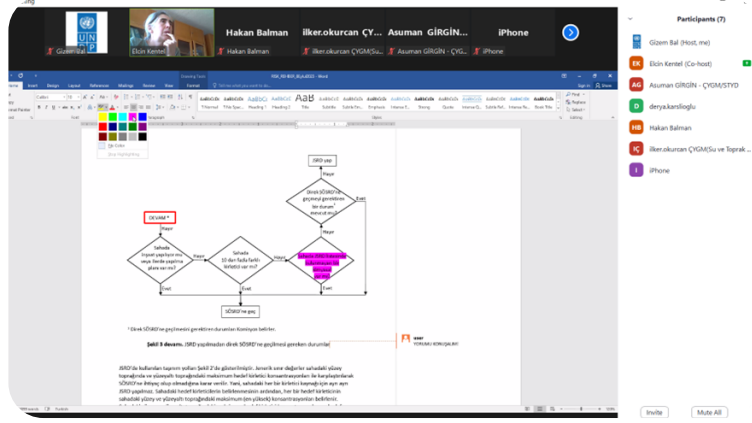
We presented our date proposals for the upcoming Sector Training, Regulation Training, Contaminates Sites Information System (CSIS) Training and the second study visit for the next period, and we have started organizing these activities.

The aim of these trainings is to enhance the knowledge of central and provincial staff of the Ministry about Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), sites contaminated with POPs, generic risk assessments, remediation technologies, and the use of the CSIS.

## Progress of the Project Activities

Throughout September, we continued to organize our weekly project meetings to discuss the progress of project activities with the technical departments of the MoEUCC.

We are updating the Regulation on Control of Soil Pollution and Sites Contaminated by Point Sources based on the recommendations of the Soil Pollution Expert and the Water and Soil Management Department. We organized an online meeting with the Risk Assessment Expert and ministry representatives on 11 September to develop the Technical Guideline on Risk Assessment of Contaminated Sites, as per the regulation.



At this meeting, the participants provided their suggestions regarding generic risk assessment activities and the list of contaminants. As part of these studies, we have submitted the updated Technical Guideline on Monitoring and Remediation of Contaminated Sites to the ministry's review. We will present these updates during an online consultative meeting scheduled for 31 October to the ministry's central staff, accredited companies, and universities.

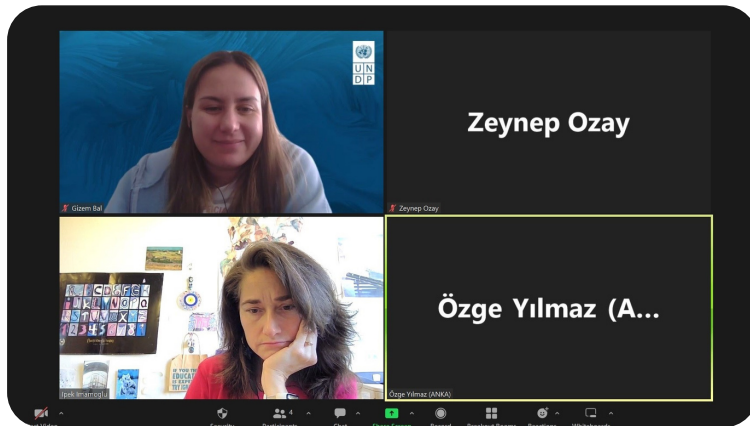


We conducted the By-law on POPs Workshop in Ankara on 12-13 September, with the participation of 29 central ministry staff, primarily led by the Chemicals Management Department. During this workshop, we discussed the impact of decisions and proposed changes within the framework of the Regulation on Control of Soil Pollution and Sites Contaminated by Point Sources on the By-law on POPs.

Furthermore, we assessed the need for revisions related to the draft of the Regulation on Mercury, the roles of POPs in circular economy processes, chemical management systems, and newly added chemicals to the Stockholm Convention, particularly focusing on persistent toxic substances. Our Circularity Expert gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the removal of these chemicals from production processes and long-term preventive measures that can be taken.



Before presenting the report, the POPs Circularity Expert attended a meeting with the technical department on 7 September to understand the ministry's expectations and identify the topics that could be included in the assessment report. At this meeting, the POPs Circularity Expert presented the work prepared for the By-law on the POPs Workshop and assessed the applicability of the recommendations to the report.



We organized an online meeting with the POPs Circularity Expert and Contaminated Sites Expert on 20 September. In this meeting, our experts assessed the topics to be addressed in the assessment report for the better management of POPs. This report will also deeply analyse the structure needed for a better integrated chemical management system and provide a facilitative environment for the improved control of POPs and Persistent Toxic Substances.



On 25 September, we held the preliminary preparation meeting, where we discussed the details of the sites and institutions, with our expert Marco Falconi, who will coordinate the study visit to the Joint Research Center in Italy between November 6-10. Our aim is to meet with various organizations, gather information on the management of sites contaminated with POPs, and observe international experiences with the participation of the central ministry staff.

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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,**  
**URBANIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



*Environment and Climate Action*  
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**Persistent**  
**Organic**  
**Pollutants**

