



Basel Convention Coordinating Centre
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre
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Ministerio
de Ambiente

Mercury Inventories in Latin American Countries and their impact on the fulfillment of the obligations emanating from the Minamata Convention

Minamata Online
October 15th 2020



RED de CENTROS

Convenio de Basilea
Latinoamérica & Caribe

Convenio de Estocolmo

NETWORK of CENTRES

Basel Convention
Latin America & the Caribbean

Stockholm Convention

Centre in Uruguay

Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (since 1998)



Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (since 2009)



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Centres

They were created to address regional needs.

Their assignments include:

- Training.
- Disseminating information.
- Consulting.
- Awareness raising.
- Technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Conventions.
- Specific tasks include: conducting workshops, seminars, developing pilot projects, information material and guidelines.

They are funded by their host countries, through projects and voluntary contributions from Parties.



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Organizational chart



Director (MVOTMA)
Gabriela Medina
Co-Director (LATU)
Alejandra Torre

Technical Secretariat
Virginia Santana
Natalia Maciel



Expert List
(MVOTMA, LATU,
UdeLAR)

Funds Manager and
Administrative Resources
(LATU)

Projects Adviser
(8 Consultants)

Translator &
Design Personnel



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Facilities

The Coordinating Centre is entitled to enter into agreements through the LATU and has access to its administrative services, which enables the Centre to make any kind of acquisitions and contracts. It also has a special office for managing funds, allowing the required transparency in its management.



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Mission

Strengthening national and regional capacities of GRULAC countries for the application of the:



and other forums:



Through training of stakeholders, elaboration and dissemination of specialized information and project execution.



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BACKGROUND – Implemented Activities On Hg

Since 2009, the BCCC-SCRC Uruguay has been working together with GRULAC Countries and UNEP on the implementation of what has become today the Minamata Convention on Mercury.



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Projects – Hg

- **Minimization and environmentally sound management of mercury containing waste affecting most exposed populations in various economic, industrial and health sectors.**



❑ Project US EPA-BCCC SCRC Uruguay.

- Period: 2010-2013.
- Funds: US-EPA/ Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of the Basel Convention (USD 323.676).
- Coord./Adm.: Basel Convention Secretariat/ BCCC SCRC Uruguay.
- Countries: Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay.
- Description: During the implementation of this project, an industrial and/or medical waste inventory was made, and the basic requirements for a plan on the sound management of mercury waste were outlined, with an emphasis on waste minimization.



Projects – Hg

- **Temporary storage and final disposal of mercury and its wastes.**
 - Period: 2011 – 2012.
 - Financing: Norway - UNEP-DTIE, Small-Scale Funding Agreement (USD 31.200 per Country).
 - Coord./Adm.: BCCC SCRC Uruguay/BCRC Argentina.
 - Countries: Argentina and Uruguay.
 - Description: Design of a national plan for the proper storage and final disposal of surplus mercury (both as commodity or waste).

Focus on the need of definitions for the trade of Hg and its waste at a national, regional and international level. Necessary legal aspects. Requirements of locations for the storage of waste with mercury or liquid mercury.

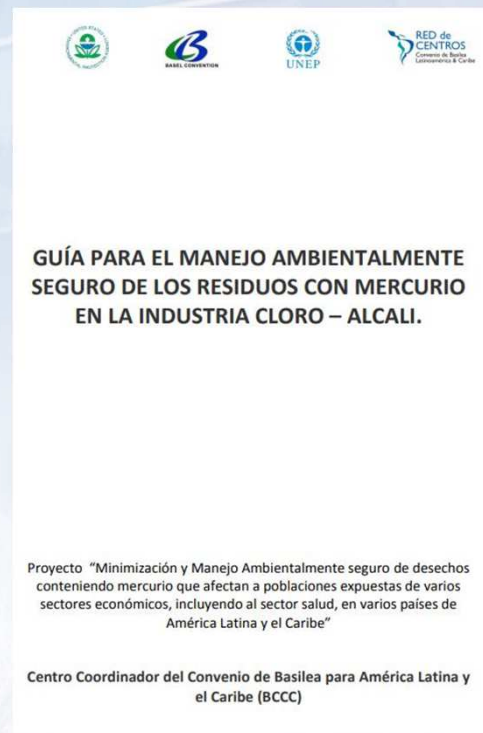


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Projects – Hg

- **Guidance on Best Industrial Practices in the Chlor-alkali sector.**
 - Period: April 2011.
 - Coord./Adm.: BCCC SCRC Uruguay/UNEP.
 - Countries: Uruguay.
 - Description: Diagnosis of the sector, improvement opportunities, Guidance on Best Environmental Practices.



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Projects – Hg

- Rational Management of Mercury-containing Products, particularly focusing on fluorescent lamps.
- Countries: Uruguay.
- Funds: SAICM.
- Period: 2011 – 2012.
- Coord./Adm.: UNIDO/BCCC SCRC Uruguay.
- Description: Diagnosis of the sector, inventory, improvement opportunities, legislation.



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Projects – Hg

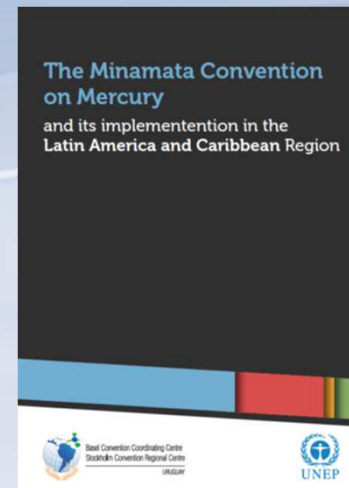
- **The Minamata Convention and its implementation in the Latin America and Caribbean region.**

Survey on the challenges posed by the Minamata Convention in the GRULAC region.

- Countries: GRULAC.
- Funds: UNEP Panama (ROLAC) (USD 13,000).
- Period: July 2013 - April 2014.
- Coord./Adm.: BCCC-SCRC Uruguay.

- Description:

1. Data collection on the main uses of mercury: import/export of mercury and its products, etc. in LAC.
2. Consultation with stakeholders in different countries of the region.
3. Collaboration in disseminating obtained results in different events and media.



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Projects – Hg

- **Early ratification and implementation of Minamata Convention in Uruguay.**
 - Country: Uruguay.
 - Funds: UNITAR (USD 20.000).
 - Period: August 2014 – June 2015.
 - Coord./Adm.: BCCC-SCRC Uruguay.
 - Description:

Designing a roadmap to identify national priorities for the effective implementation of the Convention.

Workshop on mercury waste stabilization October 21st – 22nd , 2014.



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Projects – Hg

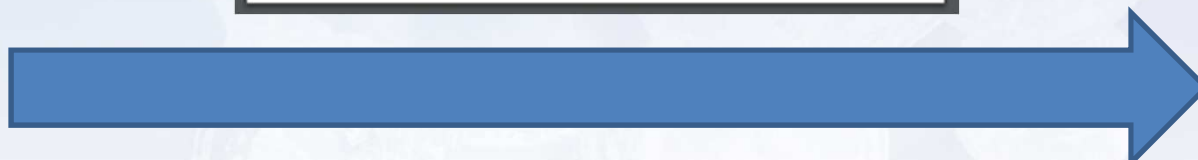
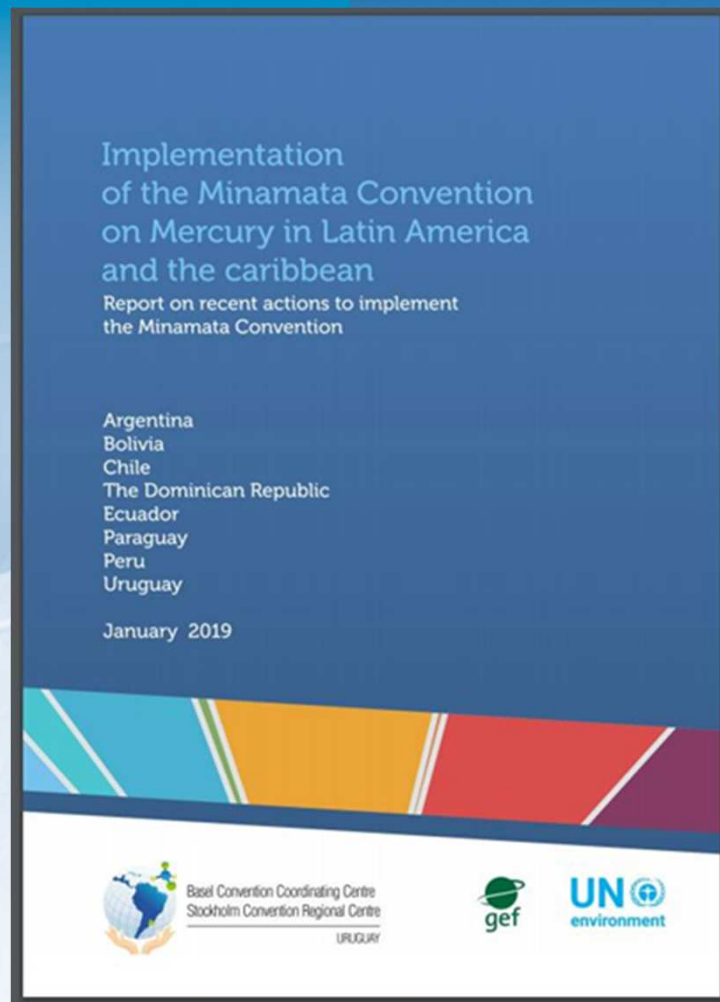
- **Others.**
 - Organization of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for BRS COP 2015 and Regional Workshop for the Ratification and Effective Implementation of Minamata Convention on Mercury, Montevideo, Uruguay.
 - “Sub-regional Workshop on Enhancing Parties Capacities for Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Wastes under the Basel Convention”. Organized by: the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the BCCC-SCRC Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay, November 2015.
 - Regional Consultation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Negotiation on Mercury (INC 7). February 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay.
 - Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean region for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, October 2018, Lima, Peru.
 - Information Session on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, March 2019, Montevideo, Uruguay.



Projects – Hg



Projects – Hg



2014 – (2019-2020)



Mercury Inventories in Latin American Countries

The BCCC-SCRC Uruguay has worked on the execution of two projects that included the inventory of Hg emissions and releases:

- **Project on Mercury Inventory and Risk Management Plans (2014 - June 2020).** Countries: Argentina, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.
- **Minamata Initial Assessment (MIAs) (2014 – December 2019).** Countries: Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic.

http://ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/folleto_minamata_2019_eng-doble-2-2.pdf



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Mercury Inventories in Latin American Countries

- **Project on Mercury Inventory and Risk Management Plans (2014 - June 2020).** Countries: Argentina, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.
 - Funds: GEF (USD 916.000).
 - Period: May 2014 – June 2020.
 - Coord./Adm.: BCCC-SCRC Uruguay.

Description:

1. Full inventory of Mercury (levels 1 and 2) in each participating country.
2. Development of national plans for the future monitoring of mercury levels in human beings and the environment. This tool will be used to study mercury reduction over time.
3. Development of action plans for mercury reduction (use and emissions), including short-, medium- and long-term measures.



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Mercury Inventories in Latin American Countries

- **Minamata Initial Assessment (MIAs) (2014 – December 2019).** Countries: Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic.
 - Funds: GEF (USD 731.000).
 - Coord./Adm.: BCCC-SCRC Uruguay.
 - Description:
 1. Full inventory of Mercury (levels 1 and 2) in each participating country.
 2. Comprehensive analysis of the existing legal and institutional framework and how to adapt it for an adequate compliance with obligations under the Minamata Convention.
 3. Active participation of all stakeholders through a coordination mechanism that led the project activities.



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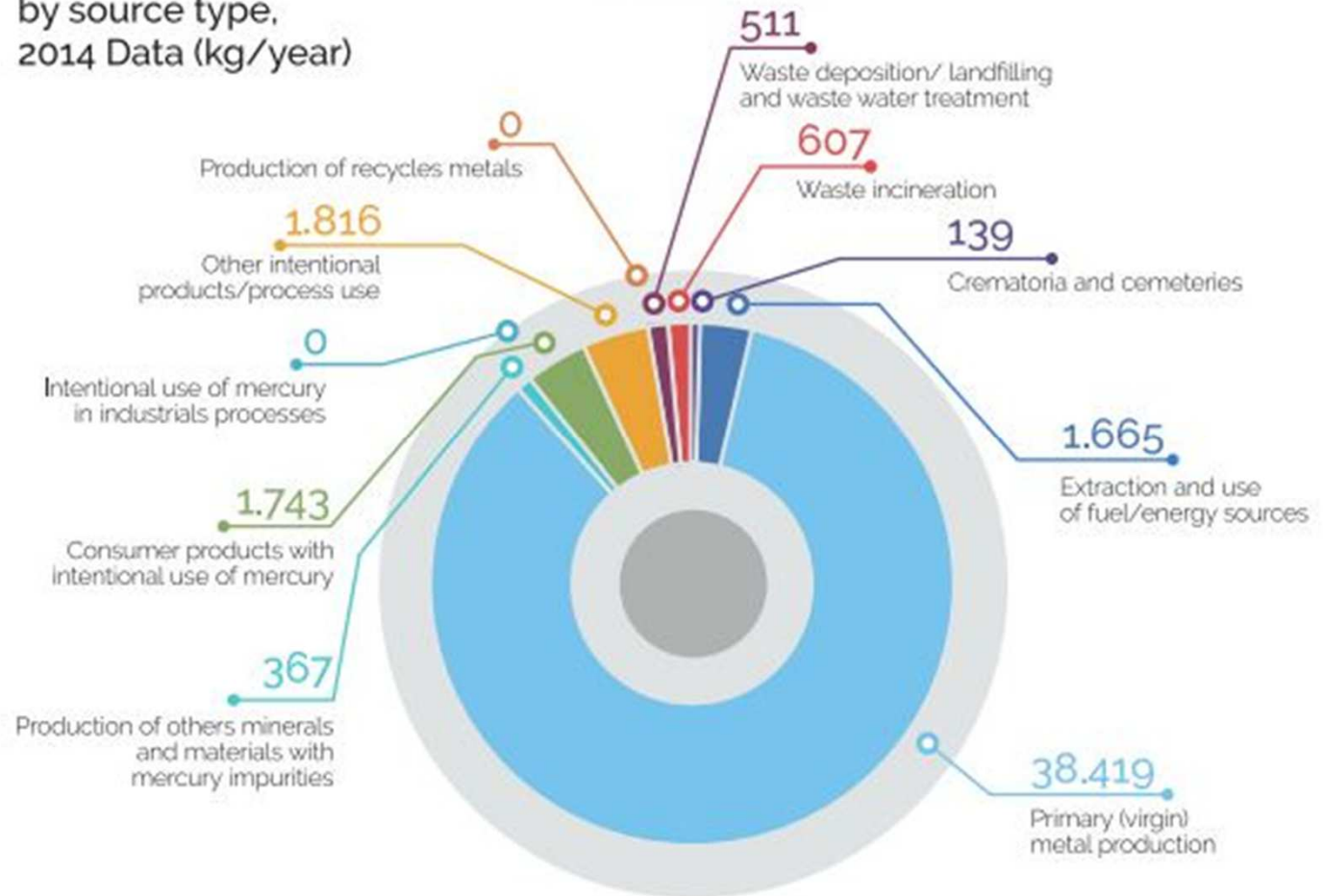
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Outcomes:

1. **Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector** using mercury is the major emission source in **Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.**

Bolivia

Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2014 Data (kg/year)

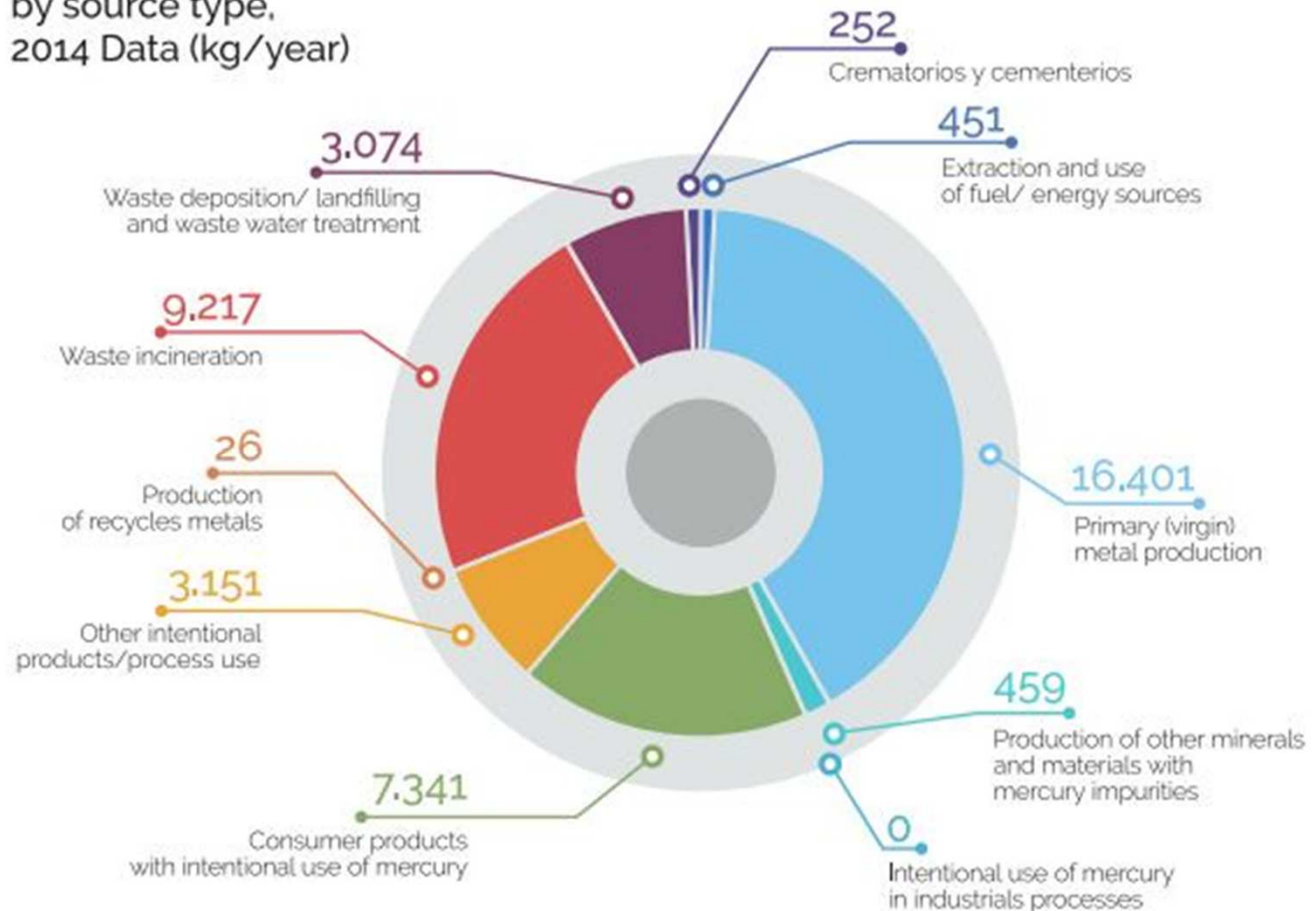


Outcomes:

1. Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector using mercury is the major emission source in **Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.**

Ecuador

Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2014 Data (kg/year)

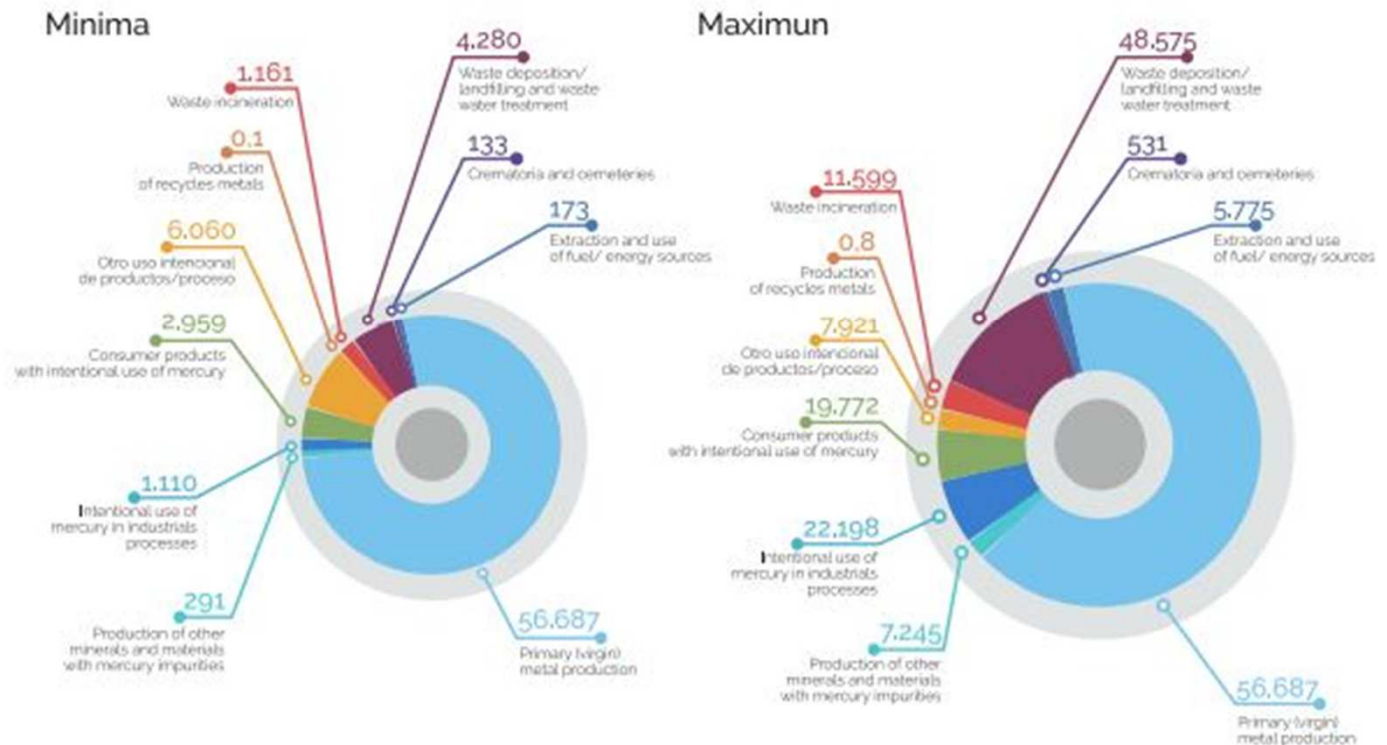


Outcomes:

1. Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector using mercury is the major emission source in **Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.**

Peru

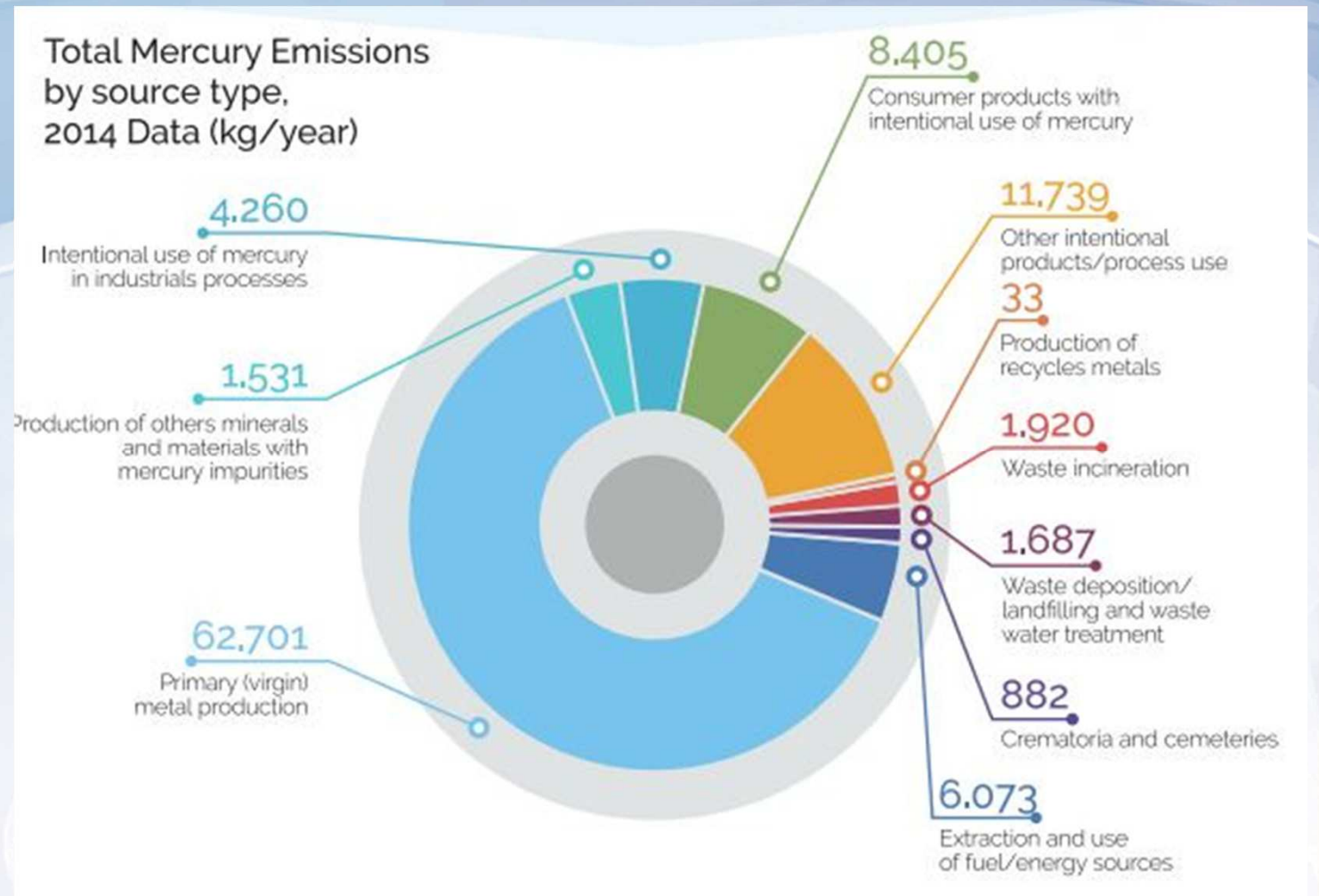
Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2014 Data (kg/year)



Outcomes:

- 2. **Primary metal production, mainly gold extraction through methods different from amalgamation with mercury is the major emission source in Argentina y Chile.**

Argentina

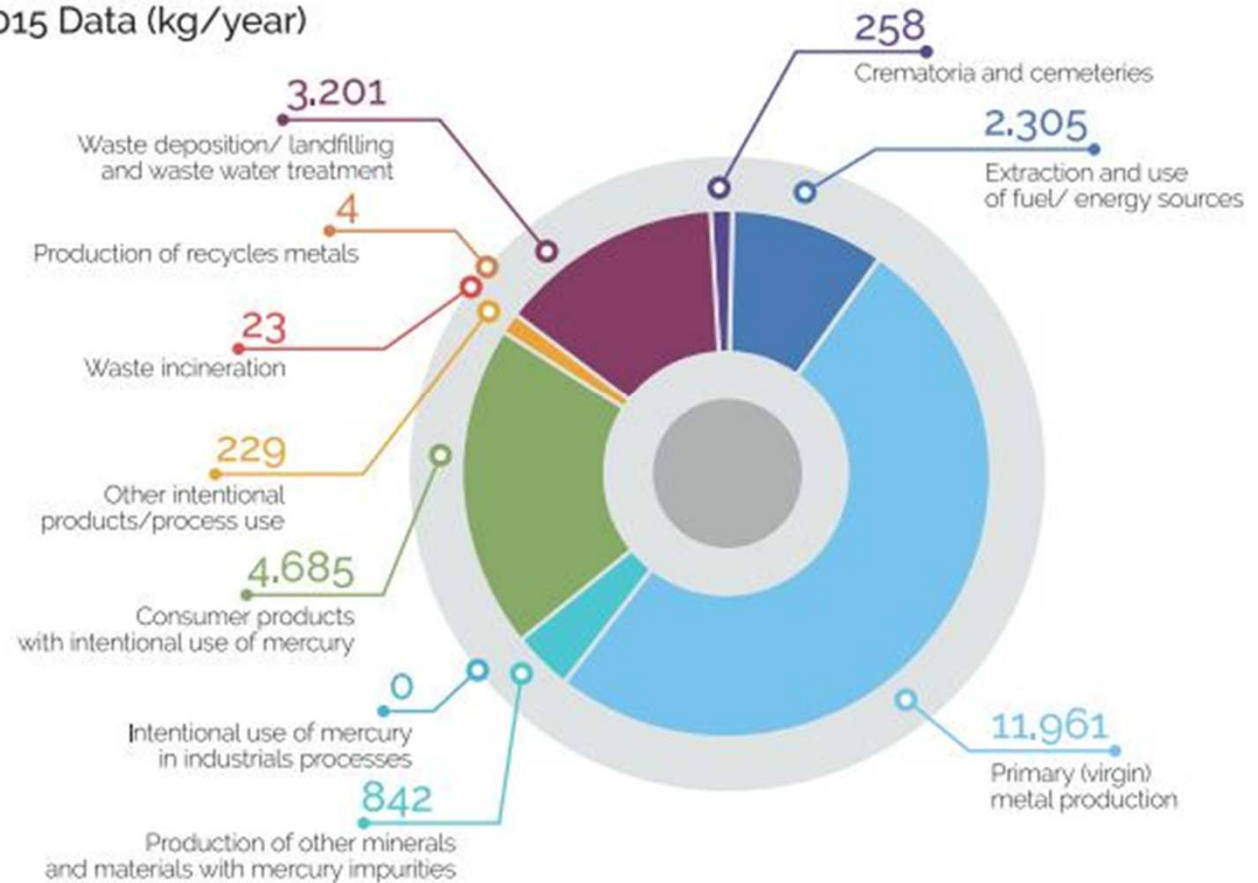


Outcomes:

- 2. **Primary metal production, mainly gold extraction** through methods different from amalgamation with mercury is the major emission source in **Argentina y Chile.**

Chile

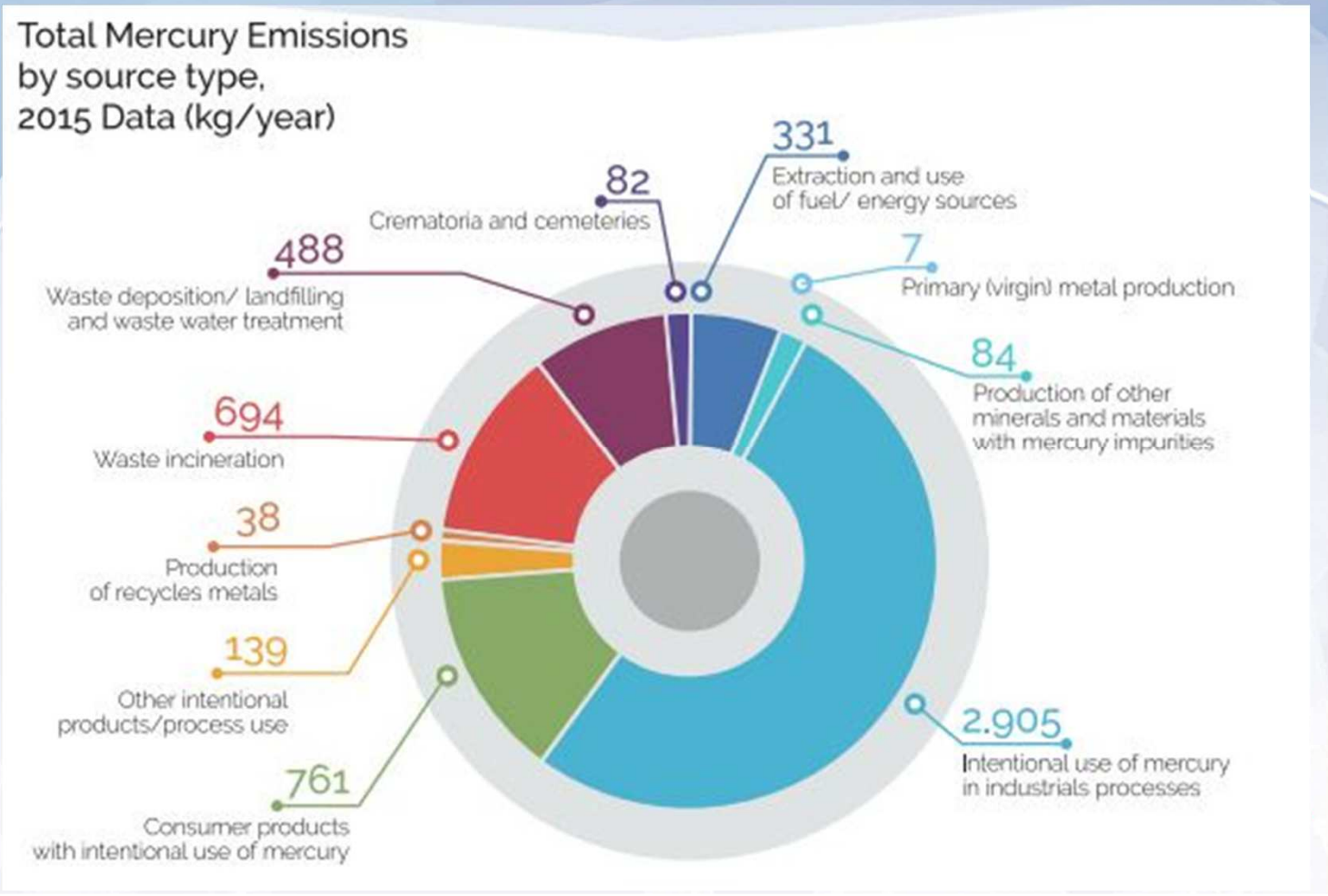
Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2015 Data (kg/year)



Outcomes:

- 3. A mercury chlor-alkali plant was identified in Argentina, one in **Uruguay** and two plants in Peru. These countries commit to change to mercury-free methods by the year 2020 (the first two) and 2030 for Peru. This plant is the major source in Uruguay.

Uruguay

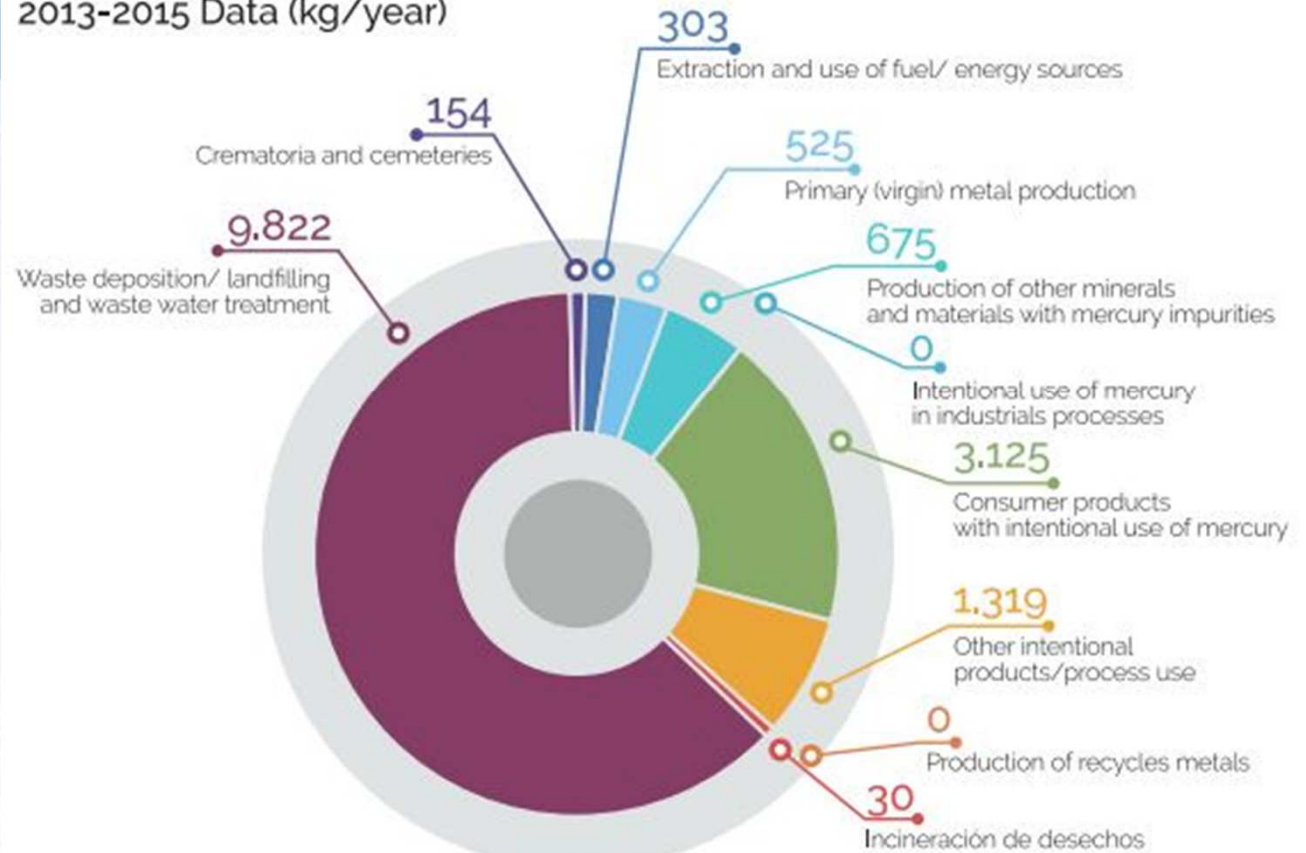


Outcomes:

- 4. **Waste disposal and wastewater treatment are the major sources in Dominican Republic.**

Dominican Republic

Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2013-2015 Data (kg/year)

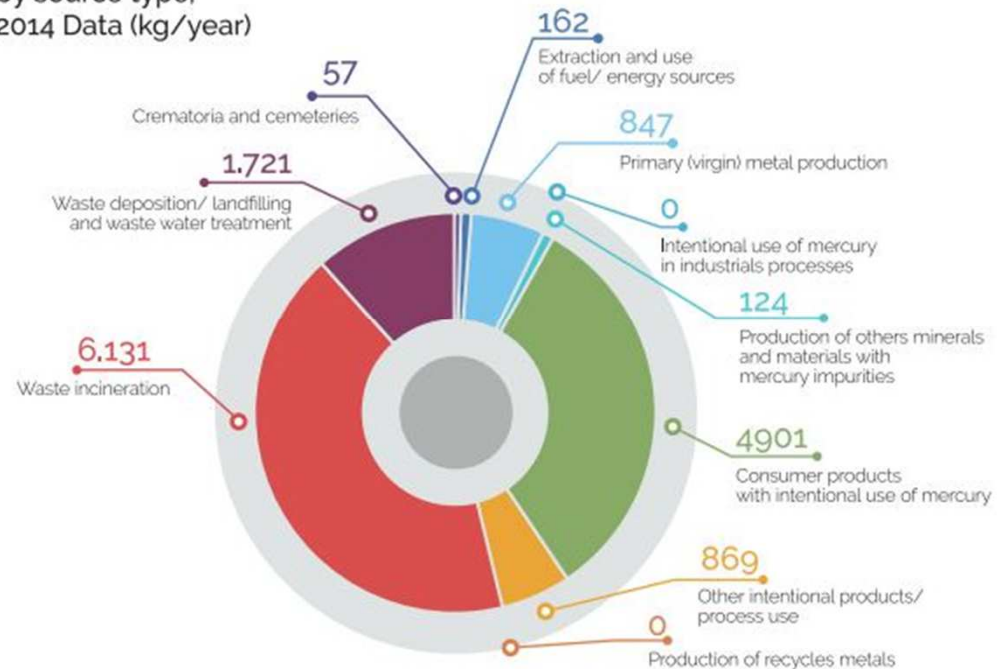


Outcomes:

5. As a region that mainly imports mercury products, it is necessary to strengthen the customs' coding methods, in order to allow a better registry and facilitate future inventories and control of these imports. It is also essential to establish good waste management practices for these products. In **Paraguay**, for example, the main sources of emissions are associated with the **mismanagement of added mercury products (waste incineration and emission throughout the life cycle of products).**

Paraguay

Total Mercury Emissions
by source type,
2014 Data (kg/year)



Final comments

- The project made it possible to establish an inter-ministerial and inter-sector dialogue in each country on mercury and its effects, as well as the obligations derived from the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Awareness raising).
- At the beginning of the project, the toolkit was translated into Spanish to better understanding in GRULAC Countries.
- All the inventories were reviewed by UNITAR and they were updated to the latest version of the toolkit.
- Training on contaminated sites with mercury, it was carried out at the Center for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain (2017).
- Training in monitoring and analysis of mercury in different biotic and abiotic matrices, it was conducted at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Jozef Stefan Institute, in the City of Ljubljana, Slovenia (2017).
- A training course on environmental matrices and speciation of mercury has been conducted at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Jozef Stefan Institute, in the City of Ljubljana, Slovenia (2018).



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Final comments

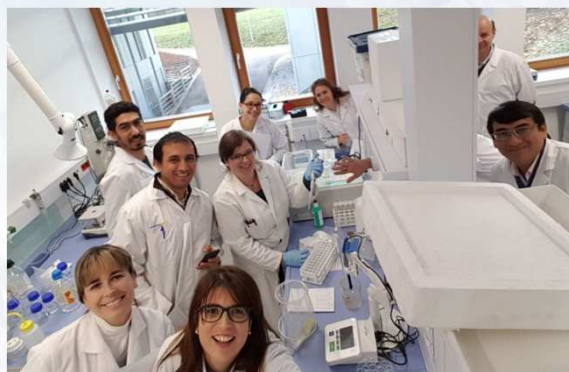
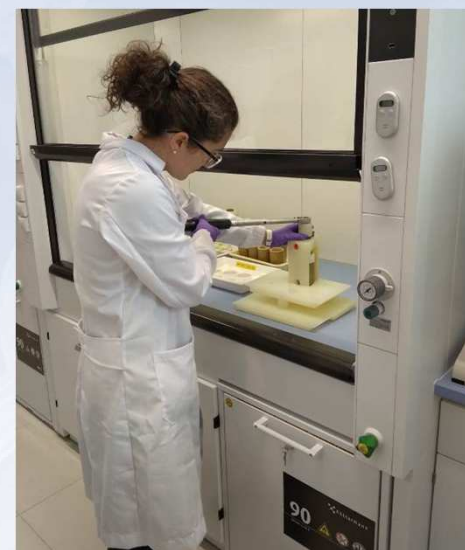
- Mercury Passive air monitoring for 5 weeks, the samples were analyzed at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Rome, Italy (2018).
- Mercury laboratory Inter-comparison exercise in different matrices (standard solutions, biota and/or human hair) with the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), Brno, Check Republic (2018).
- In some countries the registration of certain data was established so in the future when making the inventory the necessary information is available in a easily way.



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Some pics...



Some pics...





Centro Coordinador Convenio Basilea
Centro Regional Convenio de Estocolmo
Para América Latina y el Caribe

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Thank you very much!!

Gabriela Medina

Alejandra Torre

Virginia Santana

Natalia Maciel

<http://www.ccbasilea-crestocolmo.org.uy/es>



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