

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Organizácia zodpovednosti výrobcov EKOLAMP Slovakia – Združenie výrobcov a distribútorov svetelnej techniky

Authorization number: 0011/OEEZ/OZV/A/16-3.3.

Address: Turecká 37, 940 01 Nové Zámky (Slovak Republic)

Established: under the terms of Founder´s Deed on Association of Legal Persons´s Establishment of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Enrolled: into the Register of the Interest Associations of Legal Persons administrated by the Regional Office in Nitra - registered under the registration number 8/2005.

Company Registration number: 37 935 887

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN PRO “ EKOLAMP Slovakia “ ?

The PRO “ EKOLAMP Slovakia” is a producer responsibility organization (hereinafter referred to as “PRO “), it is an Association of Producers and Distributors of Lighting Technology established on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005 .

The PRO “EKOLAMP Slovakia” runs its business on a non-profitable basis and its main target is to provide fairly, openly and anti-discriminatory the all its associated members with the possibility to meet jointly the all mandatory provisions of the Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, to follow the valid legislation of the Slovak Republic, especially the provisions of the **Act 79/2015 on Waste**, and some other appropriate legal decrees and orders and some other legal standards and regulations.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the PRO “EKOLAMP Slovakia – Združenie výrobcov a distribútorov svetelnej techniky” was enrolled into the Register of the Interest Associations of Legal Persons administrated by the Regional Office in Nitra, under the registration number **8/2005** as a provider of the Collective Scheme for group of electro-equipments Category 5- Lighting Equipment. Under the Category 5 are listed the discharge lamps, LED lamps and luminaires.

Since 2018 we have followed the new legislative regulations and this new legislation was valid in its unchanged version also in the year 2023. Under the legislation mentioned herein above , the lighting equipment has been included in the categories as follows:

### Category 3 - Lamps

**Category 4 - Large equipment** (this category includes within other EEE also the luminaires with any external/outside dimension more than

**Category 5 - Small equipment** (this category includes within other EEE also the luminaires with any external/outside dimension less than 50cm).

Also in 2023, the PRO “ EKOLAMP Slovakia” is strictly oriented on the lighting equipment (Categories 3., 4. and 5.) with the purpose to provide the high quality and professional services in the field of WEEE management within this commodity. In comparison to the other EEE, mainly the Category 3 - Lamps is very specific – big volumes put on the market and fragility of this commodity, the content of mercury (hazardous substances) in different types of lamps, high costs and requirements to ensure collecting and ecological recycling.

Of course, on the request of our members, we are also able to provide them with services in other categories of EEE waste management .

In 2023, we have extended our portfolio to include photovoltaic panels in categories 4. and 5. as well as LED and Xenon automotive light bulbs in Category 3.

**The “Ekolamp Slovakia” has been awarded the PRO´ s authorization registered under the number : 0011/0EEZ/OZV/A/16-3. 3. on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. The Authorization Covers the Categories 3, 4 and 5.**

Under the legislative changes in the field of the EEE categorization, the Ministry of

**Environment of the Slovak Republic has issued the Amendment to the Decision on granting the above mentioned authorization of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**In the year 2020, based on statutory regulations, we have been granted an extension of original authorization; and today we dispose of PRO´ s authorization in a full scope in comply with its original terms up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**

In the past, with the intent to improve the quality of services the company "EKOLAMP Slovakia , has passed the process of certification, was certified and it has obtained the Certificate of Quality Management System ISO 9001:2008 and Certificate of Environmental Management System ISO 14001:2004.

Since that period of time, there have been regularly executed re-certification audits, external audits and supervisions/inspections in comply with the appropriate regulations. Originally obtained certificates and functionality of the system were reviewed by the relevant certification bodies and the validity of these certificates was extended for the next periods in a full scope.

The documentation related to MS (management system) was elaborated in comply with the requirements, stipulated by the appropriate standards and it gives the sufficient information for adequate and effective operating as well as the appropriate maintenance of MS. Certification marks and labels temporarily granted by the Certification Body/Authority have been duly used in comply with the rules stipulated by the Certification Body. We continue to work under the terms of granted certification and our activity complies with the obtained standard.

## **THE PRO´s BODIES**

The Bodies of PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" are determined by the By-laws of Association. The By-laws are continuously updated in dependence on arisen changes whether they are related to legislation or to the association/ Collective scheme.

The **General Assembly** is the highest and decisive body of the association. The **Board of Directors** works as the Supervisory Board and as the Advisory Board .In 2023, the Board of Directors consisted of:

<u>Participant/ member</u>	<u>Representative</u>
LEDVANCE s.r.o.	Roman Ostertag
Philips Slovakia , s.r.o.	Tomasz Waskiewicz
GE Hungary	Zoltán Pilter

## **EMPLOYEES**

In 2023 , the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" had 5 contracted employees altogether. In comply with valid legislation, the employees of the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" provided the company with the running of the company's entire operations and also coordinated the all activities related to fulfilment of mandatory obligations of their contractual members.

Managing Directors  
Advisor of the Managing Director  
Marketing Manager  
Business Manager  
Operating Manager

Tomáš Rychetský  
Oliver Čelko  
Gabriela Bogdányová  
Martina Lakatosová  
Vladimír Rácek

## **PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS / PRO'S MEMBERS**

The foremost task of the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" is to fulfil the all mandatory obligations of the members in comply with provisions of the **Act 79/2015 on Waste** and the other rules and regulations (different decrees and orders) in the field of WEEE management, it means - to fulfil the limits for collection, recovery and recycling. The obligatory limits are determined by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic under the appropriate decrees and orders. The limit for collection is set on the basis of the average of the last three years of POM in Slovakia; and the limits for recovery and recycling are determined by a definite ratio from the appropriate collections.

We have ensured the fulfilment of the all stipulated obligations of our members under the valid **Membership Agreement on fulfilment of specific obligations**.

By the end of the year 2023, the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" has already made and signed 202 membership agreements on fulfilment of specific obligations. The final membership numbers in 2023 were influenced both by the access of new members, but we must also note that we have terminated membership with some of our members. The membership agreements were terminated due to the different reasons – giving the notice of termination, because some firms long-term failed to fulfill their contractual obligations or they wended up their business activities. We have gained the new members with our own initiative, when the new firms became our members, but also by extension of our contractual relations with the PRO "ENVI-PAK a.s.", when we have concluded the contracts with its members that put the Category 3 - Lamps on the Slovak market.

The members of the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" have been operating in the segment of lighting equipment (Category 3-Lamps, Category 4 – Large equipment(Luminaires) and Category 5- Small equipment (Luminaires).

The structure of the members as at 31.12.2023 was as follows:

<b>Total number of membership agreements:</b>	<b>202</b>
therefrom – in Categories 3, 4, 5 there are:	60 contractual members
therefrom only in Category 3 there are:	102 contractual members
therefrom only in Category 4 and 5 there are:	40 contractual members

The year 2023 was partly marked by the consolidation of the economy after the pandemic and the easing of the economic crisis, which was also reflected in our activities. Our company as well as our partners were limited by this situation in their economic activities. It was required a high workforce engagement together with high reliability, professionalism and transparency from our side. Our revenues from recycling fees have increased slightly, but they have still not reached the pre-pandemic period. We have communicated with our

partners "online". It seems that this form of communication has not always been an advantage.

Under the Agreement on fulfilment of specific/selected obligations, the every new member has received the Certificate on participation in the PRO " Ekolamp Slovakia". By this act it is declared that the all their obligations following from the Act on Waste in the field of WEEE management are fulfilled through the PRO " Ekolamp Slovakia".

In comparison with the other electric and electronic equipment the all commodities under our capacity are special, because they are characterized by a number of specific features like small weight, very high quantity (number of pieces) put on the market, high quantities of pieces after their service life and not -lighting lamps handed into the separate collection, fragility, long service life, dual use and etc. That is why the treatment of WEEE from this segment shall require a high professional, economical and special manipulation. In addition to this , the WEEE from the discharge lamps belongs to hazardous waste because of the contain of mercury and so they are included into the system of a special treatment. That 's why that the "PRO EKOLAMP " provides its partners also with the special collection containers and vessels. This fact also sufficiently affects the way of this type of WEEE handling and the costs related to it. Also the luminaires after their service life have their specific features that were evident during their collection and transportation. At the same time the all legal regulations and the decrees had to be observed.

In the field of lamps it was proceeded under the hitherto methodology and no changes were done there, it was only extended by the automotive lamps put on the market. The **LED automotive lamps** were included into group of LED lamps and **xenon automotive lamps** (car bulbs) were included into the group of discharge lamps. In the field of luminaires the members sent us the Reports for groups of: luminaires for industry (industrial luminaires) and luminaires for households (household luminaires); and for further division to discharge luminaires and LED luminaires. The **photovoltaics** has been included in Category 4 - Large equipment (Luminaires) or Category 5 - Small equipment (Luminaires), depending on the dimensions. Recycling fee applied to luminaires unchanged in 2023. Categories 4 and 5 were extended by photovoltaics, were recycling fee was determined per kg. Our portfolio has been expanded from August 2023 and our new price list has been adjusted accordingly. The all our members have received the new price list.

In 2023 we worked on a project of electronic invoicing through the client zone on our site, we also informed our members about the preparation and implementation of this project. They actively cooperated with us and their comments were incorporated and tested. The Project was closed in December 2023. Since January 2024, we have been working exclusively with e-invoicing on a full scale.

Under the terms and conditions of the Agreement on fulfilment of specific/selected obligations and by the Board of Directors agreed verification procedure, and also in 2023 we made an audit aimed on the correctness of sending the reports on quantities of POM in Slovakia , carried out at the place of selected members of the PRO. Under the approval of the Board of Directors, the audit itself was executed by the independent auditors' company BMB Partners s.r.o. The all interested parties were informed about the results of that audit. The company BMB Partners s.r.o. has elaborated the Final Report on Audit and this has been filed at the place of the registered office of the PRO "Ekolamp". Each audited member has received the part of the Report relating to his/her company and corrections have subsequently been made.

In 2023, the quantities put on the market were gradually brought to the level of previous periods. The energy crisis has had some impact on the sales structure of lighting equipment. This is mainly reflected in the increase of energy saving sources, LED lamps and LED luminaires and in a decrease of discharge lamps and luminaires.

In 2023 there were put **167.298 tons** of new lamps on the market, there from the discharge lamps in quantity of **56. 019 tons** and LED lamps in quantity of **111.279 tons**.

The large equipment (luminaires) put on the market were represented by the quantity of **718.695 tons**. There from the large equipment for household in quantity of **183.048 tons** and for industry in quantity of **521.019 tons** and for photovoltaic panels in quantity of **14.987 tonnes**.

The small equipment put on the market were represented by the quantity of **433.951 tons**. There from the small equipment for household in quantity of **242.902 tons** and for industry in quantity of **191.049 tons**.

**All stated values also take into account the export refunds.**

There was put **1 285.896 tons** of lighting equipment on the Slovak market in total.

Modern technologies are more and more used in the production of lighting equipment, which is fully reflected in the putting of these equipment on the market. Modern lighting equipment (lamps as well as luminaires) offer higher convenience at use, high quality parameters and service life; the lighting parameters are optimized and they are highly effective. In the year 2023 the average weight of lamps was **0.09 kg/pc** (including LED lamps, in case of large equipment (luminaires and photovoltaics) it was **2.24 kg/pc** and in case of small equipment (luminaires, photovoltaics) it was **0.80kg/pc**.

During the long-term monitoring of the structure of lighting equipment of Categories 3,4 and 5 placed on the market, we can see that the quantities of traditional, classical lighting equipment have a decreasing tendency. Gradually they are substituted by modern LED lighting that can be seen, in increasing of quantities, in overall structure of lighting equipment and decreasing of weighth, put on the market. As a modern energy-saving alternative to those currently used in lighting equipment, they are more frequently used in the households as well as in industrial premises and public sector.

As in other areas of the economics, also in lighting, more and more emphasis is placed on economy and efficiency. It is not about household lighting only, but for example about the lighting in industry, agriculture, public sector as well as about the lighting of different public buildings. Therefore, the energy-saving and long-term service life lamps and luminaires increasingly being used.

In 2023, the all relevant indicators were controlled in comply with valid legislation. The obligation to collect **65%** of WEEE was stipulated on the basis of the average quantities of POM registered in previous three (3) years.

Total limits of collection, recovery and recycling stipulated by laws for the year 2023 were fulfilled.

The PRO “ EKOLAMP Slovakia” has met the limits stipulated for the all participating categories - “ Category 3, 4 and 5” and it means, that in comply with the Act on Waste, we have fully fulfilled the all mandatory obligations of our members/ partners in the field of WEEE management. In comply with the provisions of valid instructions of Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic related to PROs, we have elaborated the Report of EEE and WEEE management and we have sent it to the address of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in statutory time limit. In comply with terms and conditions of our Membership Agreement, the information about the facts mentioned herein above and Certificate on limit fulfilment were also sent to the all our members.

Also in 2023, the PRO “EKOLAMP Slovakia” has provided the “Export refunding” service which is used by the business partners of our members. The Export refunding” means paying back the recycling fee to the third persons for those exported lamps and luminaires in case of which the recycling fee has been already paid to the PRO by its members. The export refunding shall be paid under the terms and conditions of public draft of contract and after meeting the all requirements stipulated by the approved methodology. The conditions of providing the export refunding are accessible to public at our website: [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk) and for export refunding may apply the subject that has exported to the foreign country the lamps and luminaires bought from our members or their business partners, with recycling fee of Ekolamp. Applications for export refundings are submitted electronically via an application form published on our website. The registration of applications and dealing with them through this systems seems to be very effective and has provided us with sufficient information about the realized exports. The export refunding to the third persons shall be conditioned by sending and proving the all relevant documents. The application on our website is regularly viewed and updated in comply with valid legislation.

Our activities realized in the year 2023 were controlled in comply with the provisions of the new Act 79/2015 on Waste and under the appropriate decrees and orders. It was shown in practice that also this new legislation has a lot of lacks (deficiencies) and obstacles, in spite of the facts that some matters at issues of the original Act were successfully removed. Unfortunately, a lot of provisions of it cannot be realized in practice or their realization is very complicated, indeed. This fact shall require the other revision of Act and subsequent issuing of amandments to the Act in future. PRO Ekolamp Slovakia is actively participating in the preparation of new legislation, whether through the WEEE Coordination Centre, various associations, via consultations, or submitting joint proposals, etc.

Whole system of WEEE financing and management is based on the principle of extended responsibility of producers and importers , as it is usual in other membership states within the European Union.

## COLLECTION NETWORK

From the beginning of its existence, in the field of collection the “EKOLAMP Slovakia” has been co-operating with many partners on the whole territory of Slovakia and invites them to participate in our collection scheme. Thanks to this long-term work we were successful in building the collection network /site for collection of the used lighting equipment. The collection of collected quantities from **118 partners and from 161 places of separate collection**, created in our towns and villages within the whole Slovakia. In 2023 it was managed by **8 consolidation places**.

The cooperating companies are as follows:  
**Agro EKO s.r.o., Nové Zámky,**

**ELEKTRO WASTE s.r.o., Lužianky,  
ELEKTRO RECYCLING s.r.o. , Slovenská Ľupča,  
Marius Pedersen, a.s., Vranov nad Topľou,  
Zedko s.r.o., Banská Bystrica  
EKORAY s.r.o., Námestovo  
AUTOVRAKOVISKO, s.r.o. , Sládkovičovo  
ARGUSS s.r.o., Lok**

One of our basic targets in the field of separate collection of WEEE is to be as close as possible to our citizens. That is why we have engaged a high number of the lighting technology dealers (the business partners of our members) or other market chains running business on the territory of Slovakia, into the collection network. In this field we have **118** contractual partners with **161** places of separate collections. Our citizens have an opportunity to return the used lighting equipment, especially the fluorescent lamps, saving compact lamps and LED lamps, at **2 899** **“Take-Back” places**. At our website [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk) operates the application where it is shown the list of the all “ Take-Back” places and our citizens have chance to find the Take- Back place in closest to their places of residence.

Also so called **“Collection places”** established in comply with the provisions of the **Act 79/2015** (defined by the Act) work actively. As at the end of 2023 we have registered **1 566 collection places**.

By the form of combined transport we have provided so called “mobile collection” of the used lighting equipment from the municipalities where no collection yards or the shops with lighting equipments are situated.

## **TRANSPORT**

In 2023 the “EKOLAMP Slovakia” has co-operated with companies that provided the transport of lighting equipment from the collection places to the processing plants, as well as the “combined transport”.

They are the companies that have the authorizations and permits of the appropriate bodies to this type of transport .

The companies:

**MARIUS PEDERSEN, a.s.,  
EKORAY, s.r.o.  
ZEDKO, s.r.o.  
ELEKTRO RECYCLING, s.r.o.  
DETOX s.r.o.,  
ARGUSS,a.s.  
ROVAMI, s.r.o.  
DML TRANS s.r.o.  
AMMAN s.r.o.**

We currently accept **Applications for disposal** of collected quantities to be sent electronically, as in this case the applicants have to provide the necessary data. The system is functional on our website, works seamlessly and any discrepancies are resolved immediately. The application is fully compliant with all legislation and regulations.

In 2023 there were located in plants **520 pc of containers for linear fluorescent lamps**



**and 168 pc of containers for saving fluorescent lamps and discharge lamps.** Within the collection network , there were located **688** containers in total.

There is also a "Register of Containers" application on our website, which is used by collection partners and also as a basis for inventory. The inventories of containers are carried out annually in accordance with internal guidelines. Currently, our containers are coded, our carriers have equipment to identify the containers they are transporting and the data is processed automatically.

In the course of the year 2023, there were completed **187 transports** and there were realized **697 disposals**.

The whole year 2023 we have continued with collection of the fluorescent lamps collected into the plastic containers located at the "Take-Back" places of the food market chains like COOP Jednota Slovensko, consumer cooperative as well as in the EEE market chain OKAY Slovakia s.r.o. and FRESH SLOVAKIA. The collections were completed in the different regions and they were executed by the end of the year 2023.

## **COLLECTION**

**Lamps - Category 3**

**Large equipment - Category 4**

**Small equipment - Category 5**

The collection was realized continuously during the whole year 2023. In the year 2023 there were totally collected and recycled **173,047 tons** of lamps.

Recycling of lamps for the year 2023 has achieved **88,37%** (mandatory limit was 65%).

In 2023 there were totally collected and recycled **479,562 tons** of large equipments.

Recycling of large equipment for the year 2023 has achieved the level of **85,87%** (mandatory limit was stipulated to 80%).

In 2023 there were totally collected and recycled **263,140 tons** of small equipments.

Recycling of small equipment for the year 2023 has achieved the level of **56,02%** (mandatory limit was stipulated to 55%).

**In the year 2023, the collection in the Categories 3, 4 and 5 achieved the volume of 873,749 tons in total.**

## **RESULTS OF RECYCLING**

In 2023, recycling of the lamps and luminaires for the "EKOLAMP Slovakia" was provided by the authorized companies under the terms and conditions of Contracts.

The authorized companies were:

**ARGUSS s.r.o.,**

**EKORAY,s.r.o.**

**ELEKTRO RECYCLING s.r.o.,**

**ELEKTRO WASTE s.r.o.,**

**ZEDKO s.r.o.,**

**AUTOVRAKOVISKO, s.r.o., Sládkovičovo**

**Jozef Figel'-Kov-NZPÚ s.r.o.**

Through these companies, the rate of material recovery of lamps achieved the level of **94.67 %** (mandatory limit for the year 2023 was: 80%).

The rate of material recovery of large equipment achieved the level of **90.09 %** (mandatory rate for the year 2023 was 85%).

The rate of material recovery of small equipment achieved the level of **87,71%** (mandatory rate for the year 2023 was 75%).

**We may state, that EKOLAMP SLOVAKIA has met the mandatory limits of collection, recovery and recycling , stipulated for the year 2023.**

## **MARKETING ACTIVITIES**

In the year 2023, we have repeatedly and continuously linked up the previous marketing activities from already existing ones. We cannot characterize our marketing activities as one-shot activities or short-time ones because the effectiveness of them can be seen after a longer time. Due to the fact that it is about the field with wide scope of participants and different activities, in the year 2023 the PRO "EKOLAMP Slovakia" focused its attention to several fundamental fields .

Our activities follow from the targets of the company and they are aimed on information and enlightenment activities, support of collection network development and the trouble-free running of the whole system of collection, transport and recycling of the used lighting equipment.

For providing these activities we have used different communication channels and methods. The most of communication activities were transferred to on-line sphere and they were often performed in cooperation with other PROs created by the producers running their businesses in the segment of WEEE management. We have used the synergetic effects because we have been closely co-operating with the other collective schemes and we have common targets with them. For this purpose the WEEE Coordination Centre had been actively running. We have regularly provided the WEEE Coordination Centre with information about POM and collection of the appropriate categories.

The educational project called "**Energia v súvislostiach**" was continued also in 2023. The project "Energia v súvislostiach" is a long-term project and this educational software is used for supporting of environmental classes of primary schools. It is applicable on the interactive board. This educating software is on disposal to the all primary schools and its main target is to widen the knowledge of the primary school students in this field. This project has been elaborated in cooperation with environmental organization "Živica" and it has been used also within the scope of nation-wide project "Zelená škola" (Green school). In near future, we are planning to renew this project and its updating with new facts from the field of environmentalism.

In previous years we have distributed to the all Slovak primary schools the containers, leaflets and other information materials, and there, in co-operation with the company INSA, we have created the collection places. In the year 2017 there was executed the first collection of collected quantities. In the year 2023 there were executed the collections of collected quantities, but in minimum quantities as well. This was mainly caused by a distance education, as many schools continued with this form of education in the school year

2022/2023. The collected quantities were handed over to separate collection. In future we are planning to re-evaluate this activity and to continue in it in the appropriate scope or to end it.

One of the most important marketing activity which continued also in 2023 was an advertising and communication campaign “**EKOLAMP and FACEBOOK**”. It is a continuation of the projects like “Mysliet’ ekologicky sa oplati” (It is worth to think ecologically”) and “Ekolamp and Facebook” . We also worked with facebook in form of the re-marketing. This activity proved to be very useful for us, because we could use the on-line area and at the same time to use the data base obtained in the previous periods to inform our fans. The whole concept of this campaign was aimed on its main goals – to inform and encourage the people to correct treatment of WEEE from lamps and luminaires , to increase the awareness of the inhabitants and to support the separate collection of this commodity. In addition to these fundamental goals, within the campaign, we have used the “competitivity” of our fans and we have published number of different quizzes and matters of interests. As a main communication channel was chosen **FACEBOOK**, because it has been considered the on-line marking phenomenon of these days, the using of which is liked by the consumers very much. Thanks to our continuous communication with our fans the **FACEBOOK is able to help** in building the relations and subsequently to **influence on behaviour** of its fans. The communication through FACEBOOK is time - consuming and also demanding on human potential and the results can be seen in middle and long-term time horizons, but it **makes possible to build up a high quality relation based on addressing and interactive communication** with fans. We may definitely state that this form of communication is very successful, and this fact is also proved by results of different indicators.

The number of this website’s fans continuously increased in 2023 and there is a tendency to continue this increase. At the same time we may state that we have constant fans who permanently participate in our actions and discussions. This activity is planned for a longer period of time. Single articles are placed into the different groups and so we offer our fans the variable communication. And that is why that our FACEBOOK is so liked by our fans. It is aimed on different problems from the field of environment, it is not bored and dull. FACEBOOK makes possible re-marketing targeted by e-mail addresses which testify a high - efficiency of this form of communication. We are planning to use this effective marketing tool also in future.

The electronical communication is an indivisible part of the modern way of life and also the PRO “Ekolamp” tries to follow these modern trends. Especially today, the modern way of communication shall be impossible without using the electronical communication, internet, different portals and internet search engines. This form of communication is very widened not only among the youngs but from day to day it is more used by the middle-aged and older generation. Except from other advantages it makes possible to inform the internet users about the current activities of collective scheme. The websites [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk) and Facebook satisfy the modern trends, and they are equipped with new technologies; and they provide us with various, also technical, information that are more easily available by this way. They are regularly updated by us and the persons interested, may earn the most actual information about the “EKOLAMP”. On the website [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk) we publish the current Annual Report in which we inform the public about our activities as well as about the next print of e- magazine “EKOPOŠTA”. Also in future we would like to publish the

relevant information about the EKOLAMP's activities throughout this e-magazine.

The current website [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk) has been adapted to the new technologies and all previously used applications have been adapted to the new design. A migration has taken place and we plan to refresh and update our website to make it more user-friendly for the general public.

On Internet website actively operates the "Client's zone" which serves to the contractual members of "EKOLAMP". The application "Client's zone" serves for sending the month reports and it is only available only to registered contractual partners of the PRO "Ekolamp", partners who have entered into an Agreement on the fulfillment of selected obligations. It is like a certain form of "Black box". It is protected by several access codes and passwords that guarantee a high level of confidentiality, reliability and flexibility/speed to its users. The client's zone is regularly updated and modified in comply with the legislation in force. Sending reports through the client zone is user - acceptable for our partners, as it relieves them of unnecessary time and administrative burden. In 2023, an e-invoicing project was incorporated into our client area, i.e. invoicing of recycling fees is currently done through this application and uses a database of monthly reports. Our members registered in the client zone automatically receive electronic invoices to the email addresses they provide. All documents used are in full compliance with current legal and tax regulations. The project has been developed in active cooperation with all stakeholders and is fully operational as of January 2024.

Through our website it is possible to send us the **applications for disposal** of collected quantities. This service is used by a great number of our contractual partners and also by the other parties with lighting equipment on the market. Today we accept only the applications for disposal received electronically, because in this case the applicants are obliged to inscribe the all necessary data. This application was updated in 2017 and in co-operation with partners, it was adjusted so that its using became the most simple as possible and it could provide them with the all necessary information and security. In the year 2018 it was completed the testing of the updated application and at the same time the observed deficiencies were removed. Currently the application runs without any problems and possibly arisen deficiencies are solved immediately. The application complies with the all legal regulations and modifications.

**Registration of containers** serves to our collection partners and gives us the information about the current moving and placing of our collection containers. This application serves also as a base document as well as for stocktaking activities (inventory). The inventory shall be carried out annually and in accordance with all applicable legislation and regulations. Currently, our containers circulating at the various collection points are coded. Our carriers have equipment that can identify the containers they are transporting, and the data is processed automatically.

The other application, that provides our partners with higher comfortability, is the electronic system of sending and registration of applications for **export refunding**. This application is used by the companies for applying the EKOLAMP's recycling fees refund in case of the export of lamps and luminaires bought from our members or their business partners with recycling fees. This process is controlled by the elaborated methodology that was published and is accessible to every applicant on our website [www.ekolamp.sk](http://www.ekolamp.sk)

The PRO "EKOLAMP" has been also registered in the other Internet portals where you

can find information about our activities and can see contacts to our company.

During the whole 2023 year round, within the Public Relation activities, from time to time we have published different technical articles appointed on the activities of the „PRO EKOLAMP“ and on the activities realized in the field of collection and treatment of the used (non-operative) lamps. In a lot of cases we have co-operated also with the other PROs, because we were presented to the general public our common opinions.

Due to the fact that the **Act 79/2015** imposes on PROs, the obligation regularly to inform about their activities, we may state, that we have met also this obligation and under the provisions of the above mentioned Act we have sent the Annual Report to the address of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; and we have periodically published the different types of advertisements in regional and wide-nation media.

We have also actively communicated with our members. We have provided them with information related to current development in the field of legislation and following from them legislative changes. Our members also turned to us for help in solving their individual problems, where we willingly provided them with cooperation in obtaining various professional information. Our communication was also directed to the other partners and we have provided them with different information materials and support.

## **FINANCING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS**

In comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement on the fulfillment of selected obligations, the members of PRO pay to the PRO „EKOLAMP Slovakia“ the membership fee called „recycling fee“.

Under The By-laws of the company, the sum of the recycling fee is re-evaluated and proved by the General Assembly annually.

This recycling fee represents a financial amount that corresponds to the costs for collection, transport and recycling of EEE, and to fulfill the other legal obligations of producers and importers.

The „Recycling fees“ of the PRO „EKOLAMP Slovakia“ for the year **2023** were as follows:

<b>Linear fluorescent lamps</b>	<b>0.13 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>Discharge lamps (compact fluorescent lamps, hig-pressure discharge lamps, low-pressure discharge lamps, xenon discharge lamps)</b>	<b>0.13 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>LED lamps (LED retrofit, LED automotive lamps)</b>	<b>0.05 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>LED strips (for every started meter)</b>	<b>0.05 €/m (without VAT)</b>
<b>Large equipment (for industrial and household use, the all types of luminaires)</b>	<b>0,40 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>Accessories for large equipment</b>	<b>0,40 €/pc (without VAT)</b>

<b>Large equipment- photovoltaic panels</b>	<b>0,34 €/kg (without VAT)</b>
<b>Small equipment (for industrial and household use, the all types of luminaires)</b>	<b>0,10 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>Accessories for small equipment</b>	<b>0,10 €/pc (without VAT)</b>
<b>Small equipment- photovoltaic panels</b>	<b>0,34 €/kg (without VAT)</b>

A price list of the current recycling fees is an integral part of the Agreement on the fulfillment of selected obligations, and members are informed of changes to the price list. Appropriately and in advances. Each of our members is provided with the current price list. The amount of recycling fees is approved by the General Assembly.

## **AUDIT**

In accordance with the audit mandate, an internal audit in PRO Ekolamp Slovakia is carried out periodically by Ernst & Young Belgium. The audit was aimed on the functioning of the company in all areas, e.g. management, strategy, logistics and recycling, marketing and communication, finance, contracts. The results of the audit have also been communicated to the Board of Directors of the PRO Ekolamp Slovakia and the complete Auditor's Report for specified subjects is available at the registered office of the company "Ekolamp Slova

The PRO EKOLAMP Slovakia is a non-profit organization. At the place of the company there is regularly executed an audit of accounts by the independent Auditor's company "BMB Partners s.r.o." This auditor's activity has been executed under the concluded contract. The results of the audit have also been communicated to the Board of Directors of the PRO Ekolamp Slovakia. The complete Auditor's Report for specified subjects is available at the registered office of the company "Ekolamp Slovakia".