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International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Efficient Civil Society Participation in
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Capacity building workshop "Persistent Organic Pollutants and Waste and Chemicals Policy" and its follow up activities

Arnika Association - Toxics and Waste Programme

**Czech Republic
March 2006**

About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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This report is available in the following languages: English

Capacity building workshop "Persistent Organic Pollutants and Waste and Chemicals Policy" and its follow up activities

Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme organized an introductory capacity building workshop in Brandys nad Labem in May 2004. This workshop was followed by two meetings of smaller groups of NGOs to discuss further cooperation within the region (one in the Czech Republic and a second in Hungary).

"Persistent Organic Pollutants and Waste and Chemicals Policy" Brandys nad Labem (Czech republic) - May 5 - 7, 2004

The first initial workshop was held in May 2004 in Brandys nad Labem and started IPEP in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region.

Important results of the work on this project are:

- 1) Press releases for mass media about work within the CEE region available at the English version of Arnika Association website (<http://english.arnika.org>)
- 2) The proceedings from the initial workshop in electronic versions which include all presentations focused on POPs and related issues in general within the region. These proceedings are available at the website: <http://english.arnika.org/brandys2004>.

This material helps NGOs in the region to develop their own materials and strategies for addressing POPs. The presentations also cover new topics such as PBDEs and/or phthalates.

The content of the Proceedings is as follows:

Importance of NGOs' participation in the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) of Stockholm Convention on POPs preparation process (experience from 3 CEE countries presented by NGOs) - J. Petrlik (Arnika Association, Prague - Czech Rep.)

Inventories of by-products sources on both national and international level - truth or mystery? - Pat Costner (Greenpeace International - USA)

International POPs Elimination Project in the CEE region plus Balkan states brief introduction - Jindrich Petrlik (Arnika Association, Prague - Czech Rep.)

Non-combustion technologies for POPs destruction - Jack Weinberg (Northern co-chair of International POPs Elimination Network, Environmental Health Fund, Chicago - USA)

- # Pilot project on use of non-combustion technology in Slovakia (UNIDO project presentation) - Martin Murín (Ecotoxicological Center, Bratislava - Slovakia)
- # Dioxins and Public Health - Chapaevsk case study - Boris Revich (Centre of Demography and Human Ecology, Moscow - Russia)
- # Pollutant Release and Transfer Register as important measure to reduce toxic pollution - general introduction - Jindrich Petrlík (Arnika Association, Prague - Czech Rep.)
- # PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers) Protocol to Aarhus Convention - Mary Taylor (Friends of the Earth, London - UK)
- # PVC's Toxic Life - Joe DiGangi (Environmental Health Fund, Chicago - USA)
- # REACH - new chemicals policy in EU and the impact of NGO participation - Anja Leetz, (Chemical Reaction, a joint project of the European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth Europe and Greenpeace International, Brussels - Belgium)
- # REACH: a win-win situation for society and industry - Anne-Sofie Andersson (International Chemical Secretariat, Gothenburg - Sweden)
- # Czech Pollutant Release and Transfer Register - its strengths and weaknesses - Ondrej Velek (Environmental Partnership, Prague - Czech Rep.)
- # Phthalates - problem chemicals in medical devices - Kamil Sevela (Hospital "U Sv. Anny", Brno - Czech Rep.) Lenka Maskova (Arnika Association, Prague - Czech Rep.)
- # PCB/POPs destruction and formation of PCDDs/PCDFs under different conditions - Roland Weber (independent scientist - Germany)
- # Fly ash - source of dioxins and other toxic substances contamination - state of the study under preparation by Dioxin, PCBs and Waste WG of IPEN - Jindrich Petrlík and Milan Havel (Arnika Association, Prague - Czech Rep.)
- # Breast Milk Contamination by POPs in Poland - case study
- # Declaration

Follow up meetings

The initial workshop was followed by two meetings of NGOs with hub core team from CEE region:

- 1) in December 2004 in Brandys nad Labem (Czech Republic)
- 2) in June 2005 in Budapest (Hungary)

Participants at these meetings were NGOs which have cooperated with the IPEP hub since the initial workshop (Za zemiata - Bulgaria, Earth Friends Society - Slovakia, Waste Prevention Association - Poland) as well as new NGOs (Bumerang - Turkey, HuMuSz - Hungary, Green Action Zagreb - Croatia) and persons elected for the hub advisory board (Boryana Hrissimova from Bulgaria, Ralph Ryder from UK and Karolina Ruzickova from Czech Republic).

Major topics of discussion at the first NGOs meeting were:

- NGOs participation in NIPs
- needs of NGOs from hub
- new issues (PBDEs, Lindane, co-burning of wastes in cement kilns etc.)
- outreach of new NGOs
- candidates for advisory board

Outcomes of the second meeting in Budapest were:

- development of new PAMs with newcomers to IPEP in the region
 - agreement about themes of joint activities among region:
 - Lindane
 - PBDEs
 - POPs in wastes
 - cement kilns as POPs sources
 - zero waste strategies as example of Best Environmental Practice
 - final election of advisory board members for CEE region IPEP
- NGOs have evaluated IPEP as very helpful and found it very useful and supportive in their active involvement in Stockholm Convention implementation at national level.

At both meetings also study tours and national workshops within countries were discussed as well as cooperation with international networks such as GAIA (Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives), HCWH (Health Care Without Harm), and CEE Bankwatch Network as some participating NGOs were members of these networks. There was common interest in more close cooperation between different networks that are focused on POPs related issues.

Development of Cooperation between NGOs within CEE region

Initial workshop helped to establish regular cooperation on IPEP activities with NGOs in some countries (Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Turkey). Polish NGO was busy with some other topics than expected at the beginning and therefore was not actively involved in PAMs later on. Follow up workshop showed importance of joint projects. NGOs were enthusiastic about joint activity on global eggs sampling and were willing to develop further such activities at least at regional level. Special working groups were established to develop frameworks for such activities. Final design of such joint activities was agreed at Budapest meeting. That was also useful by getting new countries involved in IPEP (Hungary, Croatia). Follow up after this meeting helped to hub to get involved even more NGOs from another two countries (Albania and Estonia).

NGOs were also interested to establish more active discussion within the region via e-mails and wish to have a common webpage in English. They found very useful also larger meetings such as it was at initial workshop, but recognized problem with funding for such meetings.

More information is available also at <http://english.arnika.org/ipep>.

Arnika Association - Toxics and Waste Programme

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