



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Preparation of the assessment report and conducting awareness raising activities on E-waste and batteries management in Belarus

NGO: Center for Environmental Solutions

Country: Belarus

Date: 2 November, 2010

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Activities relating to identification and assessment of where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, participation in the workshop on electronic waste to be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention and follow up recommendations and options for the SAICM OEWG and ICCM3 (ICCM2 decision II/4)

Definition of e-waste and near end of life items and the hazardous chemicals contained in them:

See e-waste report summary.

Description of the situation with regard to e-waste that is generated in the country vs. waste that enters the country:

See e-waste report summary.

Description of the current practices for dealing with e-waste and near end of life electrical equipment:

See e-waste report summary.

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted:

In frame of the project a first assessment report of the situation with e-waste management in Belarus has been prepared and presented to the target group. The report contains information about import and production, major ways of consumption, life time, the present situation with end-of-life products and options for utilization, relevant applicable legislation, and recommendations for further actions in this area.

Impact on target groups:

This project is a first step in a longer campaign on improvement of the situation with e-waste in Belarus. The report has been presented to mass media, national authorities and interested trade organizations in Belarus, and now CES is running a series of consultations with representatives of target groups in order to get more attention to this problem.

Impact on target policies:

Our main target policy is national waste legislation and, especially, the list of products and goods, which are subject for Extended Producer Responsibility approach. This list is approved by the Council of Ministers and at the moment contains only tires, and rubber goods. At the moment it's difficult to estimate the impact of the project on the target policy, as it takes much more time and efforts in order to make substantial changes.

Outreach to stakeholders:

Preparation of the assessment report involved several experts, working in the area of waste management in Belarus. The main target group of the project is national authorities involved in waste management (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, and others). The results of the assessment report have been communicated to them, and at the moment, we're holding bilateral meetings with them to discuss possibilities of improvement situation with e-waste management.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

- Assessment report of the situation with e-waste management in Belarus;
- Russian and English summary of the report;
- press-release.

Communication efforts:

After the report was prepared a press-conference was organized by CES, with representatives of several mass media participating (Belta and Belapan news agencies, Belarussian radio, Narodnaya newspaper, Rodnaya priroda magazine, Mir zhyvotnyh magazine, Ekolog i ja magazine, portal greenbelarus.info).

News coverage includes the following publications:

http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Ekologi-predlagajut-vvesti-v-Belarusi-printsip-rasshirennoj-otvetstvennosti-proizvoditelej-za-elektronnye-otxody_i_530018.html

<http://www.greenconsumerism.org/news/28/c19/i239.html>

<http://belapan.com/archive/2010/11/02/423371/>

<http://www.wildlife.by/node/4664>
<http://greenbelarus.info/content/view/1236/1/>
<http://news.21.by/economics/2010/11/02/187252.html>
<http://www.bybanner.com/article/17194.html>
<http://souzinfo.ru/ru/?id16=145941>
http://www.belgium.be/embassy.org/rus/news3/~page__m12=15~news__m12=188917

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NGO Recommendations for next steps:

Analysis of national legislation and practices conducted in the review showed that existing methods of public administration are aimed largely at controlling the treatment of industrial waste. That is why WEEE generated by the population are the biggest problem and require introduction of new principles of regulation. The EU countries experience for different product groups proved the effectiveness of the principle of extended producer responsibility (EPR) to solve the problem of household waste. The principle of EPR involves the imposition of economic, physical, compensation and liability information for the treatment of waste generated after the loss of consumer characteristics of production on the producer or importer of the product.

Peculiarities of the EPR programs for plastic bags and rubber-goods operating in Belarus were analyzed in this review. The EU legislation on waste electrical and electronic equipment (which is based on EU Directive on WEEE) was evaluated and the Swedish program of EPR in relation to EEE was reviewed. Based on the analysis of these programs and EPR revealed features of this goods was offered a program in relation to EEE.

The first phase of the EPR program in relation to EEE in Belarus should cover complex household appliances (CHA) - Refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, dishwashers, etc. The very first condition for the implementation of the EPR program in Belarus is the removal of legal restrictions related to the EEE which contain precious, base and ferrous metals. It is necessary to derive the WEEE generated by the population from the control of legislation on precious metals. Also there should be made changes into the special law governing the treatment of scrap and wastes of ferrous and nonferrous metals.

The main idea of the EPR program in relation to EEE is the organization of waste collection of BBP, a preliminary removal of individual parts (compressor refrigeration) and sending them for processing at a shredder unit of GO "Belvtormet. Organizing the collection may be done by national manufacturers of BBP and GO "Belresursy.

This distribution of responsibility has some advantages:

- it is easier to monitor compliance with the requirements for dealing with ferrous and nonferrous metals with a small numbers of key stakeholders (CSOs "Belresursy, ZAO Atlant, JV Brestgazoapparat");
- it is easier to change the law on the treatment of scrap and waste ferrous and nonferrous metals; and
- it gives preference to national producers, because a native collection system will be more flexible and cheaper than a contractual one and BBP would make national producers more competitive.

It is proposed to organize collecting of BBP goods from the population on the collection points set up:

- in trade organizations;
- organizations engaged in the production of goods BBP (Atlant, JV Brestgazoapparat") in their service centers and dealers;
- in customer service centers for maintenance and repair products BBP;

- in harvested consumer cooperatives, purchasing organizations GO "Belvtormet;
- in regional centers GO "Belresursy.

Considering the complexity of waste composition and the presence of non-ferrous and precious metals, it is suggested to centralize the collection and recycling of CHA.

In general our recommendations for further steps are the following:

- To continue raising the issue of e-waste as a priority environmental issue for Belarus;
- To lobby for EPR approach for e-waste in Belarus; and
- To initiate pilot projects of e-waste collection by producers and/or trade organizations