

**SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE
IN BUILDING CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
of the
UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)**

Chisinau, 5-7 November 2008

INTRODUCTION

Participants from

- Armenia (1), Belarus (2), the Republic of Moldova (approx. 7), Romania (1), the Russian Federation (1) and Ukraine (3)
- Russian REC, REC Moldova, Caucasus Environmental NGOs Network (CENN), Environmental Rights Centre “Bellona” and European EcoForum (5 total)
- Secretariat (1)

Hosted and organized by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova. Funded by a grant from UNECE, with support from Switzerland and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

I. CONCLUSIONS AGREED BY THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

To build capacity to implement fully the Convention, the workshop participants agreed that they would seek to carry out the following activities:

1. Subregional training workshop(s) for experts and NGOs on transboundary EIA procedures, with reference to practical experience
 - among Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
 - Russian Federation would be invited to participate
2. National workshops in Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to raise awareness of the Convention among line ministries, other developers (project proponents) and NGOs
3. Reviews of national legislation – further to a request to the Convention’s Implementation Committee (not a submission!) – and subsequent technical assistance in revision of legislation, if necessary
4. Sharing through the secretariat of information, such as guidelines, training materials and awareness-raising products, that would be of use to others

5. Carrying out a pilot project in Belarus, probably relating to decommissioning of a nuclear power plant in Lithuania

II. DETAILED DEFINITION OF ACTIVITIES

Subregional workshop (activity no. 1):

- To be lead by the focal point for Ukraine (subject to approval in Ukraine), in close coordination with the focal points for Belarus and Republic of Moldova.
- Romania and other experienced neighbouring Parties to be invited to provide insights into their practical experience
- Armenia to be invited also

National workshops (activist no. 2)

- To be held in Belarus, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- To be lead by the focal point of the Party
- To be prepared in coordination with a relevant NGO in the Party

Workshops (activities no. 1 and 2)

- Co-financing to be sought, with workshops to be planned in the next budgeted year
- Lead focal points to provide the information listed below to the secretariat, which will work with the lead focal points to secure funding
 - Justification
 - Purpose / objectives
 - Outcomes / results
 - Methodology
 - Organizational arrangements
 - Time schedule
 - Inputs
 - Budget

Reviews of legislation (activity no. 3)

- Available to Belarus and the Republic of Moldova (equivalent process already initiated in Ukraine, and Armenia)
- Requires application to the Implementation Committee

Information sharing (activity no. 4)

- Relevant materials to be submitted to the secretariat
- Secretariat to make available electronically (website, e-mail or CD-ROM, as appropriate)
- Secretariat to investigate publishing (hardcopy) of resources of regional or subregional use

Pilot project in Belarus (activity no. 5)

- Initially specified as relating to an on-going transboundary EIA procedure for nuclear activities in Lithuania
- Availability of funding for this pilot project to be confirmed; secretariat would prefer that the pilot project relate to an activity for which Belarus is the Party of origin

III. STATEMENT BY RUSSIAN REC AND BELLONA

The Russian REC and Bellona organizations, with the support of other NGOs, are planning to undertake an initiative on the promotion of the Espoo Convention in the Russian Federation, which might contribute to ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation.

For this purpose, they foresee

1. Informing of NGOs and the public about the possibilities of the Convention's application
2. Collecting information about projects in the Russian Federation, and beyond, that might have transboundary impact
3. Appealing to the President
4. Appealing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and other agencies
5. Requesting support of the secretariat in the above activities

Methodology:

1. Activities to attract attention to the Espoo Convention and the opportunities it provides with respect to projects likely to have a significant adverse transboundary impact (target groups: NGOs, activists, journalists)
2. Training sessions (target group: NGOs, activists, project proponents, agencies, journalists, local authorities)
3. Publication / guidance regarding application of the Espoo Convention (target group: activists)
4. Press-conferences (target group: journalists)

ATTACHMENT: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS