

INTRODUCTION

Helping CEEC/NIS to more effectively mobilise and channel financial resources for environmental protection has been an important objective of the EAP Task Force, and its Secretariat based at the OECD, since the OECD developed the *St. Petersburg Guidelines on Environmental Funds in the Transition to a Market Economy* in 1994-95, in consultation with CEEC/NIS officials. From that time the Task Force has undertaken a range of activities focused on examining the funds and strengthening their operations. A series of international conferences and smaller meetings for and about the Funds have been held, with the CEE and NIS *Environmental Funds Networks* being launched by the Task Force in 1996. A common feature of these events has been the strong interest of fund managers, ministry of environment officials, representatives of bi- and multi-lateral co-operation agencies, international financial institutions (and others) to learn more about the funds and to facilitate exchange of information and experience among them. The production of this *Funds Sourcebook* is a direct response to that interest.

The Sourcebook provides basic information about the main features and activities of 21 environmental funds in the CEEC/NIS regions, including nearly all of the national environmental funds. The primary target audience for the Sourcebook is CEEC/NIS fund managers and ministry of environment officials, however, it should also be of interest to a wide range of individuals and institutions concerned with environmental financing and environmental protection more generally in economies in transition. The Sourcebook provides the funds with the opportunity to widely publicise their activities. At the same time, the Regional Overview chapter in the Sourcebook provides a more critical assessment of the funds' strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and challenges they face.

Methodology

Considerable efforts were made to collect and present comprehensive, reliable and comparable information about the funds. The funds themselves played a key role in compiling and providing the information and data presented in the Sourcebook, in accordance with standardised surveys prepared by the OECD Secretariat of the EAP Task Force. The extent to which the survey terms-of-reference were fulfilled varies from fund to fund, which in some cases is a reflection of the institutional obstacles and challenges facing the funds. Notwithstanding such challenges, and rather ambitious survey terms-of-reference, a tremendous amount of information was collected and is presented in this Sourcebook, much of which is not readily available elsewhere, even in domestic sources.

The surveys, which appear here in edited form as the individual fund chapters, underwent a series of reviews and revisions involving the editors, relevant fund and ministry officials and other contributors. The funds themselves are the source of the information presented in the fund chapters, except where explicitly indicated otherwise. The Regional Overview chapter draws upon the fund chapters, as well as discussions held during meetings of the CEE and NIS Environmental Funds Networks (co-ordinated by the Task Force), and extensive communications with other officials and experts involved with the funds. Earlier drafts of the Overview chapter were presented and discussed at meeting of the EAP Task Force (1997) and meetings of the CEE and NIS Funds Networks (in 1998 and 1999). In CEEC, the EU's Phare Programme supported consultations with the national environmental funds and in-depth reviews of four funds (in Poland, Estonia, Czech Republic and Slovenia) which also provided useful background information for the Overview.

Structure and Contents of the Funds Sourcebook

The Sourcebook begins with a Regional Overview chapter containing summary information on key characteristics (including revenue and expenditure data) and a critical assessment of the funds. The Overview is followed by Part I: Surveys of Selected Environmental Funds in CEE; Part II: Surveys of Selected Environmental Funds in NIS; and three annexes. The surveys follow the basic structure of the original terms-of-reference, with the sections: Background and Objectives; Management and Administration; Revenues; Spending Strategy; Expenditures; Funding Cycle; Evaluation, Reporting and Public Information; Major Achievements; and Challenges and Future Prospects. Not all funds submitted fully complete surveys. The surveys include summary data on revenues and expenditures (generally in USD) in tables and charts prepared by the editors based on raw data provided by the funds (in national currency). This more detailed raw data is presented in Annex II. Annex I provides the USD exchange rates used and methodological notes/explanations pertaining to data in Annex II.

Information in the Sourcebook generally reflects the status of the funds as of mid-late 1998; more recent information has been included where possible, and particularly in the Regional Overview. Due to time lags in the availability of official data, the most recent year for which data is presented is usually 1997. It should therefore be acknowledged that, in the event of more recent developments at the funds, some information presented in the Sourcebook may no longer be valid. For the most up to date information about the funds, readers are encouraged to contact the funds directly (see Annex III for contact details of the funds.)