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ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

**Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network**

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK

10-12 June 2009 (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova)

This document summarises the outcomes of discussions during the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) of environmental experts and officials from Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA).

ACTION REQUIRED: For information.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

The 2009 annual meeting of the Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) was held on 10-12 June in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. The meeting included two distinct segments (i) a one-day workshop on integration of environmental matters into Medium-term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF) and (ii) the overall discussion on work programme implementation. Most importantly, participants:

1. Took note of the Secretariat's **report on progress** since the last annual meeting and the results of country-level pilot projects. Many countries were interested to learn from and adopt the modern information systems and the new performance indicators for environmental inspectorates that were tested in Georgia and Kazakhstan, respectively.
2. Exchanged experience on **MTEF implementation** and underlined the importance of this work for better implementation of environmental programmes. Participants discussed a draft Survey Questionnaire (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/26/42944044.pdf>) and provided guidance to the Secretariat with respect to data request procedures. In a longer-term perspective, they suggested that the Secretariat (i) reflect on policy conclusions arising from MTEF work and (ii) organize, if feasible, a thematic high-level meeting of environment and finance ministries of EECCA, with selected participants from OECD countries.
3. Endorsed the **Guidance on the Determination and Application of Administrative Fines for Environmental Offences** (www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/44/42356640.pdf) and asked the Secretariat to circulate this paper among stakeholders beyond ministries of environment, most importantly to ministries of finance and ministries of justice.
4. Endorsed the final version of the **Guidance on Measuring Results of Environmental Regulation and Compliance Assurance** (www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/5/42942944.pdf) and asked the Secretariat to proceed with a communication strategy that reaches out to Parliaments and ministries of finance. Participants welcomed the presentation from the Moldovan State Environmental Inspectorate that illustrated recent reforms in performance measurement and reporting.
5. Endorsed the structure of a **CD-ROM for environmental inspectorates**.
6. Welcomed the discussion paper on OECD practices concerning **environmental liability regimes** (www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/57/42751266.pdf) and provided full support for the continuation of this work. Small group discussions were organized to discuss a Survey of EECCA practices (to be implemented by EECCA RECs) and domains where OECD practice is most useful. The REPIN Network urged EECCA RECs to conduct the survey within one year so that the OECD Secretariat can proceed with the next phase of the project and deliver the final report with recommendations for EECCA countries by the time of the Astana Conference.
7. Took note of **presentations from the REPIN partners**, including the World Bank, the INECE and IMPEL Networks, and the NGO community.
8. Took note of the **two-week commenting period** on papers presented by the Secretariat.
9. Asked the Secretariat to prepare, based on meeting outcomes, the **2010 Programme of Work**, and circulate it for written comments by Network members.
10. Expressed their **gratitude to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova and the State Environmental Inspectorate** for hosting the REPIN meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK
FOR EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS, AND CENTRAL ASIA
(10-12 JUNE 2009; CHISINAU, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA)**

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

1. The Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) was established in 1999 under the OECD/EAP Task Force umbrella as a mechanism for dialogue on issues of environmental compliance assurance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA). Over its ten-year history, the Network evolved and currently its scope of work covers environmental policy implementation and financing. The Network aspires to facilitate implementation of environmental policy objectives at least costs, and promote the rule of law and a level playing field for businesses.

2. The REPIN work has helped to revise policies and legislation, to reform environmental enforcement institutions, and to upgrade the knowledge and skills of environmental officials and experts. A suite of practical tools to assist EECCA governments to implement reforms have been developed. Country-specific demonstration projects have been used to both design and apply such tools.

Meeting Objectives and Participants

3. The annual REPIN meeting was organised by the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova on 10-12 June 2009 in Chisinau. The REPIN members gathered to discuss the following topics:

- (i) financing aspects of environmental programme implementation;
- (ii) guidance developed in the field of monetary penalties assessment for environmental offences,
- (iii) improvement of approaches to measure institutional performance of environmental regulation and compliance assurance systems, and
- (iv) modern design of liability regimes.

4. More generally, progress with work programme implementation was assessed and guidance with regard to next year activities provided to the Secretariat. A set of documents prepared by the Secretariat served as a basis for discussions (Annex 1).

5. The meeting was attended by government officials and experts from all but one EECCA countries and three OECD members (the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, and the United States). Representatives of NGOs and EECCA Regional Environmental Centres (RECs), as well as the World Bank, were also present (Annex 2).

Opening Remarks by the Host Country

6. In his opening speech, *Ion Apostol*, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova, welcomed participants and underlined the practical value of networking and related national-level work for EECCA countries. The role of OECD countries that have supported the process of networking and the development and practical application of new policy instruments was mentioned with gratitude.

Review of Progress in 2008-2009 and Future Plans

7. The Network members took note of progress in work programme implementation (see Annex 3) since their last meeting in June 2008 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan). *Angela Bularga* (EAP Task Force Secretariat) signalled a difficult budgetary situation and eventual postponing or cancelling of some projects.

8. After reporting on progress, the Secretariat delivered a brief presentation on future plans. REPIN members agreed to provide written feedback on the Draft Programme of Work for 2010, including their interest to undertake pilot projects, when this document is ready. They also asked the Secretariat to take note of outcomes of discussions during the annual meeting when drafting the Programme.

Workshop on Integrating the Environment Sector into Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks

9. The workshop launched a regional survey that will identify the major achievements and challenges of integrating the environmental sector into medium-term budgeting processes in EECCA countries. The longer-term goal of this work is to help ministries of environment to raise adequate public resources for environmental management. The Secretariat developed a short briefing note “Introduction to Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF)” to support discussions.

10. During the **first session**, *Nelly Petkova* (EAP Task Force Secretariat) familiarized the participants with the concept, critical elements, and the four main types of MTEFs. Benefits from applying this type of budgeting, such as improved medium and longer-term programming and planning, predictability and stability of budgetary allocation, closer link to substantive objectives, consolidation of various sources of financing (including earmarked environmental funds and donor aid) were presented as well. Finally, challenges of applying MTEF in the environment sector were outlined.

11. The **second session** of the workshop focused on the experiences of individual EECCA countries with designing and implementing MTEFs. *Iurie Nastase* (Moldovan Ministry of Finance) and *Tatiana Plesco* (Moldovan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources) and *Anastasia Lovidova* (Russian Ministry of Finance) introduced the MTEF practices in their countries, including in the environment sector. In addition, *Nelly Petkova* presented the major findings and conclusions from a recent study carried out in Ukraine which focused on the medium-term budgetary planning in the environment sector. The experience of the EECCA countries was contrasted to the experience of OECD members. *Ján Marušinec*, a former Ministry of Finance official from the Slovak Republic, who was actively involved in introducing and institutionalising the MTEF process in his own country, presented Slovak experience in this area.

12. The participants were then invited to discuss the relevance of the presented practices for their work in budgeting environmental programmes. The three main questions for discussion in the plenary were:

- What are the main challenges in implementing the MTEF in general and in the environment sector in particular?
- What is the impact of the current financial crisis on fiscal discipline and MTEF implementation?
- Where should be the main capacity-building efforts focused in order to improve the quality of environmental programmes and budgets?

13. The discussion revealed that while most EECCA countries have started introducing a medium-term perspective to their annual budgets, these countries took diverse approaches to medium-term budgeting and are at different stages of its implementation. These approaches range from Armenia and Moldova that have fully-fledged MTEFs covering all sectors, to Russia that legally authorizing three year budgets, which represents a unique budgeting approach since other countries enact only annual budgets and use MTEFs as management tools, and to Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine that apply only certain elements of medium-term budgeting.

14. The participants raised the following issues and asked the Secretariat to take account of them while shaping up current and future activities under the MTEF project:

- The main challenge in implementing the MTEF, particularly in the environment sector, is related to the preparation of sound and economically justified environmental expenditure programmes for inclusion in the MTEF process and subsequent annual budget financing. Related to this are:
 - problems with the realistic costing of programmes (both for investments and operation and maintenance costs);
 - setting programme targets and indicators to monitor and evaluate programme implementation;
 - coordination of programmes jointly implemented with other ministries with responsibilities for environmental management.

Because of weak programming, the main sources of environmental finance in many of the EECCA countries are still environmental funds (where they exist) and donor support. Slovak experience with Fiscal Impact Analysis – a tool for evaluating the budgetary implications of new programmes and policy initiatives, can be of particular relevance for the EECCA countries.

- The current financial crisis has had a significant impact on MTEF implementation. Many EECCA countries have dropped medium-term budgeting and have focused on the preparation of annual budgets only (*e.g.* Russia and Armenia). The Slovak representative, however, underlined that a crisis period is often the right time to introduce and strengthen the MTEF process. This can help consolidate public budgets and target policy action at real priorities, and provide healthy public finance for the economy after the crisis is over.
- Institutional capacity, including technical expertise, is essential for attaining adequate budget financing for environmental programmes in the MTEF context. Participants agreed that training in preparation of programmes, setting targets and performance indicators can equip ministries of environment with knowledge and skills that would make them more competitive. Participants emphasized that ministries of finance and other ministries with responsibilities for environmental management should also be involved in capacity development programmes.
- Participants stressed that high-level political support and commitment is crucial to improved budgeting. For this reason, participants suggested that the Secretariat:
 - should promote the policy conclusions arising from the MTEF work and develop a paper targeted at high-level audience; and,
 - could organize, if feasible, a high-level meeting of officials representing environment and finance ministries of EECCA, with selected participants from OECD countries. Donor agencies should be invited to such a meeting as well since MTEFs cover all budget sources, including donor financing.

15. The **third session** of the workshop was dedicated to the draft Survey Questionnaire on MTEF and the Environment in EECCA. *Nelly Petkova* presented the main elements of the questionnaire and emphasised the need for a close cooperation between ministries of environment and ministries of finance in preparing the responses. During the discussion, participants provided guidance to the Secretariat with respect to the schedule and procedures for requesting information from EECCA ministries. They agreed that ministries of environment should serve as focal points for the study though the Questionnaire needs to be officially sent to both ministries of environment and ministries of finance.

Session on Institutional Strengthening of Environmental Inspectorates

16. Two countries – Georgia and Kazakhstan – presented results from EAP Task Force projects that assisted to build their environmental enforcement agencies:

- *Kazken Orazalina* (Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control) gave a summary on the pilot use of performance self-rating by territorial environmental departments in Kazakhstan. The REPIN members agreed that criteria of assessments identified in Kazakhstan may change the incentive framework for inspectors, though there was some scepticism *vis-à-vis* the objectivity of self-assessments and reliability of their results. The participants suggested that the rating is used by central level authorities as part of a structured performance management process that would emphasise improvement of performance rather than just penalising poor performers. The role of positive incentives, including non-monetary ones, was underlined. In this respect, Kazakhstan shared their experience of nominating annually the “best environmental inspector”. The participants agreed to provide written comments on the rating methodology directly to colleagues in the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control.
- *Ellena Yakobidze* (Georgian Inspectorate for Environmental Protection) shared experience from a two-year project to establish a national information system for environmental compliance assurance data. The presentation has attracted particular interest and countries requested the Secretariat to explore possibilities for extending this experience regionally. Also a risk-based methodology for establishing priorities for environmental inspection of point sources of pollution was disseminated by the representatives of Georgia.

17. In the plenary discussion following the two presentations, the participants acknowledged that tools piloted in Georgia and Kazakhstan can help countries “doing more with less”, which seems to be a universal challenge of environmental inspectorates and government authorities in general. However, many REPIN members expressed their concern in relation to important staff cuts and asked the Secretariat to gather international practice and provide guidance on calculation of the minimum number of personnel.

18. Also the participants endorsed the structure of a CD-ROM for environmental inspectorates. This product was developed by the Secretariat based on materials of training programmes delivered within the 2003-2007 cycle of work and a train-the-trainer programme implemented in 2008.

Session on Administrative Fines for Environmental Offences

19. The objective of this session was to discuss and approve the draft guidance for environmental enforcement authorities in EECCA countries on “Determination and Application of Administrative Fines for Environmental Offences”. This guidance document prepared by the EAP Task Force Secretariat based on best practices in several OECD countries was first presented and discussed at a regional expert meeting in Tallinn, Estonia on 19-20 March 2009. *Eugene Mazur* on behalf of the Secretariat reported on the expert meeting and presented the document’s key recommendations for EECCA countries, including:

- Introduction of administrative fines for legal entities in those EECCA countries that have not yet done so;
- Adoption of legal requirements to account for economic benefits of non-compliance and seriousness of an offence;
- Adoption of national enforcement policies to ensure nationwide consistency and transparency of enforcement decisions;

- Measures to improve the collection of fines; and
- Improvement of the system of management and reporting of information on fines.

20. The participants discussed and endorsed these recommendations. In addition, the discussion focused on the need to strengthen the role of environmental enforcement authorities in EECCA in the legislative design in general and in the reform of administrative codes governing environmental monetary sanctions in particular. It was decided that the guidance document would be finalised following last written comments by the participants (to be submitted by 26 June) and disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders in the EECCA region, including ministries of finance.

Session on Measuring Regulatory and Compliance Assurance Performance

21. *Angela Bularga* presented the final version of the Guidance on Performance Measurement in EECCA. Participants endorsed this document, subject to written comments on the Russian version. The need for outcome indicators, including final outcomes, was re-iterated. The Secretariat was invited to proceed with a communication strategy that would reach out stakeholders outside environmental inspectorates, *e.g.* covering Parliaments and ministries of finance. The participants agreed that the Secretariat should proceed with a technical guidance on performance measurement that, in particular, would enable countries to construct compatible information systems and produce statistically sound and comparable data.

22. Also participants welcomed a presentation by *Alexandru Apostol*, Deputy Chair of the Moldovan State Environmental Inspectorate that presented recent reforms in the performance measurement and reporting system of the Inspectorate. The speaker provided examples for various types of indicators – from input to final outcome indicators, and underlined the focus put by the Inspectorate on time series and trend analysis, as well as interpretation of data in the larger social and economic context. He mentioned that as of 2009 the Inspectorate discloses its corporate reports electronically through the newly established web-site www.inseco.gov.md where the general public can find both activity information and financial accounts of the Inspectorate, including revenues and expenditure.

23. Finally, the Secretariat informed participants about a new OECD project on outcome indicators of environmental compliance assurance. This project aims to identify such indicators in selected member countries and will result in a report that will be published in 2010.

Scoping Session on Environmental Liability

24. This session aimed at defining the final outputs of the project on reforming environmental liability regimes in EECCA countries (to be implemented jointly by the EAP Task Force Secretariat and the EECCA RECs) on the basis of the general review of OECD practices in this area. *Eugene Mazur* presented the discussion paper “Environmental Liability for Damage to Natural Resources in OECD Countries: The Concept and Key Approaches” prepared by the Secretariat. He outlined the key features of environmental liability regimes in the European Union and the United States, focusing on the approaches to the assessment of environmental damage and to environmental insurance.

25. The main conclusions from the review of international practice included the following:

- Liability is designed not to punish responsible parties but to ensure damage remediation;
- Assessment of environmental damage is mostly based on estimate of needs to restore impaired resources; and
- Environmental liability insurance is site-specific and based on careful evaluation of risk.

26. *Maryna Yanush* (consultant) in her presentation further compared the experience of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the European Union in the assessment and compensation of environmental damage. She highlighted the issues that would need to be addressed as part of the environmental liability reform process in EECCA countries. Finally, *Andrei Terentiev* (Russian REC) gave an overview of the EECCA RECs' plans to conduct a detailed review of EECCA country practices of assessing and compensating environmental damage. Based on these presentations, the participants were invited to discuss the following two questions in small working groups:

- Which OECD approaches to environmental liability are feasible to implement in EECCA and how this project can best assist EECCA countries in doing that?
- What should be the objectives, scope and outcomes of the review of EECCA liability practices?

27. As a result of the small group discussions, the participants came to a consensus that the guidance document to be elaborated by the Secretariat prior to the 2011 Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference should *focus on reorientation of environmental liability regimes in EECCA toward remediation of environmental damage*. To this end, it should address the following issues:

- How to improve the investigation of cases of environmental damage and the determination of responsible parties?
- How to regulate the issue of prevention of environmental damage?
- How to determine the scope of activities to remediate environmental damage (using the example of at least one environmental medium)?
- How to ensure control over remediation actions?
- How to promote broad stakeholder involvement and public participation?
- How to secure resources for remediation (insurance, financial guarantees, deposits, etc.)?

28. The meeting participants decided that the review of current EECCA practices should precede the development of a guidance document and that such review should be conducted by the RECs prior to the 2010 annual REPIN meeting. They expressed their willingness to work closely with the RECs to facilitate data collection and analysis. The review would focus, among others, on the following tasks:

- To perform an region-wide analysis of EECCA national laws and regulations related to liability for environmental damage, including from a terminological perspective to ensure comparability between EECCA and OECD country systems;
- To analyse existing methodologies of assessing environmental damage, identify the scope of their application, and evaluate their effectiveness; and
- To analyse current environmental damage assessment and compensation procedures and the roles of different stakeholders.

29. The participants asked the Secretariat to work closely with the RECs to further refine the scope and timeline of the EECCA review and solicit comments on them through a written procedure. The results of the review and the ways to integrate them into the development of the eventual guidance document will be discussed at the next annual REPIN meeting.

Other Business

30. The participants took note of presentations from REPIN partners that included the following:
- update on key projects of the sister INECE and IMPEL networks by *Henk Ruessink* (Dutch Environmental Inspectorate);
 - a brief presentation on a World Bank project to strengthen environmental protection in Zaporizhya by *Alexei Slenzak* (World Bank);
 - a civil society initiative to conduct independent assessments of environmental actions under the European Neighborhood Policy implementation plans by *Ilya Trombitsky* (Eco-Tiras).

Next Meeting

31. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan offered to host the next annual meeting. The participants agreed that the time and place of this meeting shall be decided when funding prospects are clearer.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 2009 REPIN MEETING

TITLE	Document No.	Availability	
		Eng.	Rus.
Draft annotated agenda	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN/A(2009)1	X	X
Introduction to Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN(2009)2	X	X
Integrating the environment sector into medium-term expenditure frameworks in EECCA: Survey Questionnaire	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN(2009)3	X	X
Measuring Results of Environmental Regulation and Compliance Assurance: Guidance for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia	Publication	X	X
Determination and Application of Administrative Fines for Environmental Offences: Guidance for Environmental Authorities in EECCA Countries	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN(2008)7	X	X
Environmental Liability for Damage to Natural Resources in OECD Countries: the Concept and Key Approaches	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN(2009)1	X	X

Please note that all these documents can be downloaded from a dedicated web page:

http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,3343,en_2649_34339_42750206_1_1_1_1,00.html

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ANNEX 3: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORK PROGRAMME IN 2008-2009 (DATA AS OF MAY 2009)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REFORM				
Project	Status of implementation	Outputs/meetings still planned in 2009	Donors	Progress in EECCA countries
Activity 2.1: Environmental policy instruments				
Project 2.1.1 Regulatory Impact Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project proposal submitted to Finland; funding not yet available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis report on international experience of RIA application within the environmental sector, with a focus on costing models A regional meeting to discuss opportunities and constraints for a full-fledged use of RIA 	Absent	Convergence with European legislation is an important driving force in many EECCA countries, though its priorities and pace are sometimes limited by poor capacity to address economic and social costs and benefits of convergence.
Project 2.1.2 Monetary penalties and liability (Joint project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rapid survey of legal provisions on administrative fines in EECCA countries conducted in autumn 2008 Guidelines on assessing and applying administrative fines drafted An expert meeting conducted on 19-20 March 2009 in Tallinn, Estonia A discussion paper on liability systems in OECD countries prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft guidelines on the reform of administrative fines to be discussed at the REPIN meeting in June 2009 The paper on liability to be discussed at the REPIN meeting to identify priorities for guidance and support to EECCA countries Russian REC to launch a review of liability systems and practices in EECCA countries in the second half of 2009 	Switzerland Netherlands	There is a strong demand for this project in EECCA countries. All countries are interested to increase the deterrent effect of monetary penalties.
Project 2.1.3: Integrated Permitting	The World Bank project on integrated permitting reform in Ukraine (with which the Secretariat cooperated) was terminated in December 2008.	Armenia requested support for transition to integrated permitting.	Norway	Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian and Ukraine launched their transition to integrated permitting.
Project 2.1.4: Promoting public information and participation in EIA and permitting (Joint project)	Lack of resources to implement the project.	All activities had to be postponed.	Absent	The need for the project is increasing due to an eventually higher reliance on general budget support.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REFORM				
Project	Status of implementation	Outputs/meetings still planned in 2009	Donors	Progress in EECCA countries
Activity 2.2 Environmental compliance and enforcement				
Project 2.2.1 Efficiency of compliance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of legal changes needed to adopt the risk based approach and their discussion at the REPIN annual meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalizing the pilot testing of the priority setting method The Guidelines and lessons learned from pilot implementation will be disseminated regionally 	Norway	The Guidelines were endorsed by Georgian authorities.
Project 2.2.2 Benchmarking and improving inspectorates performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy recommendations on measuring performance of environmental regulation and compliance assurance finalised based on discussions at the REPIN meeting in June 2008 OECD experience and available technical guidance under review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The set of indicators developed and a technical guide on the use of indicators drafted. 	Netherlands	Demand for improved compliance and enforcement indicators is very high. Reforms are underway in most EECCA countries, particularly in Armenia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.
Project 2.2.3 Industry's Environmental Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities to start in the second half of 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OECD Secretariat will draft a guidance document describing the benefits of rating, criteria and the algorithm used to rate companies, the need for, and approaches to adapt the scheme to national or sub-national level priorities, and the avenues for information disclosure 	Project proposal prepared for financing from Norway No financing so far	In 2009, the Lvov Oblast Environmental Agency (Ukraine) implemented a third round of rating. Rating schemes exist in other EECCA countries. There is strong demand to implement and broaden the application of these schemes in EECCA countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REFORM				
Project	Status of implementation	Outputs/meetings still planned in 2009	Donors	Progress in EECCA countries
Project 2.2.4: Training for environmental inspectorates (Joint project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training programme for the Georgian Environmental Inspectorate prepared based on the methodology developed by the Secretariat • A methodology to define training priorities and establish sustainable training programmes under finalisation • Competence profiles for environmental inspectors and management staff under preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with REC Caucasus on training needs assessments 	Norway, financing partly available	Except for Russia, no training curricula are available. A more structured approach is necessary.
Activity 2.3: Institutions and financing				
Project 2.3.1 Institutional development of environmental ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues paper on institutional strengthening for environmental management in EECCA • A special session of the Task Force on institutional development conducted • Draft diagnostic tool close to completion • A briefing note on environmental policy integration prepared for a Central Asian thematic conference held in March 2009 • Terms of reference for assessing institutional changes in natural resources management in Georgia prepared • Questionnaire to assess staff motivation prepared • Supporting documents for policy dialogues in Armenia and Moldova under preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy dialogues in Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova 	Switzerland (Regional activities) Sweden (Moldova) Norway (Georgia)	Although EECCA countries have improved institutional frameworks for environmental management, the quality of public services delivered by the Ministries of Environment is hindered because of poor organisational conditions and unsupportive enabling environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REFORM				
Project	Status of implementation	Outputs/meetings still planned in 2009	Donors	Progress in EECCA countries
Project 2.3.2. Mid-term budgetary planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the experience of Ukraine with integrating the environmental sector into medium-term budgetary planning: a review mission to Ukraine was organized to collect information and data. Methodology prepared for the Survey on the experience of the EECCA countries with integrating the environmental sector into medium-term budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report from the review of the experience of Ukraine with the design and implementation of medium-term budgetary planning A survey on the experience of EECCA countries with medium-term budgetary planning and the environment An expert meeting to discuss experience with medium-term budgetary planning and launch a survey in EECCA countries will be organised back-to-back with the 2009 REPIN meeting 	<p>Country reviews: UK (2008)</p> <p>Region-wide activities: Switzerland and the Netherlands (2008-2009)</p>	<p>Most EECCA countries have already introduced elements of medium-term budget planning into their public expenditure management systems but only a few have implemented them in accordance with international good practices. Environment ministries are often lagging in complying with these new approaches.</p>