

# EAP Task Force

## *Fifth Annual Meeting of the NIS Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network*

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### **REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK (REPIN)**

**Regional Partnership Supporting Effective and Efficient Environmental Legislation, Policy  
Instruments and Compliance Assurance in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia**

#### **Terms of Reference**

*This document presents the Terms of Reference for the operations of the Network in the period after the Kiev Conference.*

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### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Mandate**

1. The NIS Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (NISECEN) was created in 1999 by representatives of environmental and enforcement agencies of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region to exchange experience, transfer know-how and build capacity for environmental enforcement and compliance. The representatives of OECD and Central and Eastern European countries as well as NGOs have also participated in the Network. The Network has been operating within the EAP Task Force Programme on Environmental Policies.

2. At the “Environment for Europe” Conference in Kiev in May 2003, Environment Ministers recognised the results of cooperation within NISECEN. In particular, they welcomed the “Guiding Principles for Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Transition Economies of EECCA” developed under the NISECEN and invited “the environmental enforcement authorities in [EECCA countries] to implement the Guiding Principles and donor countries to help them to do so.” The Ministers asked the EAP Task Force to continue its work to promote environmental policy reform and implementation within the framework of the EECCA Environment Strategy. Work in this area will support the implementation of the Strategy’s Objective No. 1 “Improving Environmental Legislation, Policies, and Institutional Framework”.

3. Taking account the Kiev decisions and anticipated activities covering a wider range of environmental policy implementation, enforcement and compliance issues, it became necessary to adapt the Network’s scope of work to the needs of its member countries. Despite its broadened scope, the Network retain its practical orientation and working methods. Since in addition to enforcement and compliance, the Network’s activities will cover the design and implementation of environmental policy instruments, its name is changed respectively from NISECEN to the Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) for EECCA countries.

#### **Mission**

4. The Network’s mission is to enable environmental authorities and other stakeholders in EECCA countries to provide protection of the environment and human health by developing and implementing environmentally effective, economically efficient environmental policies and legislation, and ensuring compliance with environmental requirements.

#### **Development Goals**

5. The Network helps its Members to achieve the following development goals:

- Development and implementation of environmental policies and legislation that optimally address the need for a clean and healthy environment, as a pillar of society’s sustainable development;

- Convergence of environmental legislation of EECCA countries with that of the European Union;
- Design and use of an effective and coherent corpus of regulatory and non-regulatory instruments to implement environmental policies and laws at a least cost to the society;
- Improvement of environmental compliance assurance system;
- Management of government institutions based on best public service practices;
- Growing adherence of the regulated community to voluntary environmental compliance;
- Creating confidence and support from the general public.

## **Values**

6. The Network puts at its foundation a number of values:

- Engagement into a continuous dialogue with stakeholders at the national and international levels;
- Identification and implementation of best international practices;
- Integrity and transparency of activities;
- Due consideration of the cultural, social and economic diversity of EECCA countries;
- Respect, trust, mutual support and team work among REPIN Members and with partner institutions at the national and international levels;
- A work environment that values people, openness to new ideas, and professionalism.

## **Scope of Work and Activities**

7. The Network aims at supporting continuous improvement of domestic environmental policies, legislation and government institutions, particularly enforcement agencies, based on convergence with best international practices and adoption of innovative approaches. The emphasis is placed on regulation of point source pollution of air, water and land, and use of natural resources; at the same time, issues related to diffuse pollution, land use and nature conservation are taken into account. Within this scope, the activities are conducted according to a work programme agreed, revised, or updated at the annual meetings of the Network.

## **Membership**

8. National environmental agencies of EECCA countries are the primary Members of the Network. They are represented by policy-makers, regulators, managers and practitioners responsible for the development and implementation of environmental policies and legislation as well as compliance assurance. Involvement of representatives from other relevant government authorities is encouraged, including those at the sub-national level. Representatives of other countries, donors, international organisations with similar mission and goals, research community, non-governmental organisations and business are invited to participate in the Network activities as observers.

9. Participation in Network activities is voluntary and builds upon interest, related functions and responsibilities of contributing institutions and individuals. Members have a right to influence the Network's work programme and individual projects, but also a responsibility to contribute actively to their implementation through the provision of official support, expert input, in-kind and financial support from national authorities engaged in networking, and dissemination of results.

### **Methods of Work**

10. The working methods of the Network include:

- Development, publication and dissemination of policy documents, guidelines, and practical tools adapted to EECCA circumstances, drawing on experience from OECD countries and other transition economies;
- Identifying and supporting in-country (non-investment) demonstration projects, in cooperation with EECCA partners and donors;
- Organising meetings to present current practices and exchange experiences on priority issues, as well as to extend policy dialogue to industry and NGOs;
- Promoting capacity building and training activities for environmental officials, particularly in practical implementation of environmental policy instruments and compliance assurance;
- Maintaining contact databases in order to facilitate interaction among the members of the Network and other stakeholders;
- Helping to "broker" relations between donor and beneficiary countries, so as to help target scarce resources in projects that will achieve lasting outcomes;
- Providing feedback to environmental policy-makers in EECCA countries.
- Information dissemination and interaction between Network members and with other stakeholders, including international bodies.

11. The work programme implementation will be based, as much as possible, on involving governmental and non-governmental institutions from EECCA countries to carry out specific analytical, training and dissemination activities.

12. The Network's activities build upon the experience accumulated by other environmental policy and enforcement networks, most importantly the worldwide International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), and the European Union's IMPEL Network. Close contacts and collaboration are maintained with the Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network (BERCEN). Other relevant regional networks are contacted as appropriate.

### **Organisation and Management**

13. The Network functions under the umbrella of the EAP Task Force and is accountable to its members. The Annual Network Meeting is the principal management body of the Network. The organisational structure of the Network includes National Coordinators in EECCA countries and a Secretariat located at the OECD.

14. Annual Meetings are held to review the proposed elements of future work and concrete projects, discuss and agree on the work programme and/or monitor its implementation. At these meetings, each Network Member environmental agency delegates up to three representatives. Additional delegates may take part in Annual Meetings if their agencies financially support their participation. Representatives of the general public, NGOs, international organisations, and industry are invited as observers. Network meetings are also open for participation of officials and experts from non-EECCA countries and other stakeholders. Annual Network Meetings are held in EECCA countries on a rotating basis.

15. National Coordinators of the Network appointed in each EECCA country contribute substantively to the activities of the Network. They play a crucial role in programming and networking, being the nodes of the information flow at the international and national levels. They are key counterparts of the Secretariat in the implementation of country demonstration projects, organisation of national-level events and Annual Meetings, and they officially represent their countries at Network meetings. They are responsible for disseminating information about the Network and its activities among their country's stakeholders. National Coordinators exercise their functions without additional support from the Network budget.

16. A small team of experts from the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat organises the work of the Network. The Coordinator of the Network, located at the Secretariat, facilitates communication and interaction within the Network and with its international partners. The Secretariat has the following functions:

- Elaborate the work programme based on proposals of Network members and manage its implementation;
- Identify existing and commission new analytical reports, surveys, case studies, policy and guidance documents that are required to support the implementation of the work programme;
- Prepare, in close cooperation with the host country, and manage Annual Meetings of the Network as well as smaller training and expert workshops. This includes developing agendas, discussion and background papers, identifying participants and speakers, facilitating the discussion, preparing summary records, etc.;
- Monitor and report on progress with work programme implementation;
- Broker between EECCA countries and donors and liaise with international partners;
- Contribute to the EAP Task Force reporting and communication efforts, including inputs to the Internet pages.

## **Funding**

17. Resources to implement the REPIN work programme draw on monetary, in-kind, or staff contributions from Network Members and donor countries/institutions to the "core" budget of the Network. The "core" budget is used to cover Network meetings (including logistical costs of participation of Member countries' representatives), regional and demonstration project-related activities and the work of the Secretariat. In some cases, in-kind contributions are provided by donor countries/institutions through, for example, staff secondment at the Secretariat or participation of experts in the Network's activities. EECCA countries contribute by making staff available for participation in meetings and projects, as well as fund parts of Annual Network Meetings and in-country project-related activities.

18. In addition, bilateral support from donors is welcome for projects in EECCA countries relevant to the Network work programme. This support helps increase substantially the impact of the Network's work programme. The Network Coordinators and the Secretariat work together on mobilising donor support for such projects and participate in their implementation.

19. The Secretariat works with Network Members and other partners to develop and implement a fundraising strategy.