

REPIN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK

OUTCOMES OF NETWORKING IN EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA SINCE 2003

The approach taken by REPIN aims to strike a balance between inter-governmental policy dialogue based on solid analysis – the traditional approach of OECD – and supporting the achievement of practical results “on the ground”. Donors have supported this effort through direct contributions to REPIN. Nevertheless, these resources are modest in relation to the scale of the challenge. To “square the circle”, work has focused on demonstration projects as a means of driving regional dialogue and cooperation, as well as close cooperation with donor programmes active in the region to leverage resources and expertise.

Country specific activities

Demonstration projects have been used both to develop and to verify the applicability of tools for achieving environmental objectives in EECCA countries, and for integrating environment into the broader processes of economic and democratic reform. Projects have also been aligned with broader international goals. The results of demonstration projects have informed the exchange of experience at regional level within REPIN and underpinned the elaboration of tools, best practices, and recommendations (see Annex). The mayor outcomes so far include the following:

(i) Policy Reform

Guidelines for the reform of environmental permitting in EECCA countries are being used to review existing procedures in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan with a view to their eventual reform. The legal framework in Kazakhstan has been revised in light of Task Force guidance to accommodate self monitoring by enterprises. Armenia has revised legislation on environmental enforcement based on the Guiding Principles on Reform of Environmental Enforcement Agencies. Armenia is re-designing its system of economic instruments in accordance with Task Force recommendations. Representatives from Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are working to implement Task Force “good practices” for financing environmental inspectorates

(ii) Institutional Strengthening

A demonstration project to implement a Performance Rating and Information Disclosure scheme is being implemented in Lviv, Ukraine, with the expectation that greater transparency will create incentives for enterprises to reduce pollution. Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan intend to reform their environmental enforcement institutions in light of recent reviews conducted within REPIN framework.

(iii) Training:

About 100 managers from environmental inspections have been trained using the Inspectors Toolkit in Caucasus, Russia and Kazakhstan. Training was organised in cooperation with local institutions. Kazakhstan subsequently established a training centre for environmental inspectors.

(iv) Support for donor/IFI activities:

Sweden has used the Integrated Environmental Permitting Guidelines as a basis for developing cooperation programmes in Belarus and Ukraine. The Netherlands used the Inspectors Toolkit to train 100 inspectors in North West Russia.

Networks: Mechanisms for Capacity Development and Policy Integration

The REPIN Network facilitates dialogue and cooperation between environment ministry officials and environmental inspectorates. This is helping to bring about a better alignment of environmental policy development and implementation. It has also begun to engage enterprises – the regulatees – in its work.

The REPIN Network has helped promote ownership of the work by EECCA countries and ensured that it responds to their needs. The network also provided mechanism for sharing information, disseminating good practices and agreeing on policy recommendations – among EECCA countries and between EECCA and donor country representatives. It has also facilitated cooperation with broader regional and international initiatives such as the EU Impel and Bercen Networks as well as the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement.

The work through the network has also provided an important means of enhancing the knowledge and skills of participants from EECCA countries. It has proved helpful in overcoming institutional barriers and in helping to integrate environment into more coherent, whole of government approaches.

NGOs have played an active role in networking. This has helped build their capacities, provided valuable substantive inputs to meetings and helped to overcome some of the barriers to dialogue between ministry officials and the non-governmental sector.

ANNEX

Some of the main tools to support environmental policy reform in EECCA countries

- *Integrated Environmental Permitting Guidelines for EECCA Countries.* The guidelines provide a tool for EECCA environmental agencies and industry to facilitate reform of environmental permitting procedures for large and small/medium size enterprises and the transition from single medium to integrated permitting.
- *Linkages between Environmental Assessment and Environmental Permitting in the Context of the Regulatory Reform in EECCA Countries.* This methodology discusses the relationship between environmental assessment and environmental permitting and recommends approaches for a coordinated reform of these key instruments of environmental management.
- *Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Agencies in EECCA* is a concise policy document that identifies guiding principles and key structural elements of effective environmental enforcement systems, tailor-made to the EECCA context. This document aims to assist EECCA countries to identify targets for institutional development in individual countries as regards environmental enforcement and compliance promotion.
- *Inspection Toolkit.* The toolkit brings together a range of methodological and organisational approaches to support improvement of inspection procedures, non-compliance responses and compliance promotion. It also serves as a key training tool for capacity building programmes for environmental enforcement officers in the EECCA region.
- *Good Practices for Funding Environmental Compliance Assurance.* These good practices present key approaches and elements in assessing and meeting costs of compliance assurance programmes. They present strategies that ensure stable funding and prevent conflict of interest in enforcement programmes, introduce performance oriented budgeting and promote more effective use of funds available to inspectorates.