
*Workshop
on Sustainable Consumption and Production
and Education for Sustainable Development*

Zagreb, 5 - 6 December 2005

Chair's Summary^o

The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Construction of the Republic of Croatia in collaboration with the Centre for Cleaner Production in Croatia, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Central European Initiative and held under the auspices of the Central European Initiative Working Group on Environment. Participants consisted of 50 representatives from Ministries of Environment, Economy, Labour, Foreign Affairs, Culture, Science and Education, NGOs, business and academia from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and included experts from Georgia, UK, Ukraine and UNEP.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) together with education on sustainable development (ESD) as key challenges facing Europe and the global community
- to facilitate multi-stakeholders dialogue among governments, civil society, business and education sector in the region of South East Europe (SEE).
 - Reporting on status and recent changes and outlook for consumption and production patterns, ongoing actions and plans in the SE European countries.
 - Reporting on status of education for sustainable development and ongoing actions and future plans.
 - Sharing examples of good practice in the region and case studies from various stakeholder groups.
- to identify national and regional priorities and needs in relation to promotion of SCP and ESD and their incorporation into strategies and plans at national and regional levels.
- to support the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the SEE with the purpose of continuing dialogue and joint efforts for the promotion of SCP and ESD.
- to provide the platform for follow up projects on SCP and ESD in SEE.

Prior to the Workshop, the participating countries were invited to take part in a survey on issues related to current status, promotion, awareness raising and education in the field of SCP. The data collected served as the basis for the elaboration of an overview of the situation in the region. The Workshop was structured into plenary presentations and discussions on the first day, and on the following day three parallel working group discussions and the plenary discussion and conclusions.

1. Plenary

During the plenary sessions keynote addresses highlighted the importance of promoting the shift of consumption and production patterns into more sustainable patterns.

The representatives from the participating countries presented their views on issues and priority areas of concern regarding SCP and ESD and on-going and future policy plans.

At the beginning of the 1990s, SEE countries faced economic and social decline. Despite slight recovery, since 1997 the industrial production has been stagnating and it has still not reached the level at the end of eighties. SEE countries follow the European trend of growing poverty and

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unequal distribution and consumption among and within countries. An increase in household consumption has been observed, but it is still significantly less than in Western European countries. Total energy consumption has been rising since the mid 1990s. There are significant differences among SEE countries in energy sources, their use and energy production from renewable sources, as well as energy efficiency, which is only half of that of Western Europe. Energy production is still one of the main sources of air pollution, to which also contribute industry, transport - increase of number of private cars in particular, and waste. The volume of waste, mainly packaging, continues to enlarge and a proper management system for industrial, municipal and hazardous waste needs to be established and implemented.

All the countries in the region have established environment-related ministries at the state level. Countries started taking actions for achieving sustainable development and they have reached different stages of the process of drafting the National strategies for sustainable development. Sectoral strategies are also being developed if not already adopted. Some of the governments have already formulated and implemented some economic and legal instruments and started transposition of EU requirements into national legislation.

Key issues related to SCP and ESD in the region were also highlighted in the plenary session. Further needs for the capacity building on Cleaner Production, implementation of EMS, and introduction of the Life Cycle Assessment in the region were identified. Linkage between Sustainable Consumption and Quality of Life, and their relevance for the promotion of SCP and ESD, were presented.

Pollution prevention principles have been recognized as a priority and are being incorporated into legislation in the region, however, their implementation needs to be encouraged in the Region.

Various presentations focused on new legislation, eco-labelling (Croatia and Macedonia), waste strategies (Bulgaria and Croatia), Life Cycle Assessment considerations (Croatia) Examples of important on-going projects and initiatives on SCP and ESD and, such as the RAVE project (Montenegro) and plastic waste collection (Serbia) were introduced. Business and NGOs continue to play an important role in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns and awareness raising on sustainable development in the region. The Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development presented their activities and various NGO participants introduced their current initiatives.

2. Working groups

The discussions in working groups identified problems and proposed possible activities:

Working group on Education on Sustainable Development

The WG on Education on Sustainable Development discussed the recently adopted UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and ongoing activities related to the environmental education in the Region.

Among the good examples of UNESCO's work in the region is the SEMEP project, which aims to create an educational, environmental and cultural network for contacts and cooperation among students in the Region.

The contribution of the NGO sector in the field of awareness raising and education for sustainable development continues being most valuable, as NGOs are important providers of non-formal and informal learning, and often are the engines of environmental education.

Identified problems are defined by the lack of:

- Knowledge on ESD and determination for implementation of its principles on the level of political decision making
- Presence of ESD in elementary and high school and university curricula

- Adequate school materials and tools on ESD in the region
- Participation and cooperation of different stakeholders in ESD process
- Coordination and cooperation between competent authorities at different national levels
- Awareness on economic benefits and other values of sustainable development

Proposed measures:

- Development of specific education programmes for professionals in different sectors (implementation of the target group principle)
- Development of communication and information sharing tools (web-site, network of national focal points)
- Organization of programmes and seminars for media representatives
- Organization of national SD campaigns (afterwards at regional level)
- Development of target group-tailored and country/region specific materials, methods, programmes
- Campaign for the implementation of the SD concept within the work of state administration (civil servants and state officials)
- Establishment of a multi-stakeholder forum (national, then regional level)

Proposed follow-up project:

The proposed project would include the following elements:

- Training of educators for specific target groups (journalists, teachers, students, NGOs, etc.), with emphasis on education of civil servants, especially of those who are in charge of developing and implementing strategies based on SD principles and making decisions
- Meeting of the national focal points for ESD from the countries in the region and collection of good practice
- Development of ESD tools

It was decided also that the information on the outcomes from this Workshop be communicated to the national focal points for ESD in the region, as well as to the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD and UNESCO, Paris and UNESCO ROSTE in Venice. Also, the web site on developments in ESD in the region will be established as a follow up to this Workshop.

Working Group on Sustainable Production and Consumption: working at local level

The identified common **issues** in the region refer to the following sectors:

- Waste (reduction, recycle, and reuse)
- Water
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Tourism
- Local products

The discussion highlighted the **needs** for

- Exchange of experience and approaches on local actions
- Capacity building: technical and policy related issues
- Demonstration case studies and useful materials from the region
- Providing inputs to national and sub-regional policy framework for promoting SCP

Useful **approaches** to tackle local issues were defined:

- Advocacy
- Participatory
- Campaigning
- Local Consultations

Proposed **initiatives and projects** where regional joint actions are considered to be beneficial included:

- Establishment of stakeholder forum at national/local levels

- Demonstration pilot project for packaging waste: demonstration of economic and environmental cost of plastic packaging waste treatment and recycling
- Greening national and local authorities (offices), schools, etc.: sustainable procurements
- Grants for grassroots activities/local projects: collecting examples of good practice/ideas and also highlight the importance of addressing SCP at the local level
- Sub-regional joint actions: e.g. no plastic bag day,
- Capacity building: thematic workshops, technology fairs
- "Local to Global" framework project: identify local needs related to SCP through local consultations (to be carried out by NGOs and local authorities), demonstration projects on SCP, information data base on useful SCP related materials, exchange experience and learning, and providing input to the local and national policies.
- Development of page for information exchange under www.unep.ch/scoe

Working group on environmental management and cleaner production in SE Europe

Problems in Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention are common for all countries and they emanate from the lack of:

- Inter-ministerial coordination
- Information (general level)
- Awareness raising of importance of environmental problems
- Affirmative systematic approach to environmental protection issues
- Capacities for enforcement of legislation
- Cooperation between Ministries and industry

Proposed activities

- Establishment of cooperation between all relevant institutions involved in environmental protection in the region
- Round tables (regional, regular) for decision makers with specific focus on:
 - Environmental management
 - Prevention
 - Legislation
- Capacity building for CP (Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro)
 - Know-how sharing experiences from other countries in the region
- Strengthening of existing capacity in CP (Croatia, BiH)
 - EMS, IPPC (BAT/BREF)
- Regional experts meetings:
 - Results achieved on CP; implementation problems, new environmental tools and trends
 - Target groups: industry associations and CP expert institutions
- Expert sectoral meetings related to implementation of IPPC:
 - Establishing cooperation with IPPC Bureau in Sevilla
 - Presentation of sectoral BREFs
 - Sharing experiences between experts from specific industrial branches in the region

Proposed follow up project:

Setting up of a regional cooperation with establishment of Cleaner Production Centres in countries where they still do not exist (Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria) and possible formation of a Regional Cleaner Production Centre.

3. Plenary – Concluding Remarks

The remarks and contributions of all participants carried great weight in the debates and served as the starting point for future discussions and projects. The initiative and coordination for kick-off of the proposed projects is to be taken by the moderators and *rapporteurs* of the working groups.

Highlighted follow-up initiatives are: the development of a regional project on Education for Sustainable Development - 'train the trainers'; the development of a project on the promotion of sustainable consumption and production with local authorities and NGOs; capacity building for CP and the establishment of mechanisms for exchange of information on initiatives/projects on Education for Sustainable Development as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production. All participants of the meeting were invited to submit relevant information for the formulation of the follow-up projects. The Workshop Chair highlighted that the outcomes of the meeting will be taken forward to the national focal points for ESD in the region, as well as to UNECE Steering Committee on ESD.

This Workshop was of high importance as a meeting point of the representatives of different stakeholder groups in the SEE region that are key partners in the efforts to promote SCP and ESD. The identification of common problems and needs in the region and proposed follow-up actions constitute a valuable outcome and a significant step forward towards sustainability in SEE. The conclusion was that SCP and ESD are indispensable for a sustainable future and that they are lifelong endeavours that challenge individuals, institutions and societies to view tomorrow as the day that belongs to all of us and therefore it is crucial that we continue to work on and promote this invaluable agenda in the region.