

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 6. Chemicals

Intervention by the Serbian Cleaner Production Centre¹

UNIDO/UNEP RECP (Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production) Network has 13 NCPCs and NCPPs (NCP Programmes) in the UNECE region. Also, UNIDO is also implementing agency for SAICM Quick Start Programme, Montreal Protocol and Stockholm convention. The RECP Network provides a platform for capacity building in sound chemicals management including advice on necessary infrastructure and regulatory frameworks. The members of the RECP Network have the know-how and capacity to assist companies in managing resources and in particular chemicals in an environmentally sound manner. This support may include advise on clean and safe chemical substitutes, reduction of chemicals use through better operating conditions and process changes, and adequate handling of chemical wastes.

One of the implementation models promoted for chemicals management is Chemical Leasing (ChL) which is based on payment for chemical services rather than for chemicals, thereby providing an incentive for chemicals supplier and chemicals user to optimise chemicals management and reduce chemical waste. UNIDO is supporting ChL pilot projects including in Russia and Serbia. Experiences so far demonstrate that applying ChL reduces ineffective use and over-consumption of chemicals and helps companies to reduce costs

In conclusion, the Joint UNIDO/UNEP RECP network supports businesses and other organizations to implement RECP methods, practices and technologies to achieve economic and environmental benefits, including the environmentally sound management of chemicals and chemical waste. Whilst outcomes so far have demonstrated economic and environmental benefits to key stakeholders (e.g., industry, government and civil society), it is critical to up-scale and mainstream RECP initiatives and outcomes to put industrial development in the transition economies on a sustainable path.

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¹ On behalf of the Serbian Cleaner Production Centre and Joint UNIDO/UNEP RECP Network. The text is presented as received from the author.