



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN THE PAN-EUROPEAN REGION

NOTE BY UNEP

Background

Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are a major cause of environmental problems, such as climate change, loss of natural resources, and environmental damage caused by emissions and waste.¹

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) has become an issue now firmly on the policy agenda in Europe. SCP has also become an international issue with the Marrakech process. The governments of Finland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, France and UK are leading thematic task forces within the 10-year framework of programmes for SCP. Fact finding exercises and analysis of consumption and production patterns and their effects on the environment have been carried out in Western Europe addressing different topics and with different geographical scopes (some locally and some nationally and for the whole of EU), etc.

In South East Europe (SEE), economic restructuring is resulting in rapid changes in production and consumption patterns and related environmental and social impacts. In Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), questions of sustainable use of resources and changing consumption and production patterns have gained interest mainly as an issue of Cleaner Production. As the EEA third assessment (the "Kiev assessment") points out, it is important to bear in mind that economic restructuring offers a unique opportunity to establish more resource efficient, safe and sustainable production patterns (including Cleaner Production).

Category II Document: Sustainable Consumption and Production in South East Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA)

The category II document will attempt to provide an overview of consumption and production patterns with case studies in EECCA and SEE countries. The study will be carried out by UNEP in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in close co-operation with different interested parties in EECCA and SEE countries, such as governments, Cleaner Production Centres, NGOs, researchers and industry.

The EEA Belgrade 2007 report will provide 'a pan-European, policy relevant, up-to-date and reliable assessment of the interactions between environment and society and of the state of the environment in Europe' (EEA introduction of Belgrade 2007 report list of contents). It will contain a chapter on sustainable consumption and production and waste, which will cover issues related to resource use and production, consumption and waste in EU and EFTA as well as in EECCA and SEE countries at a relatively aggregated level, but will not provide a detailed mapping of SCP in SEE and EECCA countries. For this reason a special and more detailed report on Sustainable Production and Consumption is under development.

The SCP report will complement the EEA Belgrade 2007 report, by providing more detailed information on SCP related status in EECCA and SEE countries (production and consumption patterns, inventory of policies/initiatives), analysis of policy relevant cross-sectoral SCP related issues. While the report will include regional (i.e. Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia) and national data and policy, the report will also include city-based case studies. These case studies will aim at giving insight into and illustrating more detailed SCP issues, and provide examples of good practices.

The objectives of the mapping exercise are to:

- Provide an overall picture of the current state of consumption and production in EECCA and SEE focusing on the main consumption activities and economic sectors with high environmental impacts and key existing policies aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of these activities
- Identify opportunities for more sustainable consumption and production patterns including opportunities presented by behavioral and infrastructural characteristics
- Identify the economic, social and institutional barriers to the realisation of these opportunities

¹ European Commission (2004) Sustainable Consumption and Production in the European Union, (Ostend report) and EEA (2005) Household Consumption and the Environment.

- Provide information on on-going and completed initiatives, which have aimed at, and succeeded in, overcoming these barriers, thereby contributing to the diffusion of best practices.

Data for many SCP related issues are often not readily available in SEE and EECCA countries and the proposed mapping exercise will provide valuable information to address these increasingly important questions. Also, the mapping exercise can, provided that information is available for the EEA to use before the end of 2006, provide much needed and very valuable background information on SCP issues in EECCA and SEE countries for the EEA 2007 Belgrade report.

Thematic Chapters and Annex

- Cleaner Production
- Transport
- Building
- Food
- Waste
- Sustainable Public Procurement
- List of policies and initiatives on SCP (Annex)

Methodology and Information Collection

The lack of available data constitutes a challenge for this exercise. This is a clear problem that is faced also by the organisations involved in the EEA's Belgrade Assessment Report and UNEP's GEO 4 report. Unfortunately, readily available data sets, such as those produced by the World Bank, often do not contain data from SEE and EECCA countries. In some cases data will be available locally and in other cases the data or information will not be available because it is not collected in the countries.

Three different strategies will be followed to gather data depending on data availability:

- Search for secondary statistical data in available data sets: sources include EEA, UNECE, World Bank, IEA, OECD, WHO, FAO, EBRD, ENERDATA etc.;
- Search for secondary data and information not widely available: reports, papers, PhD studies and local sources collected through local contacts. The latter will principally be carried out as part of the city studies but at both the city and national levels.
- Generate of primary data at the city level through the city based case studies for each topic including focus group surveys on food purchase and interviews with relevant local authorities and business groups.

A questionnaire survey to Governments on inventories of policies and initiatives related to SCP will be carried out to update and expand UNEP Regional Office for Europe's 2004 survey. In order to avoid duplication, coordination has been made with OECD on Assessment of Progress in Achieving Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy and UNDP on the Western Balkan Regional Environmental Report which are carrying out a survey and an analysis on the development of Environmental Policies.

Funding secured

Financial support was made by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and Austria.

Progress so far

All leading authors of the chapters were identified, and city studies started taking place in cities in SEE and EECCA countries, such as Almaty, Belgrade, Dnipropetrovsk, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Bishkek, and Zagreb.

Schedule

- Preliminary draft – mid December 2006
- First draft - mid January 2007
- Second draft – end of February 2007
- Comments from the countries and donors – March 2007
- Layout and Russian translation – April 2007
- Submission of report to Belgrade Process – 31st May 2007

Category I Document

A short, concise and targeted document should also be prepared with the status of category I to facilitate the Ministers' discussions and provide a recommendation for a text (one or a couple of paragraphs) to be adopted by the Ministers as part of the Ministerial declaration. This document should take up findings from the category II document and build on existing national and regional processes, activities and partnerships. The main aim of the paper is to give special attention to the issues of sustainable consumption and production in SEE and EECCA countries, be process-oriented and give suggestions for the Belgrade Conference. General elements of such a text would be to invite and support EECCA and SEE countries to initiate and develop work on sustainable consumption and production and furthering the international process in developing a 10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (e.g. the Marrakech process).