



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS**

***UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) Moldova***

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Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands and the Swiss Federal
Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscapes*

***WORKSHOP ON THE APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
INDICATORS***

5-6 July, 2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

This core set of environmental indicators, prepared by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, could be helpful for countries of the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in improving environmental reporting at the national level and in harmonizing their environmental assessments with those of EEA countries. Use of this indicator set in EECCA countries would also facilitate data gathering for future regional environmental assessment reports to be prepared for the “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences.

Workshop objectives

The workshop objective is to prepare *Guidelines on the Application of the Core Set of Environmental Indicators for Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia* with a detailed description of each indicator and measurement methods as well as with recommendations on adaptation of monitoring systems used for the primary data collection and references to the existing international standards, policy targets and reference documents.

It is expected that when developing this document, a special methodology of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) presented in its publication on *Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*¹ will be used. Other international documents on environmental indicators prepared in the framework of international environmental conventions, United Nations bodies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

¹ Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies, United Nations, New York, 2001
(<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/indisd/indisd-mg2001.pdf>).

Development (OECD) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) will be used while describing the respective indicators for EECCA countries.

Participation

Experts on environmental indicators from EECCA countries will participate in the workshop, namely experts dealing with the preparation of state-of-the-environment reports in the Ministries of Environment (or on their behalf) and representatives of statistical services working in the field of environmental statistics. Furthermore, representatives of international organizations dealing with environmental indicators, including the United Nations Statistics Division, EEA, OECD and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States are invited to the workshop.

Organization of work

To facilitate the work during the workshop, a group of experts from EECCA countries has prepared, at the request of the Secretariat, draft descriptions of all 118 indicators from the core set. The descriptions are made according to the scheme presented in the Secretariat note² circulated among the participants. The discussions will take place during the plenary session, where the simultaneous interpretation from/into English and Russian languages will be provided as well as during the meetings of parallel working groups. Subsequent English-Russian translation will be provided in the working groups, when necessary.

The working groups will be formed in the following way:

1. Air – emissions of air pollutants and effect of measures. Water – water quantity. Transport.
Moderator – Mr. Alexandre Shekhovtsov.
2. Air – human exposure to air quality exceedance. Water – pollution and hazardous substances in water (except coastal and marine waters).
Moderator – Mr. Guennady Tishchikov.
3. Air – Ozone layer. Climate change. Energy.
Moderator – Ms. Irina Atamuradova.
4. Land resources and soils. Biodiversity. Agriculture.
Moderator – Mr. Piotr Gorbunenko.
5. Water – coastal and marine waters. Waste.
Moderator – Mr. Merab Sharabidze.

Workshop participants are advised to inform in advance the Secretariat in which working group they are interested to participate. During the work, participants will be able, if they so wish, to “migrate” from one group to another and to deliver written comments (amendments and additions) to the working group moderators. To allow every participant to express his/her opinion on each

² *Preparation of the Guidelines on Application of the Core Set of Environmental Indicators for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*. Note by the UNECE Secretariat for the Workshop to be held in Chisinau. Geneva. 26 February 2004.

indicator, the moderators will present the results of working groups' activities to the plenary session. The revised description of each indicator will be projected on the screen from the computer and additional amendments could be presented on line.

Workshop results

The guidelines prepared by the workshop will be presented to the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at its fifth session to be held on 30 September – 1 October 2004 in Geneva. After their adoption by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, the guidelines will be published and sent to EECCA countries and other UNECE member States.

Programme

5 July, Monday

09:00 – 09:15 **Opening statements:**

- Mr. Andrei Conisescu, Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Territorial Development, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Victor Cotruta, Executive Director of REC Moldova
- Mr. Mikhail Kokine, Secretary to the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

Plenary session 1: *International reporting of EECCA countries on environmental indicators*

09:15 – 09:40 **Pan-European environmental reporting and a core set of environmental indicators of the European Environment Agency**
Presentation by Ms. Anita Pirc-Velkavrh, EEA.

09:40 – 10:05 **Indicators in environmental performance reviews of EECCA countries**
Presentation by Mr. Jyrki Hirvonen, UNECE.

10:05 – 10:20 **Environmental statistics and reporting according to sustainable development indicators at the global level**
Presentation by Mr. Ulrich Wieland, UN Statistics Division.

10:20 – 10:40 **Other international requirements to EECCA countries for data reporting on environmental indicators**
Representatives of other international organizations may wish to make short presentations.

10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break.

Plenary session 2: *Preparation of Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators*

11:00 – 11:10 **The core set of environmental indicators for EECCA countries and the draft guidelines' structure**
Introduction by Mr. Mikhail Kokine, UNECE.

11:10 – 12:25 **Presentation of individual sections of draft guidelines**
Presentations (15 minutes each) by:

- Mr. Alexandre Shekhovtsov, Russian Federation.
- Mr. Guennady Tishchikov, Belarus.
- Ms. Irina Atamuradova, Turkmenistan.

- Mr. Piotr Gorbunenko, Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Merab Sharabidze, Georgia.

12:25 – 13:00 **General discussion** (of the structure of guidelines' and indicators' descriptions)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break.

14:30 – 18:00 **Work in parallel working groups** (in the Codru hotel)

19:00 Cultural programme (details to be provided at the workshop opening)

6 July, Tuesday

09:00 – 12:00 **Continuation of work in parallel working groups**

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch break.

Plenary session 3: *Completion of the Guidelines on the Application of Environmental Indicators*

13:30 – 14:30 **Presentation and discussion of Working Group 1 results**
Moderator – Mr. Alexandre Shekhovtsov.

14:30 – 15:10 **Presentation and discussion of Working Group 2 results**
Moderator – Mr. Guennady Tishchikov.

15:10 – 15:50 **Presentation and discussion of Working Group 3 results**
Moderator – Ms. Irina Atamuradova.

15:50 – 16:10 Coffee break.

16:10 – 16:50 **Presentation and discussion of Working Group 4 results**
Moderator – Mr. Piotr Gorbunenko.

16:50 – 17:30 **Presentation and discussion of Working Group 5 results**
Moderator – Mr. Merab Sharabidze.

17:30 – 17:40 *Conclusions and closing.*

18:00 – 22:00 Visit to the wine cellar (with wine tasting and dinner) in Milestii Mici.