

Ms. Nana Janashia (CENN) addressed e-networking undertaken by CENN and its cooperation with the "Aarhus Centers" in the Caucasus region as vehicles for promoting participation in the Aarhus Clearinghouse. Ms. Janashia discussed mission and vision of CENN with regards to its role in promoting bottom-up regional efforts for building responsible civil society, good governance and accountable business.

CENN is the regional organization with 5 offices in the South Caucasus region (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan). Besides its own offices, CENN developed the partnership system and teamed up with national and local non-governmental organizations in Georgia (16 NGO partners), Armenia (11) and Azerbaijan (4). CENN also has partners in private and public sectors as well as international organizations.

CENN that is the strongest regional organization in the Caucasus region, provides open and effective multi-stakeholder networking. One of the core activities of CENN is electronic environmental networking that has been active since 1998 in the Caucasus region.

Nana Janashia mentioned that the overall goal of CENN E-networking is promotion of principles and practice of sustainable development and good governance in the South Caucasus region.

Concrete objectives of E-networking are:

- to maintain open and easily accessible environmental information space and promote modern communication technologies for information exchange and better environmental governance
- to provide access to objective and timely information and advance the right of individuals and civil society organizations to associate, advocate and communicate their views with the society members and governments that are fundamental principles for democracy and good governance
- to raise awareness and build capacity of key-decision makers and civil society organization members
- to strengthen transboundary and intersectoral cooperation in the South Caucasus region

Nowadays, CENN is the most extensive network in the region with about 14,000 subscribers. It maintains 8 mailing lists. CENN regularly prepares and electronically distributes:

- Daily news / announcements
- Weekly bilingual digests
- Monthly bulletins "Caucasus Environmental News" in English and Russian languages

CENN is moderated, uncensored and user friendly network that has individual approach in terms members preferences in type of news and language.

To obtain environmental information that is further disseminated via CENN network, CENN has information officers in Georgia, Armenian and Azerbaijan. Besides that, CENN has constant contact with active Georgian, Armenian and Azeri NGOs, relevant ministries and Parliaments as well as universities and various experts. CENN also maintains regular contact with leading news agencies and national newspapers.

CENN maintains electronic news portal at www.cenn.org that is regularly used by NGOs, as well as governmental organizations, scientists, educational institutions, journalists and individuals. The portal has the following E-databases on the South Caucasus region: library, GIS data, legislation and useful links.

CENN system that works for 24/7, is equipped with the modern information technology: 2 DNS servers, 2 web servers (IIS (Internet Information Server) and Apache (Windows version)) and 2 mail servers. Internet connection is ensured by 2 telecommunication channels: SHDSL and ADSL. The safety of the network is ensured by Microsoft technologies and Cisco Router.

Ms. Janashia presented the new initiative of CENN and the Aarhus Center of Georgia on "**Open Environmental Information Initiative for Constructive Public Dialog**". To address existing environmental and public participation related concerns, CENN and the Aarhus Center will implement the initiative that implies the following activities:

- E-networking (*daily announcements, weekly digests, monthly bulletins*)

- Thematic information campaigns and reportages in electronic media, radio and Public TV on the following topics:
 - Ongoing and planned reforms
 - Public participation in environmental decision-making
 - Sustainable lifestyle tips
- Environmental Media Service Center
- Work with the local communities

As Ms. Janashia mentioned, CENN is rapidly developing electronic network and plans to work closely with the Aarhus Secretariat in the future endeavors.