



## UNECE Sub-regional Workshop Prospectus

### “Capacity building for the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism and Electronic Information Tools”

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Aarhus Convention Secretariat, in partnership with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), proposes to host a sub-regional workshop on “Capacity building for the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism and Electronic Information Tools” in early 2007.

**The workshop will be held at the REC in Szentendre, Hungary.** The first in a proposed series of capacity-building workshops on the electronic access to information, the workshop is intended for designated experts from UNECE Member States (except Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries) and civil society organizations. The aim is to provide trainings for officers preparing, managing or contributing to national nodes of the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism. A second aim is to promote implementation of the ***Recommendations on the More Effective Use of Electronic Information Tools to Provide Public Access to Environmental Information*** that were adopted by the Parties to the Convention in decision II/3 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2005.

The goal of the Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism is to facilitate, through the use of electronic tools, the useful sharing of national and international information related to access to information, public participation and access to justice in an efficient, simple and well-structured manner. Parties, Signatories and other interested States are invited to develop a national node of the Clearinghouse Mechanism with legal and practical information on issues related to the Convention at national level, linked to the ***Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy*** (<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>). Other stakeholders will be invited to submit relevant information to the Clearinghouse and share their experience facilitating electronic access to environmental information. The workshop will provide hands-on training on the set of new content management tools being implemented in the Clearinghouse Mechanism.

**The workshop particularly targets the South-Eastern European countries.** Attendance expenses from these countries would be covered through financial support being provided to REC by the Convention Secretariat. Countries with more extensive experience in the provision of electronic information on the environment are also encouraged to attend the workshop to share their experience and learn about the Clearinghouse upgrades.

**The language of the workshop will be English.** A second workshop for EECCA countries, to be held in English and Russian, is planned for late 2007.

Comments on this Workshop Prospectus are invited by the UNECE Task Force on Electronic Information Tools and may be sent to the Aarhus Convention secretariat – Mr. Michael Stanley-Jones, e-mail: [michael.stanley-jones@unece.org](mailto:michael.stanley-jones@unece.org).