

# Greening Information Technology

8:30, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Sigma 2, Reval Hotel Latvia

## **Speakers:**

*Michael Stanley-Jones, Aarhus Convention Secretariat*

*Dmytro Skrylnikov, Bureau of Environmental Investigation, Ukraine*

*Pavel Antonov, BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria / APC.org*

## **Fasilitator:**

*Milena Bokova, BlueLink Information Network*

The Greening IT workshop discussed the strategic overlaps between civil society action in the field of environmental sustainability and internet governance, to strengthen access to information and public participation.

## **The main outcomes of the discussion:**

- The potential of the ICT utilization for implementing environmental sustainability and justice is not fully utilized – the use of ICTs to increase access to information, share knowledge, and build advocacy networks has not met its potential. ICTs can contribute to more inclusive participation in public policy processes, including ones that can lead to policy and regulatory decisions that promote environmental sustainability. ICT applications to enable Access to Justice are so far very limited.
- The ICTs have a long way to go to become more environmental friendly and reduce their footprints on the environment – the internet revolution is putting direct stress on the planet – waste generation, resource and energy consumption, poor management, environmental injustice.
- A gap between the market economy and democracy components of transition in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia hampers good governance, access to information and access to justice and brings in environmental devastation; yet effective use of ICTs by civil society could improve things.
- e-services, such as utilization of ICTs for distant meetings and e-procurement, will reduce the footprint on the environment from travel and transport.
- The mandate of the TF on electronic information tools will be extended and will work on e-Public Participation and e-Justice.
- The EC will build an e-Environment community web portal. EC will add a new community to e-Practice – e-Environment (e-Health, e-Inclusion, e-Democracy – are existing). This will be promoted at global and regional events in Cairo and Prague.
- Synergies between this work and the Greening IT initiative of BlueLink and other APC members could be effectively sought and implemented.
- The Aarhus Convention principles and experience provide a benchmark of good practice in public participation and may inspire practice in Internet Governance. A proposal to develop a code of good practice will be presented at the next IGF in Hyderabad, India.
- AC like the internet was very strongly influenced by the civil society.
- There is a need for capacity building for governmental and municipal servants as well as for the NGO activists on how to use modern on-line tools.
- The gap is growing in the eastern countries – the rich countries have better ICT utilization.
- The language barrier in eastern countries is also an obstacle for ICT utilization.
- The issue of taking decisions on paper and not implementing them into practice later on.
- There is a need for improving the quality of authorities' websites (including the ones of international organizations, such as European Commission and UNECE websites) in order information posted there to be easily accessed. There is a need for more interactive tools

supporting on-line communication and public participation in the work of intergovernmental and governmental organizations.

- How can we develop an on-line network that will communicate globally – how to link the network of networks that exist in different parts of the world and work on different environmental topics?

***For more information contact:***

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