



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 70 – 31 May-4 June 2004



Third Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context *and* Meeting of Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment 1-4 June, Cavtat, Croatia

The Convention, which came into force in 1997 and now has 40 Parties, is intended to help make development sustainable by promoting international cooperation in assessing the likely cross-border impact of a proposed activity on the environment before giving it the go-ahead. Practical experience with international public participation is growing and the Convention is increasingly being applied to potential sources of cross-border pollution. Members of the public are informed of a project planned in another country that may have an environmental impact on their own country. They usually receive such information directly or through announcements in local newspapers in their own language. The public can make comments on the project or on the environmental documentation either directly to the developer or during a public hearing. This meeting will also be the first opportunity for the Signatories to the new Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention to meet. The Protocol, signed in May 2003 by 36 States and the European Community, is expected to enter into force within the next two years.

For more information contact Wiek Schrage (eia.conv@unece.org).

It's just happened ...

Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

At its 15th annual session, 24-26 May, the Steering Committee discussed the future phase of the EE21 Project with constructive links between energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy. Most participants expressed their willingness to develop investment project proposals on renewable energies. At the session, the Steering Committee officially accepted the "Climate is Business e-Ward 2003", a recognition from the industry given to the UNECE by the European



Business Council for the Sustainable Energy Future (e5). The EE21 Project was recognized through this award as being a major contributor to climate change mitigation through its work and activities.

The winners in 2003 received an oversize glass containing a blue "e", standing for the five "e"s of "energy, emissions, environment, efficiency and economy".

For more information contact Gianluca Sambucini (gianluca.sambucini@unece.org).

The UNECE strengthens its work on Internet enterprise development

The Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (TSIED) aims to assist member States in adopting policies and practices that foster enterprise development through the use of new information and communication technologies. Over the coming year a project will be undertaken related to the development of an e-business repository, aimed at providing a framework to assist governments in building the necessary infrastructure of core business data of legally registered enterprises to enable greater use of the Internet for business transactions and the further development

of Internet enterprises. E-readiness assessment reports of countries in south-east and eastern Europe and central Asia will be prepared, to provide governments with evaluation, benchmarking and policy recommendations. The work of the Team, an example of cooperation between private sector and public sector institutions, will assist in strengthening the contribution of information and communication technologies to economic growth in the UNECE region, particularly in countries with lower incomes. For more information contact Rolf Traeger (rolf.traeger@unece.org).

Not an official record - For information only

Joint ECE/WHO/EUROSTAT Meeting on the Measurement of Health Status

The aim of the meeting, held on 24-26 May, was to continue the process to achieve internationally comparable measurement of populations' health status in its multiple dimensions. In order to attain comparability, it is necessary to agree on a common framework and to develop a new common instrument for health status measurement. The first concrete steps in this process are the identification of core health domains to be measured and the definition of a set of health status questions to be

included in a standard survey module that will be tested in national survey programmes. A Steering Group and a Working Group were appointed to develop the common instrument and to coordinate work with key players at international level who are engaged in the definition of similar health status modules.

For more information contact Angela Me (angela.me@unece.org).

Off the press ...



The "Environment for Europe" Conference held in Kiev in 2003 was the fifth in a process that began in 1991, a process that has had a significant impact on the UNECE region, whether in improving environmental rights, strengthening public participation, or promoting education for sustainable development. The ministerial conferences have made important strides in extending the environmental legal framework, ensuring compliance and enforcement of international environmental law, and keeping the environment high on the international agenda. Just released, a new CD-Rom contains the Report of the 2003 Conference, the Ministerial Declaration and all other official documents. Also included are speeches and interventions delivered by delegates during the plenary session. The CD-Rom is available from the UN Sales and Marketing Section (unpubli@unog.ch), Sales N° GV.E.03.0.28.

Facts and figures:

Millennium Development Goal 8, Target 18* (Selected indicators)			
	2002		
	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population	Personal computers per 100 population	Internet users per 100 population ¹
EU new member countries			
Cyprus	127.24	26.99	29.37
Czech Republic	121.11	17.74	25.63
Estonia	100.07	21.03	32.77
Hungary	103.72	10.84	15.76
Latvia	69.49	17.17	13.31
Lithuania	74.56	10.97	14.44
Malta	122.25	25.51	30.3
Poland	55.41 ²	10.56	23
Slovakia	81.18	18.04	16.04
Slovenia	134.14	30.06	37.58
Southeast Europe			
Albania	34.77	1.17	0.39
Bosnia and Herzegovina	43.29	..	2.62
Bulgaria	70.07	5.19	8.08
Croatia	95.22	17.38	18.04
Romania	43.01	8.3	10.15
Serbia and Montenegro	48.91	2.71	5.97
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	44.83	..	4.84
Turkey	62.86	4.46	7.28

* Develop a global partnership for development: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators Database (based on ITU estimates)

¹ ITU data for this indicator is based on nationally reported data from surveys or estimates based on Internet Service Providers subscription information.

² refers to 2001

Coming up soon

...

1(pm)-4 June
Working Party on Pollution and Energy

3-4 June
Expert Group on Public Participation in International Forums

For further information please contact:

**Information Service,
UN Economic
Commission for
Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland**

Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44

Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05

**E-mail:
info.ece@unece.org**

**Web site:
<http://www.unece.org>**