



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 197 – 6-10 November 2006

ICT for Women Entrepreneurs

A training workshop on Women entrepreneurs and ICT was held in Haifa, Israel (16-26 October 2006). The training course focused on the use of modern communication technologies, business management and intellectual property rights. The course included “hands on” experience and study visits to the Tefen Industrial Park, Business support center and a Technological Incubator, a successful company run by a woman.

It was attended by representatives of state institutions responsible for SME development at national and local levels, women’s business associations (WBAs), academia, and entrepreneurs from the SPECA members-countries as well as Armenia, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The workshop ended with a discussion on how acquired knowledge could be implemented in respective countries. Among the projects presented by the participants were a national website for women entrepreneurs (Georgia), a comprehensive 3 -year programme for ICT use in agro-tourism, including training,

web page, on-line services and networks based on existing SME support centers (Moldova, Ukraine) and establishing



business incubators for carpet and crafts (Azerbaijan).

“I believe that such workshops play also an important role in building personal and networks among neighbouring countries” said Madina Bainiyetova, Head micro-credit department, Small Business Development Fund (Kazakhstan). These contacts are very important in the Caucasus region, said Ineza Tsomaya, Head, Legal Support

Service for Internally Displaced Persons (Georgia). She proposed to discuss a project for women entrepreneurs in this region, including women from conflict zones in these countries.

The workshop was supported by the Government of Israel (Center for International Cooperation-MASHAV) and organized in cooperation with the UNECE by the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre (MCTC).

This is the second workshop implemented under the programme of work of a new SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy. The WG is supported by the UNECE and UNESCAP and aims at mainstreaming gender into economic policies and regional cooperation in Central Asia, exchanging good practices and providing capacity-building for women entrepreneurs. In 2007 similar workshops will be organized with the support of the Israeli Government.

For more information please contact Ewa. Zimny@unece.org

Beijing workshop helps better understanding of UNECE air pollution



The UNECE Air Pollution Convention’s Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution held a workshop in Beijing on 18-20 October 2006 as part of its work to find out how much air pollution in the region is due to emissions from other parts of the northern hemisphere.

For some years, Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution have been concerned that their efforts to control air pollution may not give the benefits they expect.

Some pollutants, such as very fine particles, persistent organic pollutants and precursors of ground-level ozone can travel between continents, so UNECE pollution could be caused by emissions from outside.

The Task Force, which is led by the United States and the European Community, was established by the Convention in 2004 to learn more about the transcontinental movement of air pollution and provide a better understanding of air pollution in the region. This will

Changes in vegetation due to air pollution



Monitoring and understanding the harmful impacts of air pollution on the environment, materials and human health is one of the core activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Its Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling, at its seventh meeting held in October in Spain, concluded that dynamic ecosystem changes could now be used to assess the effectiveness of emission cuts in Europe.

A simple model showing acidification changes has been applied to most of the sensitive ecosystems in Europe. More complex models, applied at selected sites, describe the processes in more detail. Modelled results closely match the monitored trends. The models show that chemical recovery may take decades if expected

Not an official record - For information only



enable Parties to the Convention to plan further reductions of their own emissions while recognizing that some pollution in the UNECE region may be beyond their control.

The Beijing workshop set out to consider the emission inventories that have been developed worldwide and their suitability for hemispheric studies.

The Convention's Parties recognized from the start that the Task Force needed to engage with experts from outside the region and much effort has been made to involve experts from countries across the northern hemisphere, especially those with interests in air pollution and air pollution modelling. So far, experts from Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, have participated and most of these countries were represented in Beijing. The workshop was held in Asia to encourage participation of Asian experts and draw attention to the work of the Task Force in that region.

The workshop, hosted by Beijing's Tsinghua University and China's State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), discussed the status of global and regional

emission inventories, the evaluation of such inventories using observations (including those from satellites), the future emission projections and future scenarios and the use of air emission inventories for air quality management and public information.

The experts recognized that many inventories already existed at different scales; many of these were sector specific and used methods that enabled estimation of future emissions. However, data quality was often difficult to assess and more work was needed to ensure data quality. There were global efforts to collate air emission inventories and it was recommended that the Task Force take account of these. Regarding emission sources, the workshop noted the difficulties of estimating emissions from biomass burning and small domestic sources, which were especially important in some parts of the Asian region. It also recommended that further work was needed to quantify better the emissions from international shipping and aircraft, which are not included in national emission inventories.

The workshop asked the Task Force to assist in raising awareness on transboundary and intercontinental air

pollution in regions where this was less well known; this could be linked to the need for developing regional and global emission inventories. Experts stressed that the Task Force could assist in creating crucial links between institutions within countries and across regions and this could be an important step towards increasing capacity in some countries where current inventories were poor. For more information: keith.bull@unece.org



acid deposition continues. Biological recovery will take even longer, and some systems may be irreversibly changed. Some models can also describe the impacts of excess nutrient nitrogen (eutrophication) on ecosystems.

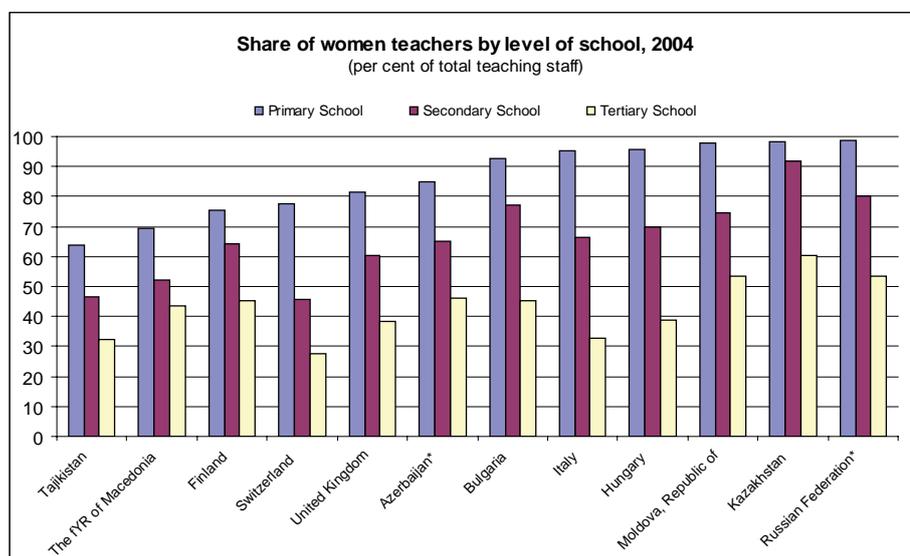
Changes to ground vegetation species can be due to acidifying and eutrophying deposition, land use management and climate change. Models suggest that changes have already occurred in areas with high nitrogen deposition. They predict that even low nitrogen deposition in Northern Europe may reduce berries, lichens and mosses by favouring shrubs, grasses and herbs; this has been supported by experimental findings. Modellers are now exploring which quantitative indicators for change would be most relevant for policymaking.

A shift from berries to grasses – an expected change. Even relatively low nitrogen deposition can affect forest ground vegetation according to experiments in Northern Sweden. Photo: A. Nordin.

For more information: matti.johansson@unece.org

Facts and figures

Is teaching a feminine aspiration?



Source: UNECE Gender Database

* Data refer to 2003.

Across European countries, women account for a large majority of total teaching staff. However, there is an important variation according to the school levels. In primary schools, women teachers account for more than two thirds of teaching staff, and in some countries nearly all primary school teachers are women (Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation). In secondary schools, the gender distribution of teachers is somewhat better balanced, even though women still predominate. The situation is reversed in tertiary education (universities), where men constitute the majority of teaching staff. However, in our sample this does not apply to Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation. It seems that men tend to prevail in the better-recognized and better-paid jobs, particularly in countries like Italy, Hungary and Switzerland.

Coming up ...

6-8 November

Joint UNECE/Eurostat Work Session on Electronic Data Reporting

6-9 November

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

6-9 November

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

7-10 November

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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

Website: <http://www.unece.org>