

# **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF WASTE CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY SYSTEMS IN EAST EUROPEAN, CAUCASIAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>**

It is recommended that the Governments of East European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries consider the following measures, where relevant, for the improvement of waste classification systems and data collection and reporting:

## *Legal, Policy and Institutional Base*

1. Review current national waste legislation and revise it, where necessary, to set goals for the management of wastes, in particular of hazardous wastes, and to develop general regulations on waste data collection, including the distribution of responsibilities for data collection and submission. Draw upon international experience for this purpose, including the definitions and principles established in European Union legislation (for example, in the framework Directive on Waste 75/442/EEC, the Directive on Hazardous Wastes 91/689/EEC, the Decision Establishing a List of Waste 2000/532/EC, Regulation (EC) 2150/2002, and subsequent amendments to these).
2. When developing waste management strategies, use available data on waste generation, use and disposal and set specific goals, in particular on improved waste inventories and data collection.
3. Designate one lead ministry or department responsible for waste data collection; this institution should cooperate closely with other relevant organizations and establishments.

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### *Waste Classification*

4. Use existing international classification systems or their components in developing or improving national waste classification systems. One possible approach to be considered is the use of the European Union's list of waste, as approved in Council Decision 2000/532/EC and in subsequent amendments, as well as the European Union's Statistical Nomenclature for waste (Regulation (EC) 2150/2002, Annex III), as the basis for the creation of national classification systems. National waste classification systems should be linked to a classification of the types of economic activities (such as the UN International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in European Community) as well as to the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals).
5. Seek to ensure that national lists of wastes, among their characteristics:
  - a) Include hazardous as well as non-hazardous wastes;
  - b) Facilitate the preparation of inventories of accumulated wastes, as well as the collection and processing of current data on waste generation, utilization and disposal;
  - c) Are used in developing environmental indicators and reporting;
  - d) Are used when issuing permits and licenses for waste management;
  - e) Serve as the basis for the development of economic tools for preventing waste generation as well as for stimulating effective waste management and sustainable use of natural resources;
  - f) Improve international comparability of data and their submission to international organizations.

### *Waste Inventory*

6. Where such data are not available, conduct an inventory of accumulated wastes, main generation sources and processing enterprises and capacity, in order to create a mapped database on existing and potential sources of environmental pollution. Environment ministries should conduct this inventory with the assistance of other relevant national departments and local authorities, as well as scientific institutions and NGOs. The inventory should include existing waste burial sites, including abandoned and unauthorized landfills, and abandoned chemical storage facilities of chemicals for the purpose of creation of.

### *Data Collection and Reporting*

7. On the basis of relevant, approved legislation and regulations, ensure regular enterprise reporting (through the use of waste "passports", for example) of waste generation, storage, export, import, processing and disposal.
8. Ensure that, after examination and control conducted by authorized local bodies, this primary reporting data goes into the lead responsible body (Environment Ministry or Statistical Committee) and is used for the purposes of regulating environmental activities, creating an electronic database, preparing statistical and environmental reports, developing environmental policy, and preparing and publishing informational materials for the general public.

### *Indicators*

9. Develop and publish aggregated waste management indicators based on primary data. Environment Ministries, together with Statistical Committees, should develop national waste indicators on the basis of international experience and practice, and in particular the European Environmental Agency's indicator framework of "driving forces – pressures – state – impact - responses". These indicators should:
  - a) Show the overall scope of waste issues, resulting pressures on the environment, as well as the volume and trends of waste generation;
  - b) Show the links between various types of economic activities, their material flows and their waste generation;
  - c) Support adequate assessments of the effectiveness of environmental policy for the prevention of waste generation, as well as for sustainable waste management and the use of natural resources.

### *Strengthening National Capacities*

10. Arrange training courses to improve the skills of officials in local and central environmental administrations engaged in waste inventory preparation and reporting, and encourage awareness of other country experiences in this field.
11. Enhance computer networks and software for the creation and management of a centralized electronic waste database.
12. Provide training on the practical application of waste management indicators to Environment Ministry officials responsible for state-of-the-environment reports and Statistical Committees officials engaged in environmental data reporting.

### *International Cooperation*

13. Participate actively in international meetings on waste classification and inventories arranged in the framework of international agreements on these issues, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and in international programs and projects carried out by the UNECE, UNEP and other international organizations.
14. Encourage donor assistance for the strengthening of national capacities in the fields of waste management and low-waste and non-waste technologies.