



Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF

7th Meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making to the Aarhus Convention

WECF's Experience in PP in D-M in a Transboundary Context

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About WECF

- Created as result of 1992 Earth Summit Rio Janeiro
- Network of women, environment and health NGOs in 50 countries
- Historic focus on Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia
- Since 5 years also working in East-Africa
- Local action and global policy advocacy
- Soon name change: Women Engage for a Common Future!



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Identified Challenges for CSOs, the general public and marginalised groups (transb. pp. Art. 6, 7 AC)

- Early public participation;
- Availability of all relevant documents in the required languages;
- Effective notification and time frames for pp;
- Ensuring greater account is taken of the comments from the public in the final decisions and the provision of feedback.

WECF's Experiences

Democratisation of the Governance of the Dniester River Basin

- Aim: Involving all stakeholders in river basin management
- Diff. situation: Moldova, Transnistria and Ukraine
- Stakeholders: citizens, reg./nat. gov.
- Legislation avail., but better transb. pp needed

Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans

- Aim: awareness of EU acquis on product and chemical safety
- Toys – focus on young women
- Stakeholders: producers, consumers and policy-m
- Legislation on nat. level needed

WECF Activities and Outcomes

- Awareness raising campaigns in rural areas, inter alia, by demonstration projects
- Capacity-building, focus on poor and women
- Stakeholder cooperation (CSOs and government; NGO representatives – 2 women – became official members of River Basin Council)
- Outreach and awareness raising by information campaigns
- Network building
- Publications in various languages (easy to understand, like a small guide)



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Safe
Toys!



Recommendations

- Outreach to potential and marginalised stakeholders by raising awareness and building up knowledge on (upcoming) issues;
- Information campaigns designed according to needs of specific groups (e.g. address young women through “toys campaign”; use of various media);
- Establishment of joint bodies (e.g. River Council) between different gov. bodies from different countries and CSOs;
- Transboundary CSO coalitions as example

THANK YOU

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