

Baltic Regional Co-operation on Chemicals Control (BACCON 3)

Commissioned by:

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Finnish Ministry of Environment, Nordic Council of Ministers, German Federal Environmental Agency, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Latvian Environmental Protection Fund

Contractor:

Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), Riga

In co-operation with:

Ökopol, Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) and various consulting institutions in the Baltic States

Duration:

August 2003 - December 2004

Background

Since 1998 the Baltic Environmental Forum in co-operation with Oekopol has supported industry and administrations in the Baltic States in the implementation of European chemicals policy and the implementation of an efficient chemicals control on national level by means of workshop programmes, training courses and management projects. The very complex and new topic of chemicals policy is by now fairly well anchored and networks of different actors have evolved at various levels.

The project BACCON 3 continues the work and aims at further supporting the establishment of stable networks. Especially the results of former projects will be introduced to a wider circle of actors in form of training courses and seminars. Additional to the activities for EU accession of the three countries, the New European Chemicals Policy (REACH) is to be discussed and its implementation prepared.

Objectives and expected results

Aim of the project is to inform about the European chemicals policy, facilitate an experience exchange about it and strengthen the co-operation of different stakeholders. More specifically

- The legislation development process and the institutional set up in the field of chemicals policy shall be accompanied (e.g. Biocides Directive, Water Framework Directive)
- The stakeholder network in administration, industry and consulting institutions shall be strengthened
- The knowledge of industrial companies on the safe handling and use of chemicals shall be improved
- The understanding of roles and responsibilities of industry actors shall be improved (importers, manufacturers, users of chemicals)
- Controlling institutions shall be strengthened and an integrated approach in enforcement shall be promoted
- Environmental and consumer protection organisations shall be sensibilised for the issue of dangerous chemicals

Project activities

The project is subdivided into various smaller sub-projects: For disseminating information about EU chemicals policy, workshops are organised on different issues and for various target groups. Inspections are trained in a separate training programme. Imports and exports of chemicals on the Baltic markets are being analysed and problems of importers in chemicals risk communication with suppliers from eastern countries are assessed. Users of chemicals can get familiar with chemicals risk management at company level by attending one of the two 2-part training courses which makes use of the risk management handbook and they can implement separate management elements in their companies. A short study will be carried out researching risk communication along a supply chain and showing the specific challenges for industry in the Baltic States and introducing to REACH. Further more environmental and consumer protection organisations in the Baltic States will be identified, brought in contact with European organisations and introduced to the issue of hazardous chemicals in consumer products.

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