

Baltic States Regional Projects on Chemicals Control

Chemicals are applied in a great variety of products and industrial processes: several ten-thousands of chemical substances and several 100-thousands of chemical products are traded and used on the European market. Many of them are hazardous, therefore working with chemicals needs responsible care at each step on the chain of supply. Everyone importing, producing, distributing and using chemicals should therefore be i) fully informed of the hazardous properties, ii) have a defined responsibility and iii) should be capable to handle and/or further distribute the chemical in a safe way. These are important prerequisites to keep chemicals under control.

The Baltic Regional Projects on Chemicals Control are meant to support Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the process of accession to the European Union in the field of Chemicals Control. The overall objectives are to strengthen information exchange and co-operation among the three Baltic States and between the Baltic States and its EU neighbours to increase knowledge on EU requirements with regard to chemicals control and to develop management capacity in enterprises producing or using chemical products to develop strategies how the state authorities could efficiently obtain data on the flows and use of chemicals on the national markets in order to develop their national chemicals policy

The program has been started in 1998 and will be finished by summer 2003. It presently covers four sub-projects and involves several local co-operation partners:

- ⇒ Workshop program on implementation of EU Chemicals Legislation, for state authorities
- ⇒ Training program on Classification and Labelling of Dangerous Chemicals including Safety Data Sheets, for industry managers and industry experts
- ⇒ Development of data collection strategies and instruments on use and flows of chemicals on the national markets, in co-operation with the responsible state authorities in the three Baltic States
- ⇒ Capacity building on integrated chemicals risk management in certain industry sectors (manufacturers of chemical products, textile processing, metal processing, manufacture of furniture), in co-operation with 10 to 15 selected industry companies

The project funds are based on contributions from Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Nordic Council of Ministers, the German Bundesland Schleswig-Holstein, Sweden.

Project development and implementation is a joint effort of Ökopol and the Baltic Environmental Forum in Riga (BEF). For further information please have a look at BEF's homepage.

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