First Eastern Europe Regional Meeting on the 10YFP
“The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) – Taking Action in the Region”

October 27th, 2014 – Palais des Nations, Geneva

Meeting Report

Main Objectives
Representatives from the governments of 14 Eastern European and Central Asian countries, including 7 national focal points for the 10YFP, one regional stakeholder focal point, four representatives of civil society organisations, two regional environmental centres, five UN agencies and SCP experts assembled for this regional meeting of the 10YFP.

The purpose of the meeting was for the 10YFP Secretariat to provide a global and regional overview on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and the 10YFP, and for participants to share progress on national and regional SCP-related initiatives, policies and activities, identifying synergies and potential areas of cooperation. The meeting provided an opportunity for 10YFP National Focal Points (NFPs – in Governments) and Stakeholder Focal Points (SFPs) to discuss their role and contributions to the 10YFP, and for the Secretariat to assess how it could better support NFPs and SFPs in their respective roles. The potential value added of the 10YFP and its programmes was explored, as well as ways to secure the region’s active engagement in the development and implementation of these programmes. Some immediate actions and capacity building needs were identified to promote the shift to SCP patterns in the region. Conclusions from the workshop were conveyed to the meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy of the UNECE region, which immediately followed this 10YFP regional meeting.

Main Outcomes
The main outcomes of the meeting in terms of key points raised and interactions between participants and next steps to advance the implementation of the 10YFP in the region were as follows.

Global and regional overview
- Since the adoption of the 10YFP at Rio+20, the importance of SCP in the international policy agenda has grown steadily, and the objective of achieving SCP patterns is now embedded transversally across the proposed SDGs.
- SCP has a large constituency among Member States negotiating the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, and it appears that this is a framework where developed countries may be most willing to accept responsibilities. SCP is also a subject under which many developing countries may accept investment in a green economy.
- There are some “low-hanging fruit” to harvest on the shift to SCP in the Eastern European region, and the 10YFP should help to secure these.
SCP may be included as a topic at the Environment for Europe (EfE) meeting that will take place in 2016, with an overall focus on Green Economy, and SCP might also be defined as a regional priority under the post-2015 development agenda.

Achieving SCP patterns is an important priority in any case, given that energy intensive extractive industries are at core of some economies and over consumption remains the major issue for the wealthier countries in the region.

For the shift to SCP to take place there is a need for good indicators, strengthened efforts in capacity building, awareness-raising, vocational training, and exchange of best practices.

As the 10YFP is launched already it could have a head start as an implementation mechanism for the SDGs, offering early transferrable experiences on the shift to SCP patterns. The framework also has the advantage of a strong political mandate from Rio+20, but maintains flexibility with the possibility of adding new programmes.

There remains a need to adapt existing policies and frameworks on SCP to the specific needs and conditions of the Eastern European region.

Food, housing and mobility will be important areas to focus on and there is also a need to consider what role green finance, tax reform, and removal of environmentally harmful subsidies have to play in the shift to SCP patterns.

Some key challenges raised in the ensuing discussion with participants were as follows.

- At present relevant policy frameworks in the region are mostly focused on national sustainable development strategies, although the process of introducing elements on SCP and green economy has already started.
- A clearer understanding of the relationship between green economy and the shift to SCP patterns is required, to enable governments and stakeholders to make progress on policy making.
- A preliminary definition of this relationship, namely that green economy policies are more focused on the macroeconomic level and on re-directing investment, while SCP policies are on a more “micro level focusing on regulations, policies and voluntary measures directly influencing the private sector, the life cycle of products and also consumer choice and consumption patterns”, was offered.
- It was acknowledged that these two types of policies could be complementary, but that some more easily digestible “communication tools” are required to clarify the relationship for policy makers and other stakeholders.
- Regional organisations including the regional environmental centres (RECs) could play a useful role in supporting national policy-making on SCP.
- There is an urgent need to clarify the role of 10 YFP national focal points and to offer capacity building support to them to fulfil that role. The possibility of offering a capacity building workshop for NFPs back-to-back with the next Eastern European regional meeting was offered by the Secretariat. There was a request that this next regional meeting take place in 2015.
The importance of institutional memories residing in both the ECE and EECCA regions, including in the RECs, were highlighted as resources on which future capacity building for the shift to SCP patterns should be built.

Break-out groups on 10YFP programmes
Four of the current six programmes of the 10YFP were discussed in break-groups, namely those on: sustainable public procurement; sustainable food systems; consumer information and sustainable lifestyles and education. Key points arising from these discussion were as follows.

**Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)**
The following needs were identified:
- Market analyses/ readiness
- Studies and tools to demonstrate economic benefits of SPP (Lifecycle cost analysis; externalities etc) and how SPP can support local production system
- Tools to demonstrate environmental impact of goods and services (regional LCA database; Eco Labelling standards)
- **Capacity Building** for both the Ministry of Environment and Ministry in charge of procurement.
- Scaled up **implementation** in the region

Existing activities in the region which could contribute to the SPP programme are:
- SPP implementation under the Greening Economies in Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP Green) programme, funded by the EU, such as the implementation in Moldova and Ukraine.
- Green Procurement initiative in Ministry of Environment in Kazakhstan, which could be extended and replicated, depending on Ministry of Finance willingness.
- Latvia SPP experience, which needs to be sustained and scaled up.
- EU methodologies and guidelines
- Azerbaijan experience on investment in water supply system

ITC shared information on their “Standards map” online tool (more information under the Consumer Information working group). Poland informed that they will inform the special office for procurement.

**Sustainable Food Systems (SFS)**
The following needs were identified:
- Securing engagement of other Ministries on (eg) organic agriculture;
- Support on certification of sustainable food – especially at the regional or sub-regional levels;
- Policy advice for SFS, and exchange of best practice with other countries and regions;
• Raising awareness of the unsustainability and economic and social costs of current agricultural practices;
• Extension services for shift to SFS systems, and particularly sustainable agricultural production.

Existing activities in the region which could contribute to the SFS programme are:
• Ongoing development of national standard on organic agriculture (Ukraine);
• The growing interest in EU markets for sustainable food – however there are relatively few activities responding to this opportunity yet;
• Support being offered on production and trade policies and identification of associated economic benefits from SCP and the transition to a green economy, from the ongoing EU-funded EaP Green project.

Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE)
The following needs were identified:
• Capacity building, guidelines, strengthen economic policy instruments for sustainable lifestyles
• Work at different levels - communication, education to act on behaviours, as well as work at facilitator and infrastructure levels;
• Focus on specific themes such as chemical safety, or sustainable transport and mobility (including tools for Mayors to promote sustainable lifestyles and planning schemes);
• Promote SCP at theoretical and implementation levels;
• Regulations for advertising industry.

Existing activities in the region which could contribute to the SLE programme are:
• A number of on-going and successful education campaign, training, demonstration initiatives such as Secondary school curriculum for nature education, campaign for behaviour changes, changes in production and policy instruments, training for teachers on sustainable transport;
• Ukraine - national strategy for the development of Education in Ukraine. Campaigns - Green Action week 2014 – Go Organic!, informing farmers, consumers and businesses; Chemicals safety programmes related to waste “Throw it away the right way” with education and information campaigns, sanitation campaigns.
• CAREC: Green business initiatives
• Regional Environment Centre (REC): Green Pack (18 countries in Europe and Asia). Since 2001, around 40,000 teachers have been trained to use the Green Pack materials, which have reached over 4 million students. REC also work on informal education for officials in Ministry (other than Environment) with the Sustainable Development Academy.

Consumer Information
The following needs were identified:
• support for establishing eco-labels and securing recognition in export markets (such as the EU)
• addressing the proliferation of labels/standards and « greenwashing » using these tools; and
• support for small scale producers for third party certification.

Existing activities which could contribute to the CI programme are:
• the Trade for Sustainable Development principles of ITC which are intended to provide a benchmarking system for assessing proliferating consumer information tools;
• the related ITC platform for self-assessment against existing standards called ‘Standard map’; and
• the IISD sustainable commodities initiative and COSA (assessment) tools.

Role of National Focal Points
Session 5 focused on the role of National Focal Points and Stakeholder Focal Points in the 10YFP, at international and national level. Following the role of NFPs where highlighted in several areas: in information sharing and communication; in relation to engagement of countries in the 10YFP Programme development and implementation; and in the context of the 10YFP Trust Fund. The SCP Clearinghouse support for sharing best practices on SCP and as information platform was highlighted.

Some requests for support to NFPs and SFPs were expressed:
• Tools for NFPs:
  o Argumentation for other ministries to engage in SCP (including in the context of Sustainable Public Procurement, to convince Ministry of Economy / Finance).
  o A publication on SCP’s contribution to Poverty eradication, climate change and productivity is under development. A summary of the publication with key findings could be developed.
  o A template questionnaire for NFPs to use and get more information on SCP activities in the country (including at local level). The current global survey on SCP policies could be adapted for the use of NFPs in their countries.
• Consider especially when SFPs there are no NFPs. Stakeholder could add information on SCP activities. A dedicated questionnaire for SFPs would support this communication flow to the Secretariat.
• Need for capacity building workshop on SCP for NFPs and SFPs.

(Proposed) Next steps:
As immediate next steps:
• The 10YFP Secretariat will revise and finalise the background document on SCP in the region.
• Countries who did not nominate NFPs are kindly requested to do so, to facilitate communication with the 10YFP Secretariat.
• A meeting for Central Asian countries could be organized to raise awareness on SCP and facilitate the nomination process of the NFPs.
• NFPs and SFPs are invited to register to the global SCP Clearinghouse (www.scpclearinghouse.org)
• The 10YFP Secretariat will develop capacity building tools for NFPs and SFPs.

In preparation for a second 10YFP multi-stakeholder meeting for Eastern Europe, to be held second semester of 2015 (TBC and venue TBC):
• the meeting could be focused on programme implementation, selecting four out of the six 10YFP programmes, and on any specific request for new programmes arising from Eastern European region;
• the meeting will be supported by a paper oriented towards programme implementation at the regional/sub-regional levels; and
• there may be a capacity building workshop for NFPs and SFPs, back to back with the regional meeting.

Finally, based on the outcomes of the UNECE CEP meeting this week, define how to collaborate in the context of the 10YFP and the UNECE’s work in the region to advance the shift to SCP patterns in the Eastern European region.