

Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption

REPORT 2012 - 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

The Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption Subgroup of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's (BEAC) Working Group on Environment is an arena for cooperation on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption in the Barents region. The work is based on the principles and methods outlined in the strategy document on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption as an element of a life cycle perspective and a Work Programme developed and adopted by the group and acknowledged by the WGE for the Finnish chairmanship of the Working Group on Environment during 2012-2013.

2. PRIORITIES UNDER THE FINNISH CHAIRMANSHIP

The CPESC priorities under the Finnish chairmanship 2012-2013 set in the Work Programme are listed below.

- Promotion of cleaner production techniques, including contributing to the hot spots exclusion in close cooperation with the Subgroup on Hot spot exclusion, and in cooperation with the ACAP Working Group under the Arctic Council, when relevant
- Introduction and dissemination of information on best environmental practices and promoting corporate social and environmental responsibility in connection to the main economic activities in the Barents Region
- Follow-up the results of the RIO+20 Conference on green economy and identify possibilities for regional contribution on their implementation
- Seek opportunities for strengthening education, training and awareness rising on cleaner production and sustainable consumption
- Mainstream Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption aspects through cooperation between different actors and levels
- Strengthen the inter-linkages between the work on cleaner production and energy efficiency

3. STATUS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE WORK PROGRAMME

In the Work Programme six multilateral or bilateral projects were identified for the Subgroup to be carried out during the Finnish Presidency in order to meet, as far as possible, the priorities defined for the group. The current status of these projects and the achievements under the accomplished and running projects are described below. It should be kept in mind that in the Work Programme it was stated that the projects and activities in the Work Programme will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.

The following projects have been accomplished:

Prepare an overview of facilities for environmentally sound treatment and destruction of hazardous waste in the Barents and Baltic Sea region countries (Lead country: Norway)

An Overview of facilities was published in May 2013 and it has been shared with relevant stakeholders. The aim of the report is to present information on technical, operational and legal conditions for a selection of facilities that are granted license for environmentally-sound treatment and/or destruction of organic hazardous waste. The report was also translated into Russian. The English version of the report can be found in http://www.barentsinfo.fi/beac/docs/Report_May_2013_Selection_of_facilities_for_treatment_and_destruction_of_organic_hazardous_waste.pdf

Dissemination of information on best environmental practices (BEP), best available techniques (BAT), and corporate social and environmental responsibility. E.g. seminars to be arranged together with the other stakeholders (companies, indigenous peoples, NGOs) in the Barents Region (Lead country: Finland)

A conference on Best Environmental Practices in the Mining Sector in the Barents Region was organized in Rovaniemi during April 23-25, 2013. More than 150 experts, operators, authorities and NGO representatives participated in the conference. The conference included presentations and panel discussions from key stakeholders in the region and it particularly addressed environmental and social impacts of mining in the region. The purpose of the conference was to get an overall understanding of the present and future development of the mining sector, increase awareness of the key environmental and social challenges of the mining sector in the Barents Region, present and disseminate knowledge about the best environmental practices in this sector in Barents countries, and promote the exchange of information on assessing and managing environmental and social concerns in the mining sector. In addition to the conference, a Finnish report on Best Environmental Practices in Metal Ore Mining has been translated to English and Russian to be used in the Barents Region. See: <http://www.barentsminingconference.fi/home>

Finnish Reindeer Association has published a guide on how to take into account the reindeers in connection to land use projects ("Reindeer EIA"). CPESC has facilitated the translation of this guide into English and Russian in order to disseminate this information in the Barents Region.

The following projects are running:

Project on education to integrate training on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption in universities within Barents in order to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns (Lead country: Sweden)

Seminar series on environmentally sound consumption and cleaner production was launched in cooperation with the Barents Joint Working Group on Education and Research. The aim is to arrange seminars at the universities and technical institutions in the Russian Barents region to seek opportunities to integrate training on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption into the curricula of universities in order to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns. The first seminar was held in Arkhangelsk at the premises of Arctic Federal State University on March 27, 2013. About 70 persons participated in the seminar. The second seminar was carried out in Syktyvkar on October 10, 2013, and the third seminar in Murmansk on November 6, 2103. The next seminar will be held in Petrozavodsk later.

The following projects are under preparation:

Promoting the shift to sustainable consumption patterns/sustainable living through discussions in workshops/seminar and identifying tools and frameworks needed for the shift (based on the outcome of Rio +20 what regards the 10 Year Framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and a programme on sustainable lifestyles and education) (Lead country: Sweden)

Cooperation with UNEP and BEAC regional group on sustainable Tourism (Follow up seminar of seminar in St Petersburg 2011) in order to contribute to sustainable consumption in the tourism sector in the Barents area (Lead country: Sweden)

In addition, the Subgroup decided to close the project Finalize project case studies and good examples of Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption approaches without finalizing the report. The draft report was however saved for potential later use.

All relevant documents from the Subgroup have been posted on the BEAC webpage to secure availability and transparency. Reports and recommendations from the Subgroup have been submitted to the BEAC WGE for information and approval.

4. FUTURE OF THE CPESC SUBGROUP

During the two-year period there have been discussions on merging the CPESC and the Hot spot Subgroups.

5. MEMBERS

The following persons were members of the Subgroup during 2012 – 2013 (observers in brackets):

Emma Nurmi, Finnish Environment Institute, Chair

Hanne Aronsen, Norwegian Environment Agency (Climate and Pollution Agency until 30 June, 2013)

Maria Dronova, Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology (MNRE), Russia

Gunilla Blomquist, Swedish Ministry of the Environment
(Maria Maliniemi, NEFCO)

(Henrik Forsström, NEFCO)

(Yan Tsygankov, Cleaner Production Centre, Moscow)

(Ruslan Butovskiy, Fund for Sustainable Development, Russia)