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SDC



Swiss Agency for
the Environment,
Forests and
Landscape SAEFL

The International POPs Elimination Project

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in
Preparation for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

Global Day of Action on POPs in Russia

Eco-Accord

**Russian Federation
April 2005**

About the International POPs Elimination Project

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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Global Day of Action on POPs in Russia

In the framework of the Global Day of Actions against POPs, Eco-Accord Centre (Moscow, Russia) developed and disseminated information materials on environmental quality and health hazards of POPs. On April 20, 2005, the Centre conducted a press-conference on "Dioxins in Russian Food". The press-conference participants discussed results of the international campaign to measure concentrations of dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB) in chicken eggs. In Russia, free range eggs were collected in Igumnovo and Gorbatovka villages nearby Dzerzhinsk. In egg samples from these villages, dioxin levels exceeded EU MACs for dioxins in food products, in addition, PCBs levels exceeded the proposed EU limit. In chicken eggs from Igumnovo village, dioxin levels exceeded the limit by almost in 14 times, while PCBs levels exceeded the limit by 9-fold. In chicken eggs from Gorbatovka dioxin levels exceeded the EU limit by 4-fold, while PCBs levels exceeded the limit by 4.5-fold. In samples from Gorbatovka, HCB was also found. The research data suggest the need to initiate monitoring of POPs levels in food and implement long-term actions for elimination of organochlorine substances - sources of releases of PCBs, dioxins and furans to all environmental media. For additional information, please contact: Olga Speranskaya, Eco-Accord, speransk@leadnet.ru