



Swiss Agency for
Development
and Cooperation
SDC



Swiss Agency for
the Environment,
Forests and
Landscape SAEFL

The International POPs Elimination Project

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

Moldova without Persistent Organic Pollutants English Summary

Chisinau Territorial Organisation of the Environmental Movement of Moldova

**Moldova
November 2004**

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>

IPEN gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Swiss Agency for the Environment Forests and Landscape, the Canada POPs Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), Mitchell Kapor Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, New York Community Trust and others.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

This report is available in the following languages: English Summary and Full report in Russian

Moldova without Persistent Organic Pollutants

English Summary

In the period from May to November 2004, Chisinau territorial organisation of the Environmental Movement of Moldova implemented project "Moldova without Persistent Organic Pollutants". The project sought to reduce adverse health and environmental impacts of POPs.

Key objectives of the project incorporated:

- raising awareness of the general public of Moldova of adverse health and environmental impacts of POPs;
- identification of pollution hot spots in human settlements (including landfills, dilapidated and abandoned pesticide storages, industrial facilities);
- enhancement of public roles in decision-making on reduction of adverse health and environmental impacts of POPs;
- strengthening partnerships between the general public and authorities in the course of decision-making on reduction of adverse health and environmental impacts of POPs.

The following activities were conducted in the course of the project implementation:

1. Development of the information database on regional sources of POPs

The register of POPs pollution hot spots in the Chisinau municipality and central regions of Moldova was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resource. Besides that, the register was posted at the web-site of the organisation - the information is accessible for all interested parties. POPs pollution sources were identified, information on these sources was published in brochure.

2. Analysis of local situation, identification of socially active residents

In order to ensure successful project implementation, the initiative group was established. The group incorporated representatives of environmental NGOs Ecosphere, Kympushorul Ecologic, Unda Verde, SalvaEco, Lumya Verde and was chaired by Vladimir Graba - the Chairman of Chisinau territorial organisation of the Environmental Movement of Moldova. The most active NGO members established the survey group to carry out survey of public opinion on the problem. The survey questionnaire was developed and translated into Russian (the questionnaire form is enclosed). The survey covered 225 respondents from 13 settlements of Chisinau municipality and 75 respondents from the city of Chisinau.

Completed questionnaires were processed to produce absolute figures and percentages of responses to 11 specific questions. Besides that, the responses were grouped by age, gender, education and occupation criteria.

Fifty-seven respondents (19%) of the overall survey sample reported having some awareness of POPs and their health and environmental impacts, while more than a half of respondents reported having heard about POPs, and 88 respondents reported having no information on POPs. Respondents reported mass media outlets and NGOs as their key sources of information on chemicals. Thirteen respondents reported that they use chemicals for agricultural purposes often, others use them sometimes (80 respondents), rarely (58 respondents), very rarely (84 respondents) or never (65 respondents). One hundred nine respondents buy chemicals in retail shops, others buy them at marketplaces (104 respondents), from private individuals (21 respondents) and one respondent reported producing agricultural chemicals himself.

Answering the question "Who should manage storage and application of chemicals in your settlements?" respondents specified the following options: local authorities or specialised external facilities. Only one respondent failed to specify a particular responsible entity.

The survey results were presented at a press conference with participation of representatives of the City Council, relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs and mass media outlets (overall, 35 persons).

Results of the survey were published by local printed media outlets.

3. Raising public awareness of health and environmental impacts of POPs and key provisions of the Stockholm Convention

The tour action "Moldova without POPs" covered 13 settlements of Chisinau municipality. Overall, more than 850 persons took part in the action: local residents, representatives of local authorities, students, media representatives. Schools in these settlements were provided books on relevant matters.

In the course of the tour action, the participants examined pesticide storages, illegal waste dumps, official landfills and other sources of environmental impacts. Results of the tour action were discussed in the course of roundtable discussions "Let Us Exclude POPs from Our Life", that were held in August 2004, in 10 settlements of Chisinau municipality. Participants of the discussions were provided topical publications and posters.

On May 23, the Republican Philharmonic held a concert "Life without POPs" for more than 800 spectators.

In September, the topical brochure of Vladimir Garaba - "Persistent Organic Pollutants, Health and Environment" - was published in Russian and Romanian. The brochure was intended to raise public awareness of properties, health and environmental impacts of POPs. Besides that, the brochure provided information on available measures to reduce/eliminate adverse health and environmental impacts of POPs.

The brochure incorporates a detailed description of persistent organic pollutants, their nature, presence in environmental media, as well as information on national measures to reduce their adverse impacts.

The brochure will be of interest to both environmentalists and ordinary citizens, who want to get more information on the problem and improve their safety and the safety of their families. The brochure is available from the organisation on request.

On November 18, the brochure presentation was held. The presentation was attended by members of the initiative group, representatives of NGOs, the City Council, ministries and agencies, and interested mass media outlets (23 persons in total).

Besides that, 1000 copies of leaflet "Moldova - a POPs-free Country" were published and distributed in urban and rural settlements.

The leaflet contains easy-to-understand information on persistent organic pollutants, their brands, groups, adverse health and environmental impacts and key sources of POPs releases. The leaflet refers to key provisions of the Stockholm Convention.

In the course of implementation of project "Moldova without POPs", the project got a broad media coverage, including printed and electronic media outlets. Topical articles were published in national and the city newspapers; the national and the city TV channels aired five TV broadcasts with participation of the project manager. Overall, the national radio aired 12 topical broadcasts "Moldova without POPs".

TV companies also covered the project-related issues ("Moldova 1", "NIT", "Euro TV", "RIF", "ORT" in Moldova", etc). Overall, 10 TV broadcasts were aired.

4. Public participation in development of the National Plan of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention

Members of Chisinau territorial organisation of the Environmental Movement of Moldova were invited to participate in development of materials for the National Implementation Plan; in particular, they developed sections on POPs environmental impacts in Moldova and public participation in implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Representatives of the organisation participated in 5 seminars and roundtables in the framework of the World Bank project on POPs, they developed some proposals for the National Implementation Plan, that were incorporated into the official text. In the course of the information tour ("Moldova without POPs"), local residents were informed on contents of the draft National Implementation Plan.

All materials, developed in the course of the project implementation, were submitted to the Working Group in charge of development of the National Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention and presented to participants of the national seminar "Joint Actions for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention" (October 29, 2004). Some proposals were incorporated into the National Plan of Implementation of the Stockholm Convention, approved by the Government of Moldova.

Information on pesticides in settlements of Chisinau Municipality and Central Moldova (tons)

No.	Settlements	Unused pesticides	Banned pesticides	State of storage facilities
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

<i>Chisinau Municipality</i>				
1.	Kolonitsa village	6.2	-	Good
2.	"Flor" agricultural facility	0.702	-	Good
3.	Agricultural facility "Chisinau Greenhouses"	2.04	-	Satisfactory
4.	Chisinau National Institute of Viticulture and Enology	0.23	-	Pesticides are stored in a duly equipped storage facility. The storage is leased.
5.	The National Viticulture College	2.25	-	Good
6.	Durlesht town	4.0	-	The storage facility needs repairs
7.	Gratiesht village	50	-	The storage was demolished, pesticides are mixed with demolition waste
8.	Bubuech village	14.3	-	The storage facility was demolished, pesticides were removed to a duly equipped facility
9.	Bachoi village	9.709	-	Satisfactory
	<i>Total</i>	89.43		
Kelerashskiy district				
1.	Onishkan village	3.476	-	Satisfactory
2.	Khyrzhauka village	2.963	-	The storage facility needs capital repairs, it lacks doors, windows and a part of roof
3.	Sipoten village	1.500	-	The storage facility needs capital repairs, it lacks doors, windows and a part of roof
4.	Khorodishte village	8.871	-	The storage facility needs capital repairs, it lacks doors, windows and a part of roof
5.	"Agrichen Plus", Kalarash	6.000	-	Satisfactory
6.	Tudora village	0.200	-	The storage facility needs capital repairs, it lacks doors, windows and a part of roof
7.	Nishlkan village	0.200	-	The storage was demolished,

				pesticides are mixed with demolition waste
8.	"Fertilitate", Kalarash	94.794	-	Satisfactory
	<i>Total</i>	118.004		
Streshenskiy district				
1.	Zubresht village	6.98	-	Satisfactory
2.	Kozhushna village	-	1.16	Satisfactory
3.	Vornichen village	-	3.53	Satisfactory
4.	Romanesht village	-	2.98	The storage was demolished, it lacks doors and windows
5.	Streshen village	-	2.74	The storage was demolished, pesticides were sealed
6.	Teteresht, Syrets, Peneshesht, Voinova	15.5		Storage facilities were demolished, pesticides are stored in sealed containers
	<i>Total</i>	22.49	10.9	
Yalovenskiy district				
1.	Ruseshtiy Noi village	10	1.0	Satisfactory
2.	Gangura village	-	3.03	Satisfactory
3.	Yaloven town	1.4	8.13	The storage facility was demolished, pesticides are stored in sealed containers
4.	Khoresht village	4.155	-	Satisfactory
5.	Zymbesht village	2.5	2.5	Satisfactory
6.	Tsypala village	1.51	2	Satisfactory
7.	Molesht village	1.1	1.8	Satisfactory
8.	Maloch village	2.7	1.06	Satisfactory
9.	Bardar village	-	2.48	Satisfactory
10.	Ulmu village	7.45	-	The storage facility was demolished, pesticides are stored in sealed containers
11.	Mileshtii-Mich village	6.5	-	Satisfactory
12.	Rezen village	5		Satisfactory
13.	Chigyrlen village	5.005	-	Satisfactory
14.	Vasien village	2.2	-	Satisfactory
	<i>Total</i>	49.52	22.30	
Anenii Noi district				
1.	Bulboaka village	-	-	Satisfactory

2.	Khyrbovets village	1.5	-	Satisfactory
3.	Telita village	0.5	-	Satisfactory
4.	Kitrota village	1.5	-	The facility needs repairs, the roof
5.	Kobuska Noye village	-	-	Satisfactory
6.	Bulboaka village (storage facility of the Defence Ministry)	19.55	-	Satisfactory, the storage facility contains pesticides, delivered from Ketrosoy village (8t), Zhamena village (5.6t), Maksimovka village (1.3t), Tsynsteren village (2.7t), Sherpen village (1t), Kobuska Noye village (0.25t), Pukhechen village (0.7t)
	<i>Total</i>	4.9	-	