



Swiss Agency for
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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

**Volgograd Ecopress Information Centre
and Ecology Club**

**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

On April 22, 2005, in Volgograd, "Volgograd Ecopress" Information Centre and "Ecology" Club conducted two youth-oriented awareness raising actions - "Act with Us against POPs!" These actions were conducted in the central area of Volgograd, in the most polluted Krasnoarmeiskiy district of the city, where main industrial facilities of Volgograd operate. Schoolchildren, students of Volgograd State Agriculture Academy and Volgograd subsidiary of Moscow University of Consumers' Co-operation informed the city residents on the problem of environmental contamination by persistent organic pollutants. For two hours, at the key cross-roads of the city, students displayed their posters and used loudspeakers to inform the city residents on POPs-related problems in Volgograd. In the course of the action, they distributed awareness raising booklets on the threat of environmental pollution by Volgograd industrial facilities and hazardous effects of accumulation and spread of these substances. Students of law departments, under auspices of the Students' Legal Clinic, explained to the city residents what available options they have to materialise their rights for healthy environment. In the course of the action, more than 300 Volgograd residents signed a special petition, addressed to directors of industrial plants of the city. The petition was published in printed media outlets and mailed to directors of chemical, petrochemical and metallurgic facilities of Volgograd, including: "Khimprom", "Lukoil Oil Processing", "Tekhuglerod", "Kaustik", "Plastkard", "Keramika", etc. For additional information, please contact: Elena Vasilieva, "Volgograd Ecopress", valyon@online.ru