



## **Public participation on addressing chemicals safety issues in EECA IPEN EECCA regional meeting 2017**

The IPEN EECCA regional meeting took place in Erevan, Armenia, September 28-29, 2017. The meeting was organized by the Eco-Accord IPEN Hub for EECCA in cooperation with Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE). More than 40 people representing IPEN POs in the region attended.

The goal of the meeting was to inform IPEN POs in EECCA about IPEN's current and future projects, campaigns and initiatives, and the role IPEN EECCA POs play in these activities.

The outcomes of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (<http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs/Overview/tabid/5306/language/en-US/Default.aspx>) and the first meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the Sound Management of Chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (<http://www.saicm.org/Meetings/FirstIntersessional/tabid/5463/language/en-US/Default.aspx>) were highlighted. Workshop participants discussed the agenda and how they can be better involved in the UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, that will gather in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4-6 December 2017 under the overarching theme of pollution (<http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/ru>).

The workshop was largely focused on the discussion of the IPEN 2020 Global Plan, which identifies programmatic goals in its key areas of work and the concrete outcomes that IPEN hopes to achieve by 2020 to advance those goals. IPEN POs in EECCA presented the EECCA Regional Strategy of work for the period between 2016-2020 that includes regional and national priorities, and is linked to the IPEN 2020 Global Plan. It was decided to update the EECCA Regional Strategy of work based on new information revealed at the workshop.

The workshop participants discussed cooperation with IGOs such as UN Environment, UNDP, and UNIDO, as well as with the European Commission, and the Eurasian Economic Commission. Results of the IPEN regional campaign on lead in paint from Moldova and Kazakhstan were presented. Issues of chemical safety under the European Union (REACH) as well as the NGO project on phthalates in toys in the Eurasian Economic Commission were highlighted.

IPEN new initiatives, including Women and Chemicals, Gender Strategy, Women's Caucus, Ocean Pollution, and Chemicals in Products were on the agenda of the meeting and aroused great interest. Three presentations on gender and endocrine disrupting chemicals, POPs in breast milk and monitoring of heavy metals in food linked the work of NGOs with that of the EECCA scientific community. Links to the Russian language websites on EDCs and POPs-EDCs were presented.

All workshop participants had an opportunity to intervene and participate in the discussions about IPEN's new projects and campaigns, and their implementation in EECCA. One project, in particular, is a public campaign against the construction of one of the largest mining and processing plants (MPP) in Russia - Tominskiy MPP. The plant is planned to be constructed within the protection zone of Chelyabinsk, a city with more than 1 million residents, close to the only source of drinking water supply for the city and the district. The meeting participants signed the Appeal to the President and the Government of the Russian Federation with a request to terminate the construction and to stop the ongoing environmental mayhem in the Urals, in the Year of Ecology, declared in Russia in 2017.

The meeting participants also highlighted the importance of environmental and biomonitoring in the region. The value of new data and IPEN projects analyzing how people's health and the environment are affected by chemical exposure and chemical pollution sources were noted. All meeting participants expressed willingness to continue being part of these initiatives and participate more in data collection, including gender disaggregated data on chemical exposure. A need to cooperate more with scientific and research institutions was pointed out, along with the value of peer review articles that help to justify data, while communicating it to governments and businesses.

All presentations and the programme of meeting can be downloaded from the Eco-Accord website at: [www.ecoaccord.org](http://www.ecoaccord.org)

Eco-Accord is the IPEN Hub for the EECCA region. Besides its own projects on chemical safety, Eco-Accord coordinates the implementation of IPEN initiated projects in the region, facilitates communication sharing between IPEN POs and IPEN Secretariat, and serves as a liaison between EECCA public campaigns and IPEN global campaigns on chemicals and waste.

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