

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

Working Group on Environment
Finnish Chairmanship 2012-2013

Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption

Work Programme (2012-2013)

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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.

The Work Programme guides the subgroups efforts in promoting cleaner production and sustainable consumption during the Finnish chairmanship of the Working Group on Environment during 2012-2013.

2. BACKGROUND

Cleaner Production is an approach intended to maximize resource efficiency and minimize waste and emissions in the production process, thereby also cutting costs and improving the economic results. Cleaner Production measures have been implemented to reduce emissions to the environment in a number of countries. In general the results have been encouraging from an environmental point of view, both through reduced pollution and through the improved environmental awareness as a result of the implementation process in the participating companies. It is equally important to notice that Cleaner Production measures will give a significant contribution to the bottom line results in the companies, partly through more effective use and management of raw materials and energy resources, and partly through improved quality and productivity as a result of improved motivation of employees and management. Furthermore, it gives business advantages to compete on a global market where demand for sustainable products is growing day by day.

History

The Ministers of the Environment (of Barents Region) requested the Working Group on Environment (WGE) to promote effectively actions on Cleaner Production and to develop a Policy document with an aim to improve chemicals management as well. The WGE established a Task Force on Cleaner Production in October 2002 under Swedish Chairmanship to develop a strategy and concrete activities on Cleaner Production. Besides the Policy document, a common Action Plan was developed. In order to identify measures and responsible actors according to the common Action Plan, the countries within the Barents cooperation taking a direct active part in the implementation of the action plan developed National Action Plans.

The Task Force on Cleaner Production presented a policy document and Action Plan at the ministerial meeting in Luleå in 2003. This included enhanced co-operation and shared responsibilities in this field. In 2007 the BEAC Working Group on Environment decided to review the Policy document. The document was revised and presented as a strategy document, and was endorsed by the BEAC Working Group on Environment in March 2009.

The WGE also instructed the Task Force on Cleaner Production to identify the synergies of Cleaner Production cooperation in the Barents environmental hot spot process.

At the Ministerial meeting in November 2007 in Moscow the mandate to the Cleaner Production Task Force was broadened to also include special attention to and activities on environmentally sound consumption in order to also consider the environmental effects of unsustainable consumption and to connect to the international work within UN on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Hence, the Task Force was transformed into a subgroup and the name was altered to the sub-group on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC).

3. MANDATE AND DECLARATION

The Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption has the mandate to work on projects on environmental hot spots, best available techniques (BAT), implementation of cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption strategy, projects on reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gases emissions, projects on cleaner production, energy efficiency and sustainable consumption, projects on prevention and reduction of the pollution of environment by dangerous and harmful substances.

The Umeå Declaration of November 2011 states the following:

The Environment Ministers

16. *emphasised* the importance of applying methods on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption to promote pollution and waste prevention, green economy, resource efficiency and mitigation of climate change, and *welcomed* activities carried out by the subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC) in accordance with the group work program,

17. *encouraged* the efforts to strengthen the link of Barents region to the global work on Sustainable Consumption and Production, building on the Marrakesh Process,

18. *invited* the enterprises acting in the Barents region to improve their environmental, social and economic performance,

19. *Underlined* the need for further work on information and education in order to disseminate knowledge on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) tools, best available technologies (BAT), best environmental practices, authorities and civil society in order to promote a shift to sustainable consumption and production, including behavioural changes.

20. *called for* coordinated efforts between the BEAC Working Group on Environment, the Regional Working Group on Environment, and the Joint Energy Working Group on identifying and implementing projects on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and cleaner production and consumption.

In addition a reference to the Rio+20 Conference was made:

42. *expressed* commitment to contribute to the Rio+20 conference and encouraged the Working Group on Environment to follow up its results in the Barents Region,

4. GOAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The goal under the Finnish chairmanship is to promote cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption through multilateral and bilateral projects. Co-operation and coordination with other BEAC and BEAR working groups will be strengthened, especially with the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples and Working Group on Energy as well as with the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP WG) under the Arctic Council to reduce the environmental and social impact from the way products are produced, consumed and handled as waste in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

The activities under the Finnish chairmanship also contribute to the implementation of the results of the Rio+20 Conference and to the challenges of the green economy in the Barents Region.

5. PRIORITIES UNDER FINNISH CHAIRMANSHIP

The main activities and priority projects in the field of CPESC are described below. Projects and activities in the Work program will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.

CPESC priorities under Finnish Chairmanship 2012- 2013

- 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.

Method of work

- The CPESC subgroup will have minimum 2 meetings every year
- All decisions of the subgroup are made in consensus. The observers have an advisory role. All decisions should be reflected in a protocol or minutes from the meeting,
- The subgroup should develop and agree on priority projects for every 2 year chairmanship period,
- All relevant documents from the subgroup should be posted on the BEAC webpage to secure availability and transparency,
- Participation in the subgroup is open to federal and regional authorities in the Barents region. Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden should have appointed members to the subgroup. Representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and other relevant organizations, including NGOs may participate as observers in the subgroup,
- The rotation of chairmanship of the subgroup will follow the chairmanship of BEAC WGE, unless otherwise agreed,
- Reports and recommendations from the subgroup will be submitted to the BEAC WGE for information and approval.

6. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following multilateral or bilateral projects or activities are identified:

1. Finalize project case studies and good examples of Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption approaches. (Lead country: Norway)
2. 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)
3. 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)

4. 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 and a programme on sustainable lifestyles and education). (Lead country: Sweden)
5. Cooperation with UNEP and BEAC regional group on a seminar on sustainable Tourism (Follow up seminar in St Petersburg 2011) in order to contribute to sustainable consumption in the tourism sector in the Barents area. (Lead country: Sweden)
6. 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: to be defined)

New projects/activities can be added to the list when new initiatives emerge, for example under the following already identified themes:

- Cleaner production training programmes for enterprises in North West Russia
- Cooperation with the BEAC Joint Working Group on Energy and the Energy Efficiency Centers; providing information and education
- Follow-up of the Rio+20 Conference results and outcomes on Green Economy

6. MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

The following persons are the members of the Subgroup:

Emma Nurmi, Chair, Finnish Environment Institute
Gunilla Blomquist, Swedish Ministry of the Environment
Maria Dronova, Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology (MNRE), Russia
Hanne Aronsen, Climate and Pollution Agency, Norway

Observers

Yan Tsygankov, Cleaner Production and Sustainable Development Centre, Moscow
Henrik Forsström, NEFCO
Maria Maliniemi, NEFCO
Ruslan Butovsky, Sustainable Development Fund, Russia

Other relevant organisations and institutions may participate as observers in the subgroup.

APPENDICES

CPESC REPORT TO BEAC WGE 2010-2011
CPESC STRATEGY DOCUMENT
LIST OF PROJECTS (to be updated on a regular basis)
PROJECT SHEETS (to be updated on a regular basis)