

	UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
	INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLAND

PROJECT GF/POL/01/004

**ENABLING ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE EARLY ACTION ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT
ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs)**

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES PERFORMED DURING THE NIP DEVELOPMENT PHASE

(June 2003 - January 2004)

Director of the Institute of Environmental Protection	Prof. Barbara Gworek	
National Project Manager	Prof. Maciej Sadowski	

Warsaw, February 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
CHAPTER 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ISSUES	5
1.1. National Project Steering Committee	5
1.2. The project implementation team	6
1.3. Meetings	7
1.4. Participation in international workshops	7
1.5. Laboratories interested in exchange of experience on POPs monitoring procedures	8
1.6. Project Web Sites.....	8
1.7. Purchases.....	9
1.8. Settlement of project accounts.....	9
CHAPTER 2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT “NATIONAL STOCKHOLM CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN”	10
2.1. Assigning responsibilities to task teams	10
2.2. Identification of management options	11
2.3. Need for introduction of technologies	11
2.4. Assessment of the costs and benefits of management options	12
2.5. Development of a strategy	12
2.6. Preparation of initial funding request package.....	13
2.7. Defining expected results and targets	13
2.8. Development of a detailed implementation plan	13
2.9. Expert review of the implementation plan	13
CHAPTER 3. NIP CONSULTATION WORKSHOP.....	14
3.1. Timetable and documentation of the workshop.....	14
3.2. Workshop and its results.....	14
3.3. Use of the Consultation Workshop results	14

CHAPTER 4. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE NIP DEVELOPMENT PHASE..... 15**CONCLUSIONS 15****Documentation 16****APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1. Project proposals concerning POPs submitted for UNIDO consideration (under GEF financing during 2004 – 2006)
- Appendix 2. List of experts, institutions and organizations participating in implementation of the Phase IV of the GEF Project
- Appendix 3. List of studies and publications completed and issued during the NIP Development Phase
- Appendix 4. Independent expert review of the draft „National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan”
- Appendix 5. Timetable of the NIP Consultation Workshop (Warsaw, 15 January 2004)
- Appendix 6. List of documents distributed during the NIP Consultation Workshop
- Appendix 7. List of institutions represented at the Project Workshops
- Appendix 8. Conclusions and recommendations of the NIP Consultation Workshop

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the “Enabling activities to facilitate early action on the implementation of the Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)” project is to prepare inventories of threats from use in Poland of hazardous substances (at present and in the past), subject of the Stockholm Convention and to develop the National Implementation Plan. The main result of the project will be the ratification of the Stockholm Convention by the Polish State and development of instruments required for its implementation.

Results attained during the Inception Phase (January – March 2002), during the Inventory Phase (April – December 2002) and during the Priority Setting Phase (January/March – May) were presented in the following reports:

- “Inception Workshop Report” [1],
- “Progress Report Covering the POPs Inventory Phase” [2],
- “Inception Workshop Report” [3].

In this report results obtained during the NIP Development Phase (June 2003 – January 2004), which with the approval from UNIDO, lasted longer than envisaged by the Contract. The main output of this Phase was the development, of the draft “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” (NIP) on the base of results of the Priority Setting Phase [4]:

- The list of criteria for setting priorities and
- The list of 10 priority objectives of POPs management in Poland based on these criteria.

For the development of the draft NIP 18 Technical Reports, representing studies and publications on detailed issues, serving as the base of the Plan were completed, a workshop to discuss the draft NIP with a wide range of interested public administration, non-governmental and commercial institutions was organised and activities, aimed at extension of information concerning POPs hazards via Internet, were continued.

Tasks of the last, NIP Endorsement Phase, are devoted to the finalisation of the NIP, to consultation of the final version of the Plan and, as result of these activities, endorsement of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan for Poland.

Chapter 1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1.1. National Project Steering Committee

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee took place on June 27th, 2003 at the premises of the Ministry of Environment. The Chairman of the Steering Committee Mr. Krzysztof Szamałek, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment headed the meeting. 15 members of the Steering Committee took part. Absent were the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Chemical Substances and Preparations, National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management and the business organisations.

The members of the Steering Committee received the following documents:

- Minutes of the III Committee meeting,
- Conclusions and recommendations of the Priority Validation Workshop (Warsaw, 26 May 2003).
- Technical Report on the outputs of the Priority Setting Phase.
- Description of tasks conditioning the attainment of priorities adopted of the “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” (preliminary).

The last two documents were subject of discussion during the meeting.

Members of the Steering Committee took cognisance of the conclusions and recommendations worked out by the participants of the Validation Workshop. In addition to that they listened to the report on results of the UNIDO Workshop in Brno (31.05 – 1.06.2003) and were informed about the GEF’s decision to appropriate 250 million USD in support of projects concerning POPs reduction activities, which may be used primarily on projects strengthening relevant capacities and support pilot projects requiring capital inputs.

Prof. Maciej Sadowski, the Project Manager, presented the Technical Report on implementation of tasks of the Priority Setting Phase, which includes three basic elements connected with requirements for the preparation of NIP i.e.: (i) national long-term and mid-term objectives of the Plan, (ii) criteria for priority setting (5 packages of criteria) and (iii) 10 priorities, representing the foundation for the development of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan for Poland. The Committee decided to fix the date of 4 July 2003 as deadline for submission of comments and reservations concerning the mentioned working documents to the Department of Environmental Protection Instruments of the Ministry of Environment. The Chairman of the Steering Committee requested the Project Manager to take account of these comments in preparation of the final version of the Technical Report on Priority Setting.

Referring to the advancement of activities during the NIP Development Phase the Project Manager reported to the Steering Committee on:

- Extension of the project expert team by adding economists and public relation specialists;
- Finalisation of agreements concerning NGOs participation in project activities, accepted by the III Steering Committee Meeting;

- Results on activities performed so far, concerning detailed tasks and measures to be included into the NIP (see above “Description of tasks ...”),
- Plans of the coming project implementation activities

At the end of the meeting the position of the Polish Party at the VII Session of the International Stockholm Convention Negotiating Committee (Geneva, 14 – 18.07.2003) in the light of the Stockholm Convention Article 13 provision (concerning participation in financing activities in developing countries within the framework of the Convention) and the Articles 5 and 6 of European Accession Treaty were discussed.

At the turn of August and September 2003 members of the Steering Committee responded by e-mail to the draft proposals of 3 projects (for GEF/UNIDO financing) submitted to them by the Project Manager for review. After further consultations the Ministry of Environment approved 4 project proposals (Appendix 1) which Prof. Maciej Sadowski, the Project Manager submitted in due course to the UNIDO Headquarters on September 5th, 2003.

On December 17th 2003 a detailed Project Implementation Plan for the NIP Endorsement Phase and the draft National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan have been sent to the Steering Committee members for information before the next meeting, which has been scheduled for February 11th, 2004. It will be devoted to discussion and conclusions concerning the draft NIP and the strategy for the endorsement of the final National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan.

1.2. The project implementation team

During 2003 a total of 40 agreements with selected suitable experts, defining detailed terms of reference and time schedules of activities to be performed, were concluded. The following sub-contracts covered the period from June 2003 to January 2004:

- 27 sub-contracts (and 4 annexes) with task team’s experts and the independent expert reviewing the draft NIP.
- 6 sub-contracts with supporting specialists, for instance maintenance of the www project sites and computer maintenance services, translation of documents concerning POPs, additional language editing and correction of the National POPs Profile report in English before publication.
- 2 sub-contracts with the Lowerrisian Foundation of Sustainable Development and the Polish Ecological Club –Upper Silesian Branch (after agreement of the Steering Committee for their participation as NGOs in the project implementation). The National Waste Prevention Association “3R” withdrew from co-operation.
- in result of competitive bidding procedure and after approval by the UNIDO 2 confirmed purchase orders from the „Progress” Research Activities Organisation Agency (*Agencja Organizacji Prac Naukowych* “Progress”) for editorial preparation and the Scientific Publishers (*Wydawnictwa Naukowe*) for printing the Polish and English language versions of the POPs National Profile – Poland were issued and the ordered work accomplished.
- 1 contract with the Orbis S.A. Company, Hotel Novotel Warszawa Centrum Branch, to host the NIP Consultation Workshop on January 15th, 2004 was concluded for, the cost of service amounted less than 6 thousand EUR and the

company is known for high quality performance provided at law price, in which case competitive bidding may not be required by the public procurement regulations.

1.3 Meetings

During the NIP Implementation Phase the following business meetings and appointments were arranged by the Project Manager:

- Individual working talks (23 – 24 June 2003) with the Team Leaders of working groups aimed at exchange of information on progress of activities, discussion about tasks in general and activities required achieving the set priorities before the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee.
- Individual meetings with experts devoted to co-ordination of the scope of tasks and their specific share in project activities during the period May – October 2003.
- Working meetings devoted to refining and supplementation of the National POPs Profile report before final preparation for publishing.
- Business meeting, during which the procedure of work on the NIP was discussed (15.07.2003)
- Co-ordination meetings with the editors responsible for the preparation of the National POPs Profile for publication (September – October and November 2003).
- Discussion meetings devoted to the development of NIP (October – November 2003).
- Meetings devoted to preparation of the consultation and promotion workshop concerning the draft NIP (see section 3) in December 2003 – January 2004.

The project staff participated in preparation of the Steering Committee meeting on June 27th, 2003 and begun arrangements for the Committee's meeting scheduled for February 11th, 2004.

1.4 Participation in international workshops

Mr. Krzysztof Czarnomski, head of the task team on wastes and residues, took part in the STAP/GEF Technical Workshop on Emerging Innovative Technologies for the Destruction and Decontamination of Obsolete POPs held on 1-3 October 2003 in Washington D.C. This workshop was devoted to the review and assessment of methods alternative to incineration, such as POPs oxidation under thermal disintegration conditions; methods (about 50 technical processes) of POPs destruction and decontamination or elimination of POPs polluted environmental media (soil, water) as well as technical equipment. The task of the experts gathered was to:

- Review the technical papers and presentations, description of technical processes of 5 categories (see section 2.3);
- Examine the use and adequacy of alternative technologies in the context of the existing stockpiles, and taking into account the conditions prevailing in developing countries;
- Examine questions surrounding technology selection;

- Identify non-combustion technologies that could contribute to the destruction of obsolete POPs stockpiles; and
- Explore barriers to the use of emerging technologies, and the need for technology transfer.

Information obtained during that workshop was used to prepare the technical report on alternative technologies (GF/POL/NIP/R.11) and for development of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan.

1.5. Laboratories interested in exchange of experience on POPs monitoring procedures

Basing on results of inventory of the domestic capacities concerning analytical laboratories, performed within the framework of this project, the Project Manager forwarded a proposal to the Ministry of Environment to entry four laboratories, according to their expressed desire to participate, into the network of laboratories accessible on the UNEP/Chemical web sites (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/gmn/>). These laboratories wish to participate in exchange of experience on broadly understood monitoring of the 12 POPs, subject of the Stockholm Convention, on the forum of Internet discussion taking place within the framework of the POPs Global Monitoring Programme. Officially 4 laboratories, which submitted appropriate questionnaires, were proposed for entry, i.e:

- Environmental Protection Laboratory, Pulp and Paper Research Institute in Lodz (*Laboratorium Ochrony Środowiska Instytutu Celulozowo-Papierniczego*)
- Laboratory for Chemical Weapons Convention Verification of the Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry in Warsaw (*Laboratorium Wojskowego Instytutu Chemii i Radiometrii*);
- Laboratory for Trace Organic Analysis, Cracow University of Technology (*Laboratorium Zespołu Analiz Śladowych Instytutu C-1 Politechniki Krakowskiej*);
- The Pomeranian Laboratory of Toxic Substances in Gdansk (*Laboratorium Zakładu Ochrony Wód Przymorza Instytutu Meteorologii i Gospodarki Wodnej*).

1.6. Project Web Sites

Since its installation in May 2002 the Project Internet Portal (<http://ks.ios.edu.pl>), devoted to extension of information on issues connected with implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Poland, is systematically fed with new materials and updated. Three sub-sites are active:

- „Activities” – presenting general information about the implementation of the GF/POL/01/004 Project and the account of project documentation (with the possibility of downloading the documents in form of text-graphic files. Part of them is accessible to the public and the remaining part is available via password available only to specific groups of users, for instance members of the Steering Committee and the project experts) as well as information about institutions and persons interested in the projects results.
- „Library”, containing bibliographical information on publications connected with the Stockholm Convention subject area;

- “News”, announcing the most important events.

The web site serves all the interested bodies (institutions, experts, environmental activists) in Poland (Polish language page) and abroad (pages in English and Russian languages). For obvious reasons the Polish language site is most complete. On the foreign language sites only information and references potentially interesting for the foreign user are placed.

The report of the project’s Inventory Phase entitled “Persistent Organic Pollutants. Volume I, National Profile – Poland [5] is presented in the respective language version of the English and Polish sites (as files under Acrobat programme).

Since July 2002, when the Internet Portal became fully operational, the interest in information presented on these sites, according to statistics generated by the Webalizer based on logins of the www server, is steadily growing. From June 2003 until January 15th 2004 a number of 2776 visits on our sites were recorded during which 51706 sub-calls were noted.

1.7. Purchases

Apart from computer equipment and computer programmes, purchased by the project funds during the previous phases, the following purchases were made recently:

- Publications and special technical dictionaries, including Polish-English,
- Basic stationary, among them also materials needed for the workshop arrangements,
- Computer materials, such as microdisks, CD-Rs, toner and ink for the printer,

needed in efficient daily work on the project.

1.8. Settlement of project accounts

After the approval of the reports of the Priority Setting Phase by UNIDO, i.e.:

- The technical report „Criteria and Priorities for the Development of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan for Poland” [4], and the
- Validation Workshop Report [3]

the invoice of the Institute of Environmental Protection date 11.VII.2003 was settled by UNIDO.

Three Quarterly Financial Statements (sixth, seventh and eighth) reflecting the progress in Project implementation [6, 7, 8], as well as the Special Financial Report (new form) covering the entire project life were submitted to UNIDO in due course. On January 19th, 2004 the Annual Financial Statement covering the year 2003 [9] together with the amendment of the Seventh Financial Statement (in result of a calculation error committed) [10] together with a respective amendment of the above mentioned Special Financial Report were sent to UNIDO for consideration.

On January 16th, 2004 the national POPs inventory report, issued in print in English language as the „Persistent Organic Pollutants. Volume I. National Profile - Poland” (20 copies) and in Polish „Trwałe zanieczyszczenia organiczne. Tom 1. Ocena sytuacji w Polsce” (1 copy) [5] were dispatched by courier to the UNIDO.

It is envisaged, that in February 2004 this report together with a shortened version of the draft “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” (dated 15.12.2003) in English language will be submitted to UNIDO.

Chapter 2. Development of the draft “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan”

In course of the NIP Development Phase the first draft of the “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” was completed and submitted to the independent expert for review on December 15th 2003.

In the process of implementing the NIP Development Phase the following 9 check points discussed below can be recognised, though the sequence of their execution differs slightly from the sequence set out by the contract.

2.1. Assigning responsibilities to task teams

For the NIP Development Phase the team of experts has been extended by adding specialists in the field of environmental economics, environmental legislation, public relations and experts in animal feeds and food products. Ultimately 7 expert teams participated in this phase of project activities (Appendix 2). The following basic form of co-operation was adopted in developing the NIP:

- 1) Gathering of task team leaders and key experts initiating the NIP development activities aimed at discussion and assignment of specific tasks to each of the task teams;
- 2) Work within the expert teams on preparation of technical reports discussing broadly all issues that should be taken into account when developing the NIP;
- 3) Business meetings with the task team leaders to define the approach to the development of the NIP, co-ordinate the tables of contents of specific chapters and to mutual exchange of views and discuss substantial issues;
- 4) Legal, economic and technical consultations;
- 5) Work on the detailed tasks and measures required to attain the goals within specific priorities and particular chapters of the NIP;
- 6) Editorial work on the preparation of the draft “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan”.

The results worked out were subject of consultations with the Steering Committee (see section 1.1) and the representatives of interested institutions during the workshop (see section 3).

Appendix 3 presents the list of technical reports prepared until December 2003. In the following sections citing their reference numbers makes reference to the specific reports. The final output of the NIP Development Phase is the draft “National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” (GF/POL/NIP/PRO.1), which was subject of an independent review (see section 2.9). The draft NIP is available in Polish language at the

Institute of Environmental Protection. A shortened version of that document with appendices is being submitted to UNIDO together with this Progress Report.

2.2. Identification of management options

At the beginning options for POPs management with consideration of gradual elimination and risk reduction were determined. The available domestic and international options of POPs management were reviewed in terms of their suitability for selection of adequate alternatives. In cases, where it seemed more effective for the achievement of the established targets, a greater number of alternatives were proposed. The task team dealing with wastes and residues prepared proposals with the aim to address priority goals with assessment of expected results concerning PCBs (GF/POL/NIP/R.4 & R.15), outdated POPs containing pesticides (GF/POL/NIP/R.15 & R.10) and releases from industrial waste landfills (GF/POL/NIP/R.9 & R.14).

2.3. Need for introduction of technologies

In accordance with the criteria of priority setting proposed in result of the Priority Setting Phase and endorsed by the Steering Committee technologies for POPs elimination other than incineration were identified basing on the available literature (GE/POL/NIP/R.2) and drawing on information gained during the October workshop in the US (see section 1.4). The technologies (GE/POL/NIP/R.11) can be subdivided into 5 categories:

- A. Processing methods of commercial value and practically proven:
 - GPRC Gas Phase Chemical Reduction;
 - Base Catalysed Decomposition;
 - Sodium Reduction;
 - SCWO;
 - Plasma Arc;
 - Pyrolysis/gasifiers.
- B. Processing methods just being introduced into the practical use:
 - Molten Salt Oxidation;
 - Solvated electron technology;
 - Ball milling;
 - Geo-Melt™ Process.
- C. Technologies still under research:
 - Mediated Electrochemical Oxidation (CeO_x);
 - Mediated Electrochemical Oxidation (AEA Silver II Process);
 - Catalytic hydrogenation
- D. Technologies requiring to be studied, but their applicability cannot be evaluated yet
- E. The last group comprises processes regarded as unsuitable for elimination of stocks and waste containing POPs (MnO_x/TiO₂ Catalyst Degradation, TiO₂-based V₂O₅/WO₃ Catalyst, FE(III) Photocatalyst Degradation, Ozonation/Electrical Discharge Destruction, Molten Metal, Molten Slag Process, All bio- and Phytoremediation processes).

Suitability of selected methods for the Polish economic conditions was presented during the Consultation Workshop (Warsaw, 15.01.2004) for consideration and in striving public support for safe and effective POPs elimination methods.

In view of the status of Poland as a EU accessing country (the planned date of accession 1 May 2004) the technology transfer may be performed under general terms (commercial). However until 2010 Poland has the right to seek GEF grants, that is why a set of project proposals, including 3 capital development and one educational projects, were prepared and submitted to UNIDO for consideration (Appendix 1).

Since POPs, subject of the Stockholm Convention, are not produced in Poland a conclusion was drawn that the involvement in issues concerning use of substances alternative to POPs as well as methods and techniques aimed at reduction of their environmental emission is not appropriate.

2.4. *Assessment of the costs and benefits of management options*

The expert evaluation of costs and benefits of different POPs management options, adequate to Polish conditions, has been included in the technical report (GE/POL/NIP/R.15). A comparison was made between the options serving the achievement of goals established by the Convention and the solutions cost wise most effective indicated.

2.5. *Development of a strategy*

The draft of the national strategy for exchange of information, education, communication and awareness rising has been prepared following the results of studies described by the technical report (GF/POL/NIP/R.17 & R.18), including action plans aiming at:

- Rising awareness on issues concerning POPs among politicians and decision makers,
- Preparation and distribution of information concerning POPs with specific stress on:
 - Information on direct threats (for instance basic hazards posed by POPs, potential exposure of man and environmental impacts, contaminated areas and sites, tables of responsibilities easing contacts with the appropriate authorities and institutions dealing with POPs),
 - Emission information (data obtained in result of inventories, monitoring, measurement of POPs emission and release to the environment and to food products).

Extension of information about POPs by use of the Internet, training and workshops, mass media including publications of articles promoting the achievements of research and technical efforts are incorporated into the strategy of public relations. The strategy also proposes that the existing Information Centre on Environment at the Ministry of Environment should add the information on POPs to its portfolio of activities. These should include the support of contacts between the public and decision makers, state authorities and international organisations etc.

It has been proposed to work out new, guiding programmes for:

- Upgrading the knowledge of teachers and doctor, since they are the key source of information on health transferred to the public,
- Training of target groups dealing with POPs,
- Campaigns of NGOs in support of implementation of the Stockholm Convention

(GE/POL/NIP/R.16).

2.6. *Preparation of initial funding request package*

The technical report (GE/POL/NIP/R.15) presents the results of studies performed by the team of environmental economists, comprising evaluation of costs to be expected in connection with implementation of the Stockholm Convention subdivided into:

- Costs of administrative and organisational tasks and
- Cost deriving from implementation of measures directly aimed at elimination of POPs in Poland, hence costs of capital expenditures on services and development.

The report indicates also the potential sources of financing implementation of priority tasks determined by the „National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan” as well as estimated costs to be born by specific commercial enterprises in this connection. The report includes also a description of economic instruments and possibilities of their use for the implementation of the Convention.

The NIP comprises a summary assessment of implementation of specific tasks and the framework schedule of their execution. Domestic and foreign (including GEF) financial sources to implement priority capital investment projects are also proposed.

2.7. *Defining expected results and targets*

General and detailed goals are formulated in the draft NIP (GF/POL/NIP/PRO.1) on the base of results of the Priority Setting Phase. They envisage for example elimination of pesticide landfills and PCB containing equipment until 2010.

2.8. *Development of a detailed implementation plan*

The draft NIP comprises of all the tasks aimed at elimination of POPs from the environment identified and approved during the Priority Setting Phase of the GF/POL/01/004 Project implementation. This refers also to the safe elimination of PCBs and outdated stocks of other substances and products, assessment of opportunities for application of alternative technologies and proposals for amendments and/or supplements to the relevant legal regulations.

2.9. *Expert review of the implementation plan*

The draft of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan, comprising of all the issues discussed above, has been submitted on 15 December 2004 to the independent expert Prof. Maciej Nowicki, (highly recognised, outstanding environmental protection expert, former Minister of Environment (1991 - 1993) and now the President of the EcoFund Foundation - the National GEF Co-ordination Centre in Poland) who agreed to critically review the draft. The Appendix 4 presents his generally positive report, providing many valuable comments and guidelines, which will be taken into account during further work on the NIP.

Chapter 3. NIP CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

3.1. Timetable and documentation of the workshop

In accordance with the detailed work plan for the NIP Development Phase a one-day workshop was held on January 15th, 2004 in Warsaw. The main objective of the workshop was to present the draft National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan (the version dated 15.12.2003) to the invited experts for discussion focussed on the proposed approach and solutions and to listen to comments and possible supplementary ideas, which would help to refine and finalise the said draft.

Appendix 5 gives the detailed timetable of the workshop. The list of documents distributed to the workshop participants is concluded in Appendix 6. 83 participants, interested in the issues of persistent organic pollutants, representing 67 institutions, including 28 new ones, attended the workshop (Appendix 7).

3.2. Workshop and its results

Mrs. Monika Lesz, Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee on behalf of Mr. Krzysztof Szamałek, Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Steering Committee opened the Consultation Workshop, promoting the outputs of the NIP Development Phase. Prof. Maciej Sadowski, the National Project Manager, chaired the meeting. The invited UNIDO representative, because of earlier commitments, could not attend.

Participants of the workshop listened to 11 presentations, describing the specific issues included in the draft NIP, made during the day. Apart from comments and proposals of the participants during their interventions on the specific topics it was agreed that the Project Manager awaits further comments and proposals, particularly with reference to the detailed list of tasks and measures compiled in the document GF/POL/SEM.4/INF.2, until February 15th, 2004.

3.3. Use of the Consultation Workshop results

The workshop's conclusions and recommendations (Appendix 8), together with comments from participants expected to be submitted in due course as well as further amendments by authors will be considered during the development of the successive version of the NIP, which shall ultimately be subject of review by the interested departments of the Ministry of Environment and endorsement by the Minister of Environment. After this procedure is completed the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan will be put on the Internet Portal of the Stockholm Convention Focal Point (<http://ks.ios.edu.pl>).

The last but not least goal of the workshop was to make an impact on the public awareness on threats posed by POPs and ways of their prevention. Some of the invited institutions/persons, who used to attend the project workshops so far, could not make it this time. On their request 18 sets of workshop materials were mailed to them. The workshop presentations and other documents are also accessible on the Project's web site. In result of the spreading information about the GF/POL/01/004 Project's activities the list of institutions interested in the issue of persistent organic pollutants is growing continuously (Appendix 7).

Chapter 4. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE NIP DEVELOPMENT PHASE

During the NIP Development Phase the report (GF/POL/INV/R.23), presenting results of the preliminary inventory of used and stored PCB containing equipment, was prepared. According to the binding regulations the industries have been obliged to submit the relevant information to the regional governors until December 31st, 2002. The latest data were included into the report of the Inventory Phase.

After the UNIDO agreed by the end of August 2003 to allocate the project budget savings to the publication of the National POPs Profile in Polish and English languages, immediate action was taken to select the editing and printing companies, to whom that job would be entrusted. Verification of the English translation of the text, editorial amendments and additional proof reading was financed directly from the Project funds. The report under the title “Persistent Organic Pollutants. Volume I. National Profile – Poland” has been printed in 500 copies of the Polish language version and in 300 copies in the English language version. Part of the impression of the Polish language version was distributed during the Consultation Workshop and mailed to persons interested in the POPs problems. To UNIDO will be provided with both versions of the publication. The electronic files of both versions have been installed on the Project Internet Portal.

The following documents, regarded as important in the following activities, particularly in the development of the NIP, were translated into Polish language:

- “Format and timing of part reporting under art.15” (UNEP/POPs/INC.7/19)”,
- “Community Strategy for Dioxins, Furans and Polychlorinated Biphenyl’s, COM(2001)593 final”,
- “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Persistent Organic Pollutants and amending Directives 79/117/EEEC and 96/59/EC”.

In order to draw the public attention to threats caused by the persistent organic pollutants 2 series of leaflets were prepared within the Project additional activities concerning:

- dioxins produced by the individual heating systems fired with solid fuels for three target groups, i.e. teachers, inhabitants, farmers and self-governments,
- handling of PCBs for three target groups, i.e. public administration, industry and the population at large.

The issue of their publishing and wide dissemination within the country remains an open question.

CONCLUSIONS

Developing the draft of the National Stockholm Convention Implementation Plan including, in accordance with the Terms of Reference to the Contract, also the strategy of information exchange and raising awareness, the following measures were incorporated for implementation:

- Elimination the substances and preparations subject of the Stockholm Convention from production and use;
- Reduction of unintentional releases of POPs to the environment;
- Elimination and irreversible transformation of POPs containing waste;
- Decontamination of POPs contaminated equipment;
- Development of proposals for an adequate emission and release assessment system.

The draft NIP prepared during the NIP Development Phase comprises, in addition to action plans covering the specific sets of issues, also evaluation of implementation costs together with the assessment of financial requirements for the execution of selected capital investment projects.

In general the draft prepared gained interest and approval. Obviously further efforts, leading to the development of the plan's final version, are required. All comments, opinions and recommendations concerning the draft of the NIP gathered from various sources will be subject of thorough consideration during the preparation of the final version of that plan (NIP Endorsement Phase).

Documentation

- [1] Inception Workshop Report, IEP, Warsaw, March 2002
- [2] Progress report covering the POPs inventory phase. IEP, Warsaw, February 2003
- [3] Validation Workshop Report, IEP, Warsaw, June 2003
- [4] Technical Report of the Priority Setting Phase, Warsaw, June 2003
- [5] Persistent Organic Pollutants. Volume 1, National Profile – Poland, Warsaw, December, 2003 (*published in English and Polish languages*)
- [6] Sixth Quarterly Financial Statement, IEP, Warsaw, June 2003
- [7] Seventh Quarterly Financial Statement, IEP, Warsaw, October 2003
- [8] Eight Quarterly Financial Statement, IEP, Warsaw, January 2004
- [9] Annual Financial Statement for the Year 2003, IEP, Warsaw, January 2004
- [10] Corrected Seventh Quarterly Financial Statement, IEP, Warsaw, January 2004