



# European Environment and Health Process

Progress report

Examples countries

**WECF 2018 – 2019**

Women Engage for a Common Future

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## Progress Report

# European Environment and Health Process

## Developing the Ostrava Portfolios of Actions

### WECF 2018-2019

#### European Environment & Health Process

Since the 1980ties the European Ministers of Health and of Environment have engaged in a policy process to jointly address the environmental health challenges of the World Health Organisation's European region with 53 Member States. Every 5 years at their international conference, the ministers of environment and health of the region agree on specific focus areas and action plans for concrete cooperation and progress.

In June 2017, the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The Ostrava Declaration summarizes the priorities in this area in the WHO European Region. The Member States committed to develop **national portfolios for action** based on 7 priority areas in an inclusive and consultative manner, and to finalize their plans by the end of 2018.

#### Seven Priority Areas

The Ostrava declaration identifies 7 areas of action in the field of Health & Environment:

1. Water and sanitation
2. Improvement of air quality
3. Reducing the negative effects of harmful chemicals on health
4. Climate related health risks
5. Waste management
6. Healthy sustainable cities
7. Sustainable health systems

#### Civil Society Engagement in developing the portfolios of action

WECF International and its partners had been organising consultations with civil society organisations, and engaging in policy process with the ministries of environment and health during 2018, in the following countries:

- Albania
- Georgia
- Macedonia (Republic of)
- Moldova
- Netherlands
- Serbia (Republic of)

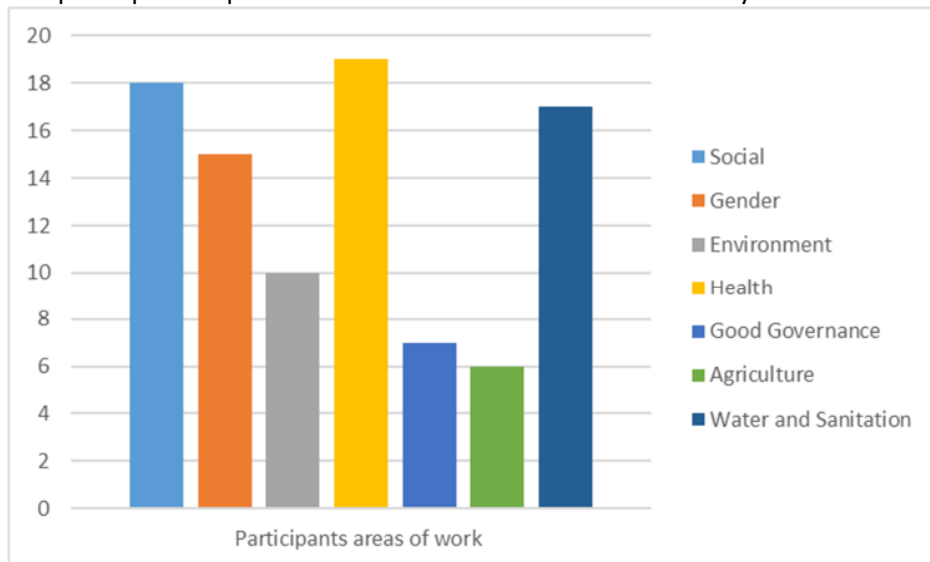
The results and recommendations from some of these consultations and meetings are summarized in this progress report. The activities presented refer to Ostrava Declaration and all outcomes and actions shown below are based on its implementation among the different stakeholders in the countries.

### ALBANIA – recommendations for EHP Portfolio of Actions

WECF organised together with “WIDSH - Women in development” a consultation in the town of Shkoder followed by a policy dialogue on linking the Environment, health, social and gender dimensions of Albania’s national strategies in Tirana, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The policy dialogue with 77 participants, was co-organised with the Albanian ministry of health and social protection, and financially supported by the German Federal ministry for the environment, nature conservation, building and nuclear safety, the German Environment Agency and the European Commission. From the introduction session it became apparent that only very few policy makers in the ministries were aware of the upcoming deadline to present the Ostrava portfolio of action.

The participants represented diverse sectors of Albanian society:



**Mr. Gazmend Bejtja, World Health Organization** office Albania, presented the **Ostrava declaration** and how it is being integrated into the Agenda2030 national strategies. He presented the European Environment and Health process, measuring progress and the importance of having concrete and quantitative targets. The Ostrava Declaration has seven public health priorities: water, sanitation and hygiene; waste; chemical safety; air quality, climate change, green health care and healthy cities. The work WHO does in Albania aims at eradication health inequality of all groups, and reducing health impacts from waste, air pollution, chemicals in the food chain, hormone disrupting chemicals and water borne diseases. There is a lack of data regarding health impacts of chemical waste in Albania. Albania is taking part in the initiative of healthy cities of Europe and the ‘PEP’ on reduced health impacts from transportation. The Declaration of Ostrava only reconfirms the engagement of Albania for core concrete identification of local level problems and addressing possible solutions.

**Ms. Fiorela Plani of WIDSH** presented the preliminary results of the local consultation conducted in Albania. WIDSH carried out a survey amongst 198 people including 111 women (56%) and 87 men

(44%), from urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Further focus interviews to into more depth were carried out with another 30 women and 30 men conducted in two municipalities, Shkoder and Malesia. The result of the interviews are community-generated data, based on a well-founded survey methodology, which can be used as input into the national monitoring. The results show that living conditions are worse in peri-urban and rural area with a low level of satisfactory with water and sanitation conditions. Most tap water cannot be used for drinking and is only provided a few hours per day. The interviews also show that parents are concerned for their daughter’s lack of safe sanitation conditions in schools, even in urban areas.

**Interviews of 198 local stakeholders on water and sanitation**

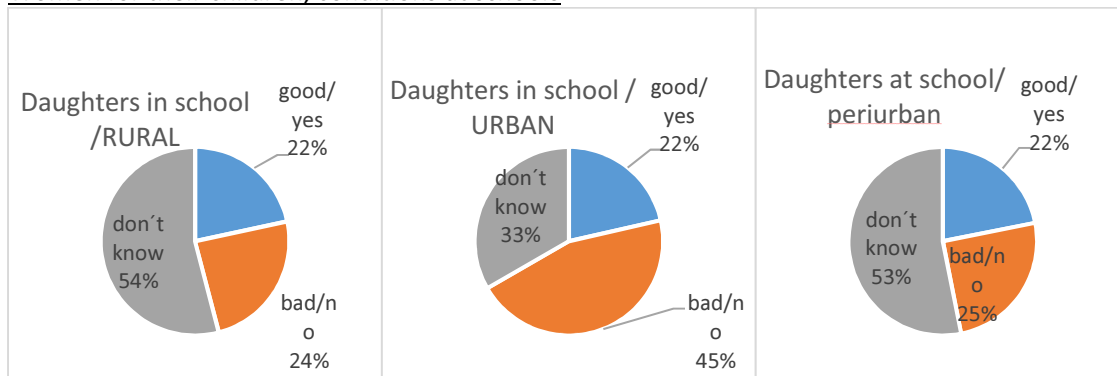
In the survey, five questions asked about water, sanitation, energy and economic situation. The interviews showed that children often prefer not to use school toilets as they have inadequate hygiene.

Menstrual Hygiene: The problem is more burdensome for girls and women, because in menstrual periods they need more privacy and better hygienic-sanitary conditions. School toiletries lack toilet paper, soap and towels. There is also a lack of waste bins. The phenomenon of school drop-outs on menstrual days by girls is pronounced

No access to sanitation: Another phenomenon that can be observed, whether in schools or in institutions, is the closure of the bathrooms. Because they are in poor hygienic conditions, the phenomenon of keeping closed and the restriction in the use of the baths is thus noticed. This conflicts directly with the rights of the citizens and mainly children.

To the question how “satisfied the interviewed people were with **hygiene and sanitation at school for their children**” the following answers were given (below), with the biggest dissatisfaction expressed for school toilets in urban setting. Interesting is also the lack of information of parents in rural areas.

Women for their children, conditions at schools



**Ms. Aleksandra Kumbuli**, WIDSH presented the contribution of the CSO Women in Development to policy processes, from local to global. She presented some of the results of projects in Albania improving access to safe sanitation, for example, the constructed a pilot ecological sanitation building in a rural area which is not connected to the sewage system. They are also training on how to protect drinking water sources, with the Albanian translation of the “Water and Sanitation Safety Plan” compendium.

The recommendations from the consultation for the Ostrava Portfolio of Action are to focus on the Ostrava area of priority 1:

**Safe and sustainable water and sanitation**, in particular for:

- a. rural and peri-urban areas, with a focus on decentralized and onsite ecological systems
- b. school sanitation including menstrual hygiene

**The participants in the policy workshops worked in working groups to identify key areas for actions:**

The participants identified following key priority issues for the national portfolio for Environment & Health (Ostrava Compilation of Actions) and to link this to the national implementation plan of Agenda2030.

**Key priority issues for the national portfolio for Environment & Health**

- **Improve Sanitation;** to address the inadequate sanitation conditions, mainly in rural, pre-urban areas and in public buildings such as schools also in urban areas. Address the poor hygienic-sanitary conditions in schools in rural, pre-urban and urban areas.
- **Improve Water Supply:** Poor quality of drinking water mainly in rural areas but also in urban areas.
- **Increase involvement of women and youth** in local government and decision-making
- **Reduce negative impacts on women:** Ensure pre-school care for children from 3 to 5 years old and 6-15 years old to reduce care burden on women. Organise an awareness campaign to end violence against women.

### **MACEDONIA – recommendations for the EHP Portfolio of Actions**

In the Republic of Macedonia, Journalist for Human Rights (JHR) has organised a consultation amongst their partners and local stakeholders to ask them about their priorities for action on Environment and Health to present to the government so that they can be added to the portfolio of action. JHR also organised, jointly with the Institute for Public Health two workshops on how to achieve the priorities of Ostrava.

The consultation and workshops have provided recommendations for the Environment and Health **Portfolio of Actions**.

For the 7 priority areas, Macedonia has not seen much progress over the last years, with the exception of a number of pilot projects by Civil Society and the prioritization of sanitation and menstrual hygiene management by the Ministry of Health.

- **Improve air quality for all.** The cities of Skopje and Tetovo, - the two biggest cities in Macedonia – remain amongst the most polluted cities in the world. Air pollution is ten times higher than the recommended levels. Macedonia is the most polluted country in Europe, says the last EEA report. The government is trying to develop a National Action Plan against Air Pollution, but has not succeeded. Civil society organizations and the citizens themselves are trying to organize actions, but without having been able to make a significant difference. A coalition of several civil society organizations filed a **lawsuit against the State** due to continuous negligence of the health of children, the outcome of which is being awaited.
- **Ensure access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all** - In this area, Macedonia achieved progress. The health care and school institutions have been set 'access to water and

sanitation and hygiene' as a priority. A very fruitful and continuous cooperation between the ministry of health, the health care institutions and civil society organisations including Journalists for Human Rights exists. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) has become part of the official policy for public institutions. The country now has a target that by 2023 every school should receive at least one adapted toilet for MHM.

- **Minimize the adverse effects of chemicals.** There has been no progress in this field. Macedonia does not have control over which harmful chemicals are imported, nor how they are managed and end up in the waste stream. Although every importer is obliged to publish the composition of the product, there is no control nor enforcement. Taxes and fine would be an appropriate mechanism for dealing with this problem. The office responsible for the implementation of international chemicals agreements and the “Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management” (SAICM) in Macedonia has not been taking its responsibilities. There has also been no progress to **prevent and eliminate the adverse effects of waste management and contaminated sites.**
- **Strengthen adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.** The last national climate report for Macedonia is old; it dates for 2008. The authorities initiated some actions, but progress is slow. The most important adaptation measures involve the control and **monitoring of the entire food chain** and the implementation of a **Weather Early Warning System** to inform the population and particularly vulnerable groups, about extreme weather events. There have also been some education and awareness raising events. There is no program as yet to support **cities and regions to become healthier.**
- **Environmental sustainability of health systems.** This is a new area of the Environment and Health Program. Therefore there has not yet been concrete action. Thus far, there have been declarations of intent. The Health Strategy of the Macedonia 2020 sets out the vision for improvement of the health and of the health care system, which will be responsive to the needs of the population. The health care sector is faced with several challenges including the improvement of the health status of the population, the provision of basic benefits packages, the delivery of health services, the development of human resources, quality assurance and health care financing. Environmental sustainability is therefore less of a priority. There would be potential there where economies of energy could emerge. Another area of attention could be treatment of hospital waste.

### Interviews

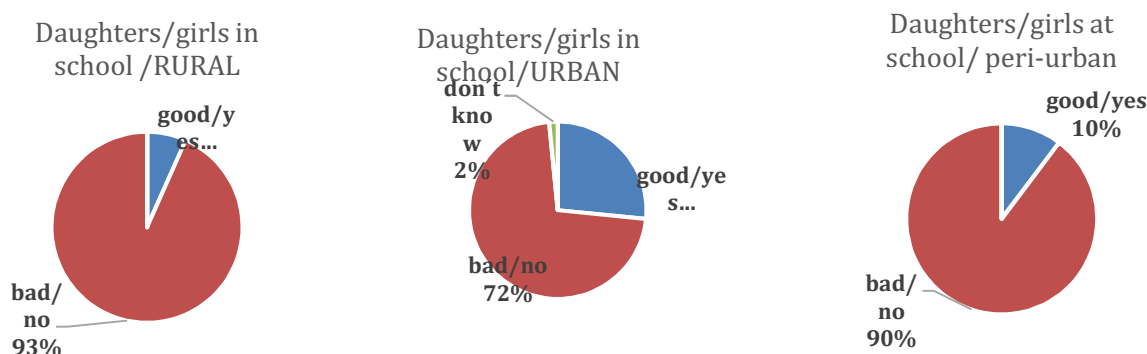
The organisation Journalists for Human Rights conducted interviews with 140 local stakeholders focussing on the EPH area of action “**access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all**”.

Even though 10% of women from rural areas reported that the sanitation situation was “bad or very bad”, 93% reported that school sanitation was very bad.

The question on school sanitation was “***If you have a daughter or personally know a girl in your family or neighborhood in age of puberty (between 10 and 18 years old) who goes to school: does your daughter or this girl have decent sanitation and hygiene conditions at school and is she able to wash and change in privacy in school during her last menstrual period?***”

The question was answered by stakeholders from different locations; urban, peri-urban and rural. In all areas the large majority of respondents answered that the school sanitation and in particular the menstrual hygiene situation was very bad.

### **Survey-respondents' perception on hygiene and sanitation in schools**



### **GEORGIA – recommendations for EHP Portfolio of Actions**

**UN Environment** organised with the Ministry of Environment & Agriculture and WECF Georgia a National Workshop on **Inter-linkages of Environment and Health**, on 19-20 February 2018. Back to back WECF organised jointly with IDFI, UNDP, the Swedish Embassy and the Human Rights Secretariat of the Government of Georgia a consultation with civil society organisations. In total 65 participants (42 women and 25 men) participated.

**Sascha Gabizon of WECF International**, presented the Ostrava Outcomes, the Ministerial Declaration and the Compendium of Actions with its seven focus areas. Every 6 years the Ministers of Environment and Health meet under auspices of the WHO-Europe and the UNECE to agree on needed actions to improve the environmental health situation in the region. The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in June 2017, and resulted in the “Ostrava Declaration” and the “Compendium of Actions”. Each country in the WHO-Europe region is asked to present by the end of the year 2018, the national portfolio of actions, chosen from 7 focus areas.

She described the importance of engaging all stakeholders of civil society in understanding the link between environmental pollution and health impacts, and how CSOs contributed to the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, with side events, films made by youth delegates, and positions statements presented in the plenary session to the delegates. WECF coordinates the women’s and environmental organisations in this policy process.

She presented as an example the youth film on how to reduce health risks from waste pollution, as well as how civil society organisations like WECF have pioneered new technologies to ensure wastewater management (constructed wetlands with sand and reed plants) and hygienic sanitation in schools and kindergartens with decentralized and affordable technologies. These ecological waste water systems allow hygienic treatment and reuse of wastewater and nutrients in agriculture.

**Wondwosen Asnake, UN Environment** presented the work of UN Environment on environment health and a pollution-free planet. He presented the translations into Georgian language of some key documents including 6 infographics on different themes such as Marine Litter and E-Waste (see images), as well as the



Global Chemicals Outlook and the report “Towards a Pollution Free Planet”, which shows how each of the 17 SDD Goals have environmental and health dimensions.



### CASE STUDY PRESENTATION – LESSONS LEARNED FROM GEORGIA

Representatives of the Georgian government, knowledge institutes and civil society organisations presented case studies and recommendations on the environment and health dimensions of sustainable development.

**Air Pollution:** *Noe Megrelishvili* presented a case study on air pollution as a health risk.

In average for the region, **50% of people's deaths result from air pollution**. The source of this pollution needs to be established. Georgia is adopting EU regulation on air quality monitoring and has started to make measurements in cities and from factories, but not all of them. So far the focus of the monitoring is on a number of air pollutants including NOx and small particles, of which the greatest **emissions come from vehicles**. To reduce this type of air pollution, it will be necessary to reduce traffic, especially in cities.

In the following discussion, civil society mentioned that so far no attention was given to **air pollution in rural areas, in particular indoor air pollution** from burning of firewood and sometimes even plastic waste (for heating and cooking). Air pollution from waste burning in the open is another source that needs urgent action. Modern standards and action plans need to be developed for improving the situation.

**Climate Change:** *Maia Tskhvaradze* presented the case study on climate change as a health risk.

Ms Tskhvaradze presented how Climate change and the disasters related to it, are the biggest threat to our global economy as well as our health. She presented the “Paris Agreement” and how Georgia’s national policies and legal framework are integrating the agreement. Georgia will reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 25% till 2030.

She also presented the close link to the health dimension, with examples about vulnerable groups and health risks from heat waves and climate-change related disasters such as floods and landslides. There is a close coordination with the health sector in Georgia and several programs on Climate Adaptation to reduce these health risks.

**Chemicals and waste management:** *Irma Gurguliani* presented the case study on the health risk of chemicals and waste.



Ms Gurguliani presented the legal framework for chemicals and waste management. On-going activities are related to technical assistance for the improvement of waste system management in Georgia including a feasibility study for the construction of a hazardous waste landfill. There is a need for expert assistance to improve the national legislative framework on chemical safety, and to develop a unified register and database of imported, used and exported hazardous chemicals. More training for staff of local and national authorities is needed on chemical safety in particular of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

**Water and sanitation:** *Mariam Kharazishvili*, United Water Supply Company of Georgia presented the work of her company, and that the protection of human health from adverse effects of any contamination of drinking water is an obligation which they have to fulfil, in line with the EU water directives on drinking and wastewater and meeting other international agreements (SDGs) and standards (WHO).

Some of the activities are control and monitoring of water quality with laboratory networks meeting the international standards; comprehensive water quality investigations on organoleptic, physical-chemical and microbiological indicators. The water company is working on 9 large-scale construction-rehabilitation projects of water infrastructure over the next several years with a focus on the more densely populated areas.

**Rusudan Simonidze, the Greens Movement of Georgia, presented priorities on climate and wastewater.** In terms of access to water and improved sanitation in Eastern Georgia, the region of Batumi started to introduce access of water in rural areas, as well proper sewage system in order to decrease the wastewater discharged in the Black Sea without treatment. So far this does not exist in other rural areas in other regions. This is an example which should be expanded to all regions.

**Giorgi Bakhturidze, Tobacco Control Alliance, Georgia. On indoor air pollution,** Mr Bakhturidze presented how currently some 300 children die each year from indoor air pollution linked to a.o. passive smoking. Some 25% of total mortality in Georgia is caused by smoking, which is not only a human tragedy, but also a great loss of productivity and cost for society and the economy. The best way to decrease smoking is to ban smoking in public places, and finally after many years of advocacy, a new law will be in force as of Spring 2018, banning smoking in public places. Unfortunately the tobacco industry shows everywhere its products, especially with advertisements on billboards and they target in particular new users, youth and women. The next step needed is to ban tobacco advertisement, as many EU countries have already done.

The participants worked in different working groups on drawing lessons and formulating recommendations.

➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

- **Traffic reduction** measures at 100% of kindergarten, schools, playgrounds and health centers by 2023 (*diesel-vehicle free zones, car-free zones, 30 KM zones, one-way traffic, enlarged footpath and bicycle paths, speed bumps, stop lights*)
- **Clean energy support program** for 100% of rural households and health centers to stop use of wood and waste as fuel for heating/cooking by 2023 (*subsidies and fiscal incentives for installing solar heaters, energy-efficient stoves and insulation*)

➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

- **Create a national code / legislation for decentralized, ecological technologies\* for waste water and sanitation** by 2020 (*\* low-flow / small sewage or dry UDD school toilets, constructed wetlands and wastewater ponds*)

- **Toilets and water in 100% of rural kindergartens and schools by 2023** (*school toilets, handwashing basins, soap, and menstrual hygiene basic facilities such as waste baskets, doors in toilets including through a specific school-toilet-fund*)

➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

- **Stop burning of waste** and clean-up and close all open-waste dumps and all hazardous waste sites in the vicinity of kindergartens, schools and health-centers by 2023 (*\* containment of toxic waste, deposits on plastics and pesticides for safe waste management, increased fines and strict enforcement, separate collection*)



### **MOLDOVA – recommendations for EHP Portfolio of Actions**

**UN Environment** organised with the Ministry of Environment, and with WECF, WISDOM, GENDER CENTRE and ECOTIRAS a National Workshop on **Inter-linkages of Environment and Health**, on 26 and 27 of February 2018 in Chisinau, Moldova. The National Workshop was supported by the German Environment Agency, Umweltbundesamt (UBA)” and the Federal German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. A total of 98 participants (59 women and 39 men) from the Government of Moldova, UN agencies, European Member State delegations and international cooperation partners, Universities, Private Sector and Civil Society organisations participated in the National Workshop.

Valentina **Buliga, National Parliament**, opened the National Workshop and presented challenges for Moldova in the area of health protection, social protection and sustainable development, including for equal opportunities for women and men to contribute to sustainable development of the country. She highlighted a number of priorities such as sanitation, hygiene, safe drinking water and a life free of pollution, chemicals and in good health. She also recalled the key premise of good governance and

transparent budgeting, to which gender-budgeting can contribute, and the need for supporting policies to increase the number of women decision-makers in government.

**Boris Gilca** (Ministry Health, Labour & Social Protection) welcomed the focus on Environment & Health of the National Workshop. He mentioned areas where progress had been made in the last years, including a drop in (child) mortality. He then highlighted specific health and environment challenges in the country, such as the burden of disease from unsafe water and sanitation and air pollution and referred to the WHO Environmental Health process and the Ostrava Declaration.

**Jessica Fernandez, German Embassy**, highlighted some of the national development and infrastructure programs to which Germany contributes including the national water and sewerage program through GIZ and its development bank. She also addressed the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular target 3.9 under goal 3 on health. Target 3.9 call on countries to significantly reduce health impacts from pollution, including from air-pollution, unsafe water & sanitation, and also harmful chemicals such as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

**Haris Hajrulahovic, WHO Representative** to the Republic of Moldova, presented the results of the Ostrava Ministerial conference and how they relate to the on-going programmes on health in all policy areas, the SDG3 on healthy lives, and the health2020 targets. Key focus areas for Moldova are improving safe water and sanitation in particular in rural areas, but also in the cities including the capital city, where drinking water quality, especially in summer, is not assured. The health problems resulting from unsafe water and sanitation, lead to many lost hours of productive work in all sectors of the economy.

**Wondwosen Asnake, UN Environment** presented the work of UN Environment on environment health and a pollution-free planet. Mr Asnake presented the UN Environment resource documents which were translated into Moldovan languages for use at this conference. The documents include the 6 info-graphics and the summary report "Towards a Pollution Free Planet", as well as documents on global Chemicals Outlook

**Sascha Gabizon, WECF International**, described the importance of engaging all stakeholders of civil society in understanding the link between environmental pollution and health impacts, and how CSOs contributed to the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, with side events, films made by youth delegates, and positions statements presented in the plenary session to the delegates. WECF coordinates the women's and environmental organisations in this policy process.

**Dietrich Hahn, GIZ**, remarked that the challenges to achieve access to safe water supply and sanitation sector are very difficult in the current regulatory context. Moldova continues to apply norms from the Soviet period. These norms are problematic as they greatly over-size all water supply and sanitation systems. Over-sized water infrastructure results in non-functioning supply and sewerage systems. At the same time, engineers are held liable as individuals if they do not apply these norms, which is the reason that they usually will not divert from the norms.

**Jonathan Hecke, Swiss APASAN** project coordinator, presented the lessons learned and results from almost a decade of developing decentralized sanitation solutions in rural and peri-urban areas of Moldova. The APA (Water) SAN (Sanitation) programme developed dry toilet technologies for households and schools, based on a pilot project by WECF and partners. Some 50 schools received school toilets, that are indoor, heated, have wash basins and are on-site, dry toilets that allow composting and reuse of nutrients, and are not connected to the sewage system (which are either non-existent or not functioning). Despite the success of the technology, the APASAN funding is being phased out till 2019, and no new source of funding for this badly needed infrastructure is available.

**Claudia Wendland, Wastewater Engineer at WECF**, responded to the presentations. She highlighted that the APASAN program contributed in particular to helping to achieve a priority goal of the EHP process, of **ensuring safe water and sanitation in schools** in the European region, a target that was not reached, and is renewed in the Ostrava Declaration. She also highlighted another important result of EHP and PWH focus on school sanitation, that it has led to a **new building code** approved by the government that allows for the legal construction of dry urine diverting toilets in public buildings.

**Elena Zubcov, Toxicologist, Ecotox association**, presented the case study prepared for UN Environment on the environmental and health dimensions of the SDGs in Moldova. In her presentation she presented how key indicators for air-pollution, chemicals and waste, water and sanitation have developed over the last years. Age-old problems of safer water and sanitation have not seen much improvement despite investments in infrastructure. Indicators for gastrointestinal diseases have continued to increase, as do cases of salmonellosis. On the positive side, viral hepatitis has gone down significantly. The reason why the water and sanitation indicators have mostly worsened was presented by previous speakers: codes and standards continue to exist that do not allow for affordable, efficient systems. There is also a lack of awareness and lack of local good management of systems. Indicators for air-pollution have seen changes with a reduction of industrial pollution and increase of emissions from vehicles. Indoor air pollution remains a problem in rural areas where firewood and plastic waste continue to be used for heating.

#### **GOOD PRACTICES CONTRIBUTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROCESSES**

**Oleg Rotari, NGO Ormax**, presented the social enterprises which they set up and which support rural households and public buildings to shift to solar water heaters, improved insulation, decentralized waste water 'soil-filters' and chemical-free food production and processing.

**Ala Druta**, Team Leader on Adaptation, Climate Change Office; **Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment** presented the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Republic of Moldova and its inter-sectoral approach which focuses on achieving as many as possible co-benefits in the areas of social inclusion and gender-equality.

**Tudor Vrabie**, national coordinator of the **NGO Solidarity Water Europe (SEE-SWE)** presented their program on improving access to water and sanitation in the Nirnova basin of Moldova. This multi-annual program works on improving the management of water sources in the river basin, and accompanied by appropriate, affordable and decentralized drinking water and waste water solutions.

#### ***SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ON EHP linked to SDGs***

##### **AIR QUALITY recommendation for national targets**

**Aligned with:**

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions a:** "improving indoor and outdoor air quality for all"

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions g:** "building the environmental sustainability of health systems and reducing their environmental impact"

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOLDOVA:**

- *Establishment of a pollution and pollution monitoring system according to the higher pollutant level in accordance with EC Directive 2010/75 / EU*
- *Mapping of forest areas and pollution hotspots*
- *Establishment of economic incentives for organizations that help reduce pollution / emissions*
- *Land afforestation*

- *Transition to solar energy and reduction of biomass and waste as fuel*
- *Promotion of green and vehicle-free spaces, in particular near schools and playgrounds*
  - **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**
    1. **traffic reduction** measures at 100% of kindergarten, schools, playgrounds and health centers by 2023 (*diesel-vehicle free zones, car-free zones, 30 KM zones, one-way traffic, enlarged footpath and bicycle paths, speed bumps, stop lights*)
    2. **clean energy support program** for 100% of rural households and health centers to stop use of wood and waste as fuel for heating/cooking by 2023 (*subsidies and fiscal incentives for installing solar heaters, energy-efficient stoves and insulation*)

### **WATER AND SANITATION recommendation for national targets**

#### **Aligned with:**

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions b:** “ensure universal equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all in all settings”

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions g:** “building the environmental sustainability of health systems and reducing their environmental impact”

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOLDOVA:

- *Improve Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)*
- *Cross-border co-operation on the use of transboundary water resources*
- *Update drinking water and waste water standards / legislation to ensure efficient and affordable technologies including decentralized and onsite systems*
- *Creation of services for ecosystems and their use for improvement of the hydrological regime (quality / quantity of water) - widening the protection lines.*
- *SIRA*
- *Updating the tax system according to water consumption*
- *Regionalization / improvement of services - decentralization at the LPA level*
- *Proper usage of treated sanitation products (wastewater / sludge / separately collected excreta) in agriculture*
- **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**
  1. **Create a national code / legislation for decentralized, ecological technologies\* for waste water and sanitation** by 2020 (\* *low-flow / small sewage or dry UDD school toilets, constructed wetlands and wastewater ponds*)
  2. **Toilets and water in 100% of rural kindergartens and schools** by 2023 (*dry UDD school toilets, handwashing basins, soap, and menstrual hygiene basic facilities such as waste baskets, doors in toilets including through a specific school-toilet-fund*)

### **CITIES - NEW URBAN AGENDA recommendation for national targets**

#### **Aligned with:**

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions f:** “supporting the efforts of European cities and regions to become healthier, more inclusive, safer, resilient and sustainable”

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions g:** “building the environmental sustainability of health systems and reducing their environmental impact”

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOLDOVA:

- *Promoting of environmentally friendly and safe public transport and imposing heavy-duty trucks to use the NOx trap systems*
- *Promoting replacement of fossil fuel with renewable sources (wind, solar, etc.)*
- *Compliance with WHO emission standards*



- Promoting of green economy
- **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**  
**Increase green areas by 10% with a focus on playgrounds near kindergartens, schools and health-centers in cities by 2023** (\* tree planting in streets, transform wasteland into green areas, city vegetable gardens, greening rooftops, strict measures against illegal construction and tree cutting)

#### **FOOD/CHEMICAL SAFETY AND WASTE recommendation for national targets**

##### **Aligned with:**

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions c:** “minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment”

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions d:** “preventing and eliminating the adverse environmental and health effects, costs and inequalities related to waste management and contaminated sites”

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions g:** “building the environmental sustainability of health systems and reducing their environmental impact”

##### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOLDOVA:

- *Start to collect waste separately. Recycle and re-use waste (plastic, glass, paper). Revise and apply sanction mechanisms for avoidance of separate collection of waste.*
- *Introduce the principles of integrated waste management.*
- *Close and clean-up of the many unauthorized landfills*
- *Create services for separate waste collection in rural communities*
- *Develop and stimulate the non-toxic circular economy*
- *Implement the EU Nitrates Directive (reducing synthetic fertilizers)*
- *Raise awareness campaigns on food waste*
- **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**  
 Stop burning of waste and clean-up and close all open-waste dumps and all hazardous waste sites in the vicinity of kindergartens, schools and health-centers by 2023 (\* containment of toxic waste, deposits on plastics and pesticides for safe waste management, increased fines and strict enforcement, separate collection)

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE recommendation for national targets**

##### **Aligned with:**

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions e:** “strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience to climate-change related health risks and supporting mechanisms to mitigate climate change and achieve health co-benefits in line with the Paris Agreement”

**Ostrava Compendium of Actions g:** “building the environmental sustainability of health systems and reducing their environmental impact”

##### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOLDOVA:

- Support and endowment of first aid centers for crisis situations;
- Promotion of the cultivation of plants resistant to drought (but non-GMO);
- Promoting the use of irrigation systems using stored rain water;
- Managing public transport to adapt it to the daily flow of the population and to provide conditions that allow populations to make it easier to withstand the effects of temperature oscillations.
- Raise awareness on the effects of climate change on humankind.
- **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**



Have climate-related disaster risk reduction plans for all kindergardens, schools, health centers and old-people homes by 2023 (\* reduce heat from increased greening, protect water supply from flooding, ensure waste reserves, independent solar energy supply)

## FRANCE's work on the EHP

France has continuously strengthened its National Environment and Health strategies and plans. It presented its current plan which ends in 2019, during the Ostrava Ministerial conference.

- The French plan is a good example of an integrated approach to addressing Environmental Health Challenges. The English version of the National EH Plan is available online [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/PNSE3\\_Mesures-phare\\_EN\\_FINAL-2.pdf](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/PNSE3_Mesures-phare_EN_FINAL-2.pdf)

 <p><i>The environment plays a major role in health and its deterioration leads to sometimes serious harm. The new health-environment plan mobilises all the actors concerned to reduce these exposures on the basis of an overall assessment.</i></p> <p><i>The Environmental Conference on 27 and 28 November, chaired by the President of the Republic, will address the issue of health and the environment.</i></p> <p><b>DECISIONS ALREADY TAKEN</b></p> <p><b>Reduce the use of PESTICIDES</b></p> <p>The impact of pesticides on the health of agricultural workers and local residents is increasingly well known. Since spring 2014, Ségolène Royal and Stéphane Le Foll have decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to permanently prohibit the aerial spraying of pesticides;</li> <li>- to permanently prohibit ground spraying in the vicinity of places where sensitive people are present;</li> <li>- to prohibit the use of chemical pesticides by local authorities, in the scope of the charter Terre saine.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reduce exposure to ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS</b></p> <p>The national strategy on endocrine disruptors, adopted on 29 April 2014, reinforced the ban on bisphenol A in feeding bottles and on materials in contact with foodstuffs.</p> <p>To go further, France proposes banning bisphenol A in 10 receipts and will evaluate five new substances each year to determine the appropriate management measures.</p> <p><b>Improve AIR QUALITY</b></p> <p>The energy transition law for green growth promotes the use of clean vehicles, electric in particular, and introduces a conversion premium for the replacement of an old diesel vehicle with a clean vehicle, based on resources and with priority for areas affected by poor air quality. Together, the bonus and the conversion premium could be up to 10 000 euros. Tax relief for management of indoor air quality will be developed by the end of 2014, for places where children are present, especially in poor air quality. Together, the bonus and the conversion premium could be up to 10 000 euros. Tax relief for management of indoor air quality will be developed by the end of 2014, for places where children are present.</p>	 <p><b>The 10 immediate actions</b></p> <p>supported by <b>Ségolène Royal</b>, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and <b>Marisol Touraine</b>, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights</p> <p><b>1. Improve the quality of the surrounding ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Noise is one of the main nuisances suffered by the French in their daily lives and their neighbourhood environment. Indeed, 86 % of French people say that they are annoyed by noise, mainly from transport infrastructure and from neighbours.</p> <p>As Anas results in its 2013 report, noise exposure has significant and/or health effects: some in the short term (sleep disturbance, discomfort, etc.) and others after relatively long exposure times (difficulties in learning at school, cardiovascular effects, etc.).</p> <p>These effects, which are not specific to noise exposure and can be observed in other situations of environmental stress, however, have not been sufficiently taken into account.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> Equally prohibit a guide to improve acoustic quality in schools, to develop noise and citizenship education, especially among young people, and to make information available to the public on the 10 points to be verified concerning noise in housing.</p> <p><b>2. Ensure vigilance on the potential risks linked to NANOMATERIALS</b></p> <p>The nanosciences are the subject of intense efforts in research and innovation. The evaluation of the potential risks is still very incomplete. However, a great many parameters are checked in the safety mechanisms of nanomaterials. Identification of the domains for which the most biological risks is a major challenge in toxicology research. Because of their size and structure, these particles still raise questions about their mechanisms of action. Hence, the evaluation of the properties of the substances in the responsibility of the manufacturers and how they should be taken into account, within REACH at European Union level, must be specified.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> Evaluate exposure to nanomaterials in foodstuffs and carry out measurement of nanomaterials in outdoor air at manufacturing sites.</p> <p><b>3. Reduce the exposure of populations to ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS</b></p> <p>Certain products or objects in everyday use, such as detergents, cosmetics, bottles or paints, may contain substances classified as endocrine disruptors. These latter term groups numerous chemical substances that can interfere with the hormonal regulation of living beings and affect reproduction, growth, development or behaviour. The effective management and the environment, which have been documented, call for action to prevent risks and limit the exposure of populations, especially pregnant women and young children.</p> <p>With the adoption of its national strategy on endocrine disruptors, France is becoming a strong force in the preparation of the European strategy on endocrine disruptors. The introduction of the label without Disruptor A mark and the search for substances classified as endocrine disruptors are some of the measures announced to accompany the national strategy on endocrine disruptors.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> In production of the tickets without Disruptor A mark and the search for substances classified as endocrine disruptors.</p> <p><b>4. Reduce exposure to ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION OF SOILS</b></p> <p>Like air or water, the soil is an environment where pollutants can be concentrated. Due to certain agricultural or urban practices, but also to the interface with other environments (aquatic environments - surface and underground water - atmosphere and biosphere). Changes in soil contamination occur over much longer timeframes than for other environments.</p> <p>Actions to prevent and reduce exposure must take into account all the specific characteristics of soils, focusing on the exposure of children, for whom the ingestion of dust from polluted soils or the ingestion of polluted soil represent special health risks.</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE</b> Carry out a preventive diagnosis of the soil conditions of establishments receiving sensitive people (nurseries and schools in particular) with a view to identifying the necessary actions.</p>
<p>English version of the French EH National Plan</p>	<p>Including 10 immediate actions</p>

WECF France contributes to the implementation of the National Environment and Health plan, including through its Nesting program: <http://www.projetnesting.fr>

See next page

## NETHERLAND's work on the EHP

WECF carried out a project to **engage Dutch stakeholders** to give input for the Ostrava Portfolio of Actions.

The activities included **training workshops with youth** and **expert meetings with scientists** on specific subjects such as water pollution from pesticide usage. Other expert sessions address plastic pollution, medicine residues, nano-materials, endocrine disrupting chemicals and menstrual hygiene.

The project also included a **small-grants pillar**, to allow local community groups to show best practices. For example, greening children's playgrounds in cities, and supporting the 'bicycle school' which teaches refugees and migrant women how to use a bicycle.

The stakeholder engagement and consultation showed the great benefit of stakeholder engagement in developing national Environment and Health Action Plans.

WECF presented the following recommendations for the Portfolio of Actions:

### Area 1. Water and Sanitation

#### 1.1. Reduce pesticide pollution of surface water

- Use cumulative methods to calculate the total load of pesticide pollution
- Apply the highest norms to all pesticide spraying allowances, in this case, the EU water directive
- Ban use of pesticides in a radius of at least 3 Kilometres around nature parks
- Reverse financial incentives immediately, reduce VAT on pesticide-free products
- Immediate ban on all carcinogenic, bee-killing and hormone disrupting pesticides

## 1.2. Menstrual Hygiene (MH)

- National awareness raising campaign to not flush sanitary materials & baby wet-wipes into WCs
- Promote reusable and organically source menstrual and other hygiene materials
- Apply the precautionary principle and ban use of nano-silver and EDCs in menstrual materials
- Increase labelling requirements on chemicals and waste aspects of MH materials

## Area 2. Chemicals and health risks

### 2.1. Action to eliminate Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals from:

- Toys and other children's products
- Cosmetics
- Food Packaging
- Medicinal materials (tubes, blood bags)
- Inform and protect pregnant women and the developing child



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