

## **Training for Latvian consumer protection and environmental NGOs**

*17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008*

### **Report**

#### **Summary:**

In Latvia there are non-governmental organisations that are dealing with consumers' protection activities and with environment protection issues. Consumers protection organisations have had some activities with regard to chemicals in daily goods before but their main field of interest are the so called "traditional" consumers protection issues. There are some environmental NGOs that are acting in the field of risks and control of chemicals in daily goods. But in general the different actions of Latvian NGOs are not interconnected, there is a lack of knowledge what the others are doing. But many organisations are dealing with public information therefore the interest in how better to organise a campaign is in the interest of organisations.

Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia organised a discussion for NGOs on "**Consumers education and information**".

**Place of the training:** Hotel "Konventa Sēta", Riga

**Date of the training:** 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

#### **Contents of the presentations:**

The discussion was a one-day event organised for the NGOs. The topics and the contents of the presentations were overtaken from the Pilot training in St. Petersburg on 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2007: tools for consumer information and possibilities for receiving information, possibilities for approaching the general public, lobbying, organisation of public information campaign. There was also a discussion held after the presentations on the experience of Latvian NGOs in public information.

There was also a working group organised for the NGOs on a campaign. Similarly like in the pilot training also the Latvian NGOs were split into smaller groups and had to prepare a draft for a public information campaign on chemicals related issues.

#### **Trainers:**

Līga Lutere – project coordinator, junior environmental expert, Baltic Environmental Forum

Linda Ķīse – assistant, Baltic Environmental Forum

Ingrīda Brēmere – project manager, environmental expert, Baltic Environmental Forum

The discussion was moderated by Ms. Ingrida Bremere.

**Target group:** representatives from Latvian consumer protection and environmental NGOs.

**Participants:**

There were 19 participants taking part at the training representing consumer protection and environmental NGOs.

**Evaluation of the training:**

The training was evaluated as very useful by all the participants.

The training was evaluated as interesting and useful mainly because it gave the possibility to meet other colleagues that are working in the same field and having similar activities. It was useful because it gave information on how to approach and work with general public. It also actualised a topic that currently is not very popular in our society but is very important, gave information on chemical products and the lists of chemical substances.

As topics that are important and necessary for future consumers education were mentioned impact of detergents on human and environment, more information in nation wide mass media on all these chemicals related issues, campaign on azo-dyes, to revise the school programs and more to promote ecological products and good practice examples.



*Reported by Liga Lutere*