

To develop recommendations for the national and local authorities in Ukraine and Russian Federation, based on the experience of the EU-accession countries and integration of strategic environmental assessment in the decision-making process of other NIS countries.

The next conclusions are to be drawn from the research conducted:

Local governments in the NIS countries are performing poorly in the context of sustainable decision-making process. The whole variety of environmental policy instruments is there to address the crisis and improve the environmental performance of the local governments in the CIT (countries in transition).

The experience of the EU-accession countries can provide useful assistance to the other developing countries of the region (including FSU) in improving and increasing the transparency of the decision-making process in local authorities.

The process of integrating strategic environmental assessment practices into the decision-making process of local governments in the Russian Federation and Ukraine is a relevant and effective tool of improving the environmental performance of a given local community.

The experience of the Russian municipalities where SEA is being implemented, can be used in other neighboring NIS countries (e.g. Ukraine) to make the process of decision-making transparent and environmentally sustainable.

IMPACT OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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There is no simple pattern to the relationship between trade, environment and development. Depending on the sector, the country, the markets and prevailing policies, trade and trade liberalization may be good or bad for the environment and development. At the most basic level, trade and the environment are related because all economic activity is based on the environment (physical and economic linkages). At another level, environment and trade represent two distinct bodies of international law (legacy and political linkages).

1. Physical and economic linkages:

1.1 Product effects occur when the traded products themselves have an impact on the environment or development.

1.2 A subset of product effects, sometimes termed "technology effects," are associated with changes in the way products are made depending on the technology used. Technology effects stem from the way in which trade liberalization affects technology transfer and the production processes used to make traded goods.

1.3 Trade and trade liberalization can expand the level of economic activity possible by making that activity more efficient (scale effects).

1.4. Trade liberalization will lead to changes in the composition of a country's economy, causing it to produce more of the goods it makes well or has in abundance, to trade for those it does not (structural effect).

2. Legacy and political linkages

2.1 Environmental standards and process and production methods (PPM). Trade law does not question the right of countries to discriminate based on product-related PPMs. There are rules about the process of discrimination, of course, but the principle of discrimination is accepted. Non-product-related PPMs, on the other hand, make no difference to the commercial or practical substitutability of the products. And WTO law does not allow countries to discriminate among like products, whatever their different environmental impacts.

2.2 Environmental standards and competitiveness. In developed countries a key concern of the environmental community is the prospect of a "race to the bottom," where countries try to lure investment by lowering or not enforcing their environmental standards.

2.3 Ecolabelling. Environmental labels (or ecolabels) and environmental management system certification programs are touted as a possible solution to the problems with PPMs mentioned earlier.

2.4 Subsidies. Subsidies are one of the clearest areas of shared interest for the trade and environment communities. Both oppose so-called perverse subsidies—subsidies that are harmful to the environment and the economy. And there may also be scope for co-operation on allowing new subsidies that benefit the environment without unduly distorting trade.

ESSENTIALS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL - ECONOMIC MECHANISM IN THE FIELD OF SOLID DOMESTIC WASTES (SDW) MANAGEMENT

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During last decade the volume of SDW annually grows by 3-6 %, exceeding the rates of the population's growth. This quantitative growth of SDW is the result of changes in people's way of life, the wide spreading of disposables. Various packing materials make up about 30 % the weight and 50 % of the volume of the wastes, most of which do not decay quickly or do not decay at all.

The problem of ecological danger of SDW concerns all the stages of waste management. As for Odessa this problem refers to the most vital, because the mid-annual volume of SDW in the city makes some 1.5 million m³ and by 2005 it will increase up to 2.4 million m³. For the city located on the Black Sea coast and which