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Evaluation of Russia's Progress in Promoting Sustainable Consumption Policies

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Presentation outline

- UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection
- Research methodology
- Russia's case study
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

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UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (1)

- Adopted in 1985
- Expanded in 1999
- Special section (Section G) on the promotion of sustainable consumption (SC) added
  - contains 14 paragraphs (§42 - §55)

UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection (2)

Tracking Progress: Implementing sustainable consumption policies

A global review of implementation of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (Section G: Promotion of Sustainable Consumption)

- Editions of 2002 and 2004
- 53 governments surveyed
- Key paragraphs identified
- A score given for implementing each paragraph
- Status quo at national and regional levels
- Level of countries' involvement undefined

Research methodology (1)

- Section G – a source of evaluation criteria, not a reference document
- Four major groups:
  - planning activities (3 criteria)
  - policy measures (6 criteria)
  - monitoring and assessment schemes (3 criteria)
  - stakeholder involvement and shared responsibilities (3 criteria)

Research methodology (2)

Qualitative scoring system:

- based on theoretical availability and practical implementation principles
- 6 grades (A-F) proposed

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Proposed scoring system:

A: requirements of the criterion are met and are being well implemented;
B: requirements of the criterion are met and are being generally satisfactorily implemented;
C: requirements of the criterion are met, some of them are being satisfactorily implemented and some are not;
D: requirements of the criterion are met but are being generally unsatisfactorily implemented;
E: requirements of the criterion are not met as of today but are under consideration;
F: requirements of the criterion are not met and are not under consideration.

Research methodology (3)

Criteria	Scores	Criteria	Scores
I PLANNING		**III. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**	
1. SC strategy	E	1. Indicators, methodologies, databases	E
2. Sectoral SC policies	E	2. EIA and environmental testing	C
3. SC policy integration	C	3. Research on consumer behaviour	F
II. POLICY MEASURES		**IV. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**	
1. Legal instruments	D		
2. Economic instruments	D	1. Stakeholder participation	C
3. Waste management schemes	D	2. Shared responsibilities	C
4. Standards	C	3. Government's leadership	F
5. Educational and awareness raising instruments			C
6. New technologies, best practices, environmentally sound products and services			C

Russia's case study
Planning

- No separate SC strategy
  - SC issues are included in all documents related to sustainable development (SD)
- No specific sectoral SC policies
  - SC issues are discussed in most sectoral strategic documents
- SC concerns are integrated in social and economic development policies
  - strong pressure of environmental organizations

Russia's case study
Policy measures (1)

- Legal instruments
  - various laws on environment and consumer protection
  - weak enforcement
- Economic instruments
  - pollution fees and user charges
  - very low rates that do not cover environmental losses

Efficiency of waste gas purification installations and dynamics of air pollution from stationary sources

Installations, TCM (right scale, solid line)
Air pollution, mln t (left scale, dashed line)

Residential electric energy use

Source of data: Federal State Statistics Service, 2008

Russia's case study
Policy measures (2)

- Educational and awareness raising instruments
  - initiatives take place in different localities
  - not a government priority
- New technologies, best practices, environmentally sound products and services
  - development of new technologies lacks proper funding
  - data on sound products and services are mostly unavailable

Russia's case study
Policy measures (3)

- Waste management schemes
  - very little is done to promote waste minimization, separate waste collection and recycling
  - ineffective campaigns

Russia's case study
Policy measures (4)

- Standards
  - well-developed system of standards
  - frequent violations
  - EMAS and ISO-14000 gain wider popularity

Number of ISO-14001 certified companies

Source of data: EEA, 2007

Russia's case study
Monitoring and assessment (1)

- Indicators, databases
  - no officially adopted set of indicators
  - some initiatives have been taken
- Research on consumer behaviour
  - government is not involved
  - private companies are not interested in SC issues

Russia's case study
Monitoring and assessment (2)

- EIA and environmental testing
  - EIA procedure has regained its importance
  - testing is carried out by state authorized agencies
  - tests results are often influenced by politics

Russia's case study

Stakeholder involvement and shared responsibilities

- Stakeholder participation
  - civil society plays important role
  - in many cases participation is limited and/or formal
- Shared responsibilities
  - many companies undertake voluntary certification
  - corporate social responsibility gains wider popularity
- Government's leadership
  - neutral attitude

Conclusions

Criteria	Scores	Criteria	Scores
I. PLANNING		**III. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**	
1. SC strategy	E	1. Indicators, methodologies, databases	E
2. Sectoral SC policies	E	2. EIA and environmental testing	B or C?
3. SC policy integration	C	3. Research on consumer behaviour	F
II. POLICY MEASURES		**IV. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**	
1. Legal instruments	C or D?		
2. Economic instruments	C or D?	1. Stakeholder participation	C
3. Waste management schemes	D	2. Shared responsibilities	C
4. Standards	B or C?	3. Government's leadership	F
5. Educational and awareness raising instruments			C
6. New technologies, best practices, environmentally sound products and services			C

Recommendations

- effective SD strategy
- comprehensive set of SD indicators
- wider stakeholder participation
- wider and better advertised environmental campaigns
- diversification of policy instruments
- strict and impartial control over instruments utilization
- more government support for new technologies
- popularization of voluntary certification among companies
- wider government involvement in SC and SD issues

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