



The State of Remediation of the Polluted Sites in Latvia After Accession to the European Union

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Background

The Republic of Latvia is located in the northeast of Europe within the Baltic Sea Economic Region and covers 64,589km² of territory. The three largest cities are Riga, Daugavpils and Liepaja. The state borders with Estonia, Russia, Belarus and Lithuania.

The Ministry of Environment is the central institution for the areas of environmental protection.

The responsibilities for environmental protection and regulation are shared between the state and the municipalities.

At a local level the municipalities are responsible for the establishment and maintenance of public services in their administrative area. The municipalities through municipal enterprises implement water and waste sector projects.

NATO/CCMS Pilot Study Meeting on Prevention and Remediation in Selected Industrial Sectors: Mega-Sites, Ottawa, Canada 12-16, June 2005





The state of the environment protection system in Latvia in the moment of accession to the European Union

- **the modern environmental management system developed,**
- **the environmental quality improved in sectors set as the highest priorities for the transposition of requirements of EU directives and regulations into the national legal framework and their implementation:**
- **waste management, including hazardous waste management,**
- **nature protection,**
- **water supply and waste water treatment,**
- **air protection (energy and transport).**

The state of problems related to polluted sites

In the past problems related to polluted sites:

- **have not regarded as a priority in Latvia,**
- **lack of adequate funding for the investigation and recovery,**
- **although relevant regulatory enactments have been adopted,**
- **nearly exploration of polluted and potentially polluted sites has been completed,**
- **recovery measures have been carried out in individual polluted sites only,**
- **pollution created in the former economic system,**
- **lack of municipal capability to perform functions prescribed by regulatory enactments in relation to polluted and potentially polluted sites.**

The National Environmental Policy Plan for the Period 2004 - 2008

**sets political guidelines in the following
spheres:**

- **improvement of environmental standard acts and the environmental institutional system,**
- **reduction of environmental pollution,**
- **protection and preservation of environmental situation and individual ecosystems of Latvia,**

The National Environmental Policy Plan for the Period 2004 - 2008

- **improvement of the system of obtaining and processing of environmental information for the decision-making concerning environmental protection and sustainable development,**
- **informing society of the environmental situation, development of its understanding of basic issues of environmental protection and involvement in the decision-making process in environment related issues.**

Policy goals regarding polluted sites

- **to eliminate or reduce pollution caused by previous military or economic activities and the adverse impact thereof on human health, property, environment and biological diversity,**
- **to achieve improvement in soil, ground, underground and surface water quality in polluted sites,**
- **to preclude the penetration of hazardous substances from polluted sites into surface and underground waters,**

Policy goals regarding polluted sites

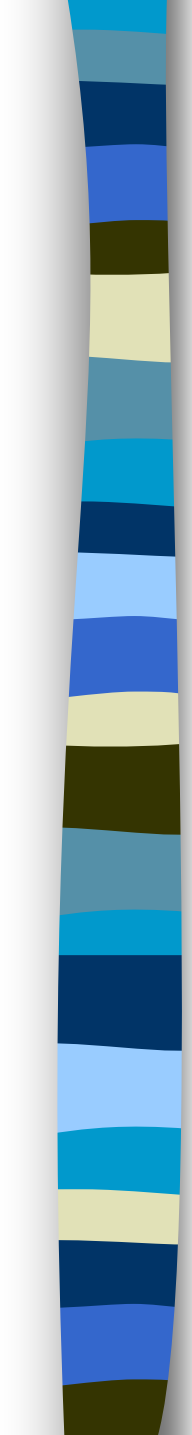
- **to renovate and improve environmental quality in polluted sites,**
- **to take the current levels of environmental pollution into account in territorial planning,**
- **to determine the actual value of land and relevant real property tax according to the degree of pollution.**

The largest contaminated sites of national relevance planned to be remediated

- **Incukalns disposal site for sulphuric acid tar, the historically contaminated site of 65 thousand m³ acid tar waste,**
- **former military airbase Rumbula in suburb of Riga contaminated with oil products,**
- **Olaine industrial (hazardous) biochemical waste dumpsite,**

The largest contaminated sites of national relevance planned to be remediated

- **Milgravis and Sarkandaugava, the territories in suburbs of Riga with contamination derived from the oil companies situated there,**
- **Jelgava industrial (hazardous) liquid waste dump site of pelt processing plant,**
- **Karaosta canal in former Liepāja Naval Port.**



The contaminated sites form a high potential risk to local groundwater resources and are therefore related to the Drinking Water Directive

Some of the contaminated sites are badly operated/operating dumpsites and thus linked to the Landfill Directive

Financing problems

- **Substantial state budget financing is required to ensure environmental improvement**
- **Cost indications for the remediation of contaminated sites of national importance are approximately € 15.9 million**
- **The funds available from the national budget are not sufficient**
- **The biggest contribution is supposed to come from the EU Cohesion Fund**
- **Projects for the remediation of contaminated sites are indirectly linked to the most investment intensive directives, and so are considered a priority under the 2004-2006 Cohesion Fund period**

EU Cohesion Fund

Cohesion Fund provides financial contribution to projects in the fields of environment and trans-European transport infrastructure networks in Member States with per capita gross national product of less than 90% of the Community average,

The Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) have been allocated a maximum of € 2 897million in 2004, € 2430 million in 2005 and € 3 251million in 2006 from the total Cohesion Fund resources,

EU Cohesion Fund

Latvia has been allocated 5.07% to 7.08% of the CEEC financing for the period 2004 to 2006. In 2006 the then Member States will decide on the allocation of the Cohesion Funds for subsequent years,

Cohesion Fund will cover between 80% to 85% of expenditure on a project,

National co-financing - in the range of 15% to 20%,

The actual works and fund spend will predominantly occur after 2006.

Cohesion Funds Available to Latvia 2004-2006

	2004	2005	2006	Total
	€ million at current prices			
Funding Available to CEEC	2 897	2 430	3 251	8 578
Max available Funding to Latvia at 7.08%	221.4	182.7	202.6	606.8
Min available Funding to Latvia at 5.07%	163.6	133.7	137.0	434.9

Present activities

At present according to the documents named the Reference Framework for Assistance from the Cohesion Fund and the Latvian Cohesion Fund Strategy in Environmental Sector for the period 2004-2006 a preparation of project applications and other documentation necessary is in an active process of development

Documents

The Reference Framework sets out how the Republic of Latvia will utilise the Cohesion Fund to finance projects within the environmental sector and transport sector

Latvian Cohesion Fund Strategy in Environmental Sector sets out the strategy of the Republic of Latvia for the identification and selection of appropriate environmental projects that could be financed by Cohesion Fund in the first years after the accession to EU