

PART III: GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - LATVIA

1. Do you have a national programme or initiative to develop and/or use indicators for sustainable development?

- Yes, we do
- No (Please describe your plans to develop such a programme or initiative).
-

If yes:

(i) When was it established?

The core set of national sustainable development indicators was established in August, 2002.

(ii) What is the name of the programme or initiative?

The core set of national sustainable development indicators was incorporated in the national "Strategy for Sustainable Development of Latvia" and used in the "Latvian Sustainable Development Indicators Report 2003".

(iii) What are the specific areas of sustainable development for which your country is developing or monitoring indicators?

Latvia has developed SD indicators and more or less used them to evaluate processes and tendencies in all main branches – **environmental** (climate change, biological diversity, transboundary air and water pollution, air quality, water quality, waste, environmental accident situations, hazardous chemical substances), **economic** (macroeconomic indicators, agriculture, transport, energy, manufacturing, mining and construction, forestry, fishery) and **social** (population, employment, health care, social security, education, research and development, information access) sectors.

Moreover, everywhere it is necessary and impossible, environmental policy integration instruments are used as an important indicators, e.g., economic instruments - environmental taxes, general taxes, which have a positive impact on nature conservation and the conservation of resources, subsidies that stimulate environmentally friendly activity; emission or environmental quality standards; eco-audit, environmental management; voluntary measures - eco-certificates, voluntary used packaging management programs and so on.

(iv) Have you developed a set of indicators of sustainable development in your country?

- Yes, we do
- No

If yes, please describe the status:

- agreed set of indicators
- draft set of indicators
- other _____

2. Is there an established co-ordinating mechanism in the country at the national level for indicators for sustainable development?

- National Commission/Council on Sustainable Development
- Steering Committee
- Inter-agency/Ministerial Working Group
- Other

Latvian Environment Agency is responsible for elaborating a set of indicators for sustainable development and including them in preparing SD indicators` report for Latvia every three years, but the authority to make changes into the developed set of SD indicators is a scope of Sustainable Development Council

- None

3. Do you participate in any regional or international programmes on indicators of sustainable development?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide the names of these programmes:

4. What are the 3 most difficult problem areas in the establishment of indicators of sustainable development in your country? Please indicate the order of priority.

- 2. Training in methodologies relating to indicators of sustainable development
- Communication with other agencies responsible for indicators
- Basic data and/or statistics – quality and quantity
- Human resources
- Financial resources
- 3. Information management system, including equipment
- 1. Monitoring mechanisms
- Other _____

5. Please provide the name of a contact person responsible for indicators of sustainable development.

Name Ilze Opermane
Title Head of the Division of Information Assessment, Latvian Environment Agency
Address Rupniecibas street 23, Riga, LV-1045, Latvia
Tel: +371 7323595
Fax: +371 7811494
Email: ilze.opermane@lva.gov.lv