BEST PRACTICES IN STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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50 Aarhus Centres in 13 countries in the ENVSEC region - South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia

Aarhus Centres networking – annual meetings at sub-regional and regional levels, trainings, publications

7 Aarhus Centres in Tajikistan since 2004, that focus on specific environment and security problems in different geographic areas

Joint projects implemented by the Aarhus Centres across borders (e.g. activities of the Aarhus Centre in Khujand and the Aarhus Centre in Osh to address chemical waste problems)
Focus on local and transboundary (Fergana valley) environment and security challenges - radioactive safety, land degradation, water management.

Aim for an informed and active civil society to effectively address environment and security risks, through:

- **Strategic Local Environmental Planning**, - focusing on uranium waste management, water use, agriculture and biodiversity.

- **Public Environmental Monitoring**, - strengthening capacity of local environmental authorities and raising awareness of local population

- **Environmental Working Group of the Community Council and Public Hearings**, - promoting dialog between political parties, civil society and government.
4 Environmental Development Strategies in Taboshar, Chkalovsk, Kayrakkum and Palascities developed and approved by the local government in 2007 - 2011,

14 districts of Sughd region integrated environmental priorities in the Social Economical District Development Plans (DDP) in 2011 – 2013,

At least 2000 local people in each district consulted/involved in planning process,

Local Trust Fund mechanisms created for effective implementation of the strategies and DDPs,

Government resources allocated for implementation of the activities within the framework of the strategies and district development plans.
• Training Manual on Public Environmental Monitoring developed and approved by the local environmental authorities,

• 400 community leaders and Green Patrols members (youth environmental movement of Tajikistan) in 6 border districts trained on public environmental monitoring tools,

• 60 public environmental inspectors trained together with local environmental authorities,

• 5 public monitoring conducted / 65 recommendations provided in 8 districts of Sughd region on environmental problems (incl. Uranium waste management and safety, energy saving, domestic waste management).
Co-ordination mechanisms between the governmental officials, civil society and political parties in Sughd region strengthened,

Regular TV programs and video spots broadcasted on public participation in environmental decision making processes and radioactive safety since 2008,

6 Public Hearings conducted on radioactive security in Sughd region and on new environmental legislation,

Joint action plan on environmental matters between Sughd region of Tajikistan and Batken region of Kyrgyzstan developed.
Disseminate **information on environment at security risks** at local, national, regional levels

Bring in the **knowledge and expertise of the civil society** to environment and security discussions

Engage communities more actively in environment and security projects

Strengthen further the **capacities of civil society organizations** on environment and security issues

Attract more **media attention** to environment and security problems

Strengthen **public participation mechanisms** in local environmental planning and management (for example - radioactive safety)

Demonstrate the **benefits of active civil society engagement** in decision-making to all stakeholders (governments, business & industry, donors)

Mobilize **civil society and local authorities - across borders** - to act together for a common goal (for example - Aarhus Centres in Khujand and Osh)

Share **best practices and lessons learned** among ourselves - across borders & across regions - through **Aarhus Centres Network**

Contribute further to **PEACE and STABILITY** within and among communities and countries
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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