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Women in Europe for a Common Future



Activity Report 2004

Looking back at WECF in 2004 and 2003



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in 2004 and 2003

Cover photo: WECF Action at the Budapest Ministerial
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WECF who are we?

1 | WECF, who are we?

Engaged women from all over the world came together in 1992 on the road to the UN-summit for Environment and Development to discuss the major problems threatening the environment and livelihoods of current and future generations. These women were united in their call for policies that would stop the increasing damage to health and environment by pollution.

Environmental protection and development of a sustainable, socially just global society are two sides of the same coin. The traditional message of the women's movement - gender equality and equal opportunities for women – is an intrinsic element of this vision because it enables

women to become fully engaged in reaching these goals.

In 1992, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) has been established in this context. WECF is an organisation of and for women aiming to establish sustainability at a European level. Since 1994, the network is supported by the foundation WECF, based in Utrecht, which manages the network, projects and finances. The network is comprised of 63 member organisations (July 2004) from 28 pan-European countries (14 EU countries, 14 countries in South Balkan and EECCA [Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia]) and 4 ROW countries.



*WECF general members
meeting, Budapest June 2004*

WECF's mission and goal

Mission

WECF strives to stimulate the participation of women in environmental policy making and implementation and to facilitate collaboration among women in citizen's organisations from Eastern and Western Europe and the NIS. As a network we focus on the issues of environment, health and sustainable development in relation to social development and poverty reduction. Our approach is to jointly implement practical projects and policy influencing activities, always keeping in mind the gender perspective. We have recognized that our strength is based on working from the local level to national and international levels.

Goal

Health and environment will improve if women have more influence in decision making. Therefore we aim to considerably increase the contributions of women to policy making in the area of sustainable development. We focus on a strong position of women in the combination of health and environment in the pan European region. Women have the power to change and women have sufficient experiences and ideas to generate this change in policy making and implementation.



Why
Women?
why
Environment?
why
Health?

2 | Why Women, why Environment, why Health?

Our Motivation:

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We are working with and for women. Women have specific responsibilities for future generations and therefore see different priorities and are often more intensely engaged in sustainability, specifically on issues related to health and livelihood. Women's reproductive health is a matter of concern in relation to environmental pollution as pollutants are passed on to the developing child and can have life long effects.

We also work with and for women because they are under-represented in policy development and decision-making. Women often have different ideas and different solutions, because they are confronted differently by the impacts of certain decisions. Full and equal participation of women in environment and sustainable development policy and gender mainstreaming of the policies will have positive effects on the quality and effectiveness of policy making, as is already shown by the more progressive examples of the German, Swedish and Norwegian ministries of environment. Health problems related to pollution and Environmental deterioration are a crucial

issue, as the consequences are constantly visible in the day-to-day lives of people. Women see a priority in strengthening health and environment policies that will protect citizens and in particular vulnerable groups such as children, women, and elderly people. The reproductive health of women is increasingly threatened by pollution, as pollutants stored their bodies and passed on to their developing foetus. Within our work we therefore focus on sustainable social-economic development in relation to health and environment. Women are increasingly taking leadership roles, organising themselves and initiating strategic partnerships in this field.

We are working on a Pan-European level because we are confronted with large inequalities in our region. We see differences in wealth, welfare and elementary conditions for the prosperity of civil society and good governance. Now that East and West are getting more closely together, it is our prime responsibility to clean our own "backyards" first and to reduce the unsustainable impact of Europe on the global environment and development. This is an important message coming

from many NGOs, which has been repeated ever since the Rio-process.

We aim at improving the quality and effectiveness of policy making by gender mainstreaming and full participation of women. The role of women, a "major group" as defined in the action plan of the Earth Summit 1992, in sustainable development and environment policy, is still little recognised and supported by policymakers. This is a barrier to the full participation of women in environment policy.

There is a concern among women's groups in the Netherlands and elsewhere in the world about the apparent lack of appreciation by the government of the potential of women as agents of change and as important stakeholders for implementation of the environmental policy, sustainable resource use, millennium goals. Women organisations want to participate in implementing these policy goals.

Awareness raising, networking and mobilising people at the grassroots level will generate a movement for the improvement of the living conditions of millions, but, real change is based in concrete local action.

Many women are most interested in what they can do themselves to improve the health and environment in their own communities, families, farms, schools etc.

We believe that our strength lies in the synergies resulting from the combination of:

- engagement of women
- capacity building for changing consumption and production patterns
- advocacy in environmental policy making, directly by local stakeholders

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"We improve the direct living conditions of a few hundred people. We increase the awareness and knowledge of a few thousand. Through our advocacy work we reach out to millions".

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director, WECF



"An old Chinese proverb says: we need two eyes to see straight. It is the same with men and women, we need to consider both their views equally in order to make the right decisions".

Marie Kranendonk, President, WECF



"Health and Environment should always stand above economic interests".

Annemarie Mohr, Project Leader, WECF



"Future generations cannot stand up for their own rights. We are responsible for the health and environment of the next generation".

**Sylvia Altamira
Network Coordinator, WECF**



"WECF promotes ideas of women for a grandchild-friendly-environment".

Margriet Samwel, Water expert, WECF

WECF practical implementation projects in 2004 /2003

3 | WECF, practical implementation projects in 2004 und 2003

Ukraine – Rural Development, Water and Eco-sanitation 2003 / 2004

For many years now, MAMA-86 Ukraine with support from WECF has been developing and implementing solutions for clean drinking water. Drinking water pollution is a growing health problem in many parts of Eastern Europe and the CIS. Pollution of rivers and groundwater with nitrates and chemicals combined with poor water treatment and distribution systems are the main problems. In the Ukraine WECF's partner MAMA-86 works on long-term policy solutions (influencing new legislation) as well as direct aid projects such as local water treatment for hospitals and kindergartens and the introduction of water meters.

The years 2003 and 2004 saw an expansion within the "Sustainable Rural Development" project to include rural development, eco-sanitation and agricultural activities. The expanded campaign is a 3-year partnership project of WECF, the

Netherlands and MAMA-86, based in Kiev together with the main partners of MAMA-86 in the cities of Odessa, Artemivsk and Sevastopol. Other MAMA-86 partners in the towns of Ternopyl, Poltova, Mariupol, Nizin, Dniepropetrivsk, Kharkiv and Yaremcha are also taking part in the



MAMA-86 Odessa's calendar with tips for saving drinking water.



MAMA-86 Yaremche's new drinking water wells for the village of Yaremche, Ukraine

project's main drinking water activities. The project receives funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs' MATRA programme.

Using demonstration projects to assess barriers and identify solutions

The projects involved MAMA-86 and its local partners showing how the drinking water situation can be improved by joined efforts from citizens, businesses and local authorities. Quick and effective solutions to water problems could be demonstrated and implemented. The pilot projects include the entire rebuilding of the water supply and wastewater treatment of an infectious disease hospital in Sevastopol. Another pilot projects handled the education and promotion of water conservation. Water loss through leakage is a serious problem in most parts of the Ukraine. Research by MAMA-86 Odessa together with Odessa university have shown that many residential hous-

ing use an average of 800 litres / day per person. Most of this "consumption" is caused by leakage. MAMA-86 Odessa installed water-meters in the building to show the exact loss and has the data to gain support from the local authorities to change local legislation which proved a barrier to installation of water meters. As soon as the legislation was changed, the number of installed water meters increased in one year from 300 to 74.000, saving 15% of the cities drinking water. Other pilot projects work on educating the local population about the options at home for improving drinking water quality. For instance by using inexpensive water filters. If filters are no solution then the pilot projects look at finding alternative water sources and protection of the existing drinking water sources. This is particularly important in the rural areas where nitrate levels in the drinking water are up to 10 times higher than the maximum allowed by the WHO.

Awareness-raising and public participation

Upgrading the entire water supply infrastructure in the Ukraine will be a long process. The project therefore aims especially at educating citizens and decision-makers about the options for improvement by individuals, communities and local authorities in the near future. Information on fast and effective measures go hand in hand with details about the long-term

changes. For this last objective, MAMA-86 organised public debates in the towns of Kiev, Odessa, Sebastopol and Artemivsk. MAMA-86 has developed a successful strategy for their campaigns involving first an independent analysis of the situation, followed by awareness-raising, public hearings and media campaigns with parallel pilot projects.

Sustainable Rural Development

The project, "Sustainable Rural Development" has included the areas of eco-sanitation, agriculture and rural development besides covering the clean drinking water aspects described above. The pilot villages are situated in three areas: Vorothka (the villages of Yarmeche, Ivanofrankivsk oblast), in Bobrik (the villages of Verjevka, Nizhin) and in Gozhuly (the village Poltava). The project involves local authorities carrying out an engineering and business plan for the water system in their area. After that followed a fact-finding

visit and an international expert meeting together with the local authorities. A gender economic analysis was also carried out, which identified needs, priorities and socio-economic conditions. The initial results from the engineering and business plans are then presented to the public. Public interest and participation – cornerstones for a successful implementation – are secured during these meetings. The villages talk about little else after such meetings. Furthermore, water tests for pesticide residues and heavy metals as well as several biological and nitrate tests were carried out. Also, rubbish was cleared from the riverbanks, soil and food tested on radioactivity and health data collected. The districts undertook hydrological surveys to determine deep aquifers and their water quality. Based on the most pressing needs of the village communities first demonstration projects are being implemented.



MAMA-86 Poltava built new dry urine-diverting eco-toilets for the school of Gozhuly village; LEFT: the old pit-latrine of the school, outside in the garden, and RIGHT: the new eco-san toilet built inside the school.



Representatives of the municipalities in Ukraine, together with MAMA-86 leaders, visit water works during a training visit to Germany

Eco-sanitation

In the village of Gozhuly, new toilets were built for the school. The new toilets are no longer badly-smelling pit-latrines in the yard, but sparkling clean eco-san toilets inside the school. So the children no longer need to go outside when in winter temperatures can reach -20 degrees. The eco-san toilets were ceremoniously opened on October 3rd 2004 with music, dance and a "how to use" work-

Romania – clean drinking water and sanitation 2003 / 2004

WECF and its partner "Medium & Sanitas" continued the "Safe Drinking Water" project in 2003 and 2004. The project involves two areas – one in a rural area and the other in a larger town. Both have Romanian NGOs participating in awareness raising and policy influencing as well

shop. For more information see: <http://www.wecf.de/cms/projects/ukraine-ecosan.php>

Training Visit to European Water Companies and Organic Farms
10 Local project partners of the 3 villages in Ukraine, the mayors, district authorities and MAMA-86 NGO representatives, were invited by WECF to visit water companies and organic farms in Bavaria. The region around Munich has similar conditions as Vorodtka, Ukraine, and a very efficient drinking water supply system. Furthermore, the project partners visited the Dutch Consul, the 2nd Mayor of Munich, a waste-water treatment plant, an organic farm and an organic farming marketing organization. For more information see: http://www.wecf.de/cms/articles/2004/10/ukraine_munich.php

as implementing solutions. The project aims at directly improving the health of school children as well as the health of all newborn babies in villages by reducing the occurrence of gastroenteritis and blue-baby-disease through education, better sanitation and clean water provision. It receives funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs' MATRA programme. The first pilot project is situated in the village of Garla Mare on the Danube. The village with a population of

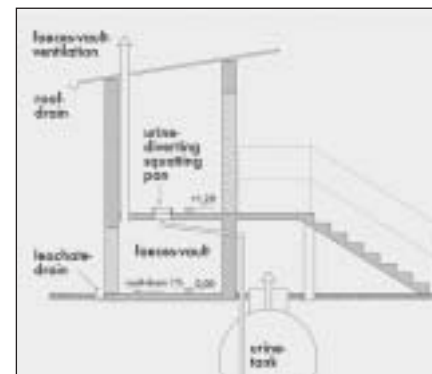
5,000 had come to the attention of the medical authorities through the frequency of blue-baby disease, an infant illness linked to high levels of nitrates in drinking water. WECF and "Medium & Sanitas" carried out independent water tests of the 70 public wells in the village. The results showed that more than 80% of the wells have nitrate levels over the maximum World Health Organisation standard of 45 mg/l, with average levels of 100 mg/l and peaks of 500 mg/l. Furthermore, most drinking water wells have far too high levels of Atrazin, a pesticide known to have hormone disrupting effects. The source of well-water pollution with nitrate, pesticides and e-coli bacteria and fecal-streptococci are latrines, waste dumps and run-off from agriculture. Health effects are both long term (thyroid and brain dysfunction) and immediate (blue-baby-disease, diahorea and hepatitis) and can be lethal to small children. Seven million people in rural Romania draw their drinking water from wells, in most cases private wells. Pollution and contamination is high. Similar problems can be found in other Central and Eastern European countries. In the Ukraine, for example, eleven million people take drinking water from, often, shallow private wells and suffer the consequences to their health.

In Romania the national drinking water legislation has been consolidated with EU directives and sets quality standards and control mechanisms for public drinking

water systems. However the Directive excludes wells that provide for less than 50 people or 10 m³ of water per day. That means that the main sources of drinking water in Romania – private wells – are excluded from the legislation. The EU directive does state that holders of small capacity wells should be informed about pollution and given advice about alternatives by the government. Unfortunately few alternatives exist. And the money to connect 50 % of the Romania's rural population to the central drinking water and sanitation system is unavailable. The EU has provided 200 million Euros since 2001 for rural water supply. Unfortunately a recent survey has shown, that the water infrastructure is hardly being used. The rural population does not have the financial means to connect to the new central supply system and continue using their polluted well water. In Garla Mare the villagers cannot pay for drinking water that a financial scheme with bank-loans and long-term payoff would make possible. The local project committee and the project staff in cooperation with the local authorities decided to focus on three solutions: a short-term emergency solution (filter), a medium term solution (eco-san) and a long-term solution (organic agriculture).

Short-term solution: Clean water and better hygiene in the schools

A special water filter was designed to reduce the high-nitrate concentration in



Above: Testing drinking water on nitrates with women of the village of Garla Mare, Romania. The village drinking water wells are polluted by latrines and agriculture. Below: Engineering design for the new dry urine-diverting eco-toilets of the school. Below: The new toilet building for the school.

the water (it has a double nitrate cartridge). This filter was installed in the school to allow villagers with small children and other persons at risk to draw clean water from there. This filter removes nitrates, bacteria and Atrazine through a multi-barrier-system and functions under pressure. It was therefore necessary to buy a pump and install it next to the well. The German filter manufacturer donated the filter. The water from the filter has been tested and it removes all the bacteria and pesticides and reaches a very low level of nitrates (2mg/l – in nature the average levels are about 7 mg/l).

Informing the people

Educational material was published on the use of filtered water (only for drinking, not for washing etc). Posters, showing

the level of pollution and warning about health effects for children were put on the public wells in the village. A children's drawing contest was organised by the two schools in the project and the winning pictures were used for a calendar-poster. In addition leaflets on hygiene, nitrates, pesticides, bacteria, their health effects, well-maintenance, organic agriculture and dry-toilets were published.

Medium-term solution: Clean toilets without groundwater pollution

This part of the project involved the design and construction of six "luxury" dry-separation toilets. Furthermore, plans for constructing two similar 'low-cost' toilets in two private homes were also put in effect. The toilets served as an example of how easy, inexpensive and comfortable dry-separation toilets are.

Also running under the name of eco-sanitation or eco-san toilets they have major advantages over flush-toilets; they are cheap (8-10 US Dollars in local production for the cheapest model), they do not use (drinking) water for flushing, and they avoid the pollution of groundwater. An additional advantage is that the “product” – a high quality fertilizer – can be used on the fields. For the villagers in Garla Mare these toilets are a great improvement over the previous pit latrines. They do not smell, do not attract flies and can be installed inside the houses and so reduce the need to go outside in winter.

The practical support in designing and constructing the eco-sanitation toilets came from the Technical University of Hamburg Harburg, who also assures the follow-up for the coming 5 years.

Long-term solution: Addressing Agricultural Pollution

The project staff and project committee have initiated a co-operation between the farmers in Garla Mare and organic farmers in the Netherlands. Organic farming prevents the pollution of groundwater, increases the health situation in the village and improves the economic perspective due to the demand for organic products in Western Europe. The project staff and project committee organised a training visit for 20 farmers from Garla Mare (ten men and ten women with mixed socio-economic back-

ground) to organic farmers in Sibiu (Romania). The women farmers have created an NGO with which they are continuing to develop organic farming and environmental activities.

Bulgaria – water and sanitation 2004

WECF and partners from the Netherlands and Bulgaria are starting a two and a half year project on improvement of water and sanitation in rural areas in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian partner organisations are the Earth Forever Foundation, Stara Zagora and the Institute for Ecological Modernisation. The partner organisations from the Netherlands are WASTE and the IRC. Water and sanitation in Bulgaria is marked by inefficient and worn-out water supply systems combined with summer draughts, which lead to drinking water scarcity. Bulgaria is one of the countries with the poorest water resources in



Water well in the village of Sulitsa, Bulgaria, one of the three pilot villages.

Europe although it has average rainfall but long dry periods. Draughts are not the only problem. Bulgaria, like most other Eastern European countries has a very inefficient water management system. In addition the levels of pollution are extremely worrying and there is a lack of financial resources for improving the water situation, in particular in rural areas.

WECF along with its partner organisations believes that environmentally friendly and relatively cheap measures can be used to improve the situation. They could include the use of decentralized waste-water cleaning systems, such as lagoons and planted-soil filters, as well as water-use efficiency measures and water source protection measures.

Afghanistan – partnership project for improved sanitation 2004

WECF and the NGO “Katachel” Afghanistan are planning joint activities to improve sanitation in the Kunduz region of Afghanistan. Sybille Sneehage from Katachel and Sascha Gabizon from WECF met at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto and planned to develop a joined eco-sanitation project. Katachel has ordered 1000 eco-san toilets to be installed in the Kunduz region to provide for better sanitation and protect the groundwater. Katachel Afghanistan



*ABOVE: Women in the village near Kunduz, Afghanistan, at a meeting of the NGO “Katachel”.
BELOW: The leaders of Katachel at the opening of a school which their NGO built.*

is very active in Afghanistan. Its projects include the construction and maintenance of schools, well building, family support, the equipment of a health care station, the construction of a bridge over the Gaukush river as well as helping people build their houses. The joined WECF – Katachel project will run till 2008 and involves building a school with eco-san toilets, building wells, carrying out a demonstration project to help farmers shift from poppy to safran and health and hygiene education. The project is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs TMF programme.



Uzbekistan – clean water and sanitation 2004

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Mehriban, WECF partner NGO in Uzbekistan, is carrying out a mini-grant project in a village near Nukus, Karakalpakstan, on improving sanitation and drinking water supply in a school. Drinking cups were provided, workshops on health and sanitation given, brochures and posters made. Mehriban will continue with a 4 year project with WECF, where it will address the lack of safe drinking-water, adequate sanitation, rural development and health information. This project is financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TMF programme.

Armenia – improvement of the nutrition and health status of children and pregnant women

WECF co-operates with its partner AWHHE “Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment” on the pilot project “Amaranth and the improvement of the nutrition and health status of children and pregnant women”. AWHHE grows organic Amaranth and uses this

for pregnant women and children whose health is affected by pollution and malnutrition.

Increasing poverty

Armenia has been suffering from a severe economic crisis, which is particularly effecting the health (in the form of malnutrition particularly) of children and pregnant women. Combined with the chemical pollution in certain areas, children’s immune systems are severely weakened.

Amaranth, Indigenous and Rich in Proteins and Minerals

In the last decades numerous research was carried out looking at ways to help solve the nutrition problem in poor countries. It was thus that Amaranth was discovered as a “miracle” plant. Amaranth is extremely rich in proteins, particularly lysine, as well as methionine. Amaranth



Improving the health status of pregnant women in Armenia, a project of AWHHE and WECF.

contains in higher levels than other plants; carbohydrates, calcium, iron, dietary fibers and vitamins. It improves the ratio of amino acids, which can be compared with fish, meat or poultry. Approximately 48 % of the Amaranth grain is a very valuable starch. Amaranth is indigenous to Armenia and grows perfectly in Armenian climate. So far however, Armenians have thought of the plant as a bad weed, not a high grade food crop.

Growing Amaranth

The project has two parts. In the agricultural part, amaranth is grown organically on 3 hectares of land by an agricultural expert with the help of women from a rural community. A group of 30 rural women grows amaranth using organic farming methods on a clean plot of land provided by the project. The rural women’s group has developed skills on how to grow amaranth, how to use organic farming techniques and how to use amaranth in home cooking as well as selling it on the market. The agricultural expert has been testing different sorts of amaranth to see which ones are the best adapted to the Armenian climate. Medical doctors using it as a supplement.

Using Amaranth for malnourished children

The grain is used for the health improvement project (AWHHE’s director is a medical doctor). The amaranth-plant



Harvesting Amaranth by the women of the AWHHE project. Amaranth contains high levels of vegetable proteins and minerals and is an excellent food supplement.

leaves have been given to the women to be used for animal fodder. The amaranth grain is being used as a food supplement for 50 malnourished children from low income and environmental hazard areas. The AWHHE physicians work with the Yerevan hospital staff to administer Amaranth flour as a food supplement during hospitalisation - in combination with protein supplements. Afterwards during several weeks, the AWHHE physicians carry out a follow-up. Average monthly weight gain of under 1-year olds was 850 grams per month. This could have been reached with other food supplements, but the advantage is that Amaranth can be grown comparatively inexpensively. As a next step, income generation is aimed at, thus providing a low cost food supplement for a large number of people. The amaranth harvests in 2003 and 2004 were very good. A part of the crop was used for the pilot project with the food supplements for malnourished children. The remaining harvest is stored. AWHHE is in discussion with a local health food producer to see if they are interested to develop amaranth based products.

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The handicapped children in the orphanage near Mayak. Due to lack of equipment and medical staff, the children hardly ever leave their beds.

Russia – support for children’s hospital, nuclear victims – 2003

The Ural region in Russia is facing many problems related to health, safety, economic development and the environment. There is an urgent need for creating a sustainable future perspective. The pursuit of sustainable development requires the commitment and dedication of the government, industry, NGOs, scientists and the public people.

From 1996 till 2002 WECF and five partners NGO’s in the South Ural region implemented several projects in the fields of environment and health, assessment of health effects of nuclear contamination, water management and safe drinking water, child nutrition and healthcare for pregnant women. Seven other NGO’s par-



ticipates in the projects. Due to lack of project funding for this region in the past two years, WECF obtained only private donations for the continuation of work with partners in the nuclear contaminated region around the Mayak nuclear armament and re-processing plant in Chelyabinsk (South Urals). Local partners of WECF are improving the situation of children in the cancer hospital, many are victims of nuclear contamination. The hospital staff has no funds for activities and many children spend all day indoors in their beds. Therefore it was decided that with the limited funds it was best to start with a donation of specially designed beds on wheels so that the children can at least be moved to the recreational area. Other organisations work for handicapped children in the region. Only part of the parents visit their handicapped children when they are treated in an institute. Having a handicapped child is still a great taboo in Russia. Our partner NGO’s try to work with volunteers in the institutes to help with education, exercises and entertainment for the children.

WECF Advocacy

4 | WECF Advocacy

Advocacy, networking and lobbying

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The advocacy work of WECF is strongly linked to outcomes of local and national NGO activities. WECF helps in fundraising for NGO events during regional and global policy meetings, where women from local and national NGOs can present their cases. WECF forms partnerships with NGOs that address environmental problems at the local and national level. One example is how WECF took actively part in the 2nd Earth Summit (WSSD). WECF brought a delegation of 12 women from Eastern and Western European as well as NIS countries to Johannesburg. WECF organised workshops on water privatisation, energy policy and health and environmental security from a gender perspective. The workshops included speeches by the South Africa Minister for Energy and the Dutch Minister for Development Co-operation.

By helping many women representatives from partner NGOs to get involved, these organizations are empowered and their issues received more attention. Apart from lobbying their own delegates, useful contacts are established with other NGOs providing the ground for future cooperation. Coalition building was further

pursued through a skill sharing projects with NGOs from three former Soviet states and the Netherlands and through joint efforts with partners and regional NGO networks involved in international decision-making.

Budapest 2004

2004 saw a major ministerial conference take place in Budapest in June. Organised by the WHO and attended by Ministers from more than 50 pan-European countries, it carried the title of “The Future of our Children” and was the 4th Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment. WECF took a very active part in preparing the conference agenda but also in organising the parallel NGO conference. WECF, as representative of the alliance of 300 environmental NGOs in the Eco-Forum, and along with EPHA (representing the health NGOs) WECF wrote and delivered statements for the preparatory conference.

WECF co-organised the preparations of the NGO Forum in Budapest together with EPHA and the REC (Regional Environment Center), fundraising, nomination and selection process for participants and for side-events, cooperation with the WHO secretariat, information dissemination to the WECF and Eco-Forum.



LEFT: WECF's director addressing the delegates at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Budapest June 2004.

RIGHT: Radio interview after the press conference.



LEFT: EU Commissioner Margot Wallström, receiving WECF's call for action “stop polluting our children”.

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With the successful fundraising 70 European women could be brought to Budapest.

WECF co-organised (with EPHA) the daily NGO caucus and plenary sessions, which gave input into the Budapest ministerial conference. In addition WECF organised a round-table dialogue between ministers and environmental NGOs as part of the conference. Many delegates found it “the most interesting” part of the conference. WECF also organised an exhibition stand in the ministerial building of the Budapest conference with campaign material on health effects of chemicals. The Swedish Ministry for Environment lent their support which allowed the exhibition stand to be carried out together with multi-sectorial partners; WASTE consultant NL, EcoSan Austria, GTZ Germany, MAMA-86 Ukraine. The stand gave out WECF tea-mugs and t-shirts with the slogan “Stop polluting our children – vote

for a strong chemicals legislation”.

A one day workshop was organised by WECF during the NGO forum on the new EU proposed chemicals legislation REACH and its importance for children's health in the pan-European region. In addition a further workshop covered practical tools for citizen's groups to reduce children's exposure to persistent and hormone disrupting pesticides with a parallel press event.

Green Week, Brussels

The Green Week is an annual event organised by the EU Commission DG Environment to bring together different interest groups to learn and discuss about new developments in the area of European environmental policy and initiatives. In the years 2003 and 2004 WECF took an active part in the event with an exhibition stand, posters and powerpoint presentations about women's environmental



EU Environmental Commissioner Margot Wallström, receiving WECF's toolkit "working towards a toxic free future"

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projects in Eastern and Western Europe and showed examples of WECF practical projects such as eco-toilets and recyclable nappies. Once again WECF attracted a lot of attention. Green Week is an excellent occasion to meet with representatives of the European Commission as well as Brussels based NGOs. In 2003 representatives from the WECF network had a 30-minute meeting with Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström, a meeting with Ms Wallström's cabinet member Mr. Thomas Gronberg, responsible for the new Health and Environment Strategy, and the coordinators of the European Union's Water Initiative, Mr. Friedrich Barth and Mr. Andre Liebaert. In addition there were several discussions with other Commission directors and cabinet members during and the main sessions. A decision was taken with Margot Wallström to have regular meetings to update her on the work and requests from the WECF network. The EU water partnership coordinators suggested how WECF could get more attention for the lack of safe drinking water in rural areas in NIS and EU accession countries.

REACH – WECF chemical and health campaign – 2003 / 2004

Chemicals

WECF has over the last two years continued developing and implementing its chemicals campaign on a national and international level. The importance of the campaign lies in the formulation of the European Union chemicals legislation REACH, standing for Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals. It is a major piece of EU policy and legal work, which will shape the future of chemicals in the lives of EU citizens. It will also greatly determine the handling of chemical imports in the EU, most notably the United States and Japan. It is paramount that this new legislation increases the safety of citizens in the European Union. The chemical industry in accordance has itself started a lobbying campaign to weaken the legislation. They believe their competitiveness as well as work places will be endangered. Their lobby work is taking effect, which makes the WECF campaign all the more essential. This is what is happening.

The campaign

WECF working together with partner organisations developed a wide campaign to influence REACH on a national, EU and international level. The campaign aims squarely at making sure the legisla-



tion will be in favour of citizens and their health and safety and not in favour of industry profits.

Action

Being active and reaching out to the public, to other organisations and to politicians and policy-makers is one of WECF's strongest points. The actions of the chemical campaign involved meetings, workshops, conferences – (organised by WECF or with WECF as a participant), lobbying work, public information, press actions and meetings with policy-makers. On an international level the WECF partner organisation WEN approached major cosmetics producers and retailers to open the dialogue about women's desire for products free of toxic components and encourage them to move to safer alternatives. WEN organised a seminar in London, inviting cosmetics producers and

retailers to an open dialogue with consumers and other interested groups. WECF organised eight workshops with local groups around chemicals, health and women. Two workshops took place the Netherlands on REACH with the farmers women's organisations; one workshop in Hungary on REACH with Hungarian women's organisations and five workshops with local groups in the UK.

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WECF's international conference "working towards a toxic free future" in Soesterberg, the Netherlands, June 2003.

Lobbying

The European Commission's Strategy on Health & Environment was joined by one WECF board member and a WECF staff member as well as four experts. The EC strategy meeting is designed to develop recommendations, actions and policies for the issues surrounding health and environment. Through active participation and input into this process WECF is helping to ensure that some of the issues of greatest concern to women (like the effects of toxic chemicals on the

neurodevelopment and general health of children) are “put on the table” for discussion while the European leaders debate a common strategy.

WECF staff members met with MEPs in Brussels. Among them were Hiltrud Breyer (Greens), Anja Weisgerber (EPP), Thomas Ulmer (EPP), Hans Blokland (EDD), Ria van Oomen (Ruijten), Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines (PPE). Discussions were also held with Alexander de Roo (Greens) and Inger Schorling (Greens). A variety of NGOs has been contacted and activated by WECF through its Toxic Free Future campaign via the WECF list-serve, letters to policy makers and correspondence on joint advocacy visits to MEPs in Brussels.

WECF chemicals campaign in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, WECF has been participating in monthly meetings of nation-



Workshop on making one's own toxic-free cosmetics during WECF's training with TIVE, the Netherlands Association of Immigrant and Refugee women.

al organisations who are working the chemicals issue. These groups include Stichting Natuur en Milieu, Stichting Noordzee, Greenpeace, de Waddenv-ereniging, Milieu Defensie, and WECF. At these meetings we discuss and update each other regarding the latest news on chemicals policy at both the international and national level. A number of joint press releases were distributed this year. WECF has hosted two events in co-operation with the Netherlands Women's Council, one about toxic chemicals and health and the other on cosmetics and toxic chemicals. A strategy meeting with the Netherlands Rural Women's Association on chemicals and food is in preparation for January 2005.

WECF is also an active member of the “National Forum on Health and Environment” where WECF consistently brings information about international policy and activities back into the group. WECF recently attended and gave valuable input during an interest group meeting of Dutch members of the European Parliament in The Hague on REACH.

WECF chemicals campaign in Germany

In Germany, WECF organised an informative day for parents and teachers in a kindergarten. The focus was “toxics in daily life” and the special vulnerability of children. An overview of the issues was presented and discussed as well as a variety of ideas for making changes in your



daily life and further ideas about how to discuss your concerns with policy-makers. Parents were given postcards that they can fill in and send to their policy-makers. The experiences from this event will be most likely applied in other schools and in further WECF member countries.

In addition the campaign in Germany is reaching out to a diverse group of women's organizations to inform, raise awareness and activate them to take a stand on REACH and help their members lead a saver lifestyle. A new version of the chemicals toolkit has been developed for Germany to be used for presentations and distribution within the organizations as well as for lobbying work on German parliamentarians and MEPs.

WECF chemicals campaign in other countries

The WECF member group Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment in 2004 organised a round table for

WECF's publication “Women for a toxic-free future” can be downloaded from www.wecf.org

experts in the health sector with regards to chemicals in daily life. They used the conference toolkit, with parts being translated for the event.

Among the participants were health care professionals, NGOs and policy makers.

Women's groups in the UK receive information and toolkits from Women's Environmental Network another member of the WECF network. This was supported through a series of training sessions and workshops and additional legal tools have been published to help women working on the chemicals issue.

Press

WECF has also stepped up its outreach to the press around the European Chemicals Policy issue. Although it is not easy to gain media attention WECF is developing the necessary press contacts that should lead to more consistent use and publication of press releases in the near future. Despite this a steady stream of press releases concerning chemicals, chemical policies and political activities have been passed to the media. WECF engaged journalists and media people on health activities and network. Six press announcements were released. WECF joined in signing four press releases by the European Environmental Organisations working on REACH. Articles have

appeared in the European Parliament Magazine, the German Environment Newsletter "Forum", the European Voice, in the Netherlands (NVR and Vem) and in national newspapers in the UK. The topic has always been REACH.

Letters to Ministers

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Following the letters from the three European leaders of France, Germany and the UK to the President of the European Commission Prodi, supporting the economic interests of the chemical industry more than the protection of human health, WECF wrote them each a letter to remind them that they are first and foremost responsible to the citizens, and the protection of our health must take priority over industry profit. Mr. Prodi also received a letter urging him to stand firm against industry pressure to weaken REACH further.

Internet Consultation

WECF submitted comments and text suggestions for the European Commission's internet consultation on the new proposal for chemical policy reform REACH and wrote to many of the EU Commissioners to ask them to support a strong chemicals policy and to protect future generations. As a result of the June Conference and repeated emphasis on the need for strong public participation, many member organisations and conference participants also submitted comments and have written letters to MEPs and the commis-

sion regarding the need for a strong chemicals policy.

Networking

Networking is an essential part of the work of WECF and not just for the chemicals campaign. An effective, ever expanding network is the prerequisites for successful campaigns, lobby work and in the development of any organisation. The WECF network is developing well, producing some really impressive results. During the Kiev 2003 Environment For Europe Ministerial Conference, WECF's director Sascha Gabizon was elected to chair the Environment and Health Issue group of the Eco-Forum network. The European Eco-Forum is the alliance of more than 200 NGOs from 50 countries in the pan-European region, which have been helping to shape the Environment for Europe process. WECF took the lead along with the European Public Health Alliance and the Eco-Forum "Environment & Health" group to organise an NGO preparatory meeting in December in Brussels where chemicals were discussed as one of the main priority themes for Budapest.

On a national level the networking activities are progressing at a steady speed. In Germany, Sonja Haider, project leader for the chemical campaign in the country, has been making many contacts with women's organisations across the nation as well strengthening relationships with traditional partner such as WWF, Friends of the Earth Germany and Greenpeace.

Participants and speakers at the WECF workshop "Women and Chemicals" in Warsaw, 6 December 2004.



Further activities:

EEB/Rousing Trust Grant

In addition to the overall chemicals campaign WECF also received funding from the EEB / Rousing Trust Grant to develop and implement the project "REACHing out for new partners", a networking project designed to draw in more women's groups from Hungary and Poland to take



WECF's Hungarian partner being interviewed on television about the Women's and Chemicals action day.

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part in the REACH proposal deliberations and lasting for one year from March 2004. The objectives were to enable women's organisations in the new EU members states, in particular Hungary and Poland, to lobby their MEPs and ministers for a strong chemicals legislation and to increase awareness, input and activities from new partners in at least one or possibly two countries from Southern Europe.

The main activities focussed on organising skills sharing with the partner groups to form a first step towards mobilising women in the accession countries to actively work on issues and policy related to chemicals and health. This would be supported by a visit and awareness raising event in one or two South European countries where according to research there are no women organisations working on REACH.

In Hungary the groups Clean Air Action Group and the Large Families Association



Young girl taking part in the press event of the Hungarian Women and Chemicals action day, June 2004.

took an active part and organised a workshop for 53 women on chemicals in our daily lives. Half the participants were international nevertheless it was a strong first step in introducing the complex subject of chemicals and showing options and actions that can be taken to reduce exposure and reach out to a toxic free future.

Surrounding the workshop and meeting was considerable press work involving the Hungarian television and major daily newspapers. Interviews were made and a press action outside the conference building was filmed and broadcasted. The future of the project will involve designing, producing and distributing documents for women on developing effective lobbying on chemicals issues, increasing

public awareness of the current and forthcoming chemical issues and continuing with the important network building. In particular the work in southern countries will be intensified and expanded to activate women's organisations there and get them to take part in the work on REACH. This work will closely co-ordinated with partner organisations to ensure continuous knowledge and information development.

Achievements of chemicals campaigns

In 2003 WECF achieved most of what it set out to do on chemicals. The year 2004 was used to keep the momentum going and this too has proven successful. As the network got better known the external request for input and participation grew and will continue to expand. WECF has produced useful and informative information for women as they reduce the toxic chemicals exposure in their daily lives. And they have been provided with the information and options for taking an active part in ensuring that their local EU politicians fight for a strong chemicals policy. And considerable time and effort has gone into informing and convincing politicians and policy-makers on the necessity to strengthen REACH. In particular the perspective of women in the whole matter was again and again the focus of all communications. However, there is still much to be done, the revision of the EU chemicals policy is a process



WECF's director with a representative of Novib (left) and the former environment minister of Georgia (right) during the NGO conference on the EECCA Environmental Strategy, Tbilisi, November 2004.

that will take at least another two years. WECF is very satisfied with the outcomes of the project and the network's progress to date and is strongly committed to continuing our work on the issue. We also greatly appreciate the funding granted to us by the DG Environment to carry out this project and have the possibility to bring so many interested and motivated women together to work towards a toxic-free future.

Georgia, Tbilisi - EECCA Environmental Strategy, Preparation for the Conference of EECCA Environment Ministers and their Partners, 2004

Representatives from 50 NGOs of 12 European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries, participants to the Conference – EECCA Environmental Strategy: Prerequisites for Successful Implementation, together with their colleagues from other UNECE countries, express their hope that the Tbilisi Ministerial Meeting will create new incentives for improvement of international and interregional cooperation in the field of environmental protection,

prudent use of natural resources and sustainable development of the region.

IFCS/SAICM – 2003 and 2004

WECF participated in the International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2003 and also in Nairobi in November 2004. WECF is the official women's major group representative at the IFCS's. The WECF flyer "Soesterberg Statement" was widely handed out. In 2003, Anne-Sofie Andersson, a member of WECF, who works for the International Chemical Secretariat in Sweden, represented WECF at the event and in 2004, Inge Schoerling, former MEP and rapporteur on the EU chemicals policy proposal, represented WECF, giving substantial input.

World Water Forum, Kyoto – 2003

At the World Water Forum in March 2003 in Kyoto, WECF co-organised two seminars on Safe Water for All, during the Europe Day and the Gender Day. WECF presented the three documentaries produced in co-operation with NVR (the Netherlands) and Rapsode (France). This series of three documentaries, entitled "No Drinking Water", presents practical solutions for safe and affordable drinking water in Ukraine, Sri Lanka and Romania. During the Forum a letter was written to the EU Commission, as an outcome of the Europe day seminar, about the need to

prioritise rural water supply in accession and NIS countries, and to focus on fast and affordable solutions such as eco-sanitation and organic agriculture. The Gender Day seminar was visited by the Minister for Water and the lead delegate of the Dutch delegation participated (Bram van Oijk, BUZA).



More than 2000 participants at the European Social Forum in Paris, November 2003, listening to WECF partner from MAMA-86 Ukraine, Svetlana Slesarenok.



Svetlana Slesarenok being interviewed at the end her presentation at the European Social Forum, Paris, November 2003.

European Environmental Ministers Conference, Kiev – 2003

All the European Environmental Ministers of 50 countries met in Kiev, 2003. WECF was active during the Kiev conference with a delegation of 12 of its members. Two of the side events to do with chemicals, water and gender issues were organised by WECF. WECF's members from Spain and Ukraine spoke in the roundtable between NGOs and Ministers organized by Eco-Forum.

European Social Forum - 2003

Four WECF representatives spoke at several of the events organised during the European Social Forum in Paris in November 2003. WEN UK organised a workshop during the European Social Forum in London 2004. The European Social Forum's attract several thousands of people, especially youth, interested in international development, but often with little knowledge about health and environment. The forums are therefore a good way to interest new people in WECF's work.

WECF Publications and Press

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Publications 2004

Gender Tools – Gender Checklist -

a report by Genanet for WECF on methods to analyse and evaluate gender aspects in institutions, organisations, planned policies and on project level.

April 2004

WECF fact sheet on

Dangerous Health Effects of Home Burning of Plastics and Waste.

August 2004

ToolKit

“Working Towards a Toxic Free Future” -

is a 50 page practical book with information about toxic chemicals in our daily life. It includes fact-sheets, reports, overviews, press-releases, and useful contact information. *Reprint July 2004*

Women’s Caucus statement for the CSD-13, November 2004

Romania Gender Socio Economic Analysis Report

A report on a short survey of the



Toolkit publication, June 2003

socio-economic and gender situation in Garla Mare, Romania.

Author; Catherina Bentvelsen, published by WECF, *June 2003*

Reducing the effects of polluted water on children’s health in rural Romania,

by Sascha Gabizon and Ioana Iacob, *November 2003*

Ecological Sanitation and Associated Hygienic Risk

An overview of existing policymaking guidelines and research. Authors Claudia Wendland and Claudia Wendland and Deepak Raj Gujarat, published by WECF, *January 2004*

Publications 2003

Working Towards a Toxic Free Future –

the WECF handbook on chemicals resulting from the Soesterberg Conference in June 2003. It focused on the impact of toxic chemicals in our daily life and the importance of civil participation in the EU Chemicals Policy Reform. *November 2003*

Soesterberg Conference Statement -

puts forth women’s specific demands to their policy-makers and outlines their own commitment to work for a Toxic Free Future is available. This statement was printed as a flyer and is a concise tool for women to use when lobbying their policy makers. *August 2004*

Women for Water, Water for Women –

statement by WECF and other organisation on “The clash between principles and practices” in the CSD-12 Agenda. *April 2003*

Press releases 2004

In Dutch

January, 26 - Consument onvoldoende beschermd

April, 1 - Studiedag Vrouwen Voedsel en Gezondheid

May, 11 - Wetenschappers slaan alarm over chemische stoffen in menselijk lichaam

June, 8 - Acht Europarlementariërs voor streng beleid gevaarlijke stoffen

June, 22 - Organisaties vragen bindende maatregelen van regering

June, 25 - Ministers voor Gezondheid besluiten tot milieumaatregelen

July, 8 - Van Geel krijgt handtekeningen “eis een lichaam zonder gif”

October, 13 - EU-wet chemische stoffen gunstig voor milieu en bedrijfsleven

March 2003- Blijf uit m’n lijf, Vrouwen willen een Gifvrij Lichaam

In English

June - Don’t Pollute our Babies Bodies!

August - An article for German Magazine by Sylvia Altamira released in August.

September - The NGO’s five key demands to improve REACH released in September.

July 16 - an advertisement in MEP Magazine “What European Women Want from their MEP’s.”

October 7 – 13 - Quote from Daniela XX in European Voice: “Heed women’s concerns on environment says incoming commissioner.”

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Press releases 2003

Towards a Non-Toxic Future (*June 23, 2003*)

Press release to Dutch press,
Naar een gifvrije Toekomst.
(*June 27, 2003*)

Call to Resist US and Industry Attacks on
Chemicals Reform (*June 27, 2003*)

Handover to Wallstrom Joint Press release
European Citizens Say Protect Us
From Hazardous Chemicals Find Title
(*July 8, 2003*)

“EU laat oren hangen naar chemische sector”- Joint Dutch NGO press release about
European Commission bowing to industry
pressures (*September 25, 2003*)

Protect Health Before Industry Profit,
Women Tell European Leaders
(*Oct. 10, 2003*)

Slimmed Down REACH, needs Healthy
Supplements (*Oct. 29, 2003* - Jointly with
EEB, Greenpeace, Friends of The Earth, and
the European Public Health Alliance)

Press release on letter to Minister
of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands on
REACH (*November 2003*)

Letters

Letters to three European Leaders –
WECF wrote letters to three European

political leaders to remind them of their
responsibility to the citizens following
their support of the chemical industry.

Letter to Netherlands Minister of
Economic Affairs Mr. L. Brinkhorst - WECF
wrote a critical reaction to Brinkhorst's
statements on REACH, where he pleaded
for protection of the competitiveness of
the European chemical industry and for
weakening the planned chemical policy.

Video

No Drinking Water

WECF co-produced three documentaries
on women and water improvement
projects in Romania, Ukraine and Sri Lanka,
now available on CD-rom/DVD
and VHS Video. The films can be seen in
English, French and the original lan-
guages (Ukrainian, Romanian). They can
be obtained against cost of reproduction
for educational use by women's organisa-
tions, environmental NGOs and schools.
The films have been shown at 15 interna-
tional film festivals in 2004.

Website / www.wecf.org

Internet Consultation - WECF submitted
comments and text suggestions for the
European Commission's internet consul-
tation on the new proposal for the chem-
ical policy reform REACH and wrote
to many of the EU Commissioners to ask
them to support a strong chemicals

policy and to protect future generations.
Many WECF member organisations
also submitted comments and have writ-
ten letters to MEPs and the commission
regarding the need for a strong chemicals
policy.

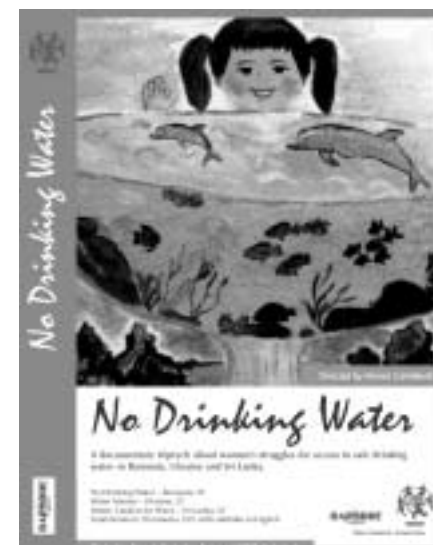
WECF's website produces a monthly
newsletter send to all members and part-
ners.

Radio

Radio interview with WECF Germany staff
on 'women as health managers'
In "Notizbuch" Radio Bayern 2, 30
minutes, 10:45-11:15, 7 April 2004

Hearings

Hearing in the Bavarian State Council –
Sonja Haider, German Director WECF,
makes her statement on the EU chemical
policy and its application in Bavaria,
October 2004



DVD "no drinking water" 3 documentaries on women
and water co-produced by WECF and Rapsode.

WECF Members

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WECF General Members Meeting, Budapest – 2004

70 participants took part in the 3 day WECF general members meeting. WECF holds bi-annual general members meetings, when possibly linked to international policy events. In this case the international policy event which preceded the WECF members meeting was the Health and Environment Ministers conference. During the WECF general members meeting a workplan for each of the 5 working groups was developed by the members. Joint fund raising efforts initiated. Experience of members was shared during presentations and video showings.

WECF membership

WECF has had active members since 1996. We re-structured our membership in 2002, and now have 3 types of members:

- **full members**
(full voting rights) including:
 - civil non-profit organisations (NGO's) with a legal status that endorse the mission and objectives of the WECF Network

- individual members (together never more than 50% of votes at any meeting)
- Environment and sustainable development committees or working groups within larger (network) organisations; they are also full member with voting rights (this type of member has been added because the statutes of some network-organisations prohibits them of becoming a member of another network, but their committees working on women and sustainable development can become a member of WECF).
- **associate members** (no voting rights)
- **honorary members** (same voting rights as individual members) for details see WECF regulations, annex.

WECF also offers individual membership for women and men who are experts on the themes WECF works on, and who support WECF's activities and mission, but whose organisation can not become a member. Currently there are 10 individual members.

International Steering Committee

The WECF international steering committee represents the WECF members, leads the WECF working groups and help develop strategy for the organisation. The international steering committee is as best as possible regionally balanced.

The current steering committee consists off:

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Name	Function	Country
Irene Dankelman	Chair	Netherlands
Svetlana Slesarenok	Co-Chair	Ukraine
Ulrike Roehr	Gender & Energy WG leader	Germany
Nadjesda Kutepova	Energy WG co-leader	Russia
Muborak Sharipova	Gender WG co-leader	Tadjikistan/Denmark
Anna Tsvetkova	Water WG leader	Ukraine
Michaela Vasilescu	Water co-leader	Romania
Gulbachar Izentaeva	Water co-leader	Uzbekistan
Isabel Ripa	Agriculture WG leader	Spain
Sabine Brueckmann	Agriculture WG co-leader	Germany
Helen Lynn	Health WG leader	UK
Elena Manvelian	Health WG co-leader	Armenia
Sascha Gabizon	Director WECF	The Netherlands

WECF Working Groups

The WECF network currently works through 5 working groups, they prepare common statements and exchange information through the 5 listerves:

Health and Environment
health@mailman.wecf.org

Agriculture and rural development
agri@mailman.wecf.org

Energy and Climate Change
energy@mailman.wecf.org

Gender mainstreaming in Sustainable Development
gender@mailman.wecf.org

Water and sanitation
water@mailman.wecf.org

List of WECF members

Member ship	Organisation	Country
<i>type</i>		
1 <i>Full</i>	Agentura Gaia	Tsjech
2 <i>Full</i>	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims	Russia
3 <i>Full/a</i>	Alga, Rural Women's NGO	Kyrgyzstan
4 <i>Full</i>	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment	Armenia
5 <i>Full/a</i>	Caucasus Environment, NGO	Georgia
6 <i>Ind</i>	Centerwoman	Sweden
7 <i>Full</i>	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'	Russia
8 <i>Full</i>	Clean up Greece	Greece
9 <i>Ass</i>	Clean World' Public Union for Civil Rights	Azarbaijan
10 <i>Ass</i>	Concord	Uzbekistan
11 <i>Ind</i>	DEA KLUB, Citizens' Anti-Toxics Action	Slovenië
12 <i>Full</i>	Ecobaby, Stichting	The Netherlands
13 <i>Full</i>	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative	Belarus
14 <i>Full</i>	Ecosphere	Belarus
15 <i>Full</i>	Ecotox	Moldova
16 <i>Ass</i>	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology	Lithuania
17 <i>Ind</i>	Fem Consult	The Netherlands
18 <i>Full</i>	Femmes & Changement	France
19 <i>Full</i>	Futura - Mujeres para el Desarrollo Sostenible	Spain
20 <i>Ind/a</i>	Generation of the Future	Uzbekistan
21 <i>Ind/a</i>	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA	Georgia
22 <i>full/a</i>	Georgian Association of Toxicologists	Georgia
23 <i>Full</i>	Georgian Envir. & Biolog. Monitoring Assoc.	Georgia
24 <i>Full</i>	Global Action Plan	Sweden
25 <i>Ass.</i>	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace	Austria

6. WECF MEMBERS

26	<i>Full</i>	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency	Kazakhstan
27	<i>Ind</i>	Hivos	Netherlands
28	<i>Ind/a</i>	INOCH, Plutonium Free Future Women's Network	USA
29	<i>Full</i>	Irish Doctos Environmental Association (IDEA)	Ireland
30	<i>Ass</i>	ISS Independent Social Support	Belarus
31	<i>Full</i>	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia	Macedonia
32	<i>Ind</i>	Kiwa Water Research	The Netherlands
33	<i>Full</i>	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)	The Netherlands
34	<i>Full</i>	LIFE e.V. - FrauenUmweltNetz	Germany
35	<i>Full</i>	Lore Ecoclub NGO	Armenia
36	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Artemirsk	Ukraine
37	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Feodosia	Ukraine
38	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Kharkov	Ukraine
39	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Kiev	Ukraine
40	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Luginu	Ukraine
41	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Mariupol	Ukraine
42	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Odessa	Ukraine
43	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Poltava	Ukraine
44	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Sevastopel	Ukraine
45	<i>Full</i>	Mama-86 Yaremche	Ukraine
46	<i>Full</i>	Medium & Sanitas	Rumania
47	<i>Full</i>	Mehriban	Republic of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan
48	<i>Full/a</i>	Meldpunten Netwerk Gezondheid en Milieu	The Netherlands
49	<i>Ind</i>	Moscov State University	Russia
50	<i>Full</i>	Nabat Muslyomovo	Russia
51	<i>Full</i>	Network of East-West women Polska	Poland
52	<i>Ass</i>	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling	The Netherlands
53	<i>Full</i>	Open Asia	Denmark

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54	<i>Ass</i>	Papillon Promotions	Scotland
55	<i>Ind/a</i>	Pesticides Action Network	Belgium
56	<i>Full</i>	Planet of Hopes	Russia 456780
57	<i>Full</i>	Social Ecological Institut	Poland
58	<i>Full</i>	Step Forward Snezynsk	Russian Federation
59	<i>Full</i>	Trust Center 'Sabr'	Uzbekistan Republic
60	<i>Ass.</i>	Uganda Women's Health Network	Uganda
61	<i>Full</i>	Ukrainian Scient. Hygienic Society	Ukraine
62	<i>Full</i>	Ural's Women Network - Argayash	Russia
63	<i>Full</i>	Ural's Women Network - Kashli	Russia
64	<i>Full</i>	VeM, centrum voor Vrouw en Milieu	The Netherlands
65	<i>Full</i>	Women's Environmental Network	UK
66	<i>Full</i>	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG	Armenina
67	<i>Ass</i>	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC	Lithuania
68	<i>Ind/a</i>	Women for Environment	Ukraine
69	<i>Full</i>	Women for Sustainable development´ in the NGO `Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasas	Uzbekistan Republic
70	<i>Full</i>	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"	Ukraine

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WECF Board & Staff

WECF board of directors

- **Drs. Marie Kranendonk**
WECF, Utrecht, Zaltbommel,
President of the Board
- **Drs. Willy Douma**
Environmental Policy Officer, Hivos,
Den Haag, Secretary
- **Bert Kuiper**
Corporate Treasurer DHV Holding,
Amersfoort, Treasurer
- **Ir. Kitty Bentvelsen**
Consultant, Femconsult, Den Haag,
Board member
- **Ir. Gerda van Dijk**
Managing Partner, De Galan Groep,
Baarn, Board member

Staff and Temporary Assignments

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, The Netherlands and in Munich, Germany. WECF works with volunteers as well as paid staff and consultants.

- **Sascha Gabizon**
International Director
- **Sonja Haider**
Director Germany
- **Annemarie Mohr**
Eastern Europe Officer
- **Daniela Rosche**
Policy Coordinator
- **Sylvia Altamira**
Network and chemicals

- **Margreet Munneke**
Office Manager
- **Theo Poort**
Financial management
- **Margriet Samwel**
Water, Eco-san and Agriculture
Coordinator
- **Gero Fedtke**
Central Asia, Caucasus coordinator
- **Isolde van Overbeek**
Chemicals Coordinator Netherlands
- **Solomiya Babyak**
NIS coordinator
- **Annemarie Hekkers**
Office assistant
- **Sabine Brückmann**
Agriculture coordinator
- **Bistra Mihailova**
Intern/ Bulgarian project assistant
- **Véronique Grassinger**
Graphic designer
- **Frauke Paré**
Graphic design/assistant
- **Hanno Langfelder**
Webmaster

Volunteers

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