

# Public participation in the climate change-related decision-making

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# Abbreviations used in the presentation

- EU – European Union
- KP – Kyoto Protocol
- NGO – public environmental organisation
- AC – Aarhus Convention
- UN FCCC – Framework Convention on Climate Change

# The role of the public in raising awareness and education of the population on the changes and climate protection (Articles 3 and 5 AC, Articles 4 and 6 UN FCCC, Article 10 KP)

- Information campaigns NGOs;
- Constant informing of the public concerned on topical issues of climate change;
- training programs, in particular in the framework of international projects;
- performance of NGO representatives to give lectures to government officials

## Belarusian experience:

- information campaigns "International Hour of the Earth ", "350" and others.
- weekly e-mail distribution of compilation of climate news
- the network of "Green Schools", including elective "Energy and Environment", the School Project for Application of Resources and Energy,
  - seminars "Adaptation of Agriculture of the Republic of Belarus to climate change", "Implementation of the provisions of Article 6 of the UNFCCC in the Republic of Belarus", "Education, training and public awareness in the sphere of climate change", "National, regional and international carbon market as a tool for implementing strategy sustainable low-carbon development "
- lectures at the Academy of Management under the President of the Republic of Belarus for the heads of government

# Public participation in decision-making on specific activities that can have a significant impact on the climate

(Article 6 AC, Article 4 of the UNFCCC, Article 10 KP)

Public discussions in the evaluation of the environmental impact of activities that can have a significant impact on the climate

## Belarusian experience:

public involvement in the procedures of participation in the evaluation of the environmental impact:

Energy facilities

Industrial facilities

Agriculture

Waste treatment facilities

**Public participation in the development of plans and programs related to climate change, in particular programs for mitigation and adaptation to climate change**

**(Article 7 AC, Article 4-6 of the UNFCCC, Article 10 KP)**

- Involvement of public to the process of preparing the drafts of plans and programs related to climate change

**Belarusian experience:**

- The least developed component of public participation in climate issues

**Public participation in the preparation of normative legal acts related to climate change  
(Article 8 AC, Article 6 of the UNFCCC, Article 10 KP)**

- Involvement of the public in the preparation of drafts regulations relating to climate

**Belarusian experience:**

- Discussion of the draft laws of the Republic of Belarus "On Air Protection", "On the Climate"

## Capacity building of the public on climate change (Article 3 AC, Articles 4-6 of the UNFCCC, Article 10 KP)

- Public with experience in the field of climate change, enriches it by participating in educational activities, participates in the preparation of teaching materials

### Belarusian experience:

- The method of accounting of greenhouse gases emissions from drained and restored wetlands in the frames of the international project will be developed and tested, as well as the system of the sale of CO<sub>2</sub> certificates in the voluntary carbon market
- Participation in international climate research

## **The role of the Aarhus Centre in strengthening cooperation between government agencies and the public on climate issues**

- Assistance in carrying out public meetings of Environmental Coordination Council under the Ministry of Natural Resources, where the issues related to climate protection are considered
- Publication of the brochure about climate for young people and the media as part of an educational project SPARE
- Preparation section 8 "EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE" of the Fifth and Sixth national communications for the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



- Participation in the preparation of the bill on public participation in environmental decision-making
  - Publication of practical recommendations for public participation with the support of the OSCE
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- The section "To help the carrying out of procedures for public participation in environmental decision-making" is established on the official website of the Ministry of Environment

**Thank you for your attention!**