

## *Announcement*

### Summer Camp Clean Dvina - Clean Baltic 2004.

ACTIVISTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGO'S ACT AGAINST POLLUTION OF THE RIVER WESTERN DVINA AND THE BALTIC SEA.

The international camp Clean Dvina - Clean Baltic 2004 was taking place from 17 till 24 august in the area of Novopolotsk city. The activists of the environmental NGO's, who are worried about the pollution of the river Western Dvina gathered in the summer camp.

Baltic Sea is a very unique sea: it is the only one sea in the world with brackish water. The water in the sea is the mix of the salty ocean water and fresh water from a great number of rivers flowing into it. Baltic is a region with a great biodiversity. It is a threatened region.

Baltic Sea is a densely populated region and hardly industrialized region, that is the reason why Baltic is the most pollute sea in the world. The most imminent dangers are: eutrophication, heavy metals contamination, contamination by the toxic and radioactive substances, fishery and transportation.

Among the organizers of the Summer Camp Clean Dvina - Clean Baltic 2004 were:

Environmental group Foundation for Realisation of Ideas, Minsk, Belarus.

International environmental group Ecodefence!, Kaliningrad, Russia.

Environmental NGO Zvejone, Klaipeda, Lithuania.

With a financial support from Coalition Clean Baltic.

#### WHY IS THE TOPIC IMPORTANT?

Western Dvina is the most polluted river in the Republic of Belarus. The water quality in the river station upstream the Novopolotsk city is not inconsistent with the state standards. The sewage disposal of the enterprises Naftan and Polimir as well as other city enterprises determines the subsequent increasing of the pollutants quantity in the water downstream from the points of the abstractions of the sewage water. The quantity of oil and sub oil products rises in two times, the concentration of the nitrates, ammonium nitrogen and quantity of the suspended matters increases.

Taking into consideration the fact that Western Dvina is among the largest rivers flowing into the Baltic Sea we can say for sure that pollution of the Western Dvina means pollution of the Baltic Sea. The nongovernmental organisations of the Baltic region are seriously worried about the facts of the pollution of the Western Dvina River as well as other transboundary rivers of Belarus.

Summer Camp Clean Dvina - Clean Baltic 2004 was opened for activists of different NGO's from different countries, who were showing the solidarity in the promotion of water protection.

#### WHAT WAS GOING ON DURING THE SUMMER CAMP CLEAN DVINA - CLEAN BALTIC 2004?

The program was divided into two main parts: educational part and awareness raising part.

- Educational part included trainings and practical sessions, seminars for camp participants on the problems of water resources protection measures and problems of chemical safety.
- Awareness raising part included actions and events directed on the attraction of the public attention to the problems of the Western Dvina river pollution; discussions of the future plans of the cooperation between different NGO's.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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