Proceedings from the Transatlantic Initiative to Promote Environmental Justice Workshop, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

October 27-30, 2005

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"Creating fairness in the global and local distribution of environmental benefits and harms by ensuring the minimization of such harms and preventing racially discriminatory outcomes, through measures such as strong positive law, policy mechanisms, and measures to maximize meaningful participation by affected communities and individuals, including in particular racial and ethnic minorities and other frequently excluded groups. Environmental justice also comprises positive duties to remedy historical and /or ongoing harms."

I. Introduction

Poor and marginalized communities are often disproportionately affected by environmental problems and denied fair or equal access to environmental benefits such as clean air, land, and water. These inequalities reflect a crisis of social justice and democracy as the burden of environmental pollution is pushed on these communities due to discrimination, prejudice and challenges within the affected communities' capacity to access and influence governmental and corporate decision-making. Two decades ago, activists in the United States articulated this problem as a violation of environmental justice (EJ) and defined these practices as *environmental racism and environmental injustice*. The environmental justice movement was born. Due to research by academics, activists, and journalists, powerful grassroots activism and support, and creative policy and legal advocacy, US scholars, activists, and lawyers established an unprecedented foundation for addressing social injustices associated with the distribution of environmental harms and benefits.

The environmental justice movement was more recently ignited in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) when the Coalition for Environmental Justice (CEJ) was formed and developed a more regionally focused understanding of environmental justice. While human rights and environmental activists had been doing work on these issues for many years, it was not framed as environmental justice activism until recently. The CEJ is made up of scholars, activists, and lawyers from environmental and human rights organizations in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, and Slovakia. Coalition members decided that they would benefit greatly, at this critical point in the movement, from an exchange with US environmental justice scholars, activists, and lawyers. The ultimate goal was to stretch across oceans and land, cultures, and politics to launch an effective global initiative to promote environmental justice. While there have been numerous other transnational efforts to promote human rights and environmental justice, this workshop was the first of its kind, in that it specifically linked the situation of vulnerable peoples and threatened environments in Central and Eastern Europe to the struggles of peoples in the United States. This is also significant because the CEE region is often unfortunately excluded from discussions and actions concerning EJ and human rights that are frequently focused on the global South. While CEE may be in Europe, many of the nations and the populations contained therein struggle with cultural, economic, legal, and environmental exploitation that is distinct from the rest of Europe and has more in common with the global south.

Objectives: The purpose of the workshop was to provide a structured forum for interactive, informative exchange, capacity building and action through mutual comparative case study reflection and analyses, strategy building, policy innovation, and networking for the future in order to enrich, invigorate, and implement our mutual efforts to improve environmental justice across the globe. From October 27-30, 2005 more than 30 participants from 10 nations met in an intense workshop, featuring the participation of environmental justice and human rights activists, scholars, and lawyers from both the US and CEE.

The workshop was organized by the following themes:

- Case Study Reflection and Analyses on Lessons Learned and Best Practices
- Strategy Building
- Policy and Legal Innovation
- Networking for the future

Major questions we addressed at the workshop included: What is environmental racism/injustice? What is environmental justice? What has been the experience in promoting environmental justice in the U.S. and CEE? What strategies have worked or did not work, and why? What does environmental injustice look like in CEE, and what can be gained from the U.S. experience? How are human rights and EJ issues linked? Should the EJ and human rights movement in CEE focus mainly on Roma people or should it be broader to include all groups affected by environmental injustices? How can a transatlantic network on EJ and human rights support the work of NGOs and other stakeholders who are already involved?

Organization and Participation: Participants to the workshop were drawn from the following nations: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, and USA. U.S. participants created a website to place their case studies for viewing prior to the workshop. These documents can be viewed at http://calcultures.ucsd.edu/transatlantic initiative/papers.htm

This initiative was sparked by the collaborative efforts of the Central European University-Center for Environmental Policy and Law (CEPL), the California Cultures in Comparative Perspective initiative at the University of California, San Diego, and the Institute for Culture and Ecology, that provided institutional and organizational support for the development and implementation of the workshop. Thanks to the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Open Society Institute's Roma Participation Programme, Central European University, and University of California, San Diego for providing funding for this workshop. Additional thanks are given to those who provided their own funding to participate in the workshop. We would like to offer our appreciation and thanks to all the workshop participants and various contributors who dedicated a great deal of their time and energy to participate in this important endeavor, most of whom traveled great distances to attend the workshop. The key organizers of the event were: Tamara Steger, David Pellow, and Rebecca McLain, with critical assistance from Fiona Borthwick, Keti Medavora, Nora Mzavanadze, and Kriszta Szabados. Several others who were most helpful in the workshop's preparation and development included Claude Cahn, Richard Filcak, Lee Greer, Krista Harper, Annie Leonard, Isabela Mihalache, Dana Romanescu, and Bernard Rorke. Please note, however, that the key organizers accept full responsibility for the final organization and design.

II. Executive Summary

Environmental inequalities, environmental racism, and human rights abuses are widespread among communities that are culturally, socially, politically, and economically marginalized by dominant groups around the world. The United States and Central and Eastern Europe are no exception. Poor and working class people of all racial and ethnic

backgrounds in the U.S. and Central/Eastern Europe are relegated to the least desirable neighborhoods with poor housing quality and often in close proximity to locally unwanted land uses such as landfills, incinerators, and polluting factories; they are forced to work in the most dangerous, toxic, and low paying jobs. They also are frequently negatively affected by development and planning decisions around natural resource extraction and management. While these social and environmental insults disproportionately impact poor people around the world in general, they have a particularly intense impact on ethnic and racial minorities and indigenous peoples globally. In the United States context, this includes Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, African Americans, and Latinos. In Central and Eastern Europe much of the brunt of environmental racism impacts Roma communities.

More than 30 activists, lawyers, and scholars from the U.S. and CEE convened the Transatlantic Initiative on Environmental Justice to consider these concerns and struggles and to devise a plan to amplify the efforts on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to leverage greater power and achieve a higher level of efficacy. We exchanged experiences, knowledge, and made the decision to expand our respective efforts to create an international collaborative network focused on linking human rights and environmental justice movements in the U.S. with those in CEE.

Workshop participants proposed the following definition of environmental justice: "Creating fairness in the global and local distribution of environmental benefits and harms by ensuring the minimization of such harms and preventing racially discriminatory outcomes, through measures such as strong positive law, policy mechanisms, and measures to maximize meaningful participation by affected communities and individuals, including in particular racial and ethnic minorities and other frequently excluded groups. Environmental justice also comprises positive duties to remedy historical and /or ongoing harms."

III. Workshop Proceedings

On the evening of October 26, 2005, Rebecca McLain and David N. Pellow made presentations to students and faculty, and members of the public on "Environmental (In)Justice in the United States," as part of the Open University Seminar at Central European University (CEU).

Day One, October 27, 2005

Members of the U.S. delegation enjoyed a presentation on the history of civil society organizations, Roma communities, and politics by Dr. Ferenc Zsigo at CEU in the morning. Afterward, the delegation visited the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in Budapest and met with staff members there. ERRC staff members presented information and provided published documents on a range of critical issues facing Roma populations in CEE stressing particularly the case of environmental injustice with respect to housing rights and exposure to harmful conditions including flooding and toxic materials. Through their campaigns and legal actions, they focus on the European Union and accession countries, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations (UN). They also do human rights

training and attend conferences around the world on racism and human rights as they relate to Roma people's concerns. Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Germany, Kosovo, and Bulgaria are nations where the ERRC has found some of the worst cases of environmental racism directed at Roma people. As Larry Olomoofe, Human Rights Trainer for the ERRC stated, "if you put your finger anywhere on a map of Europe where Roma are located, you'll find environmental problems."

That same evening, an open reception was held at Central European University to allow workshop participants and others interested in environmental justice and human rights to meet and engage each other in an informal setting. Approximately fifty people attended this event.

Day Two, October 28, 2005

Reflection and Analysis, Lessons Learned from EJ Struggles

In Memoriam: Rebecca McLain and Mily Trevino-Sauceda asked that U.S. activist Beverly Brown, who recently passed away, be given recognition for her life's work and accomplishments.

Brief history of EJ efforts in CEE and the U.S. CEE

Alex Antypas (CEU, Hungary) provided an overview of the history of the Coalition for Environmental Justice in CEE. In 2002, the Center for Environmental Policy and Law (CEPL) was established and the Center for Human Rights at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest joined forces to create an environmental justice programme by launching a project to bring together activists, lawyers and scholars working on human rights issues and environmental concerns in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. This project, supported by the PHARE programme of the European Union and the Open Society Institute, involved two workshops during which the Coalition for Environmental Justice (CEJ) was established. Their work culminated in a regional definition of environmental justice and injustice, a framework of analysis, an informative brochure that was widely distributed throughout the region. Since then, the CEJ has collaborated on several efforts to promote environmental justice in the region including having input into the EU policy process, generating publications, conducting research, and applying the concept to improve and inform activist, legal, and scholarly work.

Three main problems of environmental justice confront the Roma in the region:

- Access to water and sanitation
- Exposure to toxics (e.g., abandoned mines)
- Exposure to floods (e.g., living on islands on rivers)

A major problem with documenting environmental injustice in Europe is the lack of data collection on race/ethnicity by governments. The CEJ has thus far been able to research case studies but has very little large-scale quantitative data on EJ issues in the region (as compared to numerous such studies in the U.S.). Another problem is that, in the European public's mind, human rights and EJ issues are not generally linked to racial

discrimination. Thus, these issues are not on the public consciousness and are therefore not being seriously considered by funders who might otherwise provide support for organizing work. Finally, as is the case among communities of color and working class populations in the U.S., it is often easier to speak with Romani people about housing concerns than it is to talk to them about traditional environmental concerns.

US

David N. Pellow (University of California, San Diego, US), Monique Harden (Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, New Orleans, US), and Jennifer Lin (Asian Pacific Environmental Network [APEN], California, US) provided an overview of the struggle for environmental justice in the US. Environmental racism occurs "when people of color suffer from unequal protection against toxic and hazardous waste exposure and the systematic exclusion of these populations from environmental decisions affecting their communities (including natural resource extraction)." Environmental injustice (or environmental inequality) occurs "when any marginal population suffers a disproportionately high burden of environmental harm, and/or is excluded from environmental decisions affecting their communities." Environmental justice is "a goal, a vision, in which no community is unfairly burdened with pollution or other environmental harms and when social justice and ecological sustainability prevail." Researchers in the US have been gathering, analyzing, and publishing data on environmental inequalities for 35 years and this has been critical to the effort of the EJ movement to document and make the case for its grievances.

"EJ has to be defined in the context in which people live. It will be different in different places." We need to achieve a transformation of society and this must begin with the community. There are numerous laws in the US on environmental protection, health and safety standards, but it is very hard to implement them, so they basically do not deliver the protection needed. "So the question is how effectively to use the existing legislation."

Although it is important to define environmental injustice, if we are to achieve societal transformation, then it is just as important to understand the <u>causes</u> of environmental injustice. One of the main causes is the principle and practice of "profit over people" that corporations adhere to, and a secondary cause is that there is not enough community organizing to hold governments responsible. "We must do political education so the problems can be addressed. We seek long-term social change." It is also important to remember that community organizing is "not just about giving information to people, it requires much more effort than that."

October 28, 2005

Small Group Break Out Session:

Defining Environmental Injustice and Environmental Justice

The workshop participants got into groups comprising activists, lawyers, and scholars, respectively, and came up with excellent considerations and ideas as follows:

What is environmental <u>injustice</u>?

- Regional discrimination against underdeveloped areas
- Corruption of politics
- Incinerators move West to East, geographic inequalities
- Roma not getting land
- Poor/marginalized communities exposed to toxics
- Exclusion from education
- Lack of information and resources
- Workplace sexual harassment, hostility; not just toxins
- Poor access to legal protection
- ♦ Corporations externalizing costs to community
- Communities having no voice in decision-making
- Misuse of environmental laws against persons of color
- Speaking for others without their permission
- Taking resources from less developed areas
- Historic exclusions of people from areas to "protect resources
- Academics misused by states, corporations
- ♦ Racism

What is environmental justice?

- Definition of EJ depends on context
- Good food, clean water, access to nutrition
- Equal access to services, information, and resources
- Equal access to all decision-making and planning
- Nonviolence against women and other gender issues
- Economic justice
- Distributive justice
- Sustainability
- Need to take a holistic approach, not piecemeal
- Recognition of the contributions to the environment that marginalized groups make
- Includes positive duties and actions to remedy historic environmental injustices
- Need to include other species

<u>Causes</u> of environmental injustice

- Different causes at different levels: globalization (big industries have broken down local industries, EU policies impact poor people); National policies impact poor people; some issues can be fought at a local level; small groups should network
- People impacted are not used to participating and/or have not been able historically to participate
- A culture of non-participation develops in some places
- Strong central government/ planning; a lack of democratic institutions
- Actions of international companies
- Economic system based on profit
- Prejudice and Discrimination
- Inequality of class, race, gender. Inequality of opportunity to participate
- Lack of policies, of implementation, and of information about policies
- Unclear liability laws
- People have been silenced, have learned silence
- Lack of knowledge, e.g. of risks and lack of understanding
- Economic factors. People may choose risks because they have no real choice
- Fear of losing jobs
- There will always be inequalities; Societies are built on inequality
- ♦ Historic reasons, e.g., gender, stereotyping, geographic issues, communication
- Political power and its misuse
- No tradition in Central and Eastern Europe of holding government accountable
- Lack of political representation of minorities
- Different standards in different parts of the world
- People are still learning that they can challenge big multi-national companies
- Citizenship: the quasi-legal status of Roma neighborhoods
- Lack of documentation, statistics, visibility
- Isolation and mistrust

October 28, 2005 Afternoon Session Causes of Environmental Injustice

This session featured a discussion of the causes of environmental injustice and really hinged on whether or not the Transatlantic Initiative on Environmental Justice would focus exclusively on Roma issues in CEE work, or whether or not we would broaden our net to include any and all groups suffering from environmental injustice and human rights abuses. We again broke out into small groups and discussed the causes of environmental injustice.

A discussion within groups emerged over the relative weight of race and ethnicity versus class in determining the causes of environmental injustice. Issue: should the net be cast broadly, or focused mainly on race? Some argued that race is a more practical approach

since there are more laws on racial discrimination that can be used to challenge environmental injustice than there are banning discrimination by class or economic status. Others felt that the focus must be broader because environmental injustices affect populations other than ethnic minorities. Toxics organizers and other environmentalists were doing EJ related work in CEE for many years prior to the CEJ's emergence, even though it was not called "environmental justice" at the time.

Claudia Macaria of the Resource Center for Roma Communities (Cluj Napoca, Romania) agreed to make an unscheduled presentation and provided an example of community-based organizing in which she was involved in Romania, which brought together both Roma and non-Roma communities around water quality and food security concerns that affected everyone. This case study was helpful because it was a real example of advocates working together for environmental justice, across the Roma/non-Roma cultural divide in Europe.

The discussion was resolved when all agreed to include both Roma and non-Roma people in EJ and human rights work in the CEE region. What was significant from this discussion is that the tension between race and class in defining environmental injustice and environmental justice still exists in 2005 in the U.S. and also exists in Europe. This means that we have the potential to build common cause and that there are great opportunities for organizing more powerful movements for justice both domestically and internationally. We must see this as a multi racial and multi ethnic movement that searches for ways to build power across these groups, otherwise we will lose the ability to achieve our goal. As one participant stated, "before I saw EJ as only a parallel to my work, but now I see them as integrated." Another participant reminded the group that "human rights and EJ are very related and they cannot be separated – environmental rights are human rights."

The proposed definition of environmental justice agreed upon at the meeting was as follows (thanks to Claude for articulating this):

"Creating fairness in the global and local distribution of environmental benefits and harms by ensuring the minimization of such harms and preventing racially discriminatory outcomes, through measures such as strong positive law, policy mechanisms, and measures to maximize meaningful participation by affected communities and individuals, including in particular racial and ethnic minorities and other frequently excluded groups. Environmental justice also comprises positive duties to remedy historical and /or ongoing harms."

Day Three, October 29, 2005

Case Studies, Best Practices, Policy and Legal Innovation

This day's sessions were a breath of fresh air for many participants who really wanted to hear and learn more about particular community struggles. The previous day's work was difficult but necessary, because we wanted to find common ground on definitions and driving forces behind environmental injustices. This day's work was easier and flowed more freely because people were speaking directly from their own particular struggles.

Session 1a: Grassroots/community activist case studies.

- 1) Iskra Stoykova (Romani Baht Foundation, Bulgaria) and Keti Medarova (For the Earth, Bulgaria): Fakulteta Roma Settlement in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 2) Kumar Vishwanathan (Ostrava, Czech Republic)
- 3) Jennifer Lin, (Asian Pacific Environmental Network, California [APEN], US)

These presentations were nearly seamless and were focused on housing, human rights, and environmental justice issues facing Roma in CEE and Asian communities in the U.S. The similarities across the cases were striking. Poverty, health problems, racism, residential segregation, poor housing quality, poor waste management practices, and a lack of basic services were common to all cases, from Bulgaria to the Czech Republic, to California. In CEE, the lack of good data on Roma communities and waste dumping is a hindrance to organizing there. In the Czech Republic, floods have repeatedly damaged Roma communities. In California, APEN has declared that all people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which they live, work, learn, and play. APEN fights housing discrimination and environmental racism through: political education and leadership development, which allows for movement building to continue from one struggle to the next. They work to connect local and global issues like the migration of people and companies (TNCs) across national borders and work on policy solutions such as their Responsible Development Campaign, in which APEN provided affordable housing in the face of new development pressures in Oakland, California.

So while the situation is dire in these communities, activists and advocates from within and without are organizing and making changes.

Panel 1b: Grassroots/community activist case studies

- 1) Mily Trevino-Sauceda (Lideres Campesinas, California, US)
- 2) Rebecca McLain (Institute for Culture and Ecology, Oregon, US): Nontimber Forest Product Harvesters in the US
- 3) Ann Leonard (Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance/Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives [GAIA], California, US)

This session featured speakers who work at local, national, regional, and global scales for social and environmental justice. The message was clear: community "organizing is not just taking the information to people and expecting them to act. You need to learn from people what *their* issues are." The struggles of workers harvesting non-timber forest products in the Pacific Northwest of the US and the farmworkers movement are particularly important kinds of environmental justice issues because they involve labor struggles around the extraction and control of natural resources (rather than the traditional EJ concerns around toxic facility siting near communities). We also learned how global movement building and networking can really work for local communities from Africa to Asia and Europe. One speaker stated "we have a human right to be in a clean, chemical-free environment; down to the level of the individual body." GAIA, has a vision of a just, toxic free world without incinerators, but to get to that goal, GAIA supports its member

organizations. It first asks, "what is the work that needs to be done?" and then asks "what structure will best support that work?"

Panel 2a: Policy and Law case studies

- 1) Dezideriu Gergely (Romani CRISS, Bucharest, Romania): Legal action for environmental justice in Romania
- 2) Sandor Fulop (Environmental Management and Law Association, Hungary): Environmental Management and Law in Budapest, Hungary
- 3) Jindrich Petrlk (Arnika and International Persistent Organic Pollutants {POPs} Elimination Network [IPEN], Prague, Czech Republic)

Roma communities in Romania are hounded by racism and discrimination in housing, law enforcement, and environmental issues. While Romani CRISS focuses mainly on human rights issues related to housing, they are interesting I doing work on EJ related issues because Roma communities in Romania are being located near toxic facilities.

Many communities in Hungary face an onslaught of the growing pressure by the incinerator industry to locate such facilities in towns across the nation, but they are fighting back and winning. National and international law are tools that can be used to help communities gain access to the power to repel these toxic facilities, including the Aarhus Convention, which guarantees that states shall allow public access to information, environmental education, and access to justice in environmental matters.

POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) are truly a global toxic threat because they jump from one nation to another. POPs are a threat to environmental justice because most of them are produced by rich nations in the global North but many are found in poor nations where they invade the bodies of people and animals that have never benefited from the chemical based products associated with their production. IPEN makes use of the Stockholm Convention on the elimination of POPs by urging companies and states to comply with this international framework.

Panel 2b: Policy and law case studies

- 1) Claude Cahn, (European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest, Hungary): International advocacy opportunities of relevance for EJ
- 2) Monique Harden (Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, New Orleans, US)

These two case studies were examples of how local communities and legal advocates can collaborate to elevate—and sometimes win—human rights and environmental justice cases within international venues. Many cases brought by the ERRC and others on behalf of vulnerable communities facing racial discrimination in housing, labor, and environmental matters can break new and critical ground at the European Court of Human Rights. The European Social Charter Collective Complaints Mechanism and other legal frameworks were discussed.

Although there are plenty of environmental laws in the United States, there is no legal framework for the protection of human rights in that nation. Advocates for

Environmental Human Rights uses human rights because it is a framework that embraces the Principles of Environmental Justice. The U.S. environmental regulatory system violates human rights in several ways, which requires a strong community-based response.

Critical questions and issues raised at the end of the day included the following:

- How do we solve urgent problems via campaigns rather than long-term problems?
- We need to operationalize an international network to raise these issues around the world because CEE nations don't care unless the world is watching.
- How can academics offer resources to NGOs and community groups? Having students do service learning projects is one way that has been successful in many places. How can we all use our own different roles and resources to advance this cause?
- There is great potential for harvesting products from the forests in my country, and the Roma there need income generating activities. How can we turn our passion against injustices into a program for producing income and economic opportunities? The same point was made about recycling—in some cases there is a need to figure out how to make recycling safer work, rather than trying to shift Roma into other occupations.

Day Four, October 30, 2005 Networking for the Future

This was the final day of the workshop and critical to the question of whether or not we would attempt to build a transatlantic network formally or otherwise. Participants were clear that some level of collaboration would benefit the efforts of groups in the U.S. and CEE. David Pellow opened the session and Oliver Avramoski (Alliance for Lake Cooperation in Ohrid and Prespa [ALLCOOP], Macedonia) facilitated.

The following guiding framework for networking in the future was suggested: This workshop was a window for creating an opportunity for communities to meet and discuss EJ issues. 2006 can be a planning year, and 2007 an action year. That would allow communities to meet 1-on-1 to exchange experiences and plan. We could raise funds to have people from CEE come to the US and then vice versa. We could time these meetings around political events and support and do actions in each place. So it would not just be an exchange of people coming from one area to another, but also action, international solidarity on specific actions. Thinking that way would go along way. We would be planting seeds between communities in similar and different situations and using that international power to join forces.

More specific action items were proposed and are presented below:

Mobilization of Resources for Short-term and Long-term Goals

There has to be someone to do the work of coordinating the network. We should see about trying to get an intern or some kind of staff person.

Follow up on incinerator proposals in Romania and see if GAIA and the Resource Center for Roma Communities can work together; do the same in Sofia with Romani Baht, For the Earth, and GAIA.

This network could use mechanisms and funding sources like Fulbright and other grant opportunities to allow members to spend an extended time as a visitor in either the US or a CEE nation.

We could further our work through existing networks such as GAIA, IPEN, Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Health Care Without Harm (HCHW), or other international groups. Global Response, for example, does letter writing campaigns for communities struggling against environmental injustices.

The network could be helpful in getting the movement more tools for the toolbox, such as legal advisers, who are not part of the action, just there to be observers, and a presence. In addition to that, a protest warning system would be something we could do: getting more bodies, people who can mobilize quickly around issues on both sides of the Atlantic.

Organizations on the ground are only going to contribute to the network if it will help their work, so we might consider starting a mini grant program to award small grants to help in emergencies, short term immediate needs. This network could do something like that.

Exchange information and resources between Lideres Campesinas, Pesticide Action Network, and organizations working on pesticides and farm labor in CEE.

Newly Independent States such as Belarus need training for toxics activists who would like to work on human rights and community-based concerns.

We must support the developing the strength of community organizing in CEE, so that we help grow community leadership from within these communities. We could initiate training sessions, which would allow us to enlarge the capacity of this network. Groups like the Center for Citizen Support in Czech Republic and Poland could help.

Research Efforts

We need to quantify the degree to which the environmental injustice exists among minorities in the CEE region, by developing indicators.

One idea was to conduct research on the formation of stereotyped attitudes regarding Roma in the region and see how it affects policies.

CEPL is working with a CEU Legal Studies Department student who is now conducting analysis of EU law to identify gaps regarding EJ.

One participant was interested in doing some comparative case research on harvesting of non-timber forest products and policy mechanisms.

Legal Approaches

We must be able to assure that the network will provide the opportunity for access to lawyers when problems emerge in communities in the US and CEE.

Participants should work with Dezideriu Gergely to bring human rights lawyers together with environmental lawyers to discuss crossover of strategies and laws that can be mutually applied.

Technical Needs, Communication Plan

We need to set up a website that is comprehensive and contains contact information, case examples, campaign updates, newsletters, etc.

One participant is putting together a BLOG for the Transatlantic Initiative on Environmental Justice.

It was decided that the workshop organizers would contact participants to follow up on these actions so that the work of transatlantic EJ and human rights organizing would carry forward through this network.

Adjourn

APPENDIX A: WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Collaborations and a Network in Formation

This is a most impressive list of actions that participants have undertaken in the short time following the workshop.

- *GAIA, IPEN, Arnika, Romani Baht Foundation, CEU are all collaborating on documenting the contribution of Roma waste recovery workers to Bulgaria's recycling efforts and this will also contribute to that nation's compliance with the Stockholm Convention on the elimination of POPs.
- *Global Response (USA) and the ERRC collaborated to launch an international letter writing campaign to persuade the UN to relocate Roma families from a toxic site in Kosovo (http://globalresponse.org).
- *Arnika and Kumar Vishwanathan's organization, Life Together, already have a set date for on-site visit to measure toxicity on abandoned industrial site where Roma children play. [In fact, they may have already had their first meeting together in Ostrava].
- *Advocates for Environmental Human Rights is working with ERRC to explore CEE Roma student internship possibilities to work on EJ in US.
- *CEPL is working with APEN to gain information on a framework for launching a preliminary inquiry into the migration of poor and/or non-dominant ethnic groups in Europe and relationship to exposure to environmental harms.

APPENDIX B: PARTICIPANT LIST TRANSATLANTIC INITIATIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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