

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION EXPERIENCE IN POLAND
FOR BELARUS**

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Summary. The environmental preservation experience of last decades in Poland is considered in the article. The given experience advantage for Belarus is proved. The particular interest is represented by three aspects of the Polish experience: 1) environmental problems definition which simultaneously are the international priorities; 2) rational scales definition of financing; 3) balance maintenance between the international and national priorities.

Keywords: nature protection investments, debts conversion, debt re-structuring, ecological fund, nature protection grants, economic efficiency

Improvement of an environment state in Poland is caused by transition to market economy. Special government programs which have been developed after 1989 play an important role.

Now in the field of the environmental preservation in Poland there is a differentiated system of payments. Rates vary from 0,03 euros/kg for carbonic oxide

to 78 euros/kg for the most toxic substances [1, p. 59]. Rates of payments are reconsidered annually by the Ministry of environment; the Ministry takes into account infla-

tion. Differentiation approximately corresponds to toxicity degree of polluting substances according to nature protection specifications.

Market economy transition promoted to the further revision of rates of payments. Each revision was accompanied by reciprocal negative reaction of the enterprises. It has led to small relative decrease in rates within last 20 years. Therefore as a whole payments became insufficiently effective. Nevertheless, now they provide, at least, a certain share of efficiency of expenses. Administrative expenses on application of payments are not excessive for some reasons. For example, the legislation does not demand regular carrying out of actual gauging of pollutants emissions. Besides, functioning of payment system for pollution demands monitoring presence on a constant basis.

In case of non-payment penalties in size, multiple to the initial rate of payment are provided. These penalties are subtracted from profit after the taxation. Theoretically they should be the effective regulating tool. Actually their influence is levelled thanks to a delay of payments system. So, penalty payment can be delayed till 5 years if the firm invests in actions for decrease in emissions.

Gathering of payments is charged funds of the environmental preservation which work at all administrative levels: national, regional and local. Most important of them for today is the National fund of preservation of the environment and water resources management. Under control of funds is nearby 4 billion euro. Annual incomes of payments and penalties for pollution make nearby 0,7 bil. euro. About 75% from these means arrives in National fund.

Besides, in Poland debts conversion in nature protection investments is carried out. The Polish experience has shown the big possibilities of the international support usage for the environmental problems decision. The government of Poland has reached agreements on re-structuring of a debt with the Paris Club. According to this agreement the memorandum of debts conversion in nature protection investments was prepared. In the memorandum as the international priorities four basic problem areas have been defined:

- struggle against transboundary air pollution in the big territory;
- more effective pollution abatement of Baltic sea;
- decrease in emissions of carbonic gas and other hotbed gases thanks to advancement of new power saving up technologies;
- preservation of a biological variety thanks to development of ecosystems of the international value.

It is necessary to pay attention that while the international conversion usage it is necessary to consider financial interests of the countries-creditors which not always willingly agree on this action. The compromise can be reached by acceptance of a geographical principle of the distribution developed in the European union. This approach gives the chance to each financial donor to compensate the share of participation in the form of contracts.

For practical realisation of the mechanism of conversion the Polish government has prepared the special decision on activity of ecological fund [2, p. 42]. The offered basic financial mechanism consisted in the following. The ecological fund carries out selection and estimation of the projects applying for financing within the limits of conversion of debts in nature protection investments. Then the fund represents the selected projects for the statement to participants of the Paris Club. Further actual expenses are written off from the bank account of international payments. Then the sum is translated back to Poland for crediting of ecological fund.

World experience on debts conversion in nature protection investments is extremely insignificant. In most cases the exchange of debts takes the form of actions exchange. Creditors prefer it. Nevertheless, the exchange for nature protection investments can successfully be applied at the decision of global environmental problems in the countries where the corresponding understanding of these problems cannot guarantee economic indicators and level of ecological consciousness.

Now in Eastern Europe countries there is a requirement on revival of fund model. It is possible at maintenance of interest from the debtor and presence of trust from creditors. Ecological funds of different levels have gained the big distribution in Poland now. Commercial banks and other financial institutions result examples of loss by them clients as ecological funds draw a powerful part of the market on themselves. Special economic model has been developed to check the given hypothesis. However, research has not confirmed essential dependence of the capital on activity of ecological funds. It meant that work of ecological funds did not lead to potential loss of clients by banks [3, p.29]. Besides domestic funds, in Poland also the international funds successfully work. As a rule, they give money resources on less severe constraints, than domestic sources.

The Polish experience of the economic efficiency estimation of ecological projects is worthy of attention. Experts allocate distinctions between economic efficiency and financial expediency. In the conditions of external factors absence these concepts are identical. Efficiency means excess of benefits over expenses for a society, the financial expediency means excess of benefits over expenses for the investor or the applicant of the project. In particular, in the presence of external factors the effective project can appear financially inexpedient on any of following reasons:

- The potential investor is not informed on all individual benefits from project realization;
- The potential investor cannot receive to the full benefit which get to a category of the public blessings created as a result of realization of the project;
- The initiator of the project has no access to the credit market on comprehensible conditions.

Preservation of the environment is an example activity which is subject to such restrictions and which frequently is not realized in effective scale.

It is important to spend distinctions between economic efficiency concepts and financial expediency, however it to make uneasy. There are objective difficulties in an estimation as expenses, and financial benefits of the project. Therefore the Polish ecological funds have applied less rigid criterion of economic efficiency - achievement of the purpose with the least expenses. The problem is not subject to the economic analysis. It is perceived as the purpose which is necessary for reaching. The question consists of information how to achieve the object with the minimum costs [4, p. 98].

The principle of economic efficiency by which are guided the work of ecological funds, assumes that the selected projects should have the uniform ecological purpose, for example, reduction of emissions of certain polluting substance. Heads of funds allocate means for various lines of activity so that each area had on hand certain sum and the uniform purpose, for example, emissions reduction. Thus the fund finances the most expensive projects.

Thus, in this work as major factors of success which can be used at an estimation of efficiency of ecological projects, three aspects are defined:

- 1) carrying out of conversion of debts in nature protection investments;
- 2) "an economic efficiency" principle in work of ecological funds;

3) balance search between national and international priorities.

Concrete circumstances can prevent successful distribution of the Polish model of conversion for Belarus. However, the great attention should be given to the number of aspects of ecological fund work [5, p.3].

First, it is expedient to choose priorities both national, and the international value. In case of Poland them of a steel: transboundary air pollution, eutrophication Baltic sea, protection of a climate and a biodiversity.

Secondly, the structure which will be engaged in the decision of the international environmental problems, should be domestic: attraction of the international organization, probably, will allow to reach greater efficiency in short-term prospect, but this variant is worse from the point of view of long-term potential strengthening.

Thirdly, it is necessary to avoid a special-purpose character of separate investors; financial interests of the countries-donors can be provided within the limits of the subsequent check of actual geographic distribution of contracts.

Fourthly, to donors follows together with local officials and experts to supervise process of selection and realization of projects on the basis of official and transparent procedures.

Economic efficiency is main principle at ecological funds work. Economic efficiency maintenance can appear a challenge but if do not give attention to it there can be a risk of an inefficient expenditure of means.

At transboundary cooperation of the country should recognize such participation. Hence, they should compare internal problems with the international priorities. Membership of Poland in the European union is an example how it is possible to combine these two types of priorities by working out of projects on environment protection between Poland and Belarus.

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