



16-17 March 2017, Blue-Action at the expert meeting “Transfer to Green Economy in Russia: Designing Action Plan”

Organiser: Russian Federation Ministry on natural resources and environment; Cadaster Science and Technology Center

Venue: Yaroslavl State Technical University, Yaroslavl, Russia

Blue-Action representative: Elena Nikitina (IMEMO, Russia)

Report

Dr. Elena Nikitina from IMEMO, Russia was invited by the RF Ministry on natural resources and environment to take part in an expert meeting to assess Russia’s Road Map of transfer to a green economy. The expert meeting was held 16-17 March 2017 in Yaroslavl in its Technical University and it was hosted by the local Cadaster Institute. About twenty leading experts from research institutes, universities, business community, government, environmental organisations and local stakeholders took part in brain-storming, discussion and exchange on key issues and challenges of green growth and ecosystem services. The major goals of expert assessment was to refine conceptual approaches, to evaluate possible strategies towards green economy taking into account domestic environmental and socio-economic context and major opportunities and risks associated with global environmental change and its implications for national pathways. They are among the major current endeavors of the RF Ministry on natural resources and environment engaged in designing future strategies for sustainable development.

Experts underlined that green economy is considered as a basic component of sustainable development strategies in Russia, and its innovative mechanisms and tools are to contribute both to environmental and natural resources protection, to enhanced quality of economic growth, social well-being and quality of life. Priority instruments targeting transfer to green economy in the near future presuppose besides other challenges the need for a) integrated approaches to green economic development, b) coordination between institutions and various economic sectors , c) cooperation and partnerships of multiple stakeholders, d) inclusive evaluation of natural capital and ecosystem services as elements of environmental infrastructure, e) enhancements in the quality of economic growth including incentives for sustainable production and consumption models, for establishing the system of green jobs, for formation of systems for green trade and financial markets, f) wider application of governmental green procurement systems, environmental funds for ecological innovations, economic incentives for environmentally benign households, support for green investments and introduction of mechanisms for ecosystem services valuation, etc.

The basic approaches of the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy for 2016-2030 and the OECD guidelines for green growth and sustainable development were taken into account during the experts’ exchange and development of their recommendations for decision-makers.

Major approaches and experiences of Blue-Action project consortium, particularly its innovative ideas about climate services, the role and engagement of stakeholders and blue growth rationale in design and provision of climate services were presented and discussed during the meeting with experts.

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