



Household Pharmaceutical Waste: Disposal and Consumer Awareness in Latvia in 2012.

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Project Background

This project is part of the Learn Apply Communicate (LAC) course of the Master's Programme in Environmental Management and Policy (EMP) at the International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund University, Sweden.

The sales and use of pharmaceuticals have gradually increased over time worldwide. Nowadays, pharmaceuticals are integral part of our everyday life, they contribute to our health and high standard of living. Recent studies show that pharmaceutical products have been detected in surface, ground and drinking waters in Europe and worldwide, raising concerns about potential impacts on human health and the environment.

The focus of this project was on the household users of the pharmaceuticals and options available to them for disposal of their unwanted (expired or unused) medications properly in Latvia - returning unwanted medications to the pharmacies or bringing pharmaceutical waste to special hazardous waste collection sites. Unfortunately, there is low awareness and engagement of general public in pharmaceutical waste disposal and many people just flush them down the toilet or wash down the sink, or discard together with household trash.



Project Objectives

The main objectives of the project were:

- Raise awareness about the issues with pharmaceutical waste;
- Inform the consumers about the ways of pharmaceutical waste can be disposed properly;
- Educate consumers about the need to minimize the amount of unused & expired medicines;
- Identify the improvement possibilities for household pharmaceutical waste management in Latvia.

Project Results

Interested in finding out more about pharmaceutical waste and the project? Check the project website for additional information and do an online survey!

www.pharmawaste.lv

SIMPLIFIED JOURNEY OF PHARMACEUTICALS

